

SPRINGFIELD CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Trustees' Report FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The principal activity of the company continued to be the provision of support, care and advice to help social inclusion primarily in the area of West Belfast. The company achieved its objectives by providing day care support to elderly people, providing specialist advice through its advice centre and by the operation of its charitable shops.

Public benefit

The Trustees of Springfield Charitable Association have fully complied with the Public Benefit requirements as set out in the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on public benefit.

Springfield Charitable Association aims to improve the quality of life for those living in the district of Springfield by providing the following;

- Advice centre
- Second hand retail outlets
- Volunteer programmes
- Day centre activities for older people

Social isolation can be found in people of all ages, regions, countries and societies. Equal access to services is important and Springfield Charitable Association Limited has an equal opportunities policy and diversity statement which ensures that it has a culture of equal access to its services regardless of disability, gender, religious belief or sexual orientation. The trustees believe equal access to its services is vital to its success, and that successful outcomes must be shared by all communities that use its services.

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STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

Achievements in the year 2023-24 have been overshadowed by the weight of fiscal challenges of operating in at what can be described as an under-funded and unsupported local government environment. Despite this backdrop, we are again incredibly proud to report the outstanding effort and co-operation of the staff and volunteers who keep on giving more in support of the delivery of services to our clients in this challenging environment.

Part of our role as trustees to share with you the thriving impact that the work of our staff, volunteers and committed management team have delivered in the past 12 months. None of which would be possible without leadership, vision and the perpetual dedication of the SCA Board of Trustees. Our work this year has been guided by our Strategic Plan (2026) with delivery of strategic actions developing a culture of team togetherness and a 'can do' approach to both challenges and opportunities.

In the last 12 months, we welcomed new board members Ann McCracken and Jim Tate. Ann's background is in Audit and Accounting with significant experience in governance across all sectors. Jim's background is in Care Practice and Social Work with many years of experience in the development of wellbeing programmes supporting vulnerable people and their families. Both members bring enhanced and diverse capacity to our team and are already adding value to the organisation with their skill sets and knowledge. During the 2023-24, Tom Kernahan retired from the Board and Brian McGrath resigned from the Board to take up the role of Honorary President of the charity.

There are many successes worthy of note in the 2023-24 year including full target achievement of Day Centre attendances, delivery of full capacity service in hydrotherapy and establishment of a new social enterprise which has enabled us to monetize the excellent quality breads that are produced in our kitchen. A major enabler in achievement of targets, particularly in Social Enterprise activities, has been the transition to our Crescent Vitality communication and marketing strategy, making us more accessible and relevant in the current operating environment for charities and social enterprises.

Our relationships with partners continued to grow with legacy contracts retained and new social enterprise hydrotherapy and kitchen contracts secured which positions us with less reliance on grant funding. This is aligned with our strategic aims and it is imperative to our survival that we can plan and provide for other revenue streams which are essential to address a chronic shortfall in legacy contract funding levels which continue to operate in deficit.

The focus of our work to develop our Social Enterprise and continually pitch for short term project funding continues to present significant challenge for the organisation since these are not legacy skills that exist within our structures resulting in ongoing doubts as to our resources and capacity.

Financial review

Financial position

The charity's financial position is reviewed on a monthly basis by the board. The charity has an annual audit performed by an external auditor. The charity income for the 2024 year was £471,026 (2023 - £680,022) and the expenditure was £591,710 (2023 - £524,405) which in turn results in a deficit of £120,684 in the year.

Net assets at the year end have decreased from £1,174,404 to total £1,053,720 at the year end.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources for the charity are currently by way of grant income as set out in note 2 in the accounts together with shop and other charitable activity income as detailed in note 3.

Investment policy and objectives

A clear objective is, when possible, to put operating surpluses into reserves each year, however this has proved difficult in the past few years. Having considered the options available, the Trustees have decided that any reserves should be invested in secure bank deposits. The Trustees consider the overall return on deposit accounts to be disappointing, but are not willing to place valuable resources into riskier investments.

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STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The trustees recognise that it is necessary to hold reserves in order to offset the effects of fluctuation on incoming resources and thereby secure the continued viability of the Charity beyond the immediate future. In keeping with good accountancy practice, it is the aim of the charity to hold free reserves which equate to three months operating costs. In conjunction with its related charity, Springfield Charitable Developments Ltd, the free reserves exceed three months operating costs.

Future plans

The company intends to continue its socio-economic development through the continued provision of support, care and advice to the area. The company has completed the renovation of the premises at Cupar Street which were bought by Springfield Charitable Developments Ltd, a company with common trustees. It is intended that these premises will be used to continue to develop its services to the community going forward.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Springfield Charitable Association is a company limited by guarantee which was incorporated on 25th February 1982. It was registered as a charity with the NI Charity Commission as from 19th June 2015.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Due to the nature of the charity's work the trustees seek to ensure that these needs are appropriately reflected through the diversity of the trustee body. To enhance the potential pool, trustees are requested to provide a list of their skills (and update it each year) and in the event of particular skills lacking or being lost due to retirement, individuals are approached to offer themselves for election.

Organisational structure

The company is governed by a Board of Trustees which operates as detailed in the company's governing document, the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The trustees are directly responsible for the day to day management of the charity and they meet on a monthly basis to review all aspects of the charity. The committee is made up of a number of both long serving and more recent members with a shared vision, commitment and passion for achieving the objectives of the organisation. Members come with a range of skills crucial to the management of the organisation.

To facilitate effective operations, the board has delegated authority of operational matters such as finance, employment and the delivery of its training objectives to the charity's senior managers.

Induction and training of new trustees

New Trustees are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. They meet key employees and other Trustees. The Trustees and management committee are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Key management remuneration

The setting of the pay and remuneration of the key management personnel is delegated to the Remuneration Committee, made up of several trustees.

Related parties

The charity is related to another charity namely Springfield Charitable Developments Ltd in that they have common trustees and the property used by this charity is owned by Springfield Charitable Developments Ltd.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

NI015556 (Northern Ireland)

**SPRINGFIELD CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION
LIMITED**

**Trustees' Report
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Registered Charity number
102202

Registered office
27 Clonard Crescent
Belfast
Antrim
BT13 2QN

Trustees
V Davidson
C Canavan (resigned 27/6/2024)
M Flynn (resigned 1/4/2023)
A Johnston
T Kernaghan (resigned 17/9/2024)
B McGrath
J Sweeney
C Rodgers
G Kelly (appointed 15/6/2023)
A McCracken (appointed 8/2/2024)

Company Secretary
J Sweeney

Auditors
M.B.Mc Grady & Co
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Rathmore House
52 St Patricks Avenue
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6DS

Bankers
Bank of Ireland
202 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9EB

Solicitors
Ferguson & Co
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The trustees (who are also the directors of Springfield Charitable Association Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

**SPRINGFIELD CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION
LIMITED**

**Trustees' Report
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT - continued

Company law 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 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 those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware of; and
- they have 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 charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

AUDITORS

The auditors, M.B.Mc Grady & Co, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 4 October 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:



V Davidson - Trustee