

Rosie's Trust

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102422

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2015-04-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

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Website www.rosiestrust.org

Activities

Purposes: OBJECTS The Charity is established for the advancement of animal welfare and to relieve the need and promote the wellbeing and mental health of people who have a terminal illness, or are advancing in age or those undergoing acute cancer treatment ('the beneficiaries') in Northern Ireland ('the area of benefit') by: (1) providing, or assisting in the provision of, care for their companion pets in their own homes when they are no longer able to independently care for them; (2) to find alternative homes for their companion pets when the beneficiaries are no longer able to care for them including when they die.

What the charity does: The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage, The advancement of animal welfare

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Animal welfare, Disability, Medical/health/sickness, Volunteer development

Who the charity helps: Carers, Mental health, Older people, Physical disabilities

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£302,873	£302,679	£-65,941	6

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Joyce Savage		
Mrs Aileen Martin		
Mrs Josephine Mallon		
Tim Leonard		

Rosie's Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102422

Accounts

ROSIE'S
TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT

and Financial Statements

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Registration Number NIC102422

Generously supported by





ROSIE'S TRUST, THE ONLY CHARITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND THAT CARES FOR PEOPLE BY CARING FOR THEIR PETS

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Rosie's Trust marked a milestone year in more ways than one during 2024-2025. Not only did we celebrate our 10th birthday, but we also achieved record financial growth enabling us to support more beneficiaries and companion pets than ever before. We also forged new partnerships, got ready to roll out new branding, and began work to transform our volunteer management processes to help secure our ongoing sustainability.

Our birthday celebrations got off to an unexpected but heartwarming start on 20 January. Danielle from The Doggie Pawtisserie made a very special dog cake especially for the occasion. Margo the whippet was so excited at the photo shoot that she could not wait for the photo to be taken before eating the 'R' out of the Rosie's Trust biscuit letters. The missing letter served only to highlight the unique character of our wonderful charity in the subsequent flurry of social media posts!

Our increasing social media following has succeeded in motivating many more wonderful people around Northern Ireland to support Rosie's Trust, either through individual donations or by fundraising on our behalf. We are indebted to each and every one of them for their support. They are the backbone of our charity and rightly take centre stage in the 'Highlights' section on pages 12 to 29.

The generous support from our core funder, the National Lottery Community Fund, enabled us to continue to help cancer patients, people receiving end of life care and elderly people with mobility issues to hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them the most.

We are also so very grateful to the Kingsbridge Foundation, part of the Kingsbridge Healthcare Group, and the John Atcheson Foundation for their continued support this year. This additional income allowed us to employ a second Development Officer and thereby support a record number of beneficiaries across the four HSC Trust areas in which we operate.

We were delighted to enter into a new partnership with Belfast City Sightseeing. One of their buses is now sporting a large poster promoting Rosie's Trust around central Belfast every day of the week. We are very grateful to them for the many different fundraising activities they have undertaken on our behalf.

These are, of course, just three of the many organisations who provided invaluable financial support to us during the period under review. The full list of our generous supporters – both large and small – is provided on page 37 with our huge thanks. Every donation, whatever its size, means so very much to us and can make the difference between being able to take on a new beneficiary or having to turn them away.



'Osie's' Trust's 10th anniversary cake!



Belfast City Sightseeing bus spreads the word!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED...

Building relations across all sectors

I was very pleased to meet in January with Gordon Lyons MLA, Minister for Communities, to introduce him to Rosie's Trust. Mr Lyons subsequently sent our introductory PowerPoint presentation to the Minister for Health, Mike Nesbitt MLA, for his information. We are continuing our efforts to build relations in the Public Health Agency in a bid to secure funding in the future.

We are also hoping to develop further partnerships in the private sector through our membership of the NI Chamber of Commerce, which we joined this year.

Another fundraising development was taking our first steps into online sales with the introduction of a retail page with a check out facility on our website. So far, we have used it to sell Christmas cards as well as the merchandise we normally sell at events, such as bandannas, pens, and pin badges. However, we are planning to build on this over time; for example, with pet bereavement cards and other Rosie's Trust branded products.

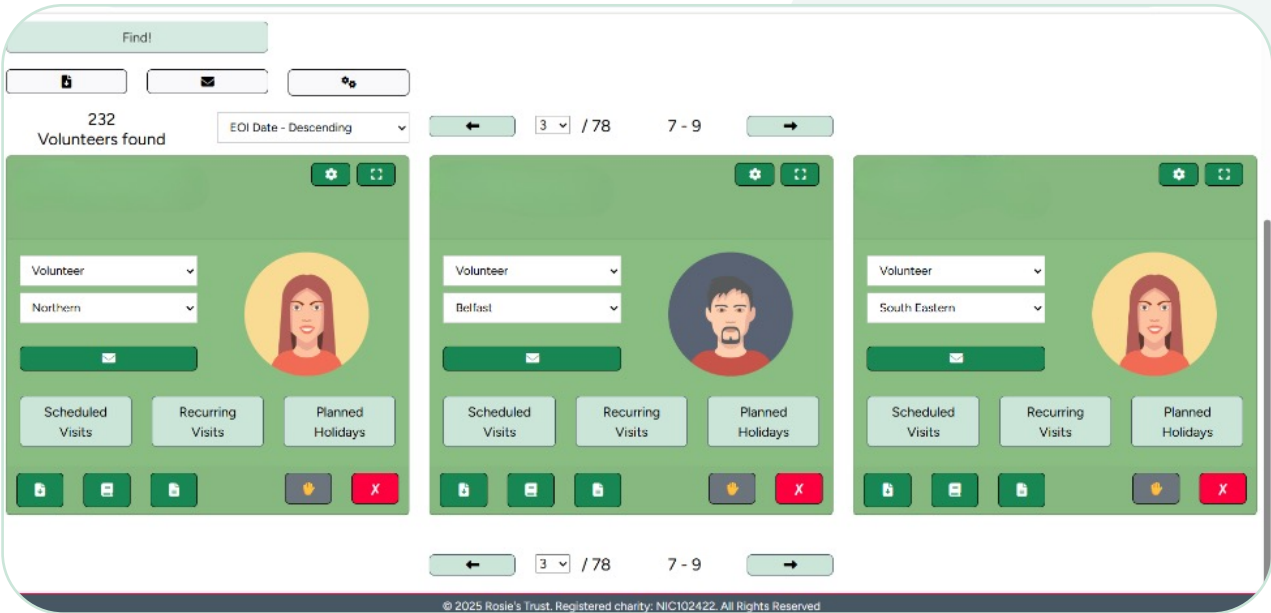
The increased income we received this year enabled us to provide services to a record number of beneficiaries. Rosie's Trust helped 79 cancer patients, people receiving end of life care and/or elderly people with mobility issues to hold on to a total of 97 companion pets. In so doing, we provided an invaluable check-in service for sick and/or elderly people living alone as well as much-needed social contact. We also liaised with social services and other agencies on our beneficiaries' behalf, as and when needed, and helped them navigate the myriad supports available.



Rosie's Trust helped 79 cancer patients, people receiving end of life care and/or elderly people with mobility issues to hold on to a total of 97 companion pets.

Increasing the efficiency of our messaging and our management processes

Excitement is mounting as our new automated volunteer management tool nears completion...



The critical role that Rosie's Trust plays in improving the emotional and physical wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in our community is not always understood. Sometimes it is the charity's promotion of animal welfare that draws most attention. We were very pleased therefore to receive funds specifically to help us refine our message and highlight the dual role we play in supporting both people and their pets. We have done this by introducing a new strap line to better encapsulate our mission: **'Caring for people by caring for their pets.'** The strap line is the centrepiece of new branding that we are confident will increase our reach to new audiences and, ideally, more supporters (launch June 2025).

Another exciting development this year has been the award of funding from Ulster Garden Villages to help us build an automated volunteer management tool. This will essentially be a self-service portal for the provision of information relating to volunteers, beneficiaries and their companion pets. It will make for a much more efficient, less labour-intensive system than the processes we currently have in place. It will also be hugely beneficial for us when we achieve our long-held ambition to offer services in the more isolated rural areas of the Western Trust. The automated system is due to be completed in May 2025.

The new management processes cannot be introduced soon enough as the number of volunteers who give their time and skills to support Rosie's Trust continues to increase. During the period, we recruited and trained

81 new volunteers bringing the total to 233 active volunteers during the period. This included Wendy Hawe, who is deaf. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Molly Finlay, our Volunteer Support Officer, and Nuala Muldoon, our Fundraising Lead and experienced British Sign Language communicator, for their efforts in ensuring that all the necessary adjustments were made to accommodate Wendy's needs as a new volunteer.

“Our charity could not operate without our volunteers.”

We do not take our good fortune with volunteers for granted. We know that our charity could not operate without our volunteers; they go above and beyond to support our beneficiaries and their companion pets. We are indebted to so many volunteers – far more than I could list here – that we publish on pages 30 to 36 the names of each and every one of them with our enormous gratitude. We are truly blessed to have them in our Rosie's Trust family!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED...

Expanding our networks

In addition to building relationships with potential funding partners, we have continued this year to engage with a wide range of organisations in the voluntary and community sector as well as the private and public sectors. Such collaborations are essential to increase our reach and impact.



Rosie's Trust participated at an event in Stormont calling for regulations to ensure cruelty-free breeding and a public register of legitimate breeders. The event was organised by the NI Companion Animal Welfare Group in September.

This year we significantly expanded our network to include organisations such as Belfast Central Mission, Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul, AGenda, Radius Housing, NI Hospice, Caring for Communities Safe and Well (South Eastern Trust), the Trauma and Orthopaedics Research Charity, the Loneliness Network (Northern and Southern Trust), the Rural Community Network, and the Mid and East Antrim Agewell Partnership. These connections are hugely important in terms of promoting awareness of our services and facilitating two-way referrals.



Jayne McStay, Operations Manager with Rosie's Trust, is pictured here (far left) with other members of the Northern Ireland Companion Animal Welfare Group, who met with Andrew Muir, MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs, to encourage people to think carefully before getting a pet for Christmas. Hundreds of animals in NI end up in rescue organisations every year following the festive season.

My team was also very pleased to meet with the Office of the Commissioner for Older People, who subsequently promoted the services Rosie's Trust offers among their extensive membership.

Rosie's Trust is represented at all the HSC Trust locality meetings. Our main partners at present, apart from the social workers and care teams with whom we are in daily contact, are organisations such as Macmillan and Marie Curie who are among our principal referral agencies. We also work closely with Volunteer Now.

We are indebted to our Celebrity Ambassadors, Ibe Sesay (presenter of the Drive programme on Q Radio) and Lisa McGee (creator of 'Derry Girls') who have continued to promote our work among their followers throughout the year.



Our wonderful Celebrity Ambassadors, Lisa McGee and Ibe Sesay

Meeting our resourcing challenges

The price of our success in raising awareness of Rosie's Trust has necessarily been increased demand for our services, which has in turn placed increased pressure on our small staff team.

Our resourcing challenge was compounded this year when two staff (out of a team of 4 full-time and 3 part-time staff) resigned to take up higher paid positions. This led us to engage an external HR consultancy to review our terms and conditions against similar organisations. We were reassured to learn that the majority of our salaries were in line with those offered elsewhere in the sector; we immediately adjusted those that were not.

We welcomed two new staff during the period to fill the vacancies created by the two resignations: Molly Finlay, Volunteer Support Officer, and Robyn McMurray, Communications and Marketing Lead. Both individuals have already proved to be huge assets to Rosie's Trust.

We continued to invest in our staff through personal and professional development. The Board was delighted this year when our Operations Manager, Jayne McStay, was awarded the ILM Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Leadership and Management, which was run by NICVA. Our Development Officer, Laura Quinn, was accepted in March onto the ILM Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management, and our new Communications and Marketing Lead, Robyn McMurray, started a Level 3 Management Course run by Global Horizon Skills.

An ongoing challenge we face is demonstrating how labour intensive our services are. We have made some progress in this regard, having undertaken a comprehensive review this year of our monthly reporting data. This now includes the number of hours spent dealing with calls from people who need support in areas that fall well outside the scope of Rosie's Trust. We always give these callers the time they need to explain their issues and then advise them as to where they can obtain the necessary support. The several hundred hours spent moving pets between foster carers are also now recorded.

The demand for foster care – particularly during the summer months – once again placed considerable pressure on staff as demand outstripped our supply of foster carers. As always, our volunteers – and staff – pulled out all the stops and managed to provide foster care for each and every pet requiring it. However, we are now asking all new beneficiaries to try to identify or source alternative arrangements for their pets in the event they require hospital care.

We are also hoping to free up capacity by moving to third party referrals and have developed a new, more succinct online referral form for that purpose. While the form still allows for self-referrals, we include a notice on our website advising that we particularly encourage third party referrals.

“An ongoing challenge we face is demonstrating how labour intensive our services are.”



Mya & Mr Buff were two of the dogs we took into foster care this year while their owner was in hospital for several months.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED...

Guided by best practice governance

Following the successful introduction last year of a performance appraisal system for our staff, this year I introduced a similar process for the Board of Trustees. This has proved very effective in identifying the training and other needs of the individuals who are responsible for ensuring the efficient and effective daily operation of our charity in accordance with the requirements of the NI Charity Commission.

We were very sad to say farewell in May to Emer Rice who had served as our wonderful Treasurer for three years. Emer very kindly stayed on for several months so that she could hand over to her successor, Lesley Coey. Regrettably, Lesley had to stand down shortly thereafter due to a change in her work commitments. Fortunately, we did not have to wait too long before we welcomed Karen Steele, a long-standing volunteer with Rosie's Trust, to the role in September.

We also farewelled Jill Hawthorne and Louise Heatley as Trustees this year. I take this opportunity to thank them both so very much for the contributions they made to Rosie's Trust and for their ongoing support of the charity.

In order to ensure a good mix of skills on the Board, we sought to fill the gaps arising from these two departures by advertising for Trustees with legal experience. We were delighted to welcome Fiona Holloway-Stone, who brings extensive experience in commercial law, to the Board in March.

The Board continued to follow our annual governance schedule, including reviewing and updating our risk register and operational policies as required. We also updated our Trust Deed, written in 2015, to reflect the more complex charity we govern today. In addition, we updated our comprehensive safeguarding policy and produced an easy-to-read poster highlighting the 5 'Rs' of safeguarding. Thanks to Halifax, we were able to send two staff members to participate in a 'train the trainer' safeguarding course. They then developed a bespoke safeguarding training programme for Rosie's Trust's staff, volunteers, and Trustees.

SAFEGUARDING

Have a concern? Don't ignore it, Report it!

The 5 Rs

1 RECOGNISE

Stay familiar with the advice Rosie's Trust provides in our safeguarding training and policy document so that you are confident you can recognise the different signs and symptoms of potential abuse, harm and neglect.

2 RESPOND

If you do have a safeguarding concern, it is essential that you respond appropriately. Do not ignore the situation. Reassure the individual, ask what they would like to happen and let them know what action you may need to take to ensure they are safe.

3 REPORT

You must report any safeguarding concerns you have without delay. Confidentiality is vital, so only share information with those who are part of the safeguarding process; that is the designated Adult Safeguarding Officers at Rosie's Trust. Call them on 07721 204 061.

4 RECORD

This is the who, what, why, when and where of safeguarding. Take precise, comprehensive notes that detail everything about your safeguarding concern and record these on Rosie's Trust's Adult Safeguarding Report Form. You should do this as soon as you can.

5 REFER

It is usually the responsibility of the Adult Safeguarding Officers to pass on safeguarding concerns to the relevant authorities; however, in the unlikely event that you are unable to contact them, that the safeguarding risk is urgent, and you suspect somebody is under immediate or severe threat, please contact the Police directly on 999.

We are all responsible for keeping our beneficiaries, volunteers and staff colleagues safe. This is especially important as many of our beneficiaries are deemed to be 'adults at risk'. If you are worried about a beneficiary or would like to report a concern, please don't delay!

NIC 102422 Thank you for all you do

Our new poster for staff and volunteers highlighting the 5 'Rs' of safeguarding.

Halifax also provided funding to enable us to produce a range of other training videos for new volunteers. These are a fantastic addition to Rosie's Trust's resources.

I was pleased to be able to thank the Trustees and staff in person at the end of the calendar year with Christmas drinks at the Europa Hotel. I only wish I had the opportunity to meet all our volunteers and supporters so that I could thank them in person, too, for everything they do to make Rosie's Trust such a wonderful and impactful charity!

I am enormously privileged to lead a charity that is so beloved by all who know it. I look forward very much, in the year ahead, to building upon the many achievements secured in the past year and to support even more people in need to keep their companion pets by their side during difficult times.

The future is indeed Rosie, thanks to our dedicated volunteers, staff, Trustees and, of course, the National Lottery Community Fund.

Aileen Martin

Aileen Martin, Chair

INFORMATION ABOUT ROSIE'S TRUST

Charity established under Trust Deed on 20 January 2015.

Board of Trustees (at the date of approval of the accounts)
Aileen Martin, Chair
Karen Steele, Treasurer
Josephine Mallon, Secretary
Clare Jess
Fiona Holloway-Stone Appointed to the Board March 2025
Gail Lavery
Tim Leonard
Joyce Savage

The Trustees who resigned between the commencement date of these financial statements and the approval date are listed below:
Emer Rice Resigned May 2024
Jill Hawthorne Resigned August 2024
Louise Heatley Resigned October 2024

Staff
CEO, Dr Catriona Mac Arthur (0.4 FTE)
Operations Manager, Jayne McStay
Development Officer, Laura Quinn
Development Officer, Aisling Fitzmaurice
Volunteer Support Officer, Molly Finlay
Marketing and Communications Lead, Robyn McMurray (0.8 FTE)
Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, Nuala Muldoon
Finance Manager, Grainne Evans (Consultant - 0.2 FTE)

Contact details

Telephone: 0289 1641340
Mobile: 07721 204 061
Email: mail@rosiestrust.org
Postal address: The Fountain Centre,
2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Independent Examiner

MTS Chartered Accountants
Lanyon Quay, 1
Belfast
BT1 3LG

Bankers

Co-op Bank Ltd
1, Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Santander UK plc
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

Registration

Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
NIC102422

Taxation Status

As a registered charity, Rosie's Trust has claimed exemption from tax.

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WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Rosie's Trust is unique. We are the only charity in Northern Ireland that helps those undergoing cancer treatment, receiving end of life care, and/or older people with mobility issues to keep their pets by their side in the most challenging times.

When someone is faced with a cancer diagnosis, disability or terminal illness, their whole world changes. They have so much to worry about, so much to deal with and the one thing they need - especially those living alone - is the emotional support that their companion pet provides.

They are no longer able to provide their dog or cat with the same level of care they once could and their anxiety about the welfare of their beloved companion only serves to compound their distress.

At the most stressful time of their lives, they may be forced to give up their companion pet and, in so doing, experience tremendous loss, isolation and feelings of guilt.

Some people have reported that they considered delaying or even refusing treatment because they had no one to look after their pet.

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' companion dogs and/or cats in their homes when they are no longer able to look after them independently.

We provide fostering services when our beneficiaries need to spend a period of time in hospital or in hospice care. Subject always to our beneficiaries' wishes, we also find new homes for their pets when they are no longer able to care for them, including when they die.

Rosie's Trust also offers a pet bereavement service, providing emotional support to beneficiaries when their companion pet predeceases them.

We provide our services free of charge, 365 days of the year. We depend on donations to cover our service costs, and every penny gifted to us is carefully used.

Our services offer peace of mind for our beneficiaries as they know Rosie's Trust will support them in the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.

Rosie's Trust services not only help to address loneliness and social exclusion in Northern Ireland, but also to promote animal welfare, in accordance with the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011.

Our team of 200+ committed volunteers are the life force of Rosie's Trust and provide help and support in all aspects of pet care, including feeding, grooming, exercising, play and stimulation, and vet visits.

Our volunteers are our eyes and ears, ensuring when they visit that our beneficiaries are as well as can be and providing welcome social contact for many. Our volunteers work in teams, with each member making two visits a week.

An average of three volunteers is allocated to each beneficiary.

Our volunteers receive intense training before being matched to a beneficiary. This ensures they all have a sound understanding Rosie's Trust's policies and procedures to promote the health and wellbeing of our beneficiaries, their pets, and the volunteers themselves. They are also trained to signpost to partner organisations, wherever necessary.

Since our establishment in 2015, we have served 251 people and 313 pets (as at January 2025). They are located in four of the five Health and Social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, Southern and South Eastern).

We undertake a very thorough assessment process of each of our beneficiaries and their pets. This enables us to develop tailored action plans, which take into account and address all the risks we have identified and ensure the best match for the beneficiary with our volunteers. We also have robust safeguarding policies in place to protect our beneficiaries and our volunteers.

Social workers from the Health and Social Care Trusts refer potential beneficiaries to us as do organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support (NI). Although we particularly encourage third party referrals, we do accept self-referrals.

Our work has been made possible thanks to core funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.



PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees of Rosie's Trust believe the purpose of the charity satisfies both elements of the public benefit requirement. Rosie's Trust provides a range of benefits to people in Northern Ireland, including:



1) The advancement of health or the saving of lives

We maintain the health and wellbeing of both the beneficiary and their companion animal by alleviating the stresses and anxiety felt when they are no longer able to care for their pet independently. We also provide much-needed social contact for people who live alone and regular check-in service.

2) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

Rosie's Trust supports cancer patients, people receiving end of life care, and elderly people with mobility issues to maintain their relationship with their companion animal. We also work with partner organisations to help beneficiaries overcome other challenges.

3) The advancement of animal welfare

Our work to keep people and their pets together supports our beneficiaries in ensuring the care they provide their animal meets the five welfare needs as detailed in the Welfare of Animal Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2024 – 2025

“Rosie’s Trust has been a complete godsend. I would be alone in the house and completely lost without you.”

The impact that Rosie’s Trust has on the lives of so many vulnerable people in Northern Ireland is encapsulated in the heartrending comments we receive in our annual surveys. We contact our beneficiaries every year to obtain feedback on our services so that we can continually improve these and address any issues arising.



We always ask what difference Rosie’s Trust has made to their lives as well as the impact it has had on their mental health. In 2024-2025:

90% 90% of our beneficiaries reported that Rosie’s Trust had made a “big difference” to their lives. The remaining 10% said that the charity had made “quite a lot of difference” to their lives.

95% 95% believed our services had reduced their stress/anxiety levels.

82.5% 82.5% believed that Rosie’s Trust had reduced their sense of loneliness and isolation.

When asked to explain why the charity had made a big difference to their lives, many of the respondents referred to the “peace of mind” and “comfort” our services have given them; others said that our services have been “life changing” and a “godsend”. To cite just some of the many positive comments:

- “(Rosie’s Trust) has enabled me to focus on cancer surgery and treatment.”
- “The two lovely ladies that I have volunteering really take their time when they visit, and they are sometimes the only people I see in a week.”
- “I thought I was going to have to give (my dog) up, leaving me with no company in the house.”
- “Meeting volunteers and chatting with them has helped me.”
- “It makes my day to have the volunteers coming in.”
- “It is good for me to see somebody and talk to them.”
- “Rosie’s Trust are always available and there to support me, so I am not on my own.”
- “(Rosie’s Trust has) opened up our lives. I used to just go back to bed and so did the dogs.”
- “I couldn’t survive without RT.”
- “I would be lost without Rosie’s Trust.”



We had the pleasure of working with *Macmillan Cancer Support* who kindly funded a video explaining Rosie’s Trust services to cancer patients for World Cancer Day:

“Every £1 invested in Rosie’s Trust returns £4.36 in social and economic value.”

Source: Year 2 Social Value Report, Rose Regeneration Economic Development Agency

Click to watch:
World Cancer Day 2025

More beneficiaries and companion pets supported in 2024 – 2025

Total number of beneficiaries supported:	Total number of companion pets supported:	Total number of active volunteers:	New beneficiaries supported:	New companion pets:
79	97	233	33	42

Positive impact on our volunteers too!

Our volunteers also reported that Rosie’s Trust had had a very positive impact on their lives, with one volunteer encapsulating the responses received in three short words, describing volunteering with us as a “hugely rewarding experience”. Other comments included:

- “I love what I do and the impact it has on the beneficiary and her dog. It is more than walking the dog; it is being a friend to someone who does not have a family.”
- “I love doing this. It makes me feel good. Not only do I enjoy the walks with an adorable dog, but I enjoy the chat with the beneficiary each day I am there. I feel I am also helping with the loneliness aspect for her as she looks forward to our wee chats.”
- “I love meeting new people, seeing the smile on the beneficiary’s face, knowing I’ve helped a person in need.”
- “Great for the dogs, great for the volunteers and great for the dog owners.”
- “It ticks all the boxes”.
- “I really feel like I am making a big difference to my beneficiary’s life in that they are able to keep their beloved dog without worrying about them not getting exercised.”
- “I have built up such a lovely relationship with both my human and pet beneficiary and I can tell how much of a difference Rosie’s Trust is making to both their lives.”



Ian Brown helped our inspirational founder, Bronagh O'Neill, set up Rosie's Trust in January 2015 and has been volunteering with us ever since!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED...

Busiest year yet for staff and volunteers

**No. of new
volunteers
trained:**

81

**No. of match ups
(beneficiaries and
volunteers):**

92

**No. of days
of foster care
provided:**

761

**No. of
pets
rehomed:**

8

**No. of
referrals
managed:**

117

**No. of
signposting
calls:**

390

**No. of hours
given by canine
support volunteers:**

5,957

**No. of hours
given by all
volunteers:**

11,760



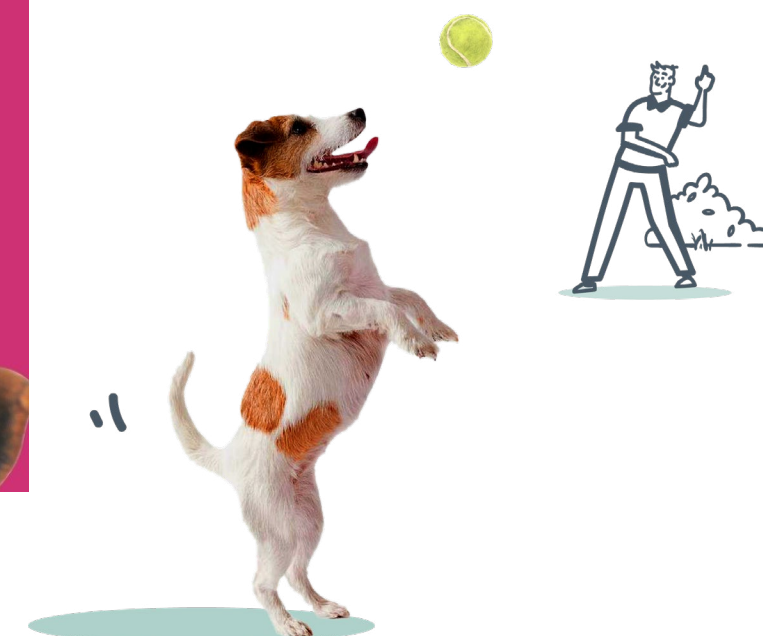
**DOG SUPPORT
VOLUNTEERS
needed urgently!**

**Do you live in
Ballymena?**

**ROSIE'S
TRUST**



*Rosie's Trust is so grateful to
all the volunteers across NI
who respond to our calls!*



So many fundraisers to mention this year!

We are indebted to all the wonderful people around Northern Ireland who supported our work during the year – there are simply too many of them to mention in these short pages. However, we have shouted out to them across our social media on every possible occasion! A full list is provided on page 37.

They include the indefatigable Debbie Thompson, Ladies Captain of Shandon Park Golf Club, who

chose us as her Charity of the Year. She had no end of wonderful fundraising ideas in aid of Rosie's Trust, from quiz nights to raffles and tray bakes.

As highlighted in these photos, Rosie's Trust supporters are an imaginative bunch, holding a wide range of events in aid of Rosie's Trust, from coffee mornings to dog agility competitions to marathon running!

Our heartfelt thanks to Debbie Thompson,
Ladies Captain of Shandon Park Golf Club,
who undertook several fantastic fundraising
events for Rosie's Trust during the year.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED...



Four of the amazing Rosie's Runners relay team who took on the challenge of the Belfast City Marathon Team Relay! (L-R) Nuala Muldoon (Fundraising Lead with Rosie's Trust), David Graham, Emma Macpherson, Colin Rodgers and John MacPherson. Fionnuala Cox also ran with the team.

The team at the Clare Vet Clinic in Ballyclare generously (and energetically!) ran in the Belfast City Marathon in aid of Rosie's Trust. Watch their interview with the BBC as they geared up for the challenge:

Click to watch:
Clare Vet Group take on the Belfast City Marathon for Rosie's Trust

Thank you!



ROSIE'S TRUST Glandore Agility Club



Some coffee!
The fantastic team at Belfast City Sightseeing who raised an incredible £1,000 at a coffee morning in aid of Rosie's Trust!

Huge thanks to the staff of Harbinson Mulholland for their kind donation.

Patrick Leonard, Partner at HM Chartered Accountants, is pictured here presenting Ruth Pinkerton, Rosie's Trust volunteer, with their most generous cheque!



Hastings Hotels kindly allowed us to hold some 20 raffles over Christmas/New Year at their Party and Tribute nights.

These were a huge success thanks, above all, to our volunteers who shook the tins on our behalf. Pictured here are Robyn McMurray (Communications and Marketing Lead with Rosie's Trust), Ann McGrady and Donna Morton.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED...



Huge thanks to our volunteer Jonathan Hoey who held a fundraising night at Bangor Golf Club for Rosie's Trust and the MND Association in October. He went on to do a 430 mile road cycle around the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. He is pictured here at Tizi-n-Tazazert Pass – 2300 metres above sea level – definitely not for the faint hearted!



We had a great turnout for our first Rosie's Ramble, which we held during Volunteers' Week. Dogs took their owners 3km along the Bangor coastal path.



Sharon Howe, Caroline Forsythe, Linda Storey, Debbie McMurrin, Rebecca Rogan, and Lorraine Nesbitt were just some of the many wonderful volunteers who gave their time over Christmas/ New Year to hold raffles for Rosie's Trust at the Europa and Stormont Hotels.



And all the walkers got to enjoy the delicious Rosie's Trust cake that was made to thank all our volunteers for their endless commitment to our beneficiaries and pets!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED...



We are so grateful to all the shops that hold collection tins for us. Kimberly Newell, of County Hardware in Donaghadee, has continued to support us this year. She is pictured here with husband Thomas and fur babies Candy Cane and Tia Maria.



Attagirls! Well done to Debbie and Mel Wilkinson who walked 100k with their wee Mabel to raise funds for Rosie's Trust!

Our fabulous volunteers Clare Cowan, Gabi Kerr, Lynda Crozier and wee Harvey did a collection for Rosie's Trust at Torgrange Spar in August.



Many thanks to Barbara Wilson, Bangor Branch Manager, who presented a cheque from John Gray and Co to our Trustee Joyce Savage.

We are using these funds to develop a 'memorial wall' on our website. When a pet passes, people will be able to upload a photo and/or message of condolence and make a donation to us in lieu of a card.



Veteran volunteers Olivia Crookes (left - with Mack), Lynda and Peter Crozier (right - with Jack)

were pleased to receive a cheque from Power NI's Brighter Communities Fund presented by Barry Rogan, Marketing Co-ordinator (second from left).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED...

The true spirit of Christmas! Many thanks to the team at the Integrated Education Fund for having a collection in aid of Rosie's Trust instead of a Secret Santa!



A truly magical fundraising event was held at Stormont in November. 'Songs of Love and Hope' was organised by the Lindsay Chorale, who were joined by the Priests and MC Julian Simmons. Lisa McGee and Ibe Sesay also spoke at the event. Photo courtesy of Rachel Cooke Photography



Sealed with a ... paw print!
For Valentine's Day small business First Impression hosted a special 'puppy love' event and raised funds for Rosie's Trust.



Together with other charities in Northern Ireland, Rosie's Trust took the opportunity during Will to Give Week to ask our supporters to continue their kindness by leaving a gift in their Will.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED...

Increasing our engagement with communities around Northern Ireland

Thanks again to our wonderful volunteers, we have been able to set up stalls at community events all around Northern Ireland and to present to community groups as and when requested.

We are indebted to our Volunteer Ambassadors who made this possible. Previously, these events were undertaken by a small team of staff who were necessarily limited in the number they could attend.

We show here just some of the many Rosie's Trust stalls that were mounted for a wide range of events across Northern Ireland, including community presentations.



Molly Finlay, Volunteer Support Officer, at the Charity Jobs NI Careers and Volunteer Fair.



Volunteers Denise Davies and Lynda Crozier enjoyed some festive fun at the Dog's Trust's Christmas Fair in Ballymena.



Staffing the stall at the Lindsay Chorale's 'Songs of Love and Hope' were (l-r) Nicola Brown, Susan McKibbin, Anne Baker Catriona Mac Arthur, Lorraine Nesbitt and Robyn McMurray.



Comber and District USA Group were one of many groups that were introduced to Rosie's Trust this year.

Karen Marshall, the Committee Chair, is pictured here with Gabi Kerr, our Volunteer Ambassador, who takes wee Harvey with her whenever and wherever she can!



One of the more majestic visitors to our stall at 'Barket, the Market for Pets and their People', in Antrim in January!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED...

Time out for our wonderful volunteers!

Given the many hours that our volunteers give not only to supporting our beneficiaries and their companion pets, but also to staffing stalls, fundraising and giving presentations to community groups,

the least we can do is buy them a cuppa! Thanks to the Halifax Foundation we were able to organise a few catch ups over the year. We show a selection of them enjoying some well-earned time out.



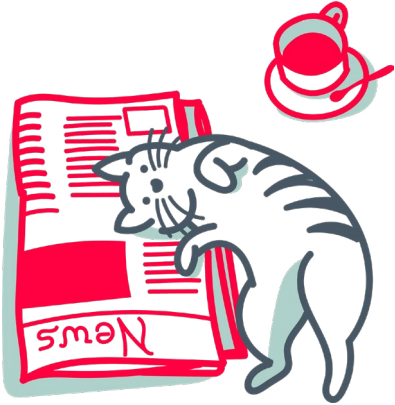
Thanks to support from the Halifax Foundation, we were able to arrange meet ups for the volunteers in all the different regions where we work.

Team meet-ups are an important part of the Rosie's Trust volunteer journey; they're an opportunity for volunteers to get to know the other members of their team, share experiences and provide support to each other.

Pictured here are Team Amber: Russell Scott, Jane Campbell, Ruth Pinkerton and Debbie McMurrin who got together for a well-deserved cuppa!



Team Honey get to sit down at last! (L-R) Fiona Coulter, Joan Curren, Laura Hamilton, Lynda Crozier, Beatrice Major and Rosi Armstrong.



Communications reaching new audiences across Northern Ireland

Our communications and messaging – through all forms of media – improved significantly during the year. We were very pleased to attract the

attention of the mainstream broadcasting and print media, a selection of which is provided here.



Laura Quinn, our very compassionate Development Officer,

spoke to BBC Radio Ulster's William Crawley about how we support our beneficiaries in dealing with pet bereavement.

Click to listen:

Is the loss of a pet comparable with the death of a family member? Is it ok to grieve the passing of a pet?

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR CONTINUED...

22 | Life

'We know that volunteering changes lives'

Continued from previous page

invited an isolated older person from the community to spend Christmas Day with us, so sharing Christmas just comes naturally to me and has become special, she says.

"During the first weekend in December, I get involved with Neighbours in Need, which was set up by my mum and creates over a thousand Christmas food hampers for people in Belfast.

"Then, on Christmas Day, along with my parents and the help of other volunteers, we cook dinner and serve it in the church.

"The prep starts the day before – cutting and peeling veg and decorating the hall – then I'll help serve the food with my mum.

"In our first year, there were around 15 of us and last year there was around 50. We expect even more to be involved this year.

"Christmas is a difficult time for some people for many reasons, so I decided to offer up my time to help make it more bearable. I want to be there for those who don't want to spend Christmas Day alone.

Jessica says that along with volunteering every Christmas, and throughout the year, she also likes to spend time at church.

"It underscores the true meaning of Christmas and the message of 'presence over presents', she says.

"There is a real sense of community and passion in the Mission across December and it's something I'm incredibly proud to be part of. Last Christmas, myself, a young child and three older men sat and had tea and a juice talking nonsense on Christmas Day. There we were.



County Down Spectator • Thursday, December 19, 2024

bring joy and but also to y...
"I've found small ways, meaningful...
"It's easy t...
bustle of C...
others hel...
chance to...
who migh...
Denise I...
Now, agre...
ing Chris...
She wo...
at other t...
"We oft...
volunte...
is a wond...
society,"...
But w...
ing it be...
volunte...
"As it...
volunt...
we really need this year...
"Over Christmas, we think about new houses or healthy habits we'll adopt in the new year, so we're hoping that volunteering could be top of that list this year. The mental and physical benefits of volunteering are proven.
"It can help you feel more active, more con-



Betty the cat particularly enjoyed reading this article about Rosie's Trust!

Belfast Telegraph,
13 December 2024

THE IRISH NEWS
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1, 2025

'Supporting people and pets is what makes us so unique'

Sophie Clarke reports on Rosie's Trust, which helps care for people's pets in their homes when they are struggling to do so due to ill health, older age or other conditions



Trust ambassadors, Q Radio presenter the Seasy with his dog Barney, Janet Harris and Rilla, who poured by the charity, and operations manager Jayne McShay

CHARITY which provides unique support for pet owners struggling to care for their animals, whether through age or disability, injury or illness, will celebrate its 10th birthday this year.

Rosie's Trust was founded in 2015 by animal therapist O'Neill who turned first-hand experience of the impact of ageing on her own pet into a charity that can help other pet owners.

"Through my volunteer work with Marie Curie and while she was there, she would tell me about the hospice who was working on a pet at home," explains Jayne McShay, Rosie's Trust's operations manager.

"She was introduced to a young man called Michael, who was receiving palliative care for terminal cancer.

"He had a big Weimaraner called Finn who he was really attached to, so we brought started walking him on her back.

"She always says that Finn and Michael were her best friends – which is what we call our service users."

As a result, through starting working with organisations including Marie Curie, Macmillan Cancer Support, Age NI and health and social care trusts to find out if there was a need for a service which would help support both people and their pets.

"Through through's research, she discovered that there was nothing like that and there was a massive need for it in Northern Ireland," Jayne adds.

"So, she set up Rosie's Trust, which is named after her own golden retriever. Since its establishment, Rosie's Trust has worked with an increasing number of individuals and their four-legged friends. The charity currently supports 50 beneficiaries and 61 pets.

"What we do is really unique," says Jayne. "We do dog walks, vet visits and grooming visits but we also offer short-term fostering if the beneficiary needs to go into hospital or receive hospice care.

"There's a lot of beneficiaries who need to go for cancer treatment but will refuse it because there's no-one to look after their pet, so it provides that extra reassurance."

The charity also provides a check-in service and works closely with social workers and healthcare services to ensure beneficiaries are receiving the best help and support available.

"We're reaching the most vulnerable and isolated people in the community and the pets are getting on through that door," explains Jayne. "People sometimes think we're an animal charity but we're not – we care for people and animals, and I think that's what makes us special."

They are the lifeline of Rosie's Trust and a lot of volunteers have been with us from the start which just shows how their level of dedication and commitment to the charity's volunteers.

They are the lifeline of Rosie's Trust and a lot of volunteers have been with us from the start which just shows how their level of dedication and commitment to the charity's volunteers.

ambassadors of the charity, which is due to its 10th anniversary, ensures that their pets if they are a terminal illness, raised went directly to the beneficiaries and their reported through cancer older age and end-of-life days a year.

The chair of Rosie's Trust, and The Lindsay Choral member, Aileen Martin, said: "Thank you to our guests, performers and ambassadors for a truly magical evening hosted by Nick Mathison, MLA in the majestic Great Hall of Parliament Buildings.

"We are so grateful for everyone's generous support of Rosie's Trust. Our charity provides a lifeline to some of the most vulnerable people in our community, and our work would not be possible without this kindness and generosity.

"The festive season can be a particularly challenging time for many people, but through the music, talent and friendship of The Lindsay Choral, we hope to bring some joy at this time of year."

County Down Spectator 19 December 2024 and Down Recorder 19 December 2024



Senior volunteer proves age is just a number

By spectatordownrecorder • March 13, 2025



Irish News, 1 January 2025

Social and digital media following continues to increase

	April 2024	March 2025	New Followers
Facebook	8,453	9,041	+588
Instagram	996	1,160	+164
X	760	736	-24 ¹
LinkedIn	152	250	+98
Mailing List	691	761	+70
Website	850 active users	1.4k active users	+550

1. This decrease reflects the overall fall in users of X. Rosie's Trust will be moving to Bluesky in due course.

SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER

And be the first to hear all our pawsome news!



ROSIE'S TRUST

We published two regular newsletters during the year: one specifically for our volunteers, and the other for our supporters.

We were delighted to assist Volunteer Now in the filming of a video for their campaign to show that age is no barrier to volunteering.

We introduced them to Niamh Nixon our youngest volunteer, aged 20, and Beatrice Major, aged 80, who has been with Rosie's Trust for seven years.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR
WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!



Active Volunteers – 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Adrienne Perry	Canine Support				
Aileen Martin	Trustee				
Aisling Fitzgerald	Canine Support				
Alex Elliot	Canine Support				
Alison McIlroy	Canine Support	Foster			
Allen Thurston	Canine Support				
Andy Gorringe	Canine Support				
Ann Payne	Canine Support				
Ann Quigley	Canine Support				
Anne Baker	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Anne Finlay	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Anne Reid	Canine Support				
Anne Tweed	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Canine Support		
Annie Watson	Canine Support				
Antoinette Hagan	Canine Support	Foster			
Arlene McEvoy	Canine Support				
Asia Haraburda	Canine Support				
Beatrice Major	Canine Support				

Active Volunteers – 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Beatriz Garcia-Torresano	Canine Support				
Benjamin Williamson	Canine Support				
Bernie Smyth	Canine Support				
Beverly Huddleston	Foster	Canine Support			
Brigitte Bartholome	Canine Support				
Carol Noble	Canine Support				
Caroline Forsyth	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Carolyn McGinnell	Canine Support				
Carolyn Tweed	Canine Support				
Catherine Kelly	Canine Support	Foster			
Catherine McConville	Foster				
Cathy McBride	Canine Support				
Cathy Wilcock	Canine Support				
Chris Idzikowska	Foster				
Chris McGarry	Canine Support				
Cilla Sherman	Phone Support	Canine Support			
Claire Guyer	Canine Support				
Claire McKeown	Canine Support				
Clare Cowan	Fundraiser	Canine Support			
Clare Jess	Trustee				
Colette Roe	Canine Support				
Courtney Rea	Canine Support				
Danielle Ingram	Canine Support				
Dawn Steveson	Canine Support				
Dean Lee	Canine Support				
Debbie Millar	Canine Support				
Deborah Frost	Canine Support				
Deborah McMurran	Canine Support				
Deidre Moody	Canine Support				
Denise Davies	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Denise Durnien	Canine Support				
Diane Dickson	Foster				
Diane Forsythe	Canine Support				
Diane Torrens	Canine Support				
Edna Wills	Canine Support	Foster			
Ellen Ferris	Canine Support				

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

Active Volunteers – 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Emer Rice	Trustee				
Emily Graham	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Emma Clarke	Canine Support				
Emma White	Canine Support				
Emma-Kate McClay	Canine Support				
Erin Galbraith	Canine Support				
Evie Gardner	Canine Support				
Felicia Chan	Canine Support				
Fiona Coulter	Canine Support				
Fiona Hollowaystone	Trustee				
Fiona Hutchinson	Canine Support				
Fionnuala Fearon	Canine Support				
Frances Steele	Canine Support				
Gail Spiers	Canine Support				
Garielle (Gabi) Kerr	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Phone Support		
Gary Craig	Canine Support				
Gayle Lavery	Trustee				
Geoff Aiken	Canine Support				
Geoffrey Parks	Canine Support	Foster			
Geraldine McKinley	Canine Support	Foster			
Gill Williams	Canine Support				
Gillian Mills	Canine Support				
Glenda Burns	Canine Support				
Grianne Evans	Transport	Admin			
Guy Irwin Smith	Canine Support				
Harry Morrow	Foster				
Hazel Cameron	Canine Support				
Helen Kerr	Canine Support				
Helen McLaughlin	Canine Support				
Helene Sloan	Canine Support				
Hilary Idzikowska	Foster	Dog Listener			
Hilary Neil	Canine Support				
Ian Brown	Canine Support				
Imelda McConnell	Canine Support				
Ivan Noble	Canine Support				
Jackie Morgan	Foster	Dog Listener			

Active Volunteers – 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Jane Bell	Canine Support				
Jane Campbell	Canine Support				
Janet Armstrong	Co-ordinator	Phone Support			
Janet Neil	Canine Support				
Janet White	Canine Support				
Janice McBriar	Canine Support				
Jen McVeigh	Canine Support				
Jill Aiken	Foster	Canine Support			
Jill Hawthorne	Trustee				
Jill Kerry	Foster				
Jill McLean	Transport				
Jill Truesdale	Canine Support	Foster			
Joan Curran	Canine Support				
Joanna Rea	Canine Support				
Joanne Parks	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support	Foster	
Joesphine Mallon	Trustee				
John Binns	Canine Support				
John Cassells	Canine Support				
John McGarrigle	Canine Support	Admin	Foster		
Johnathan Hoey	Canine Support				
Jo-Jo McLaughlin	Canine Support				
Jonathan Twinem	Canine Support				
Joyce Savage	Trustee				
Judith McCormack	Fundraiser	Canine Support			
Judith Ragg	Canine Support				
Judith Watt	Foster	Canine Support			
Julia Heggarty	Canine Support				
June Carberry	Canine Support				
Justine McIntyre	Canine Support				
Karen Boutros	Fundraiser	Transport	Canine Support		
Karen Smyth	Canine Support				
Karen Steele	Canine Support				
Karla Gordon	Canine Support				
Kate Daly	Canine Support				
Kate McNeill	Canine Support				
Keith Scott	Canine Support				

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

Active Volunteers – 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Kerrie Flack	Canine Support				
Kim Hamilton	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Kimberley Newell	Canine Support				
Kirsty Davidson-O'Neill	Canine Support				
Kirsty Shields	Canine Support				
Kristina Clyde	Canine Support				
Lara Carlin	Canine Support				
Laragh O'Grady	Canine Support				
Laura Hamilton	Canine Support				
Liana Wylie	Canine Support				
Lianne Mullholland	Canine Support				
Linda Brown	Canine Support				
Linda Marks	Transport	Canine Support			
Linda McDonald	Canine Support	Foster			
Lisa Clydesdale	Canine Support				
Lisa Curtis	Canine Support				
Lisa McEneaney	Canine Support				
Lisa Mehigan	Canine Support				
Liz Brown	Canine Support				
Lorraine Majury	Canine Support				
Lorraine Nesbitt	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support	
Louise Heatley	Trustee				
Lucia Flanagan	Canine Support				
Lyn Cummings	Canine Support				
Lynda Crozier	Fundraiser	Co-ordinator	Transport	Ambassador	Canine Support
Lynda Graham	Foster				
Lynn Magill	Canine Support				
Lynn Watson	Foster				
Lynne Hamilton	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Lynsay Wright	Canine Support				
Lynsey Grant	Canine Support	Foster			
Madhavi Pasapula	Canine Support				
Magdalena Mielcarek	Canine Support				
Maggie Kelly	Canine Support				
Maia Magee	Foster				
Malcom McKibbon	Foster				

Active Volunteers – 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Margaret Fulford	Canine Support				
Marie Caffola	Canine Support				
Mark Lamont	Canine Support				
Mark McConville	Foster				
Mary McNeilly	Ambassador				
Mary O'Hara	Canine Support				
Matthew McBride	Canine Support				
Maura Mason	Foster				
Maureen Brown	Canine Support				
Maureen McCartney	Canine Support				
Melanie Patton	Canine Support				
Michael Kelly	Canine Support				
Michael McDowell	Canine Support				
Monique Kritzing	Canine Support				
Morris Cameron	Canine Support				
Muire Creed	Canine Support				
Muriel Gillespie	Canine Support				
Nancy Henry	Foster				
Naomi Holmans	Canine Support				
Natasha Walker	Canine Support				
Neil Baird	Canine Support				
Neil Currie	Canine Support				
Niall McInerney	Canine Support				
Niamh Nixon	Canine Support				
Nicola Brown	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Noeleen Brennan	Canine Support				
Norman Totten	Canine Support				
Olivia Crookes	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support	
Oonagh Lynch	Canine Support				
Orla McGarry	Canine Support				
Patricia McCann	Canine Support				
Paul Hart	Foster				
Paula Sawyer	Canine Support				
Pauline Hughes	Canine Support				
Peter Crozier	Canine Support				
Rachel Coulter	Canine Support				

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

Active Volunteers – 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Rachel McGuinness-Brown	Canine Support				
Rachel Miskimmin	Fundraiser	Canine Support			
Rebecca Neilson	Canine Support				
Rhiannon Jones	Canine Support				
Richard Gapper	Canine Support				
Richard Graham	Foster				
Rita Tucker	Canine Support				
Robin Stevenson	Canine Support				
Rosaleen Mullan	Canine Support				
Rosi Armstrong	Canine Support				
Russell Scott	Canine Support				
Ruth Pinkerton	Fundraiser	Co-ordinator	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support
Sandra Armstrong	Canine Support				
Sandra Starr	Canine Support				
Sara Wilson	Canine Support				
Sharon Hart	Foster				
Sharon Magorrian	Canine Support				
Sharon McAleenan	Canine Support				
Simon Simpson	Canine Support				
Sophie Stephenson	Canine Support	Ambassador			
Stefanie Morrow	Transport	Foster			
Stephen Aiken	Canine Support				
Susan Mckibbin	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Susan Piggot	Canine Support				
Susan Winch	Foster				
Suzanne O'Hara	Canine Support				
Suzie Ferris	Foster				
Terri Mayne	Canine Support				
Thomas Duncan	Canine Support				
Tim Leonard	Trustee				
Tracey Rylance	Canine Support				
Trina O'Callaghan	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Trish Cameron	Canine Support				
Wallace Henry	Foster				
Wayne Watson	Foster				

AND THANK YOU AGAIN TO OUR MOST GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

AE Trust
Ann Ryland / SirJules Thorn Charitable Trust
Ardbarron Trust
Ballyclare Primary School
Belfast City Sightseeing
Black Santa
Buzz Warner
City Vets
Claire Vets
County Hardware
DWF NI
Dundonald Women's Institute
Enkalon
Executive Golf and Leisure
Glandore Dog Training Club
Halifax Foundation
Harbinson Mulholland
Irish Whiskey Auctions
John Atcheson Foundation
John Gray and Co
John McGrillan birthday fundraiser on Facebook
Killyleagh Shop
Kingsbridge Foundation, part of the Kingsbridge Healthcare Group
Lindsay Chorale
Macmillan Cancer Support
Magheramourne Dancers
McLaughlin Harvey
MuchLoved
NorthernTrust – Peer Support Funding
PhotoLease
PowerNI
Shandon Park Golf Club
Spar Community Cashback
Suresh Tharma
The National Lottery Community Fund
Torgrange Collection
Ulster Garden Villages



FINANCIAL POSITION AND RESERVES

At 31st March 2025 Rosie’s Trust held restricted reserves of £14,976 and unrestricted reserves of £112,738. Rosie’s Trust aims to hold at least one month’s running costs on reserves (approximately £55,000) to deal with any unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to the winding up of the charity in the event of being unable to raise any further substantial funding to allow the payment of staff salaries and running costs. The Trustees and operations staff will consider on a regular basis the levels of funding that it holds and how this funding can be used to benefit the charity and the services that it provides and to best meet the needs of its beneficiaries and volunteers.

In the 2024-25 financial year the majority of core costs including salaries were covered from a grant from National Lottery Community Fund and other restricted funds to cover the costs associated with particular activities or projects. We also received a level of unrestricted funding, mainly from donations, which was directed to other costs as required.

We were very fortunate to receive a three-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund in April 2023. This followed a five-year grant generously provided by the National Lottery Community Fund in 2018. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the National Lottery Community Fund for their support for making our work possible.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The 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 period. 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;
- make judgments 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 financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company 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. 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.

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the examination, but of which the examiner is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the examiner is aware of such information.

By order of the Board of Trustees



Aileen Martin (Chair)



Karen Steele (Treasurer)

3 September 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER’S REPORT TO THE CHARITY TRUSTEES OF ROSIE’S TRUST

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on the accounts pages.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner’s report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner’s statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Richard McClay FCA
For and on behalf of McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD

1 Lanyon Quay
Belfast
BT1 3LG

17 August 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Total	Year Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
Income from:	£	£	£	£
Income from charitable activities	119,190	183,683	302,873	291,184
Total income	119,190	183,683	302,873	291,184
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	(96,446)	(202,555)	(299,001)	(204,004)
Raising funds	(3,678)	-	(3,678)	(1,696)
Total expenditure	(100,124)	(202,555)	(302,679)	(205,700)
Net income before transfers	19,066	(18,872)	194	85,484
Transfer between funds	(3,432)	3,432	-	-
Net incoming resources	15,634	(15,440)	194	85,484
Fund balances brought forward	97,106	30,416	127,522	42,038
Fund balances carried forward	112,740	14,976	127,716	127,522

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.
The notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

		2025	2024
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	15,821	21,881
Current assets			
Debtors		3,263	2,016
Cash at bank and in hand		174,573	139,963
		177,836	141,979
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(65,941)	(36,338)
Net current assets		111,895	105,641
Net assets		127,716	127,522
Capital and reserves			
Unrestricted funds	5	112,740	97,106
Restricted funds	5	14,976	30,416
General funds		127,716	127,522

The notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Signed for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Aileen Martin  CHAIR

Karen Steele  TREASURER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 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 published in October 2019"

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Straight Line	
<i>Equipment, furniture and fittings</i>	25%
<i>Van</i>	20%

1.3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

1.4. Resources

Incoming resources

Income includes subscriptions, donations and other cash received and receivable. Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Income was attributable to the one principal activity of the company carried on within the United Kingdom and Europe.

2. Employees

	Period ended	Year ended
	2025	2024
Number of employees		
<i>The average monthly numbers of employees during the year were:</i>		
<i>Service Delivery</i>	6	4
	2025	2024
Employment costs	£	£
<i>Wages and salaries</i>	208,823	131,575
<i>Social security costs</i>	6,680	6,681
<i>Other pension costs</i>	9,861	6,579
	225,364	144,835

There were no employees earning over £60,000 in the year ended 31 March 2025.

Rosie's Trust's work would not have been as extensive as it has been without the dedicated services of our volunteers, as noted in the Trustees' Report.

We are very grateful for their gift of time to the charity.

3. Income & Expenditure Account

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Year	Year
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Income				
General income, donations etc	119,190	183,683	302,873	291,184
Operating expenses				
Wages and salaries	58,569	156,934	215,503	138,256
Staff pension costs	2,702	7,159	9,861	6,579
Rent	-	1,338	1,338	480
Sundry fundraising costs	3,678	-	3,678	1,696
Direct expenditure on beneficiary support	3,239	462	3,701	4,716
Insurance	-	2,286	2,286	2,504
Adverts, postage and stationery	31	1,321	1,352	674
Promotional materials	13,199	15,000	28,199	8,439
Telephone and IT	5,603	705	6,308	3,428
Travelling and motor	776	7,437	8,213	8,296
Consultancy fees	8,420	1,000	9,420	21,955
Training	-	2,436	2,436	180
General expenses	1,020	2,100	3,120	6,502
Subscriptions	1,204	-	1,204	471
Depreciation	1,683	4,377	6,060	2,024
Profits/losses on assets	-	-	-	500
	100,124	202,555	302,679	205,700
(Deficit) / Surplus for year				
Normal activites	19,066	18,872	194	85,484
Transfer between funds	(3,432)	3,432		
	15,634	15,440	194	85,484

4. Tangible fixed assets

	General Assets	Restricted Fund Assets	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	5,260	24,495	29,755
Disposals	-	(4,519)	(4,519)
At 31 March 2025	5,260	19,976	25,236
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	848	7,026	7,874
Charge for the year	1,683	4,377	6,060
Disposals	-	(4,519)	(4,519)
At 31 March 2025	2,531	6,884	9,415
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025	2,729	13,092	15,821
At 31 March 2024	4,412	17,469	21,881

5. Statement of funds

	Balance 1 April 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2025
Restricted funds					
Sundry Grants	30,416	12,363	27,803	-	14,976
Dormant Accounts Fund NI	-	45,204	(45,204)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	126,116	(129,548)	3,432	-
	30,416	183,683	(202,555)	3,432	14,976

Revenue reserves include grants that have preconditions attached. These grants are separated as shown above and relevant expenditure is allocated against them.

Any funds unspent at the end of the year are carried forward if the charity has received them outright, and they are shown as income in the year received. Any funds received that are repayable to the granting body if unspent are shown as income to the extent that expenditure has been incurred and a deferred income liability is included for the amount not yet spent.

6. Charity information

The organisation was formed by Trust deed. It is registered with HMRC and The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland as a charity. It operates within Northern Ireland and its registered address is The Fountain Centre, 2 Queens Parade, Bangor, BT20 3BJ.

The nature of the entity’s operations and a description of the principal activities is included in the Trustees’ report.

7. Accounts approval

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 3 September 2025.



We'd love to talk to you about Rosie's Trust
so please call us on **02891 641340** or visit
rosiestrust.org for more information.



Rosie's Trust is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422.

Registered office 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Rosie's Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102422

Accounts



Annual Report

and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2024

Charity Registration Number: NIC102422
Generously supported by





Northern Ireland's only charity dedicated to helping cancer patients, the terminally ill and elderly people with mobility issues to hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them most.

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Message from the Chair



The financial year 2023-2024 marked a major turning point in the life of our charity. Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters, we enjoyed significant growth during the period and were able to invest in laying strong foundations for our future sustainability.

Special thanks must go to the Kingsbridge Charitable Foundation and the John Atcheson Trust for their most generous donations. We are also indebted to the many different organisations who awarded us grants during the period, including the Clothworkers Federation, Coop, Danske Bank Employees' Charity Group, Enkalon, Halifax Foundation, Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Fund, and the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust.

Most importantly, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many individuals who raised funds on our behalf. They are the backbone of our charity and rightly take centre stage in the 'Highlights' section on pages 11 to 21.

The generous support from our core funder, the National Lottery Community Fund, has enabled Rosie's Trust to continue to help cancer patients, people receiving end of life care and elderly people with mobility issues to hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them the most.

In addition to our existing beneficiaries, during the period under review we were able to support 22 new beneficiaries in the four Health and Social Care Trust areas in which we operate, bringing the total number of beneficiaries supported to 64. We also succeeded in recruiting and training 81 additional volunteers, bringing the total to 210.

Investing in our people

Through focused planning and targeted initiatives, I am confident that we have set the stage for ongoing success in the years to come. We have expanded our team of staff, adding new positions to support our evolving goals and to enhance our capabilities. This investment in talent has not only strengthened our current operations but built our capacity for continued growth.

We welcomed two new staff during the period: Aisling Fitzmaurice, a long-standing volunteer with Rosie's Trust, who joined us in April as a Development Officer for the South Eastern and Southern HSC Trust areas. We also engaged the services of another wonderful volunteer, Grainne Evans, as our finance manager for one day a week. Finally, and fortuitously, Nuala Muldoon, our part-time Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, was able to give another day a week of her time to assume the busy load of Administrative Assistant.

The Board also decided to employ a part-time CEO for three years, as provided for in the National Lottery Community Fund grant award. Previously, we had engaged an interim CEO on a consultancy basis. Dr Catriona Mac Arthur was subsequently employed to provide strategic leadership and direction to our small team.

We also created a number of new roles to enable volunteers to build on their existing skills, competencies and interests. During the period under review, we have created four new roles: Transport Volunteer, Volunteer Administrator, Rosie's Trust Ambassador, and Fundraising Volunteer.

Message from the Chair cont'd...

Another completely new role we created this year was that of Celebrity Ambassador. We were thrilled when Ibe Sesay, an influencer with more than 10,000 followers, agreed to become our first ever Ambassador. A great dog lover, Ibe is the presenter of the Drive programme on Q Radio. His support of Rosie's Trust is helping us raise our profile, particularly among the 25- to 45-year-old age group.



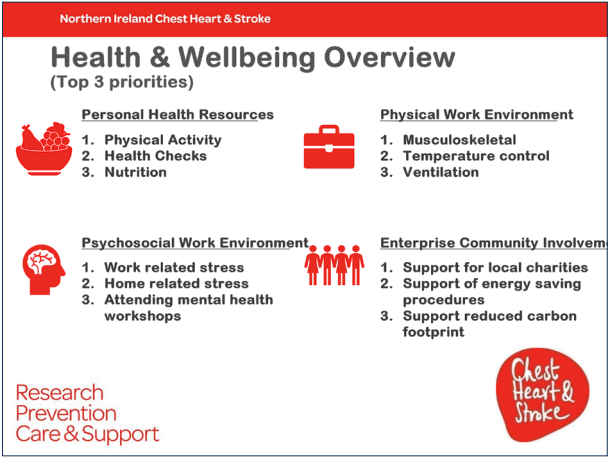
The appointment of Ibe Sesay as our new Celebrity Ambassador caught the media's imagination. He is pictured here with his Maltese poodle pup, Barnie, together with Rosie's Trust beneficiary, Janet Harris with her beloved Rilla, and Jayne McStay, Operations Manager

Our second Celebrity Ambassador to be appointed this year was Lisa McGee, who needs no introduction following the phenomenal success of her 'Derry Girls', not to mention her many other achievements. Lisa is a great cat lover and, like Ibe, is using her platform to support our work and reach out to new audiences.

We are indebted to so many volunteers – far more than I could list here – that we provide a separate page with the names of each and every one of them with our enormous gratitude. Our charity simply could not operate without our volunteers; they go above and beyond to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We are truly blessed to have them in the Rosie's Trust family.



All of us on the Board of Trustees are aware of the emotional demands that working with vulnerable people can make on our staff and volunteers. We were therefore delighted to be accepted on the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association's free Work well, live well programme. This began with a survey of all volunteers and staff to identify their priority concerns (the top three across four different areas are shown in the chart below) and a tailored action plan was then developed to address these.



Best practice governance

Our volunteers do, of course, include my fellow Trustees on the Board of Rosie's Trust. There were a few comings and goings during the period, including my own appointment as Chair of the Board in June. I was about to retire from my position as Commercial Director at Hastings Hotels and was keen to find a new challenge. My love of dogs and my heartfelt desire to help all things cancer related was the motivator to apply for this fantastic role.

We bade farewell to two long-standing Trustees, Fiona Coulter and Joy McGimpsey, who stood down in May and October 2024 respectively. Both had made major contributions to the charity during their tenure, and we will be forever grateful to them for their support.

The Board of Trustees has continued to strive for best practice in governance. During the period we streamlined and developed an enhanced risk register, better aligned to our annual Operational Plan. We also updated our Trust Deed, setting fixed terms of office, numbers of Trustees, and a quorum for all meetings. These changes were needed as the Trust Deed had not been reviewed since Rosie's Trust was first established in January 2015, when it comprised just three Trustees and no staff at all!!

Another major task was the review and development of just under 100 policies and procedures covering a wide range of areas, from safeguarding to health and safety to data protection and social media.



Lisa McGee with beautiful Molly and her proud owner Paul Swan, a beneficiary of Rosie's Trust (at Lisa's left). Pictured with them are Mark Regan, CEO of Kingsbridge Healthcare Group (far left), Dr Martin Shields, Group Medical Director (right), and Aileen Martin (far right).

We developed many new policies in response to identified operational need, such as 'Eligibility criteria for the provision of Rosie's Trust services', 'Process for assisting beneficiaries in need with the payment of vet fees' and a 'Process for addressing breach of volunteer policies and procedures.'

We also updated our Covid-19 guidelines to allow volunteers to enter beneficiaries' homes and enjoy 'normal' (ie pre-pandemic) contact provided the beneficiary is not receiving cancer treatment.

The group tasked with implementing our Business Continuity Plan ran two test exercises during the year, one of which took place out-of-hours. The group's meticulous preparations ensured that both exercises – conducted among all staff, Trustees and volunteers - occurred without incident and confirmed the excellent communications set up between all involved.

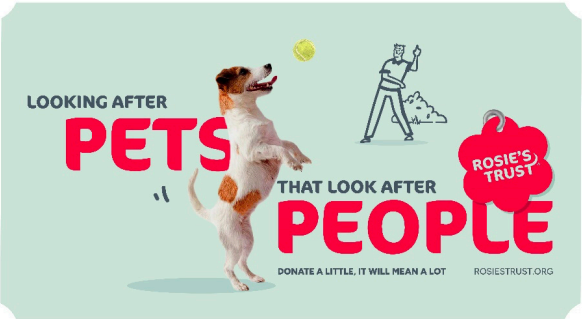
Another important development this year was the introduction of a new online referral form that will enable us to transition over time to third party referrals. We are confident that this will reduce the burden on our small team who spend significant periods of time signposting people who do not meet our eligibility criteria. The referral form still provides for self-referrals but encourages those from third parties (such as a social worker, GP or community/voluntary organisation).

Message from the Chair cont'd...

Improving understanding of our services

I have taken every opportunity throughout the year to meet with representatives of the private, public and third sectors to raise awareness of Rosie's Trust. This has included meeting one to one with the CEOs of Aware, Hospice NI, and Business in the Community. I have also attended various forums throughout the year to spread the word.

The Board and I were pleased to receive ringfenced funding to enable us to engage external support to help us better communicate the vital role Rosie's Trust plays in the community. We started work in March on a rebranding project, which will be launched to mark our 10th birthday in January 2025. The Board is confident that this investment will make a significant return, in terms of improved awareness of Rosie's Trust and increased financial support.



A taste of Rosie's Trust new branding, which is designed to engage with new audiences. It will be launched to mark our 10th anniversary in January 2025.

I am very much looking forward to working with all at Rosie's Trust to lead the charity into a period of growth and expansion in the year ahead, enabling us to keep increasing numbers of people together with their pets during difficult times. I am particularly pleased that we will be able to explore opportunities in 2024-2025 to expand our services to the North-West region, thanks to the generous support of Ulster Garden Villages. With many, many thanks to the volunteers, staff, Trustees and, of course, the National Lottery Community Fund, without whom I would be unable to look to the future of our charity with such optimism.

Aileen Martin
Chair

Information about Rosie's Trust

Charity established under Trust Deed on 20 January, 2015.

Board of Trustees (at the date of approval of the accounts)

- Aileen Martin, Chair
Appointed to Board June 2023
- Karen Steele , Treasurer
Appointed to Board October 2024
- Josephine Mallon, Secretary
- Hannah Corbett
Appointed to Board December 2024
- Clare Jess
Appointed to Board February 2023
- Gail Lavery
Appointed to Board February 2023
- Tim Leonard
- Joyce Savage

The Trustees who resigned between the commencement date of these financial statements and the approval date are listed below:

- Emer Rice
Resigned May 2024
- Jill Hawthorne
Resigned August 2024
- Louise Heatley
Resigned October 2024

- Staff**
- CEO, Dr Catriona Mac Arthur (O.4 FTE)
 - Operations Manager, Jayne McStay
 - Development Officer, Laura Quinn
 - Development Officer, Aisling Fitzmaurice
 - Volunteer Support Officer, Molly Finlay
 - Marketing and Communications Lead, Robyn McMurray (O.8 FTE)
 - Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, Nuala Muldoon
 - Finance Manager, Grainne Evans (Consultant - 0.2 FTE)

Contact details
Telephone: 0289 1641340
Email: mail@rosiestrust.org
Postal address: The Fountain Centre, 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Independent Examiner
James Fulford & Co Ltd
Chartered Accounts
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT 23 5GW

Bankers
Co-op Bank Ltd
1, Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Santander UK plc
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

Registration
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422

Taxation Status
As a registered charity, Rosie's Trust has claimed exemption from tax.

Who we are and What we do



Rosie's Trust is unique. We are the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to helping cancer patients, the terminally ill and older people with a disability hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them most.

When someone is faced with a cancer diagnosis, disability or terminal illness, their whole world changes. They have so much to worry about, so much to deal with and the one thing they need - especially those living alone - is the emotional support that their companion pet provides.

They are no longer able to provide their dog or cat with the same level of care they once could and their anxiety about the welfare of their beloved companion only serves to compound their distress.

At the most stressful time of their lives, they may be forced to give up their companion pet and, in so doing, experience tremendous loss, isolation and feelings of guilt.

Some people have reported that they considered delaying or even refusing treatment because they had no one to look after their pet.

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' companion dogs and/or cats in their homes when they are no longer able to look after them independently.

We provide fostering services when our beneficiaries need to spend a period of time in hospital or in hospice care. Subject always to our beneficiaries' wishes, we also find new homes for their pets when they are no longer able to care for them, including when they die.

Rosie's Trust also offers a pet bereavement service, providing emotional support to beneficiaries when their companion pet predeceases them.

We provide our services free of charge, 365 days of the year. We depend on donations to cover our service costs, and every penny gifted to us is carefully used.

Our services offer peace of mind for our beneficiaries as they know Rosie's Trust will support them in the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.

Rosie's Trust services not only help to address loneliness and social exclusion in Northern Ireland, but also to promote animal welfare, in accordance with the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011.



Our team of 200+ committed volunteers are the life force of Rosie's Trust and provide help and support in all aspects of pet care, including feeding, grooming, exercising, play and stimulation, and vet visits.

Our volunteers are our eyes and ears, ensuring when they visit that our beneficiaries are as well as can be and providing welcome social contact for many. Our volunteers work in teams, with each member making two visits a week.

An average of three volunteers is allocated to each beneficiary.

Our volunteers receive intense training before being matched to a beneficiary. This ensures they all have a sound understanding of Rosie's Trust's policies and procedures to promote the health and wellbeing of our beneficiaries, their pets, and the volunteers themselves. They are also trained to signpost to partner organisations, wherever necessary.

Since our establishment in 2015, we have served 214 beneficiaries. They are located in four of the five Health and Social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, Southern and South Eastern).

We undertake a very thorough assessment process of each of our beneficiaries and their pets. This enables us to develop tailored action plans, which take into account and address all the risks we have identified and ensure the best match for the beneficiary with our volunteers. We also have robust safeguarding policies in place to protect our beneficiaries and our volunteers. Social workers from the Health and Social Care Trusts refer potential beneficiaries to us as do organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support (NI). Although we particularly encourage third party referrals, we do accept self-referrals.

Our work has been made possible thanks to core funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.



Public Benefit

1) The advancement of health or the saving of lives.

We maintain the health and wellbeing of both the beneficiary and their companion animal by alleviating the stresses and anxiety felt when they are no longer able to care for their pet independently.



2) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

Rosie's Trust works with those experiencing terminal illness, acute cancer treatment, age and disability, maintaining their relationship with their companion animal and working with partner organisations to help the beneficiary overcome other challenges.



3) The advancement of animal welfare.

Our work keeping people and their pets together supports our beneficiaries in ensuring the care they provide their animal meets the five welfare needs as detailed in the Welfare of Animal Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.



Highlights of the year

"Rosie's Trust gave me my life back."

It is hard to imagine seven more powerful words to describe the work of any charity, still less our own!

The words belong to one of Rosie's Trust beneficiaries who feared they would have to give up their companion pet when they received a terminal diagnosis. They are just seven of several hundred words of endorsement expressed by respondents to our 2023 survey. We distribute these surveys every year to obtain feedback on our services so that we can continually improve these and address any issues arising.

We always ask what difference Rosie's Trust has made to their lives as well as the impact it has had on their mental health. Ninety-six per cent of respondents said that our services had made a "big difference" to:

- ✓ Their lives.
- ✓ Their stress/anxiety levels.
- ✓ Their feeling more confident.
- ✓ Reducing loneliness and their sense of isolation.

The remaining four per cent believed Rosie's Trust had made "quite a lot of difference" to their lives.

When asked to explain why the charity had made a big difference to their lives, responses typically referred to the importance of having someone check in on them every day and the "wee chats" they enjoyed with the volunteers.

More beneficiaries and companion pets supported in 2023 -2024



Our volunteers also reported that Rosie's Trust had had a very positive impact on their lives, most frequently stating how "rewarding" they found the volunteering to be and how it had given them a "sense of purpose".

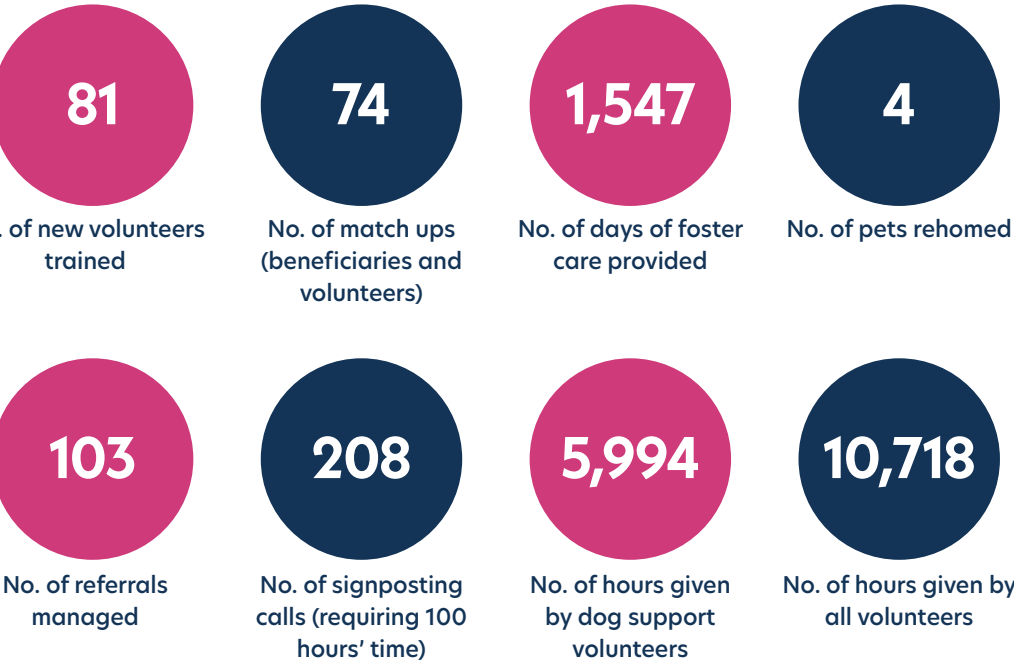
"I absolutely love knowing that by giving up just a small portion of my time each week I am making such a difference to someone's life." Rosie's Trust volunteer

Another summed up their experience with four short words:

"Awesome charity, great support."

Highlights of the year cont'd...

A busy year for staff and volunteers beyond direct beneficiary support



Too many fundraisers to mention this year!

We are indebted to all the wonderful people around Northern Ireland who supported our work during the year – there are simply too many of them to mention in these short pages. However, we have shouted out to them all in our social media on every possible occasion!

They include Georgia Gow and Neil Currie, who were undeterred by the terrible weather to take on the Belfast Half Marathon to raise funds on our behalf.

We are so grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund for awarding us a Dormant Accounts grant last year. This enabled us to employ two part-time staff, one of whom is a dedicated Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead. Nuala Muldoon deserves credit for many of the fundraising initiatives listed, even though she started only in December!



Still smiling! Huge congratulations to Georgia Gow and Neil Currie who both completed the Belfast Half Marathon in the most miserable conditions! They raised £410 and £570 respectively – fantastic result!



We were thrilled to receive this generous cheque from Jason Beddoes, Director of the Dog Field (NI). They raised £500 for Rosie's Trust with the sale of their 2024 calendar featuring all the dogs in their care.



Our volunteer ambassador, Kim set herself the challenge of walking three ten-mile walks over three months and raised more than £600! She was joined by 14-year-old Ben, who needed a bit of help along the way!



Huge thanks to the staff of Kingsbridge Healthcare Group for choosing to support our work this year and help keep people and their pets together! Dr Martin Shields, Chair of Kingsbridge Foundation and Medical Director at Kingsbridge Healthcare Group, said: "We are delighted to provide Rosie's Trust with a £20,000 donation. Pets play such an important role in people's lives, and we sometimes find that patients might delay treatment as they worry over who will help take care of their beloved dog or cat, so it is great that the charity removes this concern for beneficiaries, not only when they are faced with this situation, but in their daily lives."



Many thanks to our veteran volunteers Olivia Crookes, Lynda Crozier, Anne Tweed and Ruth Pinkerton for staffing a stall at Tesco, Springhill, just before Christmas. Huge thanks also to Tesco and customers for their generosity! The collection raised more than £600!

Highlights of the year cont'd...



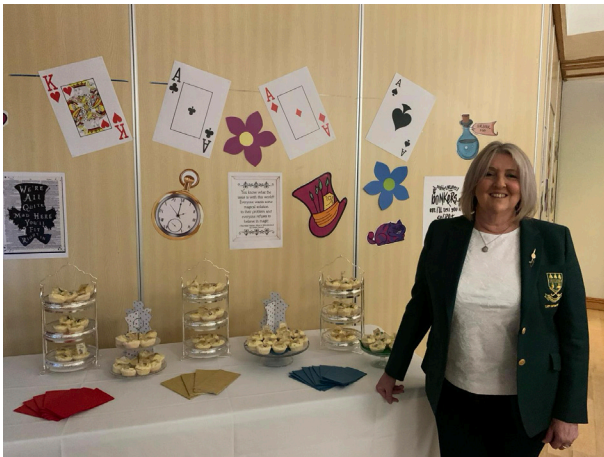
Bonanza! The Dog Agility community also raised £1,000 for Rosie's Trust this year!



Waiting for the guests to arrive! Aileen Martin kindly hosted a coffee morning at her home to raise over £2,000 for Rosie's Trust. She is pictured here with Trustees Joyce Savage, Gayle Lavery, Clare Jess and Emer Rice as well as staff Sandra McFadden, Laura Quinn and Jayne McStay. Well-known former broadcaster Julian Simmonds kindly MCed the event.



We had a bit of fun taking pics of our new 2020 Citroen Berlingo van. We were able to buy this van, which had only 35,000 miles on the clock, thanks to a generous grant from Clothworkers' Federation. They are based in London so we thought we'd include pictures of the van at iconic NI spots in our progress reports.



"I suppose I ought to eat or drink something or other; but the great question is, 'What?'"

A massive thank you to Debbie Thompson, Lady Captain at Shandon Park Golf Club, who kindly chose to support Rosie's Trust during her year of captaincy. They held their first Ladies' Night of the season with an Alice in Wonderland-themed night of a meal and a quiz. They raised more than £600 on that occasion alone!



Irish Whiskey auctions raised more than £10,000 for Rosie's Trust - we were - and remain - simply overwhelmed by their generosity!



Our volunteers did a fantastic job holding raffles at a series of Tribute Nights at Hastings Hotels over Christmas/New Year. Caroline Forsythe and Gabi Kerr cleverly managed to grab a photo with The Mowtown Sensations! Huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with the raffles and, of course, to Hastings Hotels for the opportunity.



And finally a collective shout out to our core funder, the National Lottery Community Fund, on Crossed Finger Selfie Day 14 November 2023!

Many thanks also to Denise Cranston, Head of Partnerships Practice at 2 into 3, who generously provided a free training session to some of our staff on developing corporate partnerships.

Surely and steadily increasing our presence in communities far and wide

Thanks again to our wonderful volunteers, we have been able to set up stalls at community events all around Northern Ireland and to present to community groups as and when requested.

This year we trained 10 ambassadors who have made this possible. Previously, these events were undertaken by a small team of staff who were necessarily limited in the number they could attend.

We have also been helped enormously in raising our public profile thanks to a generous donation from the John Atcheson Trust. We spent this on purchasing basic equipment, signage and promotional material to display at events. We also invested in various interactive tools, from colouring books to quizzes, as well as branded give-aways and/or purchases to attract passers-by to our stalls.

Many thanks also to the Halifax Foundation for providing the funds needed to buy branded clothing for our volunteers!

Highlights of the year cont'd...



Thanks to our fantastic Ambassadors, we have been able to hold an increasing number of awareness raising events throughout the year. Pictured here are Nicola Brown and Kim Hamilton, who gave a presentation to the Ravenhill Presbyterian Women's Group.



One of our longest-serving volunteers, Ruth Pinkerton assumes a number of roles for Rosie's Trust, including that of Ambassador. She is pictured here at one of the many presentations she has given throughout the year, on this occasion to the staff at Kingsbridge.



Across the ages: At the Positive Ageing Roadshow with Ards and North Down Borough Council...



... and the QUB Freshers Fair! We were thrilled to be shortlisted as Queen's University Belfast's Student Union RAG Charity of the Year. Fingers crossed for next year!



Development Officer Laura Quinn with her two beautiful daughters, Eliza and Holly. They managed our stall at Cancer Focus's Woodland Walk in Springhill. Many thanks to Richard's Photography for the photo!



Our Volunteer Support Officer Sandra McFadden with her dog Pippa, together with volunteers Rachel Miskimmin, Anne Finlay and Nancy the greyhound. They hosted a stall at Pet Nose Day, Mount Stewart.

Communications reaching new audiences across Northern Ireland

Our communications and messaging – through all forms of media – improved significantly during the year. This was due in large part to the presence – for the first time – of our part-time Communications and Marketing Lead, Claire Smyth, on the team. Rosie's Trust was able to employ Claire thanks to the award of a two-year Dormant Accounts grant.

One of Claire's many initiatives was to introduce two regular newsletters; one specifically for our volunteers, and the other for our supporters.

Steady increase in social media following:

		April 2023	March 2024	Increase
Facebook		7.7k	8.5k	+800
Instagram		761	990	+229
X		746	758	+12
Linked In		71	146	+65
Mailing List		480	690	+210

Rosie's Trust stall mounted record number of times around NI



SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER

And be the first to hear all our pawsome news!





While Claire has been busy primarily with external communications, our internal communications with volunteers have taken a huge leap thanks to the tireless work of our longstanding volunteer, John McGarrigle, in developing an increasingly sophisticated user-friendly volunteer portal.

Highlights of the year cont'd...

**‘Dogs are the heartbeat of the home...’
NI charity offers pet care to patients**

[illegible]

The mainstream media has been providing increased coverage of Rosie's Trust. This is, of course, another important mechanism to increase public awareness of the services we provide.

Ulster Tatler

Subscribe 12
issues for £25

IBE SESAY ANNOUNCED AS AMBASSADOR FOR ROSIE'S TRUST

Northern Ireland charity Rosie's Trust, dedicated to helping cancer patients, terminally ill and older patients with a disability stay together with their pets, has announced that Q Radio presenter Ibe Sesay has been appointed as an ambassador.

News Letter

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Health

It's a 'Derry' good day as Rosie's Trust secures support from Lisa McGee

By Helen McGurk




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Published 6th Feb 2024, 11:30 GMT | Updated 7th Feb 2024, 09:04 GMT



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Our Chair, Aileen Martin, was pleased to meet with some of our wonderful volunteers soon after she joined the charity.



Thanks to support from the Halifax Foundation, we were able to arrange meet ups for the volunteers in all the different regions where we work. Team meet-ups are an important part of the Rosie's Trust volunteer journey; they're an opportunity for volunteers to get to know the other members of their team, share experiences and provide support to each other.



We are so fortunate to be able to recruit volunteers close to where new beneficiaries live, wherever that may be.

Highlights of the year cont'd...



We enjoyed wonderful sunshine at our walk in Stormont to celebrate Volunteers Week

Fostering and rehoming service gets a boost from Danske Bank employees

Rosie's Trust provides foster care for the cats and dogs of our existing beneficiaries when they need hospital treatment or hospice care.

We are indebted to the Danske Bank Employees' Charity Group who made a very generous donation to help us set a fund specifically for that purpose. Their donation will directly benefit the animals in our care by providing them with essential medical care, food, comfortable shelter, and a loving environment. It will also enable us to continue our efforts in finding forever homes for these pets, ensuring they are placed with responsible and caring individuals or families.

There was unprecedented demand for foster care this year and we are so grateful to our newly-trained transport volunteers for helping us move the animals between our different volunteer foster carers.

Leveraging our impact through advocacy and networking

In addition to all the individuals and organisations that have financially supported Rosie's Trust this year, it is also important to note that we are slowly but surely increasing the number of people who lend us support in other ways. One such person is Professor Siobhan O'Neill, Northern Ireland's Mental Health Champion. We met with her in February and were blown away by her genuine enthusiasm and support of our work. This was her first introduction to the charity, yet she immediately understood the impact of our work, not only in terms of promoting mental health, but also in addressing social isolation, depression and anxiety, not to mention animal welfare.



NI's Mental Health Champion is a passionate supporter of Rosie's Trust.

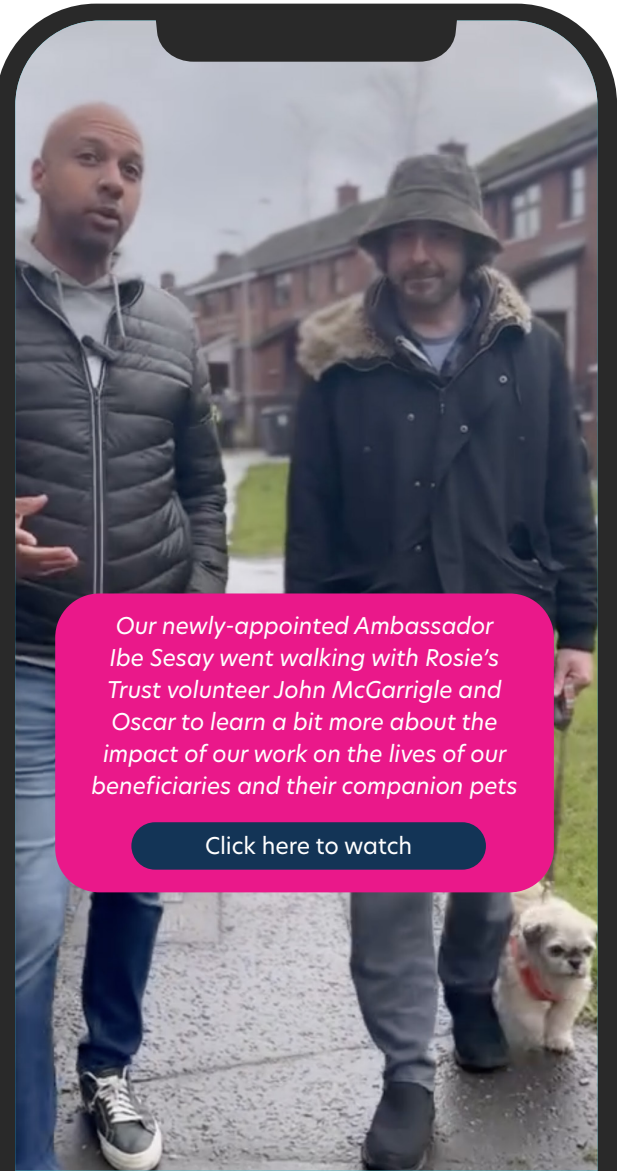
Professor O'Neill kindly volunteered the following quote for use in our funding applications and elsewhere, as appropriate:

"Rosie's Trust is a unique, life-changing charity in Northern Ireland. It provides a vital service to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. It ticks so many boxes that it cannot be placed into any one service category; it promotes mental health and wellbeing, addresses social isolation, provides a regular 'check in service', not to mention animal welfare. The profound impact of the bond that exists between an individual and their companion pet cannot be over-estimated, especially when that person lives alone and is unable to provide the care their pet needs because of cancer treatment, end of life care or age-related mobility issues".

We also joined up with other like-minded organisations to gain leverage in our advocacy work. To that end, we successfully applied this year to join the NI Companion Animal Welfare Group and the UK-wide Association of Dogs and Cats Homes.

Rosie's Trust has continued to build relationships with a wide range of organisations in the voluntary and community sector as well as the private and public sectors. This is a key performance objective as we know collaborations are essential to increase our reach and impact.

Rosie's Trust is represented at all the HSC Trust locality meetings. We are also active contributors to the Area Integrated Partnerships project. Our main partners at present, apart from the social workers and care teams with whom we are in daily contact, are organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie who are among our principal referral agencies.



Our newly-appointed Ambassador Ibe Sesay went walking with Rosie's Trust volunteer John McGarrigle and Oscar to learn a bit more about the impact of our work on the lives of our beneficiaries and their companion pets

[Click here to watch](#)



Could you provide a dog with a loving, temporary home?

There was a huge spike in demand for foster care this year, but we were able to keep up with demands thanks to our Foster Volunteers! We provide foster care for existing beneficiaries who need hospital or hospice care.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5	Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Aileen Martin	Trustee					Emily Graham	Fundraiser	Ambassador			
Aisling Fitzgerald	Canine Support					Emma Clarke	Canine Support				
Aisling Fitzmaurice	Canine Support	Foster	Phone Support	Co-ordinator		Emma-Kate McClay	Canine Support				
Alex Elliot	Canine Support					Erin Galbraith	Canine Support				
Alison McIlroy	Canine Support	Foster	Foster			Evie Gardner	Canine Support				
Andy Gorringe	Canine Support					Felicia Chan	Canine Support				
Ann Payne	Canine Support					Fiona Coulter	Canine Support				
Ann Quigley	Canine Support					Fiona Hutchinson	Canine Support				
Anne Baker	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support			Fionnuala Fearon	Canine Support				
Anne Finlay	Ambassador					Frances Steele	Canine Support				
Anne Tweed	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Canine Support			Gail Spiers	Canine Support				
Antoinette Hagan	Canine Support	Foster				Gale Lavery	Trustee				
Arlene McEvoy	Canine Support					Garielle (Gabi) Kerr	Fundraiser	Ambassador			
Asia Haraburda	Canine Support					Geoffrey Parks	Canine Support	Foster			
Ava Inman	Canine Support					Geraldine McKinley	Canine Support	Foster			
Beatrice Major	Canine Support					Gill Williams	Canine Support				
Beatriz Garcia-Torresano	Canine Support					Glenda Burns	Canine Support				
Bernie Smyth	Canine Support					Grianne Evans	Transport	Admin			
Beverly Huddleston	Foster					Guy Irwin Smith	Canine Support				
Brigitte Bartholome	Canine Support					Harry Morrow	Foster				
Carol Noble	Canine Support					Hazel Cameron	Canine Support				
Caroline Forsyth	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support			Helen Kerr	Canine Support				
Carolyn McGinnell	Canine Support					Helen McLaughlin	Canine Support				
Carolyn Tweed	Canine Support					Helene Sloan	Canine Support				
Catherine Kelly	Canine Support	Foster				Hilary Idzikowska	Foster				
Catherine McConville	Foster					Hilary Neil	Canine Support				
Cathy Wilcock	Canine Support					Ian Brown	Canine Support				
Chris Idzikowska	Foster					Ilene Barrington	Canine Support				
Chris McGarry	Canine Support					Imelda McConnell	Canine Support				
Chrissie Henderson	Canine Support					Ivan Noble	Canine Support				
Cilla Sherman	Phone Support	Canine Support				Jackie Morgan	Foster	Dog Listener			
Claire Guyer	Canine Support					Jane Bell	Canine Support				
Claire Malone	Canine Support					Jane Campbell	Canine Support				
Clare Cowan	Fundraiser	Canine Support				Janet Armstrong	Co-ordinator	Phone Support			
Clare Jess	Trustee					Janet Neil	Canine Support				
Colette Roe	Canine Support					Janice McBriar	Canine Support				
Courtney Rea	Canine Support					Jennifer McDowell	Canine Support				
Danielle Ingram	Canine Support					Jill Aiken	Foster				
Dawn Steveson	Canine Support					Jill Hawthorne	Trustee				
Dean Lee	Canine Support					Jill Kerry	Foster				
Debbie Millar	Canine Support					Jill McLean	Transport				
Deborah Frost	Canine Support					Jill Truesdale	Canine Support	Foster			
Deborah McMurran	Canine Support					Joan Curran	Canine Support				
Deidre Moody	Canine Support					Joanna Rea	Canine Support				
Denise Davies	Ambassador	Canine Support				Joanne Parks	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support	Foster	
Denise Durnien	Canine Support					Josephine Mallon	Trustee				
Diane Dickson	Foster					John Cassells	Canine Support				
Diane Torrens	Canine Support					John McGarrigle	Canine Support	Admin	Foster		
Edna Wills	Foster					Jo-Jo McLaughlin	Canine Support				
Elaine Wilson	Canine Support					Jonathan Twinem	Canine Support				
Ellen Ferris	Canine Support					Joy McGimpsey	Trustee				
Emer Rice	Trustee					Joyce Savage	Trustee				

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Judith McCormack	Fundraiser	Canine Support			
Judith Ragg	Canine Support				
Judith Watt	Foster				
Justine McIntyre	Canine Support				
Karen Boutros	Fundraiser				
Karen Smyth	Canine Support				
Karen Steele	Canine Support				
Kate Daly	Canine Support	Transport			
Kate McNeill	Canine Support				
Katrina Jones	Canine Support				
Keith Scott	Canine Support				
Kim Hamilton	Fundraiser	Ambassador			
Kimberley Newell	Canine Support				
Kirsty Davidson-O'Neill	Canine Support				
Kristina Clyde	Canine Support				
Lara Carlin	Canine Support				
Laura Hamilton	Canine Support				
Liana Wylie	Canine Support				
Lianne Mullholland	Canine Support				
Linda Brown	Canine Support				
Linda Marks	Transport	Canine Support			
Linda McDonald	Canine Support	Foster			
Lisa Clydesdale	Canine Support				
Lisa Curtis	Canine Support				
Lisa Mehigan	Canine Support				
Liz Brown	Canine Support				
Lorna Crockett	Canine Support				
Lorraine Nesbitt	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support	
Louise Heatley	Trustee				
Lucia Flanagan	Canine Support				
Lyn Cummings	Canine Support				
Lyn Watson	Foster				
Lynda Crozier	Fundraiser	Co-ordinator	Transport	Ambassador	Canine Support
Lynda Graham	Foster				
Lynn Magill	Canine Support				
Lynne Hamilton	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Lynsey Grant	Canine Support	Foster			
Madhavi Pasapula	Canine Support				
Magdalena Mielcarek	Canine Support				
Maggie Kelly	Canine Support				
Maia Magee	Foster				
Malcolm McKibbin	Foster				
Malcom McKibbon	Foster				
Margaret Fulford	Canine Support				
Marie Caffola	Canine Support				
Mark Lamont	Canine Support				
Mark McConville	Foster				
Mary McNeilly	Ambassador				
Mary O'Hara	Canine Support				
Matthew McBride	Canine Support				
Maureen McCartney	Canine Support				
Melanie Patton	Canine Support				

Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Michael Kelly	Canine Support				
Michael McDowell	Canine Support				
Morris Cameron	Canine Support				
Muire Creed	Canine Support				
Muriel Gillespie	Canine Support				
Nacy Henry	Foster				
Natasha Walker	Canine Support				
Neil Baird	Canine Support				
Neil Currie	Canine Support				
Niall McInerney	Canine Support				
Niamh McCann	Canine Support				
Niamh Nixon	Canine Support				
Nicola Brown	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Noeleen Brennan	Canine Support				
Olivia Crookes	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Ambassador		
Oonagh Lynch	Canine Support				
Paul Hart	Foster				
Pauline Hughes	Canine Support				
Peter Crozier	Canine Support				
Rachel Livingston	Canine Support				
Rachel Miskimmin	Fundraiser	Canine Support			
Rebecca Neilson	Canine Support				
Rhiannon Jones	Canine Support				
Richard Gapper	Canine Support				
Rita Tucker	Canine Support				
Robin Stevenson	Canine Support				
Rosaleen Mullan	Canine Support				
Rose Templeton	Canine Support				
Russell Scott	Canine Support				
Ruth Pinkerton	Fundraiser	Co-ordinator	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support
Sara Wilson	Canine Support				
Shane Rafferty	Canine Support				
Sharon Branigan	Canine Support				
Sharon Hart	Foster				
Sharon Magorrian	Canine Support				
Sharon McAleenan	Canine Support				
Shaun Pridgen	Canine Support				
Simon Simpson	Canine Support				
Sophie Stephenson	Canine Support				
Stefanie Morrow	Transport	Foster			
Stephen Aiken	Canine Support				
Susan Mckibbin	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Susan Piggot	Canine Support				
Susan Winch	Foster				
Suzanne O'Hara	Canine Support				
Suzie Ferris	Foster				
Terri Mayne	Canine Support				
Thomas Duncan	Canine Support				
Tim Leonard	Trustee				
Tracey Rylance	Canine Support				
Trina O'Callaghan	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Victoria Johnston	Canine Support				
Wallace Henry	Foster				
Wayne Watson	Foster				

Financial position and reserves

At 31st March 2024 Rosie's Trust held restricted reserves of £30,416 and unrestricted reserves of £97,106. Rosie's Trust aims to hold at least three months running costs on reserves (approximately £55,000) to deal with any unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to the winding up of the charity in the event of being unable to raise any further substantial funding to allow the payment of staff salaries and running costs. The Trustees and operations staff will consider on a regular basis the levels of funding that it holds and how this funding can be used to benefit the charity and the services that it provides and to best meet the needs of its beneficiaries and volunteers.

In the 2023-24 financial year the majority of core costs including salaries were covered from a grant from National Lottery Community Fund and other restricted funds to cover the costs associated with particular activities or projects. We also received a level of unrestricted funding, mainly from donations, which was directed to other costs as required.

We were very fortunate to receive a three-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund in April 2023. This followed a five-year grant generously provided by the National Lottery Community Fund in 2018. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the National Lottery Community Fund for their support for making our work possible.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the organisation and that enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of Trustees' Confirmations

In the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when the report is approved, the following applies:

- a) so far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the organisation's independent examiner in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- b) each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the organisation's independent examiner is aware of that information.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Aileen Martin
Chair



Karen Steele
Treasurer

Date 24 January 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Rosie's Trust

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 28 to 34.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Margaret Fulford B.Sc. (Econ) FCA
Independent Examiner

On behalf of
James Fulford & Co Ltd,
Chartered Accountants
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT23 5GW

24 January 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Prior Year
	Funds £	Funds £	Total £	Total £
Incoming from:				
Charitable activities	96,791	194,393	291,184	129,182
Total	96,791	194,393	291,184	129,182
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	(1,696)	-	(1,696)	(668)
Charitable activities	(36,302)	(167,702)	(204,004)	(158,393)
Total	(37,998)	(167,702)	(205,700)	(159,061)
Transfer between funds	(1,919)	1,919	-	-
Net Movement in funds	56,874	28,610	85,484	(29,879)
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	40,232	1,806	42,038	71,917
Total Funds Carried Forward	97,106	30,416	127,522	42,038

Continuing operations – The organisation commenced operations on 20th January 2015. There has been no change in operations in the current year or the previous year.

Historical cost profit and losses - The difference between the results disclosed above and the results on an unaudited historical cost basis is not material.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH	2024	2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
INCOME	Funds £	Funds £	Total £	Total £
General income, donations etc.	96,791	194,393	291,184	129,182
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Salaries and wages	7,811	130,445	138,256	85,346
Staff Pension Costs	353	6,226	6,579	4,126
Rent	-	480	480	480
Sundry fundraising	1,696	-	1,696	668
Direct Expenditure on Beneficiary support	3,170	1,546	4,716	6,662
Consultancy	10,055	11,900	21,955	36,400
Promotional materials	5,981	2,458	8,439	1,308
Travel and Motor Expenses	-	8,296	8,296	5,733
Training	-	180	180	-
Telephone	3,428	-	3,428	2,368
Postage, Stationery, Advertising	68	606	674	93
Insurance	1,215	1,289	2,504	2,079
General	3,402	3,100	6,502	8,604
Subscriptions	471	-	471	219
Depreciation	848	1,176	2,024	4,975
Profit on sale of fixed assets	(500)	-	(500)	-
	37,998	167,702	205,700	159,061
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
- Normal Activities	58,793	26,691	85,484	(29,879)
Transfer between funds	(1,919)	1,919	-	-
	56,874	28,610	85,484	(29,879)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH	2024	2023
£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Restricted Funds Equipment	17,469	1,806
General Funds Equipment	4,412	-
	21,881	1,806
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2,016	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand	139,963	63,060
	141,979	63,060
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	(4,408)	(1,826)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	137,571	61,234
Deferred Income	(31,930)	(21,002)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		
	127,522	42,038
REPRESENTED BY		
Revenue reserves	127,522	42,038

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Aileen Martin



TRUSTEE

Karen Steele



TRUSTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rosie's Trust is a registered charity and a public benefit entity. The currency used for the reporting of these financial accounts is Sterling (GBP).

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Fund Accounting Policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are shown in the accounts at their purchase price (or at an equivalent amount if the assets were donated). This amount is then depreciated so that the assets are written down to their anticipated resale value over the period the company will use them. The depreciation rates and methods adopted are:

Straight Line	
Equipment, furniture and fittings	20%
Van	25%

(d) Incoming Resources

Income includes subscriptions, donations and other cash received and receivable. Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income was attributable to the one principal activity of the company carried on within the United Kingdom and Europe.

(e) Finance Leases

If assets are leased and the terms of the agreement are almost equivalent to an outright purchase, a fixed asset and an equivalent liability are created.

The fixed asset is then depreciated using the rates and method shown in note (b) above.

The interest element of the lease is charged as an expense over the primary period of the lease, based on the capital outstanding.

2. TRUSTEES' EMOLUMENTS

All board members give their services on a voluntary basis, and no remuneration is paid to them.

3. PARTICULARS OF EMPLOYEES

Rosie’s Trust receives the services of many people, including volunteers (both members and non-members) and employees.

The analysis by function of the average number of people employed by the organisation during the year (excluding trustees) was:

	2024	2023
Service Delivery	4	3

Their remuneration was:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	131,575	82,523
Employer Pension Contributions	6,579	4,126
Social Security costs	6,681	2,823
	144,835	89,472

Rosie’s Trust’s work would not have been as extensive as it has been without the dedicated services of our volunteers, as noted in the Trustees’ Report.

We are very grateful for their gift of time to the charity.

4. FIXED ASSETS

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	
	Assets	Assets	Total
VALUATION/COST	£	£	£
At 31 March 2023	7,000	7,656	14,656
Additions	5,260	16,839	22,099
Disposals	(7,000)	-	(7,000)

At 31 March 2024	5,260	24,495	29,755
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DEPRECIATION			
At 31 March 2023	7,000	5,850	12,850
Charge for the year	848	1,176	2,024
Disposals	(7,000)	-	(7,000)

At 31 March 2024	848	7,026	7,874
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NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2024	4,412	17,469	21,881

5. REVENUE RESERVES

The analysis of restricted funds is given below.

	Sundry	Dormant	National	
	Grant	Accounts	Lottery	
	Fund	Fund NI	Community	Total
	£	£	Fund	£
Reserves brought forward	1,806	-	-	1,806
Received in the year	34,600	50,000	120,721	205,321
Deferred income b/fwd	-	21,002	-	21,002
	36,406	71,002	120,721	228,129
Less: Expenditure				
Income and Expenditure	(4,814)	(39,072)	(122,640)	(166,526)
Transfer between funds	-	-	1,919	1,919
Fixed assets depreciation	(1,176)	-	-	(1,176)
Deferred income c/fwd	-	(31,930)	-	(31,930)
Reserves carried forward	30,416	-	-	30,416

Revenue reserves include grants that have preconditions attached. These grants are separated as shown above and relevant expenditure is allocated against them.

Any funds unspent at the end of the year are carried forward if the charity has received them outright, and they are shown as income in the year received. Any funds received that are repayable to the granting body if unspent are shown as income to the extent that expenditure has been incurred and a deferred income liability is included for the amount not yet spent.

6. ORGANISATION INFORMATION

The organisation was formed by Trust deed. It is registered with HMRC and The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland as a charity. It operates within Northern Ireland and its registered address is The Fountain Centre, 2 Queens Parade, Bangor, BT20 3BJ.

The nature of the entity's operations and a description of the principal activities is included in the Trustees' report.

7. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 January 2025



We'd love to talk to you about Rosie's Trust so please call us on **02891 641340** or visit **rosiestrust.org** for more information.



Rosie's Trust is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422. Registered office 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Rosie's Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102422

Annual report



Annual Report

and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2024

Charity Registration Number: NIC102422
Generously supported by





Northern Ireland's only charity dedicated to helping cancer patients, the terminally ill and elderly people with mobility issues to hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them most.

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Message from the Chair



The financial year 2023-2024 marked a major turning point in the life of our charity. Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters, we enjoyed significant growth during the period and were able to invest in laying strong foundations for our future sustainability.

Special thanks must go to the Kingsbridge Charitable Foundation and the John Atcheson Trust for their most generous donations. We are also indebted to the many different organisations who awarded us grants during the period, including the Clothworkers Federation, Coop, Danske Bank Employees' Charity Group, Enkalon, Halifax Foundation, Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Fund, and the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust.

Most importantly, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many individuals who raised funds on our behalf. They are the backbone of our charity and rightly take centre stage in the 'Highlights' section on pages 11 to 21.

The generous support from our core funder, the National Lottery Community Fund, has enabled Rosie's Trust to continue to help cancer patients, people receiving end of life care and elderly people with mobility issues to hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them the most.

In addition to our existing beneficiaries, during the period under review we were able to support 22 new beneficiaries in the four Health and Social Care Trust areas in which we operate, bringing the total number of beneficiaries supported to 64. We also succeeded in recruiting and training 81 additional volunteers, bringing the total to 210.

Investing in our people

Through focused planning and targeted initiatives, I am confident that we have set the stage for ongoing success in the years to come. We have expanded our team of staff, adding new positions to support our evolving goals and to enhance our capabilities. This investment in talent has not only strengthened our current operations but built our capacity for continued growth.

We welcomed two new staff during the period: Aisling Fitzmaurice, a long-standing volunteer with Rosie's Trust, who joined us in April as a Development Officer for the South Eastern and Southern HSC Trust areas. We also engaged the services of another wonderful volunteer, Grainne Evans, as our finance manager for one day a week. Finally, and fortuitously, Nuala Muldoon, our part-time Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, was able to give another day a week of her time to assume the busy load of Administrative Assistant.

The Board also decided to employ a part-time CEO for three years, as provided for in the National Lottery Community Fund grant award. Previously, we had engaged an interim CEO on a consultancy basis. Dr Catriona Mac Arthur was subsequently employed to provide strategic leadership and direction to our small team.

We also created a number of new roles to enable volunteers to build on their existing skills, competencies and interests. During the period under review, we have created four new roles: Transport Volunteer, Volunteer Administrator, Rosie's Trust Ambassador, and Fundraising Volunteer.

Message from the Chair cont'd...

Another completely new role we created this year was that of Celebrity Ambassador. We were thrilled when Ibe Sesay, an influencer with more than 10,000 followers, agreed to become our first ever Ambassador. A great dog lover, Ibe is the presenter of the Drive programme on Q Radio. His support of Rosie's Trust is helping us raise our profile, particularly among the 25- to 45-year-old age group.



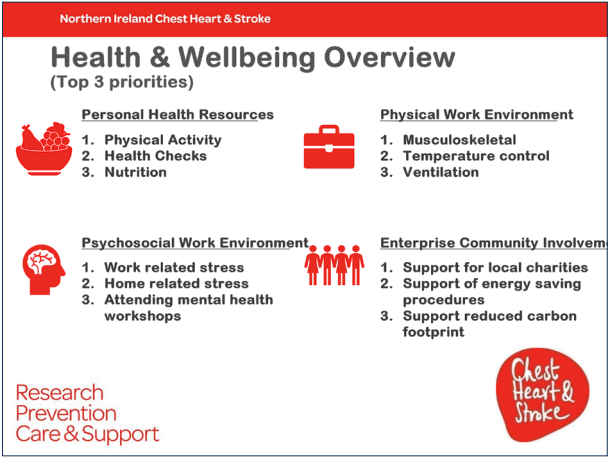
The appointment of Ibe Sesay as our new Celebrity Ambassador caught the media's imagination. He is pictured here with his Maltese poodle pup, Barnie, together with Rosie's Trust beneficiary, Janet Harris with her beloved Rilla, and Jayne McStay, Operations Manager

Our second Celebrity Ambassador to be appointed this year was Lisa McGee, who needs no introduction following the phenomenal success of her 'Derry Girls', not to mention her many other achievements. Lisa is a great cat lover and, like Ibe, is using her platform to support our work and reach out to new audiences.

We are indebted to so many volunteers – far more than I could list here – that we provide a separate page with the names of each and every one of them with our enormous gratitude. Our charity simply could not operate without our volunteers; they go above and beyond to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We are truly blessed to have them in the Rosie's Trust family.



All of us on the Board of Trustees are aware of the emotional demands that working with vulnerable people can make on our staff and volunteers. We were therefore delighted to be accepted on the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association's free Work well, live well programme. This began with a survey of all volunteers and staff to identify their priority concerns (the top three across four different areas are shown in the chart below) and a tailored action plan was then developed to address these.



Best practice governance

Our volunteers do, of course, include my fellow Trustees on the Board of Rosie's Trust. There were a few comings and goings during the period, including my own appointment as Chair of the Board in June. I was about to retire from my position as Commercial Director at Hastings Hotels and was keen to find a new challenge. My love of dogs and my heartfelt desire to help all things cancer related was the motivator to apply for this fantastic role.

We bade farewell to two long-standing Trustees, Fiona Coulter and Joy McGimpsey, who stood down in May and October 2024 respectively. Both had made major contributions to the charity during their tenure, and we will be forever grateful to them for their support.

The Board of Trustees has continued to strive for best practice in governance. During the period we streamlined and developed an enhanced risk register, better aligned to our annual Operational Plan. We also updated our Trust Deed, setting fixed terms of office, numbers of Trustees, and a quorum for all meetings. These changes were needed as the Trust Deed had not been reviewed since Rosie's Trust was first established in January 2015, when it comprised just three Trustees and no staff at all!!

Another major task was the review and development of just under 100 policies and procedures covering a wide range of areas, from safeguarding to health and safety to data protection and social media.



Lisa McGee with beautiful Molly and her proud owner Paul Swan, a beneficiary of Rosie's Trust (at Lisa's left). Pictured with them are Mark Regan, CEO of Kingsbridge Healthcare Group (far left), Dr Martin Shields, Group Medical Director (right), and Aileen Martin (far right).

We developed many new policies in response to identified operational need, such as 'Eligibility criteria for the provision of Rosie's Trust services', 'Process for assisting beneficiaries in need with the payment of vet fees' and a 'Process for addressing breach of volunteer policies and procedures.'

We also updated our Covid-19 guidelines to allow volunteers to enter beneficiaries' homes and enjoy 'normal' (ie pre-pandemic) contact provided the beneficiary is not receiving cancer treatment.

The group tasked with implementing our Business Continuity Plan ran two test exercises during the year, one of which took place out-of-hours. The group's meticulous preparations ensured that both exercises – conducted among all staff, Trustees and volunteers - occurred without incident and confirmed the excellent communications set up between all involved.

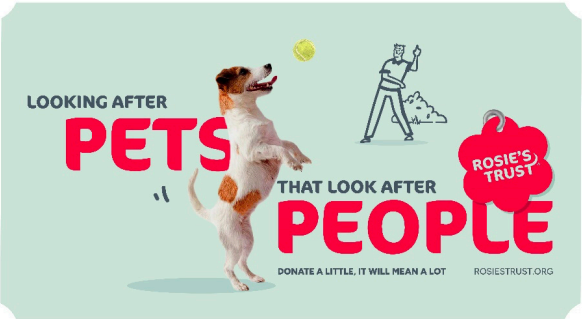
Another important development this year was the introduction of a new online referral form that will enable us to transition over time to third party referrals. We are confident that this will reduce the burden on our small team who spend significant periods of time signposting people who do not meet our eligibility criteria. The referral form still provides for self-referrals but encourages those from third parties (such as a social worker, GP or community/voluntary organisation).

Message from the Chair cont'd...

Improving understanding of our services

I have taken every opportunity throughout the year to meet with representatives of the private, public and third sectors to raise awareness of Rosie's Trust. This has included meeting one to one with the CEOs of Aware, Hospice NI, and Business in the Community. I have also attended various forums throughout the year to spread the word.

The Board and I were pleased to receive ringfenced funding to enable us to engage external support to help us better communicate the vital role Rosie's Trust plays in the community. We started work in March on a rebranding project, which will be launched to mark our 10th birthday in January 2025. The Board is confident that this investment will make a significant return, in terms of improved awareness of Rosie's Trust and increased financial support.



A taste of Rosie's Trust new branding, which is designed to engage with new audiences. It will be launched to mark our 10th anniversary in January 2025.

I am very much looking forward to working with all at Rosie's Trust to lead the charity into a period of growth and expansion in the year ahead, enabling us to keep increasing numbers of people together with their pets during difficult times. I am particularly pleased that we will be able to explore opportunities in 2024-2025 to expand our services to the North-West region, thanks to the generous support of Ulster Garden Villages. With many, many thanks to the volunteers, staff, Trustees and, of course, the National Lottery Community Fund, without whom I would be unable to look to the future of our charity with such optimism.

Aileen Martin
Chair

Information about Rosie's Trust

Charity established under Trust Deed on 20 January, 2015.

Board of Trustees (at the date of approval of the accounts)

- Aileen Martin, Chair**
Appointed to Board June 2023
- Karen Steele , Treasurer**
Appointed to Board October 2024
- Josephine Mallon, Secretary**
- Hannah Corbett**
Appointed to Board December 2024
- Clare Jess**
Appointed to Board February 2023
- Gail Lavery**
Appointed to Board February 2023
- Tim Leonard**
- Joyce Savage**

The Trustees who resigned between the commencement date of these financial statements and the approval date are listed below:

- Emer Rice**
Resigned May 2024
- Jill Hawthorne**
Resigned August 2024
- Louise Heatley**
Resigned October 2024

- Staff**
CEO, Dr Catriona Mac Arthur (O.4 FTE)
Operations Manager, Jayne McStay
Development Officer, Laura Quinn
Development Officer, Aisling Fitzmaurice
Volunteer Support Officer, Molly Finlay
Marketing and Communications Lead, Robyn McMurray (O.8 FTE)
Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, Nuala Muldoon
Finance Manager, Grainne Evans (Consultant - 0.2 FTE)

Contact details
Telephone: 0289 1641340
Email: mail@rosiestrust.org
Postal address: The Fountain Centre, 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Independent Examiner
James Fulford & Co Ltd
Chartered Accounts
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT 23 5GW

Bankers
Co-op Bank Ltd
1, Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Santander UK plc
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

Registration
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422

Taxation Status
As a registered charity, Rosie's Trust has claimed exemption from tax.

Who we are and What we do



Rosie's Trust is unique. We are the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to helping cancer patients, the terminally ill and older people with a disability hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them most.

When someone is faced with a cancer diagnosis, disability or terminal illness, their whole world changes. They have so much to worry about, so much to deal with and the one thing they need - especially those living alone - is the emotional support that their companion pet provides.

They are no longer able to provide their dog or cat with the same level of care they once could and their anxiety about the welfare of their beloved companion only serves to compound their distress.

At the most stressful time of their lives, they may be forced to give up their companion pet and, in so doing, experience tremendous loss, isolation and feelings of guilt.

Some people have reported that they considered delaying or even refusing treatment because they had no one to look after their pet.

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' companion dogs and/or cats in their homes when they are no longer able to look after them independently.

We provide fostering services when our beneficiaries need to spend a period of time in hospital or in hospice care. Subject always to our beneficiaries' wishes, we also find new homes for their pets when they are no longer able to care for them, including when they die.

Rosie's Trust also offers a pet bereavement service, providing emotional support to beneficiaries when their companion pet predeceases them.

We provide our services free of charge, 365 days of the year. We depend on donations to cover our service costs, and every penny gifted to us is carefully used.

Our services offer peace of mind for our beneficiaries as they know Rosie's Trust will support them in the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.

Rosie's Trust services not only help to address loneliness and social exclusion in Northern Ireland, but also to promote animal welfare, in accordance with the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011.



Our team of 200+ committed volunteers are the life force of Rosie's Trust and provide help and support in all aspects of pet care, including feeding, grooming, exercising, play and stimulation, and vet visits.

Our volunteers are our eyes and ears, ensuring when they visit that our beneficiaries are as well as can be and providing welcome social contact for many. Our volunteers work in teams, with each member making two visits a week.

An average of three volunteers is allocated to each beneficiary.

Our volunteers receive intense training before being matched to a beneficiary. This ensures they all have a sound understanding of Rosie's Trust's policies and procedures to promote the health and wellbeing of our beneficiaries, their pets, and the volunteers themselves. They are also trained to signpost to partner organisations, wherever necessary.

Since our establishment in 2015, we have served 214 beneficiaries. They are located in four of the five Health and Social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, Southern and South Eastern).

We undertake a very thorough assessment process of each of our beneficiaries and their pets. This enables us to develop tailored action plans, which take into account and address all the risks we have identified and ensure the best match for the beneficiary with our volunteers. We also have robust safeguarding policies in place to protect our beneficiaries and our volunteers. Social workers from the Health and Social Care Trusts refer potential beneficiaries to us as do organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support (NI). Although we particularly encourage third party referrals, we do accept self-referrals.

Our work has been made possible thanks to core funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.

Public Benefit

1) The advancement of health or the saving of lives.

We maintain the health and wellbeing of both the beneficiary and their companion animal by alleviating the stresses and anxiety felt when they are no longer able to care for their pet independently.



2) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

Rosie's Trust works with those experiencing terminal illness, acute cancer treatment, age and disability, maintaining their relationship with their companion animal and working with partner organisations to help the beneficiary overcome other challenges.



3) The advancement of animal welfare.

Our work keeping people and their pets together supports our beneficiaries in ensuring the care they provide their animal meets the five welfare needs as detailed in the Welfare of Animal Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.



Highlights of the year

"Rosie's Trust gave me my life back."

It is hard to imagine seven more powerful words to describe the work of any charity, still less our own!

The words belong to one of Rosie's Trust beneficiaries who feared they would have to give up their companion pet when they received a terminal diagnosis. They are just seven of several hundred words of endorsement expressed by respondents to our 2023 survey. We distribute these surveys every year to obtain feedback on our services so that we can continually improve these and address any issues arising.

We always ask what difference Rosie's Trust has made to their lives as well as the impact it has had on their mental health. Ninety-six per cent of respondents said that our services had made a "big difference" to:

- ✓ Their lives.
- ✓ Their stress/anxiety levels.
- ✓ Their feeling more confident.
- ✓ Reducing loneliness and their sense of isolation.

The remaining four per cent believed Rosie's Trust had made "quite a lot of difference" to their lives.

When asked to explain why the charity had made a big difference to their lives, responses typically referred to the importance of having someone check in on them every day and the "wee chats" they enjoyed with the volunteers.

More beneficiaries and companion pets supported in 2023 -2024



Our volunteers also reported that Rosie's Trust had had a very positive impact on their lives, most frequently stating how "rewarding" they found the volunteering to be and how it had given them a "sense of purpose".

"I absolutely love knowing that by giving up just a small portion of my time each week I am making such a difference to someone's life." Rosie's Trust volunteer

Another summed up their experience with four short words:

"Awesome charity, great support."

Highlights of the year cont'd...

A busy year for staff and volunteers beyond direct beneficiary support



Too many fundraisers to mention this year!

We are indebted to all the wonderful people around Northern Ireland who supported our work during the year – there are simply too many of them to mention in these short pages. However, we have shouted out to them all in our social media on every possible occasion!

They include Georgia Gow and Neil Currie, who were undeterred by the terrible weather to take on the Belfast Half Marathon to raise funds on our behalf.

We are so grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund for awarding us a Dormant Accounts grant last year. This enabled us to employ two part-time staff, one of whom is a dedicated Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead. Nuala Muldoon deserves credit for many of the fundraising initiatives listed, even though she started only in December!



Still smiling! Huge congratulations to Georgia Gow and Neil Currie who both completed the Belfast Half Marathon in the most miserable conditions! They raised £410 and £570 respectively – fantastic result!



We were thrilled to receive this generous cheque from Jason Beddoes, Director of the Dog Field (NI). They raised £500 for Rosie's Trust with the sale of their 2024 calendar featuring all the dogs in their care.



Our volunteer ambassador, Kim set herself the challenge of walking three ten-mile walks over three months and raised more than £600! She was joined by 14-year-old Ben, who needed a bit of help along the way!



Huge thanks to the staff of Kingsbridge Healthcare Group for choosing to support our work this year and help keep people and their pets together! Dr Martin Shields, Chair of Kingsbridge Foundation and Medical Director at Kingsbridge Healthcare Group, said: "We are delighted to provide Rosie's Trust with a £20,000 donation. Pets play such an important role in people's lives, and we sometimes find that patients might delay treatment as they worry over who will help take care of their beloved dog or cat, so it is great that the charity removes this concern for beneficiaries, not only when they are faced with this situation, but in their daily lives."



Many thanks to our veteran volunteers Olivia Crookes, Lynda Crozier, Anne Tweed and Ruth Pinkerton for staffing a stall at Tesco, Springhill, just before Christmas. Huge thanks also to Tesco and customers for their generosity! The collection raised more than £600!

Highlights of the year cont'd...



Bonanza! The Dog Agility community also raised £1,000 for Rosie's Trust this year!



Waiting for the guests to arrive! Aileen Martin kindly hosted a coffee morning at her home to raise over £2,000 for Rosie's Trust. She is pictured here with Trustees Joyce Savage, Gayle Lavery, Clare Jess and Emer Rice as well as staff Sandra McFadden, Laura Quinn and Jayne McStay. Well-known former broadcaster Julian Simmonds kindly MCed the event.



We had a bit of fun taking pics of our new 2020 Citroen Berlingo van. We were able to buy this van, which had only 35,000 miles on the clock, thanks to a generous grant from Clothworkers' Federation. They are based in London so we thought we'd include pictures of the van at iconic NI spots in our progress reports.



"I suppose I ought to eat or drink something or other; but the great question is, 'What?'"

A massive thank you to Debbie Thompson, Lady Captain at Shandon Park Golf Club, who kindly chose to support Rosie's Trust during her year of captaincy. They held their first Ladies' Night of the season with an Alice in Wonderland-themed night of a meal and a quiz. They raised more than £600 on that occasion alone!



Irish Whiskey auctions raised more than £10,000 for Rosie's Trust - we were - and remain - simply overwhelmed by their generosity!



Our volunteers did a fantastic job holding raffles at a series of Tribute Nights at Hastings Hotels over Christmas/New Year. Caroline Forsythe and Gabi Kerr cleverly managed to grab a photo with The Mowtown Sensations! Huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with the raffles and, of course, to Hastings Hotels for the opportunity.



And finally a collective shout out to our core funder, the National Lottery Community Fund, on Crossed Finger Selfie Day 14 November 2023!

Many thanks also to Denise Cranston, Head of Partnerships Practice at 2 into 3, who generously provided a free training session to some of our staff on developing corporate partnerships.

Surely and steadily increasing our presence in communities far and wide

Thanks again to our wonderful volunteers, we have been able to set up stalls at community events all around Northern Ireland and to present to community groups as and when requested.

This year we trained 10 ambassadors who have made this possible. Previously, these events were undertaken by a small team of staff who were necessarily limited in the number they could attend.

We have also been helped enormously in raising our public profile thanks to a generous donation from the John Atcheson Trust. We spent this on purchasing basic equipment, signage and promotional material to display at events. We also invested in various interactive tools, from colouring books to quizzes, as well as branded give-aways and/or purchases to attract passers-by to our stalls.

Many thanks also to the Halifax Foundation for providing the funds needed to buy branded clothing for our volunteers!

Highlights of the year cont'd...



Thanks to our fantastic Ambassadors, we have been able to hold an increasing number of awareness raising events throughout the year. Pictured here are Nicola Brown and Kim Hamilton, who gave a presentation to the Ravenhill Presbyterian Women's Group.



One of our longest-serving volunteers, Ruth Pinkerton assumes a number of roles for Rosie's Trust, including that of Ambassador. She is pictured here at one of the many presentations she has given throughout the year, on this occasion to the staff at Kingsbridge.



Across the ages: At the Positive Ageing Roadshow with Ards and North Down Borough Council...



... and the QUB Fresher's Fair! We were thrilled to be shortlisted as Queen's University Belfast's Student Union RAG Charity of the Year. Fingers crossed for next year!



Development Officer Laura Quinn with her two beautiful daughters, Eliza and Holly. They managed our stall at Cancer Focus's Woodland Walk in Springhill. Many thanks to Richard's Photography for the photo!



Our Volunteer Support Officer Sandra McFadden with her dog Pippa, together with volunteers Rachel Miskimmin, Anne Finlay and Nancy the greyhound. They hosted a stall at Pet Nose Day, Mount Stewart.

Communications reaching new audiences across Northern Ireland

Our communications and messaging – through all forms of media – improved significantly during the year. This was due in large part to the presence – for the first time – of our part-time Communications and Marketing Lead, Claire Smyth, on the team. Rosie's Trust was able to employ Claire thanks to the award of a two-year Dormant Accounts grant.

One of Claire's many initiatives was to introduce two regular newsletters; one specifically for our volunteers, and the other for our supporters.

Steady increase in social media following:

		April 2023	March 2024	Increase
Facebook		7.7k	8.5k	+800
Instagram		761	990	+229
X		746	758	+12
Linked In		71	146	+65
Mailing List		480	690	+210

Rosie's Trust stall mounted record number of times around NI



SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER

And be the first to hear all our pawsome news!





While Claire has been busy primarily with external communications, our internal communications with volunteers have taken a huge leap thanks to the tireless work of our longstanding volunteer, John McGarrigle, in developing an increasingly sophisticated user-friendly volunteer portal.

Highlights of the year cont'd...

Taking every opportunity to improve interactions with our volunteers

[illegible]

The mainstream media has been providing increased coverage of Rosie's Trust. This is, of course, another important mechanism to increase public awareness of the services we provide.



Our Chair, Aileen Martin, was pleased to meet with some of our wonderful volunteers soon after she joined the charity.

kind of information, and the stress and being able to take care of all my pet during that time can be overwhelming.

"I feel diagnosed as our beneficiaries are pensioners who are fully isolated and housebound, and their dogs are the heartbeat of the home," she said.

"One of our beneficiaries told me she couldn't do without her dog because she can't live, so she doesn't cry to treat of her children."

"That lady was being real themselves, but we can still sympathise the same."

"The other side of it is a struggle and diagnosis, which is so difficult and isolates our vulnerable residents and friendships with our beneficiaries."

"We will take the time to look long term if the previous needs might not realise that there are so many varying types."

"From cancer – an old cancer which was in my stomach – shock when I was diagnosed as young."

"That when I was researching it while waiting for my diagnosis, I didn't realise there were so many types of breast cancer about."

"Multiple different types of breast cancer include ductal and lobular, invasive ductal carcinoma, inflammatory breast

but for many other people who can be the cure."

Christine Byrne, welfare manager for Marie Curie Cancer Ireland, added:

"We see so many hidden vulnerabilities in these and what that all the worse is that people are dealing with a variety of issues in household income."

Marie Curie, which is the national fund for the elderly, that more than 2,000 people are living in Marie Curie Ireland – and one in four live



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IBE SESAY ANNOUNCED AS AMBASSADOR FOR ROSIE'S TRUST

Northern Ireland charity Rosie's Trust, dedicated to helping cancer patients, terminally ill and older patients with a disability stay together with their pets, has announced that Q Radio presenter Ibe Sesay has been appointed as an ambassador.



Thanks to support from the Halifax Foundation, we were able to arrange meet ups for the volunteers in all the different regions where we work. Team meet-ups are an important part of the Rosie's Trust volunteer journey; they're an opportunity for volunteers to get to know the other members of their team, share experiences and provide support to each other.

**DOG SUPPORT
VOLUNTEERS**
needed urgently!

Do you live in
Newcastle?


ROSIE'S
TRUST

We are so fortunate to be able to recruit volunteers close to where new beneficiaries live, wherever that may be.

All Sections

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BREAKINGdies of cancer months after diagnosis • Star dies after falling out of moving car • Film favourite dies in intensive care • TV

Health

It's a 'Derry' good day as Rosie's Trust secures support from Lisa McGee

By Helen McGurk

Published 6th Feb 2024, 11:30 GMT | Updated 7th Feb 2024, 09:04 GMT

FacebookTwitterEmailComment

Highlights of the year cont'd...



We enjoyed wonderful sunshine at our walk in Stormont to celebrate Volunteers Week

Fostering and rehoming service gets a boost from Danske Bank employees

Rosie's Trust provides foster care for the cats and dogs of our existing beneficiaries when they need hospital treatment or hospice care.

We are indebted to the Danske Bank Employees' Charity Group who made a very generous donation to help us set a fund specifically for that purpose. Their donation will directly benefit the animals in our care by providing them with essential medical care, food, comfortable shelter, and a loving environment. It will also enable us to continue our efforts in finding forever homes for these pets, ensuring they are placed with responsible and caring individuals or families.

There was unprecedented demand for foster care this year and we are so grateful to our newly-trained transport volunteers for helping us move the animals between our different volunteer foster carers.

Leveraging our impact through advocacy and networking

In addition to all the individuals and organisations that have financially supported Rosie's Trust this year, it is also important to note that we are slowly but surely increasing the number of people who lend us support in other ways. One such person is Professor Siobhan O'Neill, Northern Ireland's Mental Health Champion. We met with her in February and were blown away by her genuine enthusiasm and support of our work. This was her first introduction to the charity, yet she immediately understood the impact of our work, not only in terms of promoting mental health, but also in addressing social isolation, depression and anxiety, not to mention animal welfare.



NI's Mental Health Champion is a passionate supporter of Rosie's Trust.

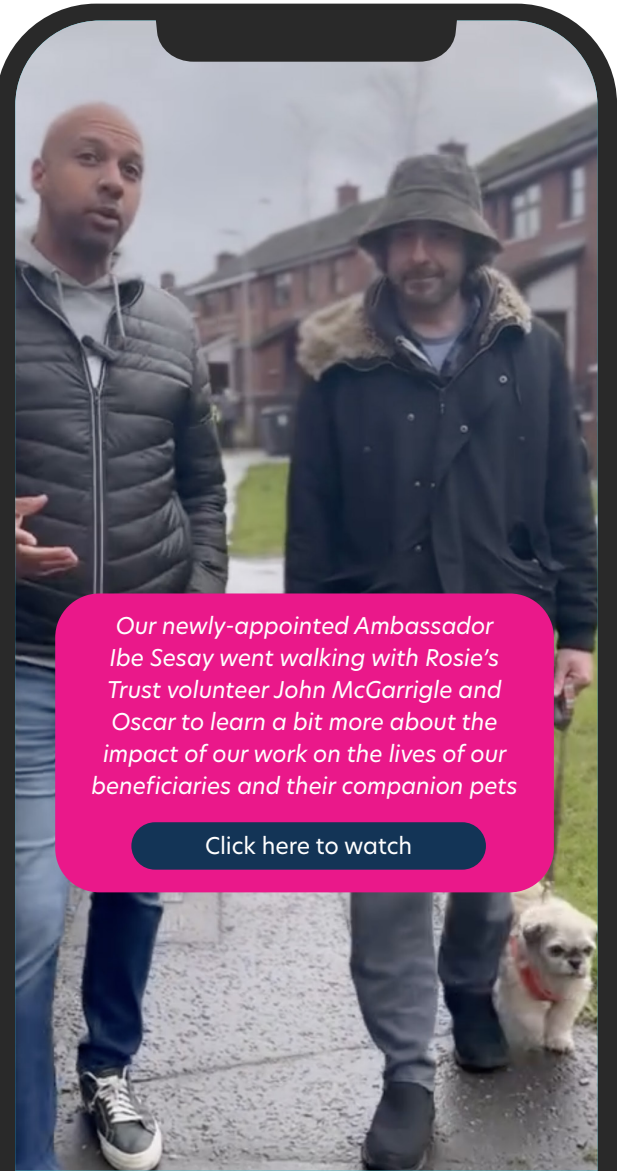
Professor O'Neill kindly volunteered the following quote for use in our funding applications and elsewhere, as appropriate:

"Rosie's Trust is a unique, life-changing charity in Northern Ireland. It provides a vital service to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. It ticks so many boxes that it cannot be placed into any one service category; it promotes mental health and wellbeing, addresses social isolation, provides a regular 'check in service', not to mention animal welfare. The profound impact of the bond that exists between an individual and their companion pet cannot be over-estimated, especially when that person lives alone and is unable to provide the care their pet needs because of cancer treatment, end of life care or age-related mobility issues".

We also joined up with other like-minded organisations to gain leverage in our advocacy work. To that end, we successfully applied this year to join the NI Companion Animal Welfare Group and the UK-wide Association of Dogs and Cats Homes.

Rosie's Trust has continued to build relationships with a wide range of organisations in the voluntary and community sector as well as the private and public sectors. This is a key performance objective as we know collaborations are essential to increase our reach and impact.

Rosie's Trust is represented at all the HSC Trust locality meetings. We are also active contributors to the Area Integrated Partnerships project. Our main partners at present, apart from the social workers and care teams with whom we are in daily contact, are organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie who are among our principal referral agencies.



Our newly-appointed Ambassador Ibe Sesay went walking with Rosie's Trust volunteer John McGarrigle and Oscar to learn a bit more about the impact of our work on the lives of our beneficiaries and their companion pets

[Click here to watch](#)



There was a huge spike in demand for foster care this year, but we were able to keep up with demands thanks to our Foster Volunteers! We provide foster care for existing beneficiaries who need hospital or hospice care.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5	Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Aileen Martin	Trustee					Emily Graham	Fundraiser	Ambassador			
Aisling Fitzgerald	Canine Support					Emma Clarke	Canine Support				
Aisling Fitzmaurice	Canine Support	Foster	Phone Support	Co-ordinator		Emma-Kate McClay	Canine Support				
Alex Elliot	Canine Support					Erin Galbraith	Canine Support				
Alison McIlroy	Canine Support	Foster	Foster			Evie Gardner	Canine Support				
Andy Gorringe	Canine Support					Felicia Chan	Canine Support				
Ann Payne	Canine Support					Fiona Coulter	Canine Support				
Ann Quigley	Canine Support					Fiona Hutchinson	Canine Support				
Anne Baker	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support			Fionnuala Fearon	Canine Support				
Anne Finlay	Ambassador					Frances Steele	Canine Support				
Anne Tweed	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Canine Support			Gail Spiers	Canine Support				
Antoinette Hagan	Canine Support	Foster				Gale Lavery	Trustee				
Arlene McEvoy	Canine Support					Garielle (Gabi) Kerr	Fundraiser	Ambassador			
Asia Haraburda	Canine Support					Geoffrey Parks	Canine Support	Foster			
Ava Inman	Canine Support					Geraldine McKinley	Canine Support	Foster			
Beatrice Major	Canine Support					Gill Williams	Canine Support				
Beatriz Garcia-Torresano	Canine Support					Glenda Burns	Canine Support				
Bernie Smyth	Canine Support					Grianne Evans	Transport	Admin			
Beverly Huddleston	Foster					Guy Irwin Smith	Canine Support				
Brigitte Bartholome	Canine Support					Harry Morrow	Foster				
Carol Noble	Canine Support					Hazel Cameron	Canine Support				
Caroline Forsyth	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support			Helen Kerr	Canine Support				
Carolyn McGinnell	Canine Support					Helen McLaughlin	Canine Support				
Carolyn Tweed	Canine Support					Helene Sloan	Canine Support				
Catherine Kelly	Canine Support	Foster				Hilary Idzikowska	Foster				
Catherine McConville	Foster					Hilary Neil	Canine Support				
Cathy Wilcock	Canine Support					Ian Brown	Canine Support				
Chris Idzikowska	Foster					Ilene Barrington	Canine Support				
Chris McGarry	Canine Support					Imelda McConnell	Canine Support				
Chrissie Henderson	Canine Support					Ivan Noble	Canine Support				
Cilla Sherman	Phone Support	Canine Support				Jackie Morgan	Foster	Dog Listener			
Claire Guyer	Canine Support					Jane Bell	Canine Support				
Claire Malone	Canine Support					Jane Campbell	Canine Support				
Clare Cowan	Fundraiser	Canine Support				Janet Armstrong	Co-ordinator	Phone Support			
Clare Jess	Trustee					Janet Neil	Canine Support				
Colette Roe	Canine Support					Janice McBriar	Canine Support				
Courtney Rea	Canine Support					Jennifer McDowell	Canine Support				
Danielle Ingram	Canine Support					Jill Aiken	Foster				
Dawn Steveson	Canine Support					Jill Hawthorne	Trustee				
Dean Lee	Canine Support					Jill Kerry	Foster				
Debbie Millar	Canine Support					Jill McLean	Transport				
Deborah Frost	Canine Support					Jill Truesdale	Canine Support	Foster			
Deborah McMurran	Canine Support					Joan Curran	Canine Support				
Deidre Moody	Canine Support					Joanna Rea	Canine Support				
Denise Davies	Ambassador	Canine Support				Joanne Parks	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support	Foster	
Denise Durnien	Canine Support					Josephine Mallon	Trustee				
Diane Dickson	Foster					John Cassells	Canine Support				
Diane Torrens	Canine Support					John McGarrigle	Canine Support	Admin	Foster		
Edna Wills	Foster					Jo-Jo McLaughlin	Canine Support				
Elaine Wilson	Canine Support					Jonathan Twinem	Canine Support				
Ellen Ferris	Canine Support					Joy McGimpsey	Trustee				
Emer Rice	Trustee					Joyce Savage	Trustee				

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Judith McCormack	Fundraiser	Canine Support			
Judith Ragg	Canine Support				
Judith Watt	Foster				
Justine McIntyre	Canine Support				
Karen Boutros	Fundraiser				
Karen Smyth	Canine Support				
Karen Steele	Canine Support				
Kate Daly	Canine Support	Transport			
Kate McNeill	Canine Support				
Katrina Jones	Canine Support				
Keith Scott	Canine Support				
Kim Hamilton	Fundraiser	Ambassador			
Kimberley Newell	Canine Support				
Kirsty Davidson-O'Neill	Canine Support				
Kristina Clyde	Canine Support				
Lara Carlin	Canine Support				
Laura Hamilton	Canine Support				
Liana Wylie	Canine Support				
Lianne Mullholland	Canine Support				
Linda Brown	Canine Support				
Linda Marks	Transport	Canine Support			
Linda McDonald	Canine Support	Foster			
Lisa Clydesdale	Canine Support				
Lisa Curtis	Canine Support				
Lisa Mehigan	Canine Support				
Liz Brown	Canine Support				
Lorna Crockett	Canine Support				
Lorraine Nesbitt	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support	
Louise Heatley	Trustee				
Lucia Flanagan	Canine Support				
Lyn Cummings	Canine Support				
Lyn Watson	Foster				
Lynda Crozier	Fundraiser	Co-ordinator	Transport	Ambassador	Canine Support
Lynda Graham	Foster				
Lynn Magill	Canine Support				
Lynne Hamilton	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Lynsey Grant	Canine Support	Foster			
Madhavi Pasapula	Canine Support				
Magdalena Mielcarek	Canine Support				
Maggie Kelly	Canine Support				
Maia Magee	Foster				
Malcolm McKibbin	Foster				
Malcom McKibbon	Foster				
Margaret Fulford	Canine Support				
Marie Caffola	Canine Support				
Mark Lamont	Canine Support				
Mark McConville	Foster				
Mary McNeilly	Ambassador				
Mary O'Hara	Canine Support				
Matthew McBride	Canine Support				
Maureen McCartney	Canine Support				
Melanie Patton	Canine Support				

Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Michael Kelly	Canine Support				
Michael McDowell	Canine Support				
Morris Cameron	Canine Support				
Muire Creed	Canine Support				
Muriel Gillespie	Canine Support				
Nacy Henry	Foster				
Natasha Walker	Canine Support				
Neil Baird	Canine Support				
Neil Currie	Canine Support				
Niall McInerney	Canine Support				
Niamh McCann	Canine Support				
Niamh Nixon	Canine Support				
Nicola Brown	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Noeleen Brennan	Canine Support				
Olivia Crookes	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Ambassador		
Oonagh Lynch	Canine Support				
Paul Hart	Foster				
Pauline Hughes	Canine Support				
Peter Crozier	Canine Support				
Rachel Livingston	Canine Support				
Rachel Miskimmin	Fundraiser	Canine Support			
Rebecca Neilson	Canine Support				
Rhiannon Jones	Canine Support				
Richard Gapper	Canine Support				
Rita Tucker	Canine Support				
Robin Stevenson	Canine Support				
Rosaleen Mullan	Canine Support				
Rose Templeton	Canine Support				
Russell Scott	Canine Support				
Ruth Pinkerton	Fundraiser	Co-ordinator	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support
Sara Wilson	Canine Support				
Shane Rafferty	Canine Support				
Sharon Branigan	Canine Support				
Sharon Hart	Foster				
Sharon Magorrian	Canine Support				
Sharon McAleenan	Canine Support				
Shaun Pridgen	Canine Support				
Simon Simpson	Canine Support				
Sophie Stephenson	Canine Support				
Stefanie Morrow	Transport	Foster			
Stephen Aiken	Canine Support				
Susan Mckibbin	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Susan Piggot	Canine Support				
Susan Winch	Foster				
Suzanne O'Hara	Canine Support				
Suzie Ferris	Foster				
Terri Mayne	Canine Support				
Thomas Duncan	Canine Support				
Tim Leonard	Trustee				
Tracey Rylance	Canine Support				
Trina O'Callaghan	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Victoria Johnston	Canine Support				
Wallace Henry	Foster				
Wayne Watson	Foster				

Financial position and reserves

At 31st March 2024 Rosie's Trust held restricted reserves of £30,416 and unrestricted reserves of £97,106. Rosie's Trust aims to hold at least three months running costs on reserves (approximately £55,000) to deal with any unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to the winding up of the charity in the event of being unable to raise any further substantial funding to allow the payment of staff salaries and running costs. The Trustees and operations staff will consider on a regular basis the levels of funding that it holds and how this funding can be used to benefit the charity and the services that it provides and to best meet the needs of its beneficiaries and volunteers.

In the 2023-24 financial year the majority of core costs including salaries were covered from a grant from National Lottery Community Fund and other restricted funds to cover the costs associated with particular activities or projects. We also received a level of unrestricted funding, mainly from donations, which was directed to other costs as required.

We were very fortunate to receive a three-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund in April 2023. This followed a five-year grant generously provided by the National Lottery Community Fund in 2018. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the National Lottery Community Fund for their support for making our work possible.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the organisation and that enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of Trustees' Confirmations

In the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when the report is approved, the following applies:

- a) so far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the organisation's independent examiner in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- b) each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the organisation's independent examiner is aware of that information.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Aileen Martin
Chair



Karen Steele
Treasurer

Date 24 January 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Rosie's Trust

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 28 to 34.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Margaret Fulford B.Sc. (Econ) FCA
Independent Examiner

On behalf of
James Fulford & Co Ltd,
Chartered Accountants
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT23 5GW

24 January 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Prior Year
	Funds £	Funds £	Total £	Total £
Incoming from:				
Charitable activities	96,791	194,393	291,184	129,182
Total	96,791	194,393	291,184	129,182
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	(1,696)	-	(1,696)	(668)
Charitable activities	(36,302)	(167,702)	(204,004)	(158,393)
Total	(37,998)	(167,702)	(205,700)	(159,061)
Transfer between funds	(1,919)	1,919	-	-
Net Movement in funds	56,874	28,610	85,484	(29,879)
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	40,232	1,806	42,038	71,917
Total Funds Carried Forward	97,106	30,416	127,522	42,038

Continuing operations – The organisation commenced operations on 20th January 2015. There has been no change in operations in the current year or the previous year.

Historical cost profit and losses - The difference between the results disclosed above and the results on an unaudited historical cost basis is not material.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH	2024	2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
INCOME	Funds £	Funds £	Total £	Total £
General income, donations etc.	96,791	194,393	291,184	129,182
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Salaries and wages	7,811	130,445	138,256	85,346
Staff Pension Costs	353	6,226	6,579	4,126
Rent	-	480	480	480
Sundry fundraising	1,696	-	1,696	668
Direct Expenditure on Beneficiary support	3,170	1,546	4,716	6,662
Consultancy	10,055	11,900	21,955	36,400
Promotional materials	5,981	2,458	8,439	1,308
Travel and Motor Expenses	-	8,296	8,296	5,733
Training	-	180	180	-
Telephone	3,428	-	3,428	2,368
Postage, Stationery, Advertising	68	606	674	93
Insurance	1,215	1,289	2,504	2,079
General	3,402	3,100	6,502	8,604
Subscriptions	471	-	471	219
Depreciation	848	1,176	2,024	4,975
Profit on sale of fixed assets	(500)	-	(500)	-
	37,998	167,702	205,700	159,061
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
- Normal Activities	58,793	26,691	85,484	(29,879)
Transfer between funds	(1,919)	1,919	-	-
	56,874	28,610	85,484	(29,879)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH	2024	2023
£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Restricted Funds Equipment	17,469	1,806
General Funds Equipment	4,412	-
	21,881	1,806
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2,016	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand	139,963	63,060
	141,979	63,060
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	(4,408)	(1,826)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	137,571	61,234
Deferred Income	(31,930)	(21,002)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		
	127,522	42,038
REPRESENTED BY		
Revenue reserves	127,522	42,038

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Aileen Martin



TRUSTEE

Karen Steele



TRUSTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rosie's Trust is a registered charity and a public benefit entity. The currency used for the reporting of these financial accounts is Sterling (GBP).

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Fund Accounting Policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are shown in the accounts at their purchase price (or at an equivalent amount if the assets were donated). This amount is then depreciated so that the assets are written down to their anticipated resale value over the period the company will use them. The depreciation rates and methods adopted are:

Straight Line	
Equipment, furniture and fittings	20%
Van	25%

(d) Incoming Resources

Income includes subscriptions, donations and other cash received and receivable. Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income was attributable to the one principal activity of the company carried on within the United Kingdom and Europe.

(e) Finance Leases

If assets are leased and the terms of the agreement are almost equivalent to an outright purchase, a fixed asset and an equivalent liability are created.

The fixed asset is then depreciated using the rates and method shown in note (b) above.

The interest element of the lease is charged as an expense over the primary period of the lease, based on the capital outstanding.

2. TRUSTEES' EMOLUMENTS

All board members give their services on a voluntary basis, and no remuneration is paid to them.

3. PARTICULARS OF EMPLOYEES

Rosie’s Trust receives the services of many people, including volunteers (both members and non-members) and employees.

The analysis by function of the average number of people employed by the organisation during the year (excluding trustees) was:

	2024	2023
Service Delivery	4	3

Their remuneration was:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	131,575	82,523
Employer Pension Contributions	6,579	4,126
Social Security costs	6,681	2,823
	144,835	89,472

Rosie’s Trust’s work would not have been as extensive as it has been without the dedicated services of our volunteers, as noted in the Trustees’ Report.

We are very grateful for their gift of time to the charity.

4. FIXED ASSETS

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	
	Assets	Assets	Total
VALUATION/COST	£	£	£
At 31 March 2023	7,000	7,656	14,656
Additions	5,260	16,839	22,099
Disposals	(7,000)	-	(7,000)
At 31 March 2024	5,260	24,495	29,755
DEPRECIATION			
At 31 March 2023	7,000	5,850	12,850
Charge for the year	848	1,176	2,024
Disposals	(7,000)	-	(7,000)
At 31 March 2024	848	7,026	7,874
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2024	4,412	17,469	21,881

5. REVENUE RESERVES

The analysis of restricted funds is given below.

	Sundry	Dormant	National	
	Grant	Accounts	Lottery	
	Fund	Fund NI	Community	Total
	£	£	Fund	£
Reserves brought forward	1,806	-	-	1,806
Received in the year	34,600	50,000	120,721	205,321
Deferred income b/fwd	-	21,002	-	21,002
	36,406	71,002	120,721	228,129
Less: Expenditure				
Income and Expenditure	(4,814)	(39,072)	(122,640)	(166,526)
Transfer between funds	-	-	1,919	1,919
Fixed assets depreciation	(1,176)	-	-	(1,176)
Deferred income c/fwd	-	(31,930)	-	(31,930)
Reserves carried forward	30,416	-	-	30,416

Revenue reserves include grants that have preconditions attached. These grants are separated as shown above and relevant expenditure is allocated against them.

Any funds unspent at the end of the year are carried forward if the charity has received them outright, and they are shown as income in the year received. Any funds received that are repayable to the granting body if unspent are shown as income to the extent that expenditure has been incurred and a deferred income liability is included for the amount not yet spent.

6. ORGANISATION INFORMATION

The organisation was formed by Trust deed. It is registered with HMRC and The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland as a charity. It operates within Northern Ireland and its registered address is The Fountain Centre, 2 Queens Parade, Bangor, BT20 3BJ.

The nature of the entity's operations and a description of the principal activities is included in the Trustees' report.

7. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 January 2025



We'd love to talk to you about Rosie's Trust so please call us on **02891 641340** or visit **rosiestrust.org** for more information.



Rosie's Trust is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422. Registered office 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Rosie's Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102422

Annual return



Annual Report

and Financial Statements
Year ended 31 March 2024

Charity Registration Number: NIC102422
Generously supported by





**Northern Ireland's only charity
dedicated to helping cancer patients,
the terminally ill and elderly people
with mobility issues to hold on to their
companion pets at a time when they
need them most.**

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Message from the Chair



The financial year 2023-2024 marked a major turning point in the life of our charity. Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters, we enjoyed significant growth during the period and were able to invest in laying strong foundations for our future sustainability.

Special thanks must go to the Kingsbridge Charitable Foundation and the John Atcheson Trust for their most generous donations. We are also indebted to the many different organisations who awarded us grants during the period, including the Clothworkers Federation, Coop, Danske Bank Employees' Charity Group, Enkalon, Halifax Foundation, Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Fund, and the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust.

Most importantly, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many individuals who raised funds on our behalf. They are the backbone of our charity and rightly take centre stage in the 'Highlights' section on pages 11 to 21.

The generous support from our core funder, the National Lottery Community Fund, has enabled Rosie's Trust to continue to help cancer patients, people receiving end of life care and elderly people with mobility issues to hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them the most.

In addition to our existing beneficiaries, during the period under review we were able to support 22 new beneficiaries in the four Health and Social Care Trust areas in which we operate, bringing the total number of beneficiaries supported to 64. We also succeeded in recruiting and training 81 additional volunteers, bringing the total to 210.

Investing in our people

Through focused planning and targeted initiatives, I am confident that we have set the stage for ongoing success in the years to come. We have expanded our team of staff, adding new positions to support our evolving goals and to enhance our capabilities. This investment in talent has not only strengthened our current operations but built our capacity for continued growth.

We welcomed two new staff during the period: Aisling Fitzmaurice, a long-standing volunteer with Rosie's Trust, who joined us in April as a Development Officer for the South Eastern and Southern HSC Trust areas. We also engaged the services of another wonderful volunteer, Grainne Evans, as our finance manager for one day a week. Finally, and fortuitously, Nuala Muldoon, our part-time Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, was able to give another day a week of her time to assume the busy load of Administrative Assistant.

The Board also decided to employ a part-time CEO for three years, as provided for in the National Lottery Community Fund grant award. Previously, we had engaged an interim CEO on a consultancy basis. Dr Catriona Mac Arthur was subsequently employed to provide strategic leadership and direction to our small team.

We also created a number of new roles to enable volunteers to build on their existing skills, competencies and interests. During the period under review, we have created four new roles: Transport Volunteer, Volunteer Administrator, Rosie's Trust Ambassador, and Fundraising Volunteer.

Message from the Chair cont'd...

Another completely new role we created this year was that of Celebrity Ambassador. We were thrilled when Ibe Sesay, an influencer with more than 10,000 followers, agreed to become our first ever Ambassador. A great dog lover, Ibe is the presenter of the Drive programme on Q Radio. His support of Rosie's Trust is helping us raise our profile, particularly among the 25- to 45-year-old age group.



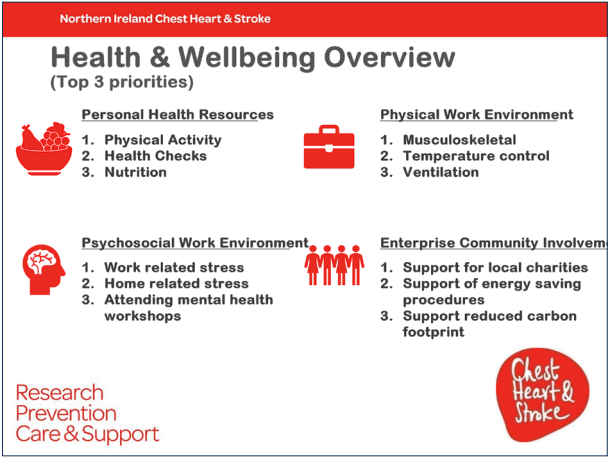
The appointment of Ibe Sesay as our new Celebrity Ambassador caught the media's imagination. He is pictured here with his Maltese poodle pup, Barnie, together with Rosie's Trust beneficiary, Janet Harris with her beloved Rilla, and Jayne McStay, Operations Manager

Our second Celebrity Ambassador to be appointed this year was Lisa McGee, who needs no introduction following the phenomenal success of her 'Derry Girls', not to mention her many other achievements. Lisa is a great cat lover and, like Ibe, is using her platform to support our work and reach out to new audiences.

We are indebted to so many volunteers – far more than I could list here – that we provide a separate page with the names of each and every one of them with our enormous gratitude. Our charity simply could not operate without our volunteers; they go above and beyond to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community. We are truly blessed to have them in the Rosie's Trust family.



All of us on the Board of Trustees are aware of the emotional demands that working with vulnerable people can make on our staff and volunteers. We were therefore delighted to be accepted on the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association's free Work well, live well programme. This began with a survey of all volunteers and staff to identify their priority concerns (the top three across four different areas are shown in the chart below) and a tailored action plan was then developed to address these.



Best practice governance

Our volunteers do, of course, include my fellow Trustees on the Board of Rosie's Trust. There were a few comings and goings during the period, including my own appointment as Chair of the Board in June. I was about to retire from my position as Commercial Director at Hastings Hotels and was keen to find a new challenge. My love of dogs and my heartfelt desire to help all things cancer related was the motivator to apply for this fantastic role.

We bade farewell to two long-standing Trustees, Fiona Coulter and Joy McGimpsey, who stood down in May and October 2024 respectively. Both had made major contributions to the charity during their tenure, and we will be forever grateful to them for their support.

The Board of Trustees has continued to strive for best practice in governance. During the period we streamlined and developed an enhanced risk register, better aligned to our annual Operational Plan. We also updated our Trust Deed, setting fixed terms of office, numbers of Trustees, and a quorum for all meetings. These changes were needed as the Trust Deed had not been reviewed since Rosie's Trust was first established in January 2015, when it comprised just three Trustees and no staff at all!!

Another major task was the review and development of just under 100 policies and procedures covering a wide range of areas, from safeguarding to health and safety to data protection and social media.



Lisa McGee with beautiful Molly and her proud owner Paul Swan, a beneficiary of Rosie's Trust (at Lisa's left). Pictured with them are Mark Regan, CEO of Kingsbridge Healthcare Group (far left), Dr Martin Shields, Group Medical Director (right), and Aileen Martin (far right).

We developed many new policies in response to identified operational need, such as 'Eligibility criteria for the provision of Rosie's Trust services', 'Process for assisting beneficiaries in need with the payment of vet fees' and a 'Process for addressing breach of volunteer policies and procedures.'

We also updated our Covid-19 guidelines to allow volunteers to enter beneficiaries' homes and enjoy 'normal' (ie pre-pandemic) contact provided the beneficiary is not receiving cancer treatment.

The group tasked with implementing our Business Continuity Plan ran two test exercises during the year, one of which took place out-of-hours. The group's meticulous preparations ensured that both exercises – conducted among all staff, Trustees and volunteers – occurred without incident and confirmed the excellent communications set up between all involved.

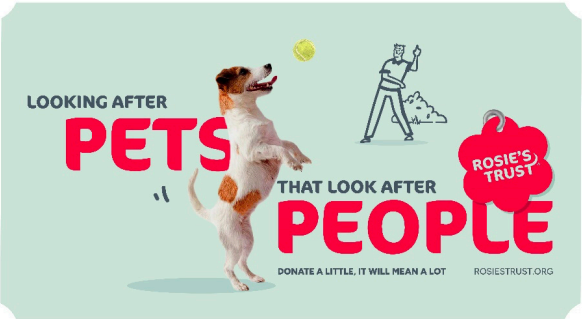
Another important development this year was the introduction of a new online referral form that will enable us to transition over time to third party referrals. We are confident that this will reduce the burden on our small team who spend significant periods of time signposting people who do not meet our eligibility criteria. The referral form still provides for self-referrals but encourages those from third parties (such as a social worker, GP or community/voluntary organisation).

Message from the Chair cont'd...

Improving understanding of our services

I have taken every opportunity throughout the year to meet with representatives of the private, public and third sectors to raise awareness of Rosie's Trust. This has included meeting one to one with the CEOs of Aware, Hospice NI, and Business in the Community. I have also attended various forums throughout the year to spread the word.

The Board and I were pleased to receive ringfenced funding to enable us to engage external support to help us better communicate the vital role Rosie's Trust plays in the community. We started work in March on a rebranding project, which will be launched to mark our 10th birthday in January 2025. The Board is confident that this investment will make a significant return, in terms of improved awareness of Rosie's Trust and increased financial support.



A taste of Rosie's Trust new branding, which is designed to engage with new audiences. It will be launched to mark our 10th anniversary in January 2025.

I am very much looking forward to working with all at Rosie's Trust to lead the charity into a period of growth and expansion in the year ahead, enabling us to keep increasing numbers of people together with their pets during difficult times. I am particularly pleased that we will be able to explore opportunities in 2024-2025 to expand our services to the North-West region, thanks to the generous support of Ulster Garden Villages. With many, many thanks to the volunteers, staff, Trustees and, of course, the National Lottery Community Fund, without whom I would be unable to look to the future of our charity with such optimism.

Aileen Martin
Chair

Information about Rosie's Trust

Charity established under Trust Deed on 20 January, 2015.

Board of Trustees (at the date of approval of the accounts)

- Aileen Martin, Chair**
Appointed to Board June 2023
- Karen Steele , Treasurer**
Appointed to Board October 2024
- Josephine Mallon, Secretary**
- Hannah Corbett**
Appointed to Board December 2024
- Clare Jess**
Appointed to Board February 2023
- Gail Lavery**
Appointed to Board February 2023
- Tim Leonard**
- Joyce Savage**

The Trustees who resigned between the commencement date of these financial statements and the approval date are listed below:

- Emer Rice**
Resigned May 2024
- Jill Hawthorne**
Resigned August 2024
- Louise Heatley**
Resigned October 2024

- Staff**
- CEO, Dr Catriona Mac Arthur (O.4 FTE)
 - Operations Manager, Jayne McStay
 - Development Officer, Laura Quinn
 - Development Officer, Aisling Fitzmaurice
 - Volunteer Support Officer, Molly Finlay
 - Marketing and Communications Lead, Robyn McMurray (O.8 FTE)
 - Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, Nuala Muldoon
 - Finance Manager, Grainne Evans (Consultant - 0.2 FTE)

Contact details
Telephone: 0289 1641340
Email: mail@rosiestrust.org
Postal address: The Fountain Centre, 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Independent Examiner
James Fulford & Co Ltd
Chartered Accounts
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT 23 5GW

Bankers
Co-op Bank Ltd
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Manchester
M60 4EP

Santander UK plc
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

Registration
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422

Taxation Status
As a registered charity, Rosie's Trust has claimed exemption from tax.

Who we are and What we do



Rosie's Trust is unique. We are the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to helping cancer patients, the terminally ill and older people with a disability hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them most.

When someone is faced with a cancer diagnosis, disability or terminal illness, their whole world changes. They have so much to worry about, so much to deal with and the one thing they need - especially those living alone - is the emotional support that their companion pet provides.

They are no longer able to provide their dog or cat with the same level of care they once could and their anxiety about the welfare of their beloved companion only serves to compound their distress.

At the most stressful time of their lives, they may be forced to give up their companion pet and, in so doing, experience tremendous loss, isolation and feelings of guilt.

Some people have reported that they considered delaying or even refusing treatment because they had no one to look after their pet.

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' companion dogs and/or cats in their homes when they are no longer able to look after them independently.

We provide fostering services when our beneficiaries need to spend a period of time in hospital or in hospice care. Subject always to our beneficiaries' wishes, we also find new homes for their pets when they are no longer able to care for them, including when they die.

Rosie's Trust also offers a pet bereavement service, providing emotional support to beneficiaries when their companion pet predeceases them.

We provide our services free of charge, 365 days of the year. We depend on donations to cover our service costs, and every penny gifted to us is carefully used.

Our services offer peace of mind for our beneficiaries as they know Rosie's Trust will support them in the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.

Rosie's Trust services not only help to address loneliness and social exclusion in Northern Ireland, but also to promote animal welfare, in accordance with the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011.



Our team of 200+ committed volunteers are the life force of Rosie's Trust and provide help and support in all aspects of pet care, including feeding, grooming, exercising, play and stimulation, and vet visits.

Our volunteers are our eyes and ears, ensuring when they visit that our beneficiaries are as well as can be and providing welcome social contact for many. Our volunteers work in teams, with each member making two visits a week.

An average of three volunteers is allocated to each beneficiary.

Our volunteers receive intense training before being matched to a beneficiary. This ensures they all have a sound understanding of Rosie's Trust's policies and procedures to promote the health and wellbeing of our beneficiaries, their pets, and the volunteers themselves. They are also trained to signpost to partner organisations, wherever necessary.

Since our establishment in 2015, we have served 214 beneficiaries. They are located in four of the five Health and Social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, Southern and South Eastern).

We undertake a very thorough assessment process of each of our beneficiaries and their pets. This enables us to develop tailored action plans, which take into account and address all the risks we have identified and ensure the best match for the beneficiary with our volunteers. We also have robust safeguarding policies in place to protect our beneficiaries and our volunteers. Social workers from the Health and Social Care Trusts refer potential beneficiaries to us as do organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support (NI). Although we particularly encourage third party referrals, we do accept self-referrals.

Our work has been made possible thanks to core funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.



Public Benefit

1) The advancement of health or the saving of lives.

We maintain the health and wellbeing of both the beneficiary and their companion animal by alleviating the stresses and anxiety felt when they are no longer able to care for their pet independently.



2) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

Rosie's Trust works with those experiencing terminal illness, acute cancer treatment, age and disability, maintaining their relationship with their companion animal and working with partner organisations to help the beneficiary overcome other challenges.



3) The advancement of animal welfare.

Our work keeping people and their pets together supports our beneficiaries in ensuring the care they provide their animal meets the five welfare needs as detailed in the Welfare of Animal Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.



Highlights of the year

"Rosie's Trust gave me my life back."

It is hard to imagine seven more powerful words to describe the work of any charity, still less our own!

The words belong to one of Rosie's Trust beneficiaries who feared they would have to give up their companion pet when they received a terminal diagnosis. They are just seven of several hundred words of endorsement expressed by respondents to our 2023 survey. We distribute these surveys every year to obtain feedback on our services so that we can continually improve these and address any issues arising.

We always ask what difference Rosie's Trust has made to their lives as well as the impact it has had on their mental health. Ninety-six per cent of respondents said that our services had made a "big difference" to:

- ✓ Their lives.
- ✓ Their stress/anxiety levels.
- ✓ Their feeling more confident.
- ✓ Reducing loneliness and their sense of isolation.

The remaining four per cent believed Rosie's Trust had made "quite a lot of difference" to their lives.

When asked to explain why the charity had made a big difference to their lives, responses typically referred to the importance of having someone check in on them every day and the "wee chats" they enjoyed with the volunteers.

More beneficiaries and companion pets supported in 2023 -2024



Our volunteers also reported that Rosie's Trust had had a very positive impact on their lives, most frequently stating how "rewarding" they found the volunteering to be and how it had given them a "sense of purpose".

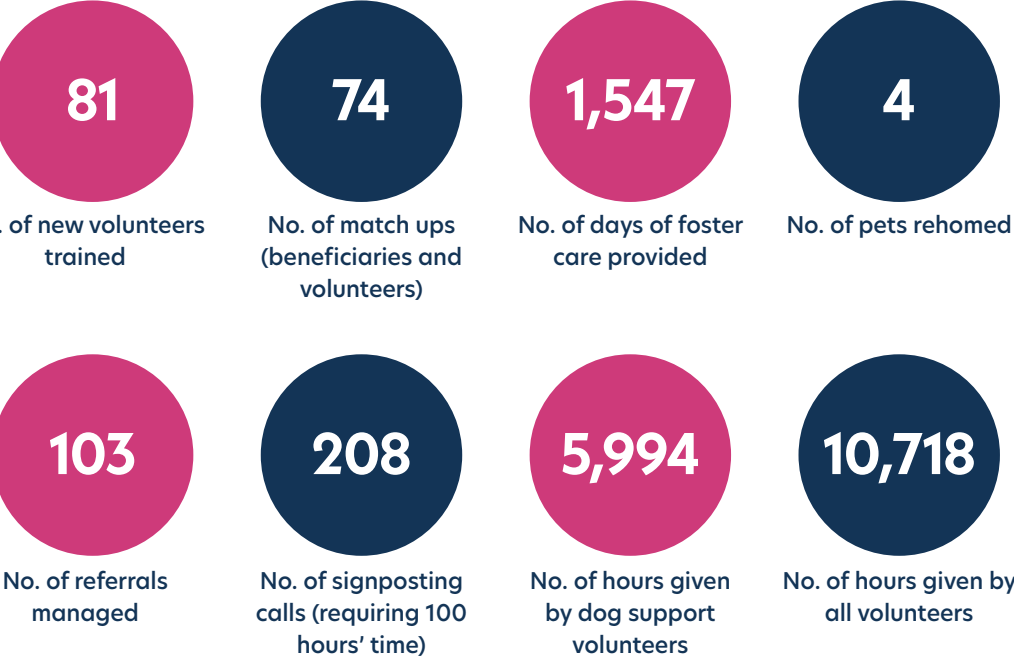
"I absolutely love knowing that by giving up just a small portion of my time each week I am making such a difference to someone's life." Rosie's Trust volunteer

Another summed up their experience with four short words:

"Awesome charity, great support."

Highlights of the year cont'd...

A busy year for staff and volunteers beyond direct beneficiary support



Too many fundraisers to mention this year!

We are indebted to all the wonderful people around Northern Ireland who supported our work during the year – there are simply too many of them to mention in these short pages. However, we have shouted out to them all in our social media on every possible occasion!

They include Georgia Gow and Neil Currie, who were undeterred by the terrible weather to take on the Belfast Half Marathon to raise funds on our behalf.

We are so grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund for awarding us a Dormant Accounts grant last year. This enabled us to employ two part-time staff, one of whom is a dedicated Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead. Nuala Muldoon deserves credit for many of the fundraising initiatives listed, even though she started only in December!



Still smiling! Huge congratulations to Georgia Gow and Neil Currie who both completed the Belfast Half Marathon in the most miserable conditions! They raised £410 and £570 respectively – fantastic result!



We were thrilled to receive this generous cheque from Jason Beddoes, Director of the Dog Field (NI). They raised £500 for Rosie's Trust with the sale of their 2024 calendar featuring all the dogs in their care.



Our volunteer ambassador, Kim set herself the challenge of walking three ten-mile walks over three months and raised more than £600! She was joined by 14-year-old Ben, who needed a bit of help along the way!



Huge thanks to the staff of Kingsbridge Healthcare Group for choosing to support our work this year and help keep people and their pets together! Dr Martin Shields, Chair of Kingsbridge Foundation and Medical Director at Kingsbridge Healthcare Group, said: "We are delighted to provide Rosie's Trust with a £20,000 donation. Pets play such an important role in people's lives, and we sometimes find that patients might delay treatment as they worry over who will help take care of their beloved dog or cat, so it is great that the charity removes this concern for beneficiaries, not only when they are faced with this situation, but in their daily lives."



Many thanks to our veteran volunteers Olivia Crookes, Lynda Crozier, Anne Tweed and Ruth Pinkerton for staffing a stall at Tesco, Springhill, just before Christmas. Huge thanks also to Tesco and customers for their generosity! The collection raised more than £600!

Highlights of the year cont'd...



Bonanza! The Dog Agility community also raised £1,000 for Rosie's Trust this year!



Waiting for the guests to arrive! Aileen Martin kindly hosted a coffee morning at her home to raise over £2,000 for Rosie's Trust. She is pictured here with Trustees Joyce Savage, Gayle Lavery, Clare Jess and Emer Rice as well as staff Sandra McFadden, Laura Quinn and Jayne McStay. Well-known former broadcaster Julian Simmonds kindly MCed the event.



We had a bit of fun taking pics of our new 2020 Citroen Berlingo van. We were able to buy this van, which had only 35,000 miles on the clock, thanks to a generous grant from Clothworkers' Federation. They are based in London so we thought we'd include pictures of the van at iconic NI spots in our progress reports.



"I suppose I ought to eat or drink something or other; but the great question is, 'What?'"

A massive thank you to Debbie Thompson, Lady Captain at Shandon Park Golf Club, who kindly chose to support Rosie's Trust during her year of captaincy. They held their first Ladies' Night of the season with an Alice in Wonderland-themed night of a meal and a quiz. They raised more than £600 on that occasion alone!



Irish Whiskey auctions raised more than £10,000 for Rosie's Trust - we were - and remain - simply overwhelmed by their generosity!



Our volunteers did a fantastic job holding raffles at a series of Tribute Nights at Hastings Hotels over Christmas/New Year. Caroline Forsythe and Gabi Kerr cleverly managed to grab a photo with The Mowtown Sensations! Huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped out with the raffles and, of course, to Hastings Hotels for the opportunity.



And finally a collective shout out to our core funder, the National Lottery Community Fund, on Crossed Finger Selfie Day 14 November 2023!

Many thanks also to Denise Cranston, Head of Partnerships Practice at 2 into 3, who generously provided a free training session to some of our staff on developing corporate partnerships.

Surely and steadily increasing our presence in communities far and wide

Thanks again to our wonderful volunteers, we have been able to set up stalls at community events all around Northern Ireland and to present to community groups as and when requested.

This year we trained 10 ambassadors who have made this possible. Previously, these events were undertaken by a small team of staff who were necessarily limited in the number they could attend.

We have also been helped enormously in raising our public profile thanks to a generous donation from the John Atcheson Trust. We spent this on purchasing basic equipment, signage and promotional material to display at events. We also invested in various interactive tools, from colouring books to quizzes, as well as branded give-aways and/or purchases to attract passers-by to our stalls.

Many thanks also to the Halifax Foundation for providing the funds needed to buy branded clothing for our volunteers!

Highlights of the year cont'd...



Thanks to our fantastic Ambassadors, we have been able to hold an increasing number of awareness raising events throughout the year. Pictured here are Nicola Brown and Kim Hamilton, who gave a presentation to the Ravenhill Presbyterian Women's Group.



One of our longest-serving volunteers, Ruth Pinkerton assumes a number of roles for Rosie's Trust, including that of Ambassador. She is pictured here at one of the many presentations she has given throughout the year, on this occasion to the staff at Kingsbridge.



Across the ages: At the Positive Ageing Roadshow with Ards and North Down Borough Council...



... and the QUB Freshers Fair! We were thrilled to be shortlisted as Queen's University Belfast's Student Union RAG Charity of the Year. Fingers crossed for next year!



Development Officer Laura Quinn with her two beautiful daughters, Eliza and Holly. They managed our stall at Cancer Focus's Woodland Walk in Springhill. Many thanks to Richard's Photography for the photo!



Our Volunteer Support Officer Sandra McFadden with her dog Pippa, together with volunteers Rachel Miskimmin, Anne Finlay and Nancy the greyhound. They hosted a stall at Pet Nose Day, Mount Stewart.

Communications reaching new audiences across Northern Ireland

Our communications and messaging – through all forms of media – improved significantly during the year. This was due in large part to the presence – for the first time – of our part-time Communications and Marketing Lead, Claire Smyth, on the team. Rosie's Trust was able to employ Claire thanks to the award of a two-year Dormant Accounts grant.

One of Claire's many initiatives was to introduce two regular newsletters; one specifically for our volunteers, and the other for our supporters.

Steady increase in social media following:

		April 2023	March 2024	Increase
Facebook		7.7k	8.5k	+800
Instagram		761	990	+229
X		746	758	+12
Linked In		71	146	+65
Mailing List		480	690	+210

Rosie's Trust stall mounted record number of times around NI



SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER

And be the first to hear all our pawsome news!





While Claire has been busy primarily with external communications, our internal communications with volunteers have taken a huge leap thanks to the tireless work of our longstanding volunteer, John McGarrigle, in developing an increasingly sophisticated user-friendly volunteer portal.

Highlights of the year cont'd...

Taking every opportunity to improve interactions with our volunteers

[illegible]

The mainstream media has been providing increased coverage of Rosie's Trust. This is, of course, another important mechanism to increase public awareness of the services we provide.



Our Chair, Aileen Martin, was pleased to meet with some of our wonderful volunteers soon after she joined the charity.

kind of information, and the stress and being able to take care of all my pet during that time can be overwhelming.

"I feel diagnosed as our beneficiaries are pensioners who are fully isolated and housebound, and their dogs are the heartbeat of the home," she said.

"One of our beneficiaries told me she couldn't do without her dog because she can't live, so she doesn't cry to treat of her children."

"That lady was being real themselves, but we can still sympathise the same."

"The other side of it is a struggle and diagnosis, which is so difficult and isolates our vulnerable beneficiaries and friendships with our beneficiaries."

"We will take the time to look long term if the previous needs might not realise that there are so many varying types."

"From cancer – an old cancer – which was in my stomach – blood when I was diagnosed as young."

"That when I was researching it while waiting for my diagnosis, I didn't realise there were so many types of breast cancer about."

"Multiple different types of breast cancer include ductal and invasive, lymphatic, ductal carcinoma, inflammatory breast cancer for many other people can be the same."

Christine Byrne, welfare manager for Marie Curie Cancer Ireland, added:

"We see so many hidden vulnerabilities in these and what that all the worse is that people are dealing with a variety of issues in household income."

Marie Curie, which is the national fund for the elderly, said that more than 2,000 people are living in Marie Curie Ireland – and one in four are



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IBE SESAY ANNOUNCED AS AMBASSADOR FOR ROSIE'S TRUST

Northern Ireland charity Rosie's Trust, dedicated to helping cancer patients, terminally ill and older patients with a disability stay together with their pets, has announced that Q Radio presenter Ibe Sesay has been appointed as an ambassador.



Thanks to support from the Halifax Foundation, we were able to arrange meet ups for the volunteers in all the different regions where we work. Team meet-ups are an important part of the Rosie's Trust volunteer journey; they're an opportunity for volunteers to get to know the other members of their team, share experiences and provide support to each other.

**DOG SUPPORT
VOLUNTEERS**
needed urgently!

Do you live in
Newcastle?



**ROSIE'S
TRUST**

We are so fortunate to be able to recruit volunteers close to where new beneficiaries live, wherever that may be.

All Sections

News Letter

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BREAKINGdies of cancer months after diagnosis • Star dies after falling out of moving car • Film favourite dies in intensive care • TV

Health

It's a 'Derry' good day as Rosie's Trust secures support from Lisa McGee

By Helen McGurk

Comment

Published 6th Feb 2024, 11:30 GMT | Updated 7th Feb 2024, 09:04 GMT

Highlights of the year cont'd...



We enjoyed wonderful sunshine at our walk in Stormont to celebrate Volunteers Week

Fostering and rehoming service gets a boost from Danske Bank employees

Rosie's Trust provides foster care for the cats and dogs of our existing beneficiaries when they need hospital treatment or hospice care.

We are indebted to the Danske Bank Employees' Charity Group who made a very generous donation to help us set a fund specifically for that purpose. Their donation will directly benefit the animals in our care by providing them with essential medical care, food, comfortable shelter, and a loving environment. It will also enable us to continue our efforts in finding forever homes for these pets, ensuring they are placed with responsible and caring individuals or families.

There was unprecedented demand for foster care this year and we are so grateful to our newly-trained transport volunteers for helping us move the animals between our different volunteer foster carers.

Leveraging our impact through advocacy and networking

In addition to all the individuals and organisations that have financially supported Rosie's Trust this year, it is also important to note that we are slowly but surely increasing the number of people who lend us support in other ways. One such person is Professor Siobhan O'Neill, Northern Ireland's Mental Health Champion. We met with her in February and were blown away by her genuine enthusiasm and support of our work. This was her first introduction to the charity, yet she immediately understood the impact of our work, not only in terms of promoting mental health, but also in addressing social isolation, depression and anxiety, not to mention animal welfare.



NI's Mental Health Champion is a passionate supporter of Rosie's Trust.

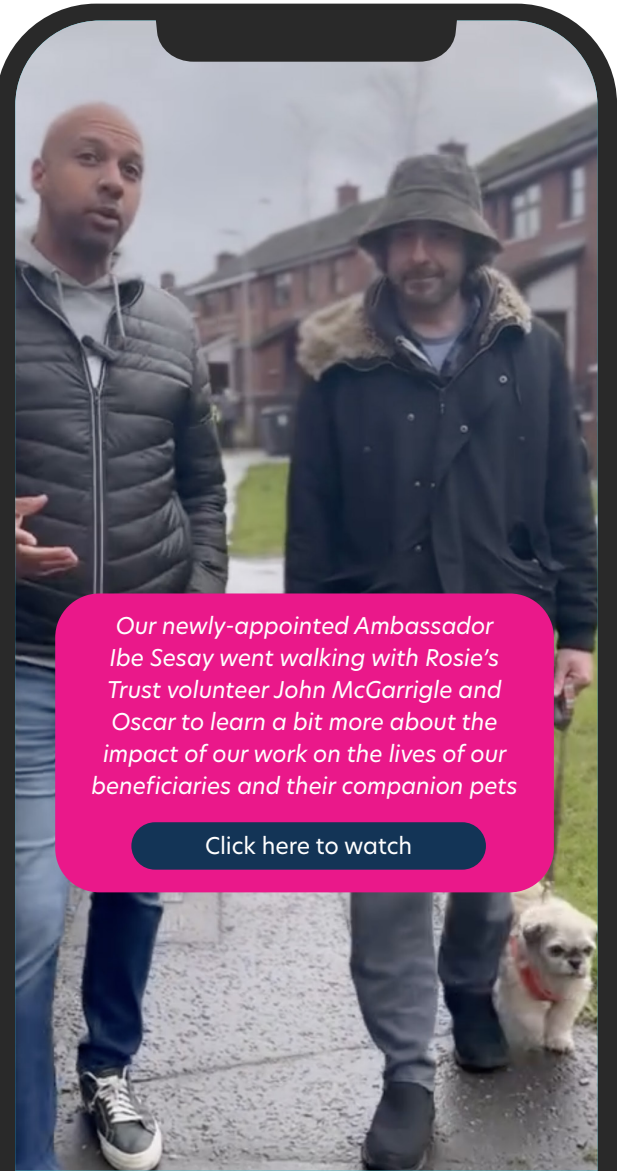
Professor O'Neill kindly volunteered the following quote for use in our funding applications and elsewhere, as appropriate:

"Rosie's Trust is a unique, life-changing charity in Northern Ireland. It provides a vital service to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. It ticks so many boxes that it cannot be placed into any one service category; it promotes mental health and wellbeing, addresses social isolation, provides a regular 'check in service', not to mention animal welfare. The profound impact of the bond that exists between an individual and their companion pet cannot be over-estimated, especially when that person lives alone and is unable to provide the care their pet needs because of cancer treatment, end of life care or age-related mobility issues".

We also joined up with other like-minded organisations to gain leverage in our advocacy work. To that end, we successfully applied this year to join the NI Companion Animal Welfare Group and the UK-wide Association of Dogs and Cats Homes.

Rosie's Trust has continued to build relationships with a wide range of organisations in the voluntary and community sector as well as the private and public sectors. This is a key performance objective as we know collaborations are essential to increase our reach and impact.

Rosie's Trust is represented at all the HSC Trust locality meetings. We are also active contributors to the Area Integrated Partnerships project. Our main partners at present, apart from the social workers and care teams with whom we are in daily contact, are organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie who are among our principal referral agencies.



Our newly-appointed Ambassador Ibe Sesay went walking with Rosie's Trust volunteer John McGarrigle and Oscar to learn a bit more about the impact of our work on the lives of our beneficiaries and their companion pets

[Click here to watch](#)



Could you provide a dog with a loving, temporary home?

There was a huge spike in demand for foster care this year, but we were able to keep up with demands thanks to our Foster Volunteers! We provide foster care for existing beneficiaries who need hospital or hospice care.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5	Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Aileen Martin	Trustee					Emily Graham	Fundraiser	Ambassador			
Aisling Fitzgerald	Canine Support					Emma Clarke	Canine Support				
Aisling Fitzmaurice	Canine Support	Foster	Phone Support	Co-ordinator		Emma-Kate McClay	Canine Support				
Alex Elliot	Canine Support					Erin Galbraith	Canine Support				
Alison McIlroy	Canine Support	Foster	Foster			Evie Gardner	Canine Support				
Andy Gorringe	Canine Support					Felicia Chan	Canine Support				
Ann Payne	Canine Support					Fiona Coulter	Canine Support				
Ann Quigley	Canine Support					Fiona Hutchinson	Canine Support				
Anne Baker	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support			Fionnuala Fearon	Canine Support				
Anne Finlay	Ambassador					Frances Steele	Canine Support				
Anne Tweed	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Canine Support			Gail Spiers	Canine Support				
Antoinette Hagan	Canine Support	Foster				Gale Lavery	Trustee				
Arlene McEvoy	Canine Support					Garielle (Gabi) Kerr	Fundraiser	Ambassador			
Asia Haraburda	Canine Support					Geoffrey Parks	Canine Support	Foster			
Ava Inman	Canine Support					Geraldine McKinley	Canine Support	Foster			
Beatrice Major	Canine Support					Gill Williams	Canine Support				
Beatriz Garcia-Torresano	Canine Support					Glenda Burns	Canine Support				
Bernie Smyth	Canine Support					Grianne Evans	Transport	Admin			
Beverly Huddleston	Foster					Guy Irwin Smith	Canine Support				
Brigitte Bartholome	Canine Support					Harry Morrow	Foster				
Carol Noble	Canine Support					Hazel Cameron	Canine Support				
Caroline Forsyth	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support			Helen Kerr	Canine Support				
Carolyn McGinnell	Canine Support					Helen McLaughlin	Canine Support				
Carolyn Tweed	Canine Support					Helene Sloan	Canine Support				
Catherine Kelly	Canine Support	Foster				Hilary Idzikowska	Foster				
Catherine McConville	Foster					Hilary Neil	Canine Support				
Cathy Wilcock	Canine Support					Ian Brown	Canine Support				
Chris Idzikowska	Foster					Ilene Barrington	Canine Support				
Chris McGarry	Canine Support					Imelda McConnell	Canine Support				
Chrissie Henderson	Canine Support					Ivan Noble	Canine Support				
Cilla Sherman	Phone Support	Canine Support				Jackie Morgan	Foster	Dog Listener			
Claire Guyer	Canine Support					Jane Bell	Canine Support				
Claire Malone	Canine Support					Jane Campbell	Canine Support				
Clare Cowan	Fundraiser	Canine Support				Janet Armstrong	Co-ordinator	Phone Support			
Clare Jess	Trustee					Janet Neil	Canine Support				
Colette Roe	Canine Support					Janice McBriar	Canine Support				
Courtney Rea	Canine Support					Jennifer McDowell	Canine Support				
Danielle Ingram	Canine Support					Jill Aiken	Foster				
Dawn Steveson	Canine Support					Jill Hawthorne	Trustee				
Dean Lee	Canine Support					Jill Kerry	Foster				
Debbie Millar	Canine Support					Jill McLean	Transport				
Deborah Frost	Canine Support					Jill Truesdale	Canine Support	Foster			
Deborah McMurran	Canine Support					Joan Curran	Canine Support				
Deidre Moody	Canine Support					Joanna Rea	Canine Support				
Denise Davies	Ambassador	Canine Support				Joanne Parks	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support	Foster	
Denise Durnien	Canine Support					Josephine Mallon	Trustee				
Diane Dickson	Foster					John Cassells	Canine Support				
Diane Torrens	Canine Support					John McGarrigle	Canine Support	Admin	Foster		
Edna Wills	Foster					Jo-Jo McLaughlin	Canine Support				
Elaine Wilson	Canine Support					Jonathan Twinem	Canine Support				
Ellen Ferris	Canine Support					Joy McGimpsey	Trustee				
Emer Rice	Trustee					Joyce Savage	Trustee				

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Judith McCormack	Fundraiser	Canine Support			
Judith Ragg	Canine Support				
Judith Watt	Foster				
Justine McIntyre	Canine Support				
Karen Boutros	Fundraiser				
Karen Smyth	Canine Support				
Karen Steele	Canine Support				
Kate Daly	Canine Support	Transport			
Kate McNeill	Canine Support				
Katrina Jones	Canine Support				
Keith Scott	Canine Support				
Kim Hamilton	Fundraiser	Ambassador			
Kimberley Newell	Canine Support				
Kirsty Davidson-O'Neill	Canine Support				
Kristina Clyde	Canine Support				
Lara Carlin	Canine Support				
Laura Hamilton	Canine Support				
Liana Wylie	Canine Support				
Lianne Mullholland	Canine Support				
Linda Brown	Canine Support				
Linda Marks	Transport	Canine Support			
Linda McDonald	Canine Support	Foster			
Lisa Clydesdale	Canine Support				
Lisa Curtis	Canine Support				
Lisa Mehigan	Canine Support				
Liz Brown	Canine Support				
Lorna Crockett	Canine Support				
Lorraine Nesbitt	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support	
Louise Heatley	Trustee				
Lucia Flanagan	Canine Support				
Lyn Cummings	Canine Support				
Lyn Watson	Foster				
Lynda Crozier	Fundraiser	Co-ordinator	Transport	Ambassador	Canine Support
Lynda Graham	Foster				
Lynn Magill	Canine Support				
Lynne Hamilton	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Lynsey Grant	Canine Support	Foster			
Madhavi Pasapula	Canine Support				
Magdalena Mielcarek	Canine Support				
Maggie Kelly	Canine Support				
Maia Magee	Foster				
Malcolm McKibbin	Foster				
Malcom McKibbon	Foster				
Margaret Fulford	Canine Support				
Marie Caffola	Canine Support				
Mark Lamont	Canine Support				
Mark McConville	Foster				
Mary McNeilly	Ambassador				
Mary O'Hara	Canine Support				
Matthew McBride	Canine Support				
Maureen McCartney	Canine Support				
Melanie Patton	Canine Support				

Active Volunteers (Apr 23 - Mar 24)	Role 1	Role 2	Role 3	Role 4	Role 5
Michael Kelly	Canine Support				
Michael McDowell	Canine Support				
Morris Cameron	Canine Support				
Muire Creed	Canine Support				
Muriel Gillespie	Canine Support				
Nacy Henry	Foster				
Natasha Walker	Canine Support				
Neil Baird	Canine Support				
Neil Currie	Canine Support				
Niall McInerney	Canine Support				
Niamh McCann	Canine Support				
Niamh Nixon	Canine Support				
Nicola Brown	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Noeleen Brennan	Canine Support				
Olivia Crookes	Fundraiser	Phone Support	Ambassador		
Oonagh Lynch	Canine Support				
Paul Hart	Foster				
Pauline Hughes	Canine Support				
Peter Crozier	Canine Support				
Rachel Livingston	Canine Support				
Rachel Miskimmin	Fundraiser	Canine Support			
Rebecca Neilson	Canine Support				
Rhiannon Jones	Canine Support				
Richard Gapper	Canine Support				
Rita Tucker	Canine Support				
Robin Stevenson	Canine Support				
Rosaleen Mullan	Canine Support				
Rose Templeton	Canine Support				
Russell Scott	Canine Support				
Ruth Pinkerton	Fundraiser	Co-ordinator	Phone Support	Ambassador	Canine Support
Sara Wilson	Canine Support				
Shane Rafferty	Canine Support				
Sharon Branigan	Canine Support				
Sharon Hart	Foster				
Sharon Magorrian	Canine Support				
Sharon McAleenan	Canine Support				
Shaun Pridgen	Canine Support				
Simon Simpson	Canine Support				
Sophie Stephenson	Canine Support				
Stefanie Morrow	Transport	Foster			
Stephen Aiken	Canine Support				
Susan Mckibbin	Fundraiser	Ambassador	Canine Support		
Susan Piggot	Canine Support				
Susan Winch	Foster				
Suzanne O'Hara	Canine Support				
Suzie Ferris	Foster				
Terri Mayne	Canine Support				
Thomas Duncan	Canine Support				
Tim Leonard	Trustee				
Tracey Rylance	Canine Support				
Trina O'Callaghan	Ambassador	Canine Support			
Victoria Johnston	Canine Support				
Wallace Henry	Foster				
Wayne Watson	Foster				

Financial position and reserves

At 31st March 2024 Rosie's Trust held restricted reserves of £30,416 and unrestricted reserves of £97,106. Rosie's Trust aims to hold at least three months running costs on reserves (approximately £55,000) to deal with any unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to the winding up of the charity in the event of being unable to raise any further substantial funding to allow the payment of staff salaries and running costs. The Trustees and operations staff will consider on a regular basis the levels of funding that it holds and how this funding can be used to benefit the charity and the services that it provides and to best meet the needs of its beneficiaries and volunteers.

In the 2023-24 financial year the majority of core costs including salaries were covered from a grant from National Lottery Community Fund and other restricted funds to cover the costs associated with particular activities or projects. We also received a level of unrestricted funding, mainly from donations, which was directed to other costs as required.

We were very fortunate to receive a three-year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund in April 2023. This followed a five-year grant generously provided by the National Lottery Community Fund in 2018. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the National Lottery Community Fund for their support for making our work possible.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the organisation and that enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of Trustees' Confirmations

In the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when the report is approved, the following applies:

- a) so far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the organisation's independent examiner in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- b) each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the organisation's independent examiner is aware of that information.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Aileen Martin
Chair



Karen Steele
Treasurer

Date 24 January 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Rosie's Trust

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 28 to 34.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Margaret Fulford B.Sc. (Econ) FCA
Independent Examiner

On behalf of
James Fulford & Co Ltd,
Chartered Accountants
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT23 5GW

24 January 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted		Prior Year
	Funds £	Funds £	Total £	Total £
Incoming from:				
Charitable activities	96,791	194,393	291,184	129,182
Total	96,791	194,393	291,184	129,182
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	(1,696)	-	(1,696)	(668)
Charitable activities	(36,302)	(167,702)	(204,004)	(158,393)
Total	(37,998)	(167,702)	(205,700)	(159,061)
Transfer between funds	(1,919)	1,919	-	-
Net Movement in funds	56,874	28,610	85,484	(29,879)
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	40,232	1,806	42,038	71,917
Total Funds Carried Forward	97,106	30,416	127,522	42,038

Continuing operations – The organisation commenced operations on 20th January 2015. There has been no change in operations in the current year or the previous year.

Historical cost profit and losses - The difference between the results disclosed above and the results on an unaudited historical cost basis is not material.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH	2024	2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
INCOME	Funds £	Funds £	Total £	Total £
General income, donations etc.	96,791	194,393	291,184	129,182
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Salaries and wages	7,811	130,445	138,256	85,346
Staff Pension Costs	353	6,226	6,579	4,126
Rent	-	480	480	480
Sundry fundraising	1,696	-	1,696	668
Direct Expenditure on Beneficiary support	3,170	1,546	4,716	6,662
Consultancy	10,055	11,900	21,955	36,400
Promotional materials	5,981	2,458	8,439	1,308
Travel and Motor Expenses	-	8,296	8,296	5,733
Training	-	180	180	-
Telephone	3,428	-	3,428	2,368
Postage, Stationery, Advertising	68	606	674	93
Insurance	1,215	1,289	2,504	2,079
General	3,402	3,100	6,502	8,604
Subscriptions	471	-	471	219
Depreciation	848	1,176	2,024	4,975
Profit on sale of fixed assets	(500)	-	(500)	-
	37,998	167,702	205,700	159,061
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
- Normal Activities	58,793	26,691	85,484	(29,879)
Transfer between funds	(1,919)	1,919	-	-
	56,874	28,610	85,484	(29,879)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH	2024	2023
£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Restricted Funds Equipment	17,469	1,806
General Funds Equipment	4,412	-
	21,881	1,806
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2,016	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand	139,963	63,060
	141,979	63,060
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	(4,408)	(1,826)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	137,571	61,234
Deferred Income	(31,930)	(21,002)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		
	127,522	42,038
REPRESENTED BY		
Revenue reserves	127,522	42,038

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Aileen Martin



TRUSTEE

Karen Steele



TRUSTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rosie's Trust is a registered charity and a public benefit entity. The currency used for the reporting of these financial accounts is Sterling (GBP).

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Fund Accounting Policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are shown in the accounts at their purchase price (or at an equivalent amount if the assets were donated). This amount is then depreciated so that the assets are written down to their anticipated resale value over the period the company will use them. The depreciation rates and methods adopted are:

Straight Line	
Equipment, furniture and fittings	20%
Van	25%

(d) Incoming Resources

Income includes subscriptions, donations and other cash received and receivable. Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income was attributable to the one principal activity of the company carried on within the United Kingdom and Europe.

(e) Finance Leases

If assets are leased and the terms of the agreement are almost equivalent to an outright purchase, a fixed asset and an equivalent liability are created.

The fixed asset is then depreciated using the rates and method shown in note (b) above.

The interest element of the lease is charged as an expense over the primary period of the lease, based on the capital outstanding.

2. TRUSTEES' EMOLUMENTS

All board members give their services on a voluntary basis, and no remuneration is paid to them.

3. PARTICULARS OF EMPLOYEES

Rosie’s Trust receives the services of many people, including volunteers (both members and non-members) and employees.

The analysis by function of the average number of people employed by the organisation during the year (excluding trustees) was:

	2024	2023
Service Delivery	4	3

Their remuneration was:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	131,575	82,523
Employer Pension Contributions	6,579	4,126
Social Security costs	6,681	2,823
	144,835	89,472

Rosie’s Trust’s work would not have been as extensive as it has been without the dedicated services of our volunteers, as noted in the Trustees’ Report.

We are very grateful for their gift of time to the charity.

4. FIXED ASSETS

	General Fund	Restricted Fund	
	Assets	Assets	Total
VALUATION/COST	£	£	£
At 31 March 2023	7,000	7,656	14,656
Additions	5,260	16,839	22,099
Disposals	(7,000)	-	(7,000)
At 31 March 2024	5,260	24,495	29,755
DEPRECIATION			
At 31 March 2023	7,000	5,850	12,850
Charge for the year	848	1,176	2,024
Disposals	(7,000)	-	(7,000)
At 31 March 2024	848	7,026	7,874
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2024	4,412	17,469	21,881

5. REVENUE RESERVES

The analysis of restricted funds is given below.

	Sundry	Dormant	National	
	Grant	Accounts	Lottery	
	Fund	Fund NI	Community	Total
	£	£	Fund	£
Reserves brought forward	1,806	-	-	1,806
Received in the year	34,600	50,000	120,721	205,321
Deferred income b/fwd	-	21,002	-	21,002
	36,406	71,002	120,721	228,129
Less: Expenditure				
Income and Expenditure	(4,814)	(39,072)	(122,640)	(166,526)
Transfer between funds	-	-	1,919	1,919
Fixed assets depreciation	(1,176)	-	-	(1,176)
Deferred income c/fwd	-	(31,930)	-	(31,930)
Reserves carried forward	30,416	-	-	30,416

Revenue reserves include grants that have preconditions attached. These grants are separated as shown above and relevant expenditure is allocated against them.

Any funds unspent at the end of the year are carried forward if the charity has received them outright, and they are shown as income in the year received. Any funds received that are repayable to the granting body if unspent are shown as income to the extent that expenditure has been incurred and a deferred income liability is included for the amount not yet spent.

6. ORGANISATION INFORMATION

The organisation was formed by Trust deed. It is registered with HMRC and The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland as a charity. It operates within Northern Ireland and its registered address is The Fountain Centre, 2 Queens Parade, Bangor, BT20 3BJ.

The nature of the entity's operations and a description of the principal activities is included in the Trustees' report.

7. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 January 2025



We'd love to talk to you about Rosie's Trust so please call us on **02891 641340** or visit **rosiestrust.org** for more information.



Rosie's Trust is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422. Registered office 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Rosie's Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102422

Accounts



Annual Report

and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

Charity Registration Number: NIC102422

Generously supported by





**Northern Ireland's only charity
dedicated to helping cancer patients,
the terminally ill and elderly people
with a disability to hold on to their
companion pets at a time when they
need them most.**

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Message from the Chair



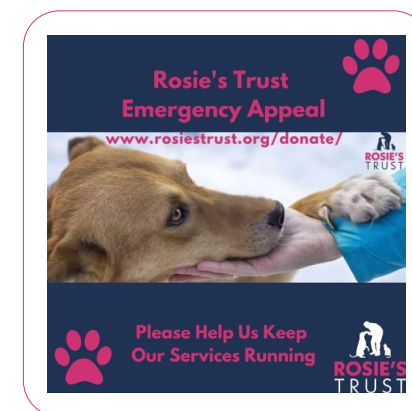
The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) was the bearer of excellent news as the financial year 2022–2023 drew to a close. This was when Rosie's Trust learned that we had been successful in our application for a second People and Communities Grant for a period of three years.

A previous application – submitted to them in October – had been unsuccessful¹ and, while the NLCF requested us to submit a revised application in December, we had a few months when we had to prepare for the possibility of a scaled-down service. We immediately launched a Christmas emergency appeal, which was designed to raise enough funds to keep our services operating at full capacity.

We are indebted to the many individuals and organisations who responded to this appeal, which raised an estimated £15,000. We also submitted grant applications to a wide range of organisations, including Ulster Garden Villages and Halifax². We learned of the success of these two applications only at end of March, by which time we were in the unusual – but happy – position of having to turn down the funds offered as they duplicated the projects provided for in our application to NLCF.

During this period, we also did extensive financial modelling, which enabled us to assess the funds required to maintain the minimum level of services to our existing beneficiaries.

In June 2022, we completed our 'Funding and Communications Strategy' to help us secure the future sustainability of the charity. This underpinned our successful application for a Dormant Accounts grant in July 2022. We were awarded the maximum grant of £100,000 over two years (payable in tranches of £25,000 every six months) and this enabled us to create two part-time positions: one focused on raising public awareness of Rosie's Trust; the second on fundraising (Trust and statutory, corporate, community fundraising/events, and individual giving).



Message from the Chair cont'd...

Beneficiary and volunteer feedback extremely positive

The importance of our having the capacity to support vulnerable members of the community to hold on to their companion pets cannot be overstated. As confirmed in an independent evaluation undertaken in June 2002, the impact of Rosie's Trust services on the lives of cancer patients, the terminally ill and older people with a disability is profound.

One beneficiary described Rosie's Trust services as "life changing" while several others referred to the "peace of mind" they bring. Another beneficiary referred to Rosie's Trust as a "godsend".

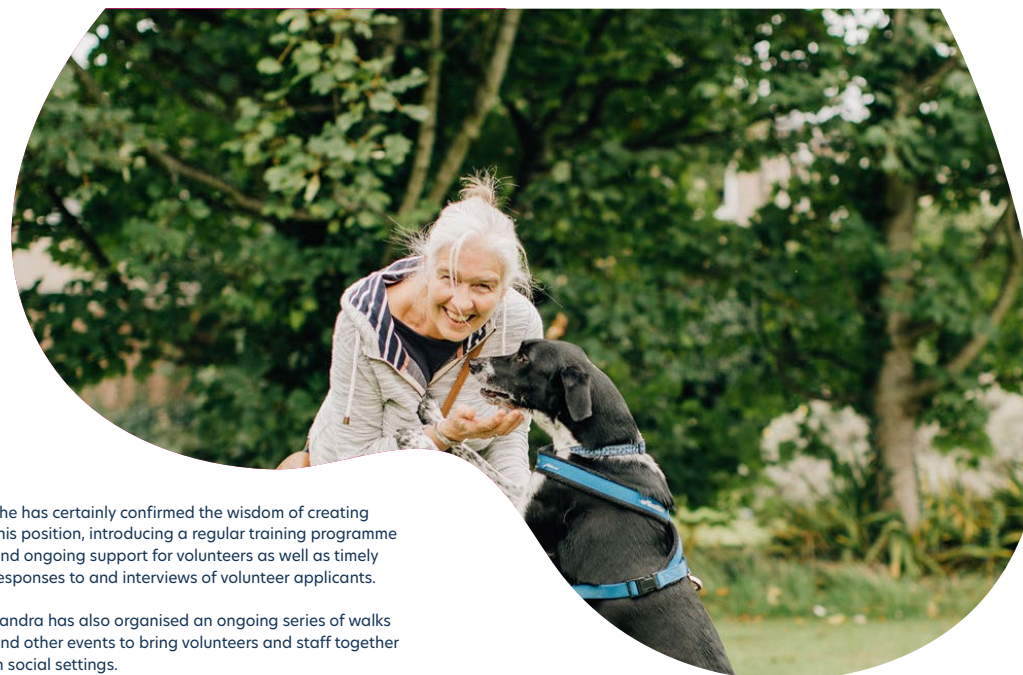
Amy Wilson, Information and Support Manager at Macmillan Cancer Support, explained the difference that Rosie's Trust makes as follows:

"The relationship people have with their pets can often provide an emotional haven when trying to deal with a cancer diagnosis. Flagging energies, dealing with treatments or attending appointments can limit their capacity to care for their pets in the way they have done previously. Being able to signpost patients to Rosie's Trust has been such a relief as we know that it puts patients' minds at ease knowing that their pet is being looked after."

The evaluation also found that Rosie's Trust had made a significant difference to the lives of our volunteers. Here is how one volunteer summed up the experience:

"I absolutely love volunteering for Rosie's Trust and think it's a very valuable use of my time. Before volunteering with Rosie's Trust, I hadn't given thought to people in these tough situations. It has really opened my eyes and I think it's just an amazing service to offer people who may be struggling."

All of us at Rosie's Trust are indebted to our fantastic team of 150+ active volunteers. It is clear that without them, we simply would not be able to operate. We are always looking at ways of showing our appreciation so that they know we do not take them for granted! We have been helped hugely in this task by the decision we took to replace one of our two Development Officer positions that had become vacant with a dedicated Volunteer Support Officer. We were very pleased to welcome Sandra McFadden who joined the team in this role in April 2022.



She has certainly confirmed the wisdom of creating this position, introducing a regular training programme and ongoing support for volunteers as well as timely responses to and interviews of volunteer applicants.

Sandra has also organised an ongoing series of walks and other events to bring volunteers and staff together in social settings.

In addition to the Volunteer Support Officer role, the Board agreed to appoint a part-time Director on an interim basis. This was necessary to alleviate the pressure on Tim Leonard, Board Chair at the time, who was effectively doing the role of the previous Director, Bronagh O'Neill as well as that of Chair while running his own business. This was clearly not a sustainable solution for the charity. In the event, Dr Catriona MacArthur held this position throughout the period under review, providing strategic leadership and direction to the team while supporting the Board to fulfil its objectives.

We also welcomed Claire Smyth to the team at Rosie's Trust. She has assumed one of the part-time jobs funded through the Dormant Accounts grant - that of Communications and Marketing Lead - and has taken our communications and events management to a whole new level of professionalism. This has included not only increasing public awareness and engagement via social media and other communications, but also equipping event staff and volunteers with Rosie's Trust kits and merchandise. Our increased visibility has resulted in more people visiting our stands at events as well as a significant increase in individual donations.

We have had less success with appointing someone to the second role provided for under the Dormant Accounts grant; that is, the fundraising position. As organisations throughout the third sector are finding, this is a particularly difficult role to engage in the current environment. I am pleased to report that we have now appointed an excellent candidate, Nuala Muldoon, as this report goes to print.

Changes in governance

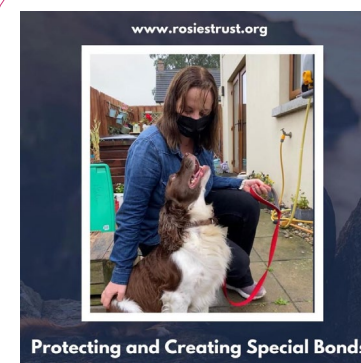
We have also seen quite a few changes at Board level. We were very pleased to welcome in February 2023 four new Trustees - Jill Hawthorne, Gail Lavery, Clare Jess, and Louise Heatley - who have brought a wealth of skills, knowledge, and expertise to our Board. Sadly, we said farewell to Diane James, who resigned in February 2023 after a short but productive tenure on the Board, and, in November 2022, to Richard Gapper who had served as a Trustee since 2019 but who, happily, remains with us as a Dog Support Volunteer.

Richard was the architect of our very comprehensive Risk Register and convened a Saturday workshop before his departure to enable the Board to undertake a thorough review of the register. As part of our ongoing review of risk and procedures we compiled a manual of approximately 50 operational policies and procedures to further safeguard our volunteers, the beneficiaries and their pets.

The policy manual is necessarily a dynamic document and one to which we are adding on a regular basis in response to need. This year, for example, we developed a new complaints policy and procedure as well as a Business Continuity Plan to ensure that Rosie's Trust is prepared for and effectively responds to emergency situations and critical incidents.

We were very pleased to receive from Access NI a Certificate of Compliance for three years following an audit of the arrangements we have in place for vetting all our staff, volunteers and Trustees.

We have necessarily been adapting our guidelines for keeping our beneficiaries and volunteers safe in accordance with the public health guidelines in relation to Covid-19. For example, we updated our Covid guidelines to coincide with the ending of free Covid testing. We stressed therein that the virus was still circulating, that our beneficiaries are among the most vulnerable in the community, and that volunteers should not enter beneficiaries' homes. In cases where volunteers were obliged to enter a beneficiary's home, we provided a series of recommendations to mitigate the risk of infection. We have continued to monitor the situation throughout the year to ensure that we are not placing unnecessary burdens on our volunteers while at the same time safeguarding our beneficiaries.



Message from the Chair cont'd...

Cost-of-living crisis

While many, if not most of our beneficiaries struggle daily to make ends meet, the cost-of-living crisis has made that challenge insurmountable for some. The rising cost of vet fees, in particular, has caused huge stress and anxiety. The Board has sought to alleviate this pressure by introducing loan agreements whereby Rosie's Trust pays the vet's fee and the beneficiary repays the charity in instalments over an agreed period. We also agreed to support those beneficiaries who are simply unable to pay these fees. To date, however, all beneficiaries have refused the latter option, insisting instead on repaying Rosie's Trust, regardless of their own financial difficulties.

In their selfless efforts to support our beneficiaries, our volunteers have felt the full impact of the increase in fuel costs. The Board therefore decided in April 2022 to reimburse volunteers for any travel expenses in excess of 10 miles. We were gratified, if not surprised, that many volunteers - who had the capacity - did not avail themselves of this option when it was offered to them. We have always known that all Rosie's Trust volunteers are very, very special people!

In order to support staff through these challenging financial times, the Board provided staff with a 5% cost-of-living increase in salary from 1 September 2022.

We are confident that as we roll out our 'Funding and Communications Strategy' over the next few years we will not only be able to withstand these challenges and become financially sustainable, but that we will have sufficient resources to be able to grow and meet increasing demand for our services. Macmillan Cancer Support estimates that the number of people living with cancer in Northern Ireland will increase by 40% by 2030. Our ageing population will also inevitably have an impact on demand for our services.

We will continue to measure and evaluate our services rigorously to ensure that we are using our resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. This year we commissioned our first 'Social Value Evaluation Report' and were very pleased with the findings. The authors, Work West, found that every pound invested by Rosie's Trust returned £4.91 in social value during the height of the pandemic. They also argued that the social value would have been far greater had Rosie's Trust been operating in "normal" circumstances.

This finding was just one of several highlights during the year that are featured in the pages that follow. I am very proud and privileged to be the Chair of this fantastic charity and am indebted to my fellow Trustees, staff and volunteers of Rosie's Trust for their support, dedication and commitment to keeping people and their pets together.

We are all indebted to the many people who have fundraised on our behalf during the year and to those who have donated to the charity. We are, of course, very thankful to the National Lottery Community Fund for its continued support of Rosie's Trust.

Above all, I extend my heart-felt thanks to the staff and volunteers for staying the course during some very challenging months this year. They continued to provide the highest standard of service and remained positive throughout. They were, and remain, an example to us all. We are determined that they should never be placed in that position again and that beneficiaries and volunteers alike know that Rosie's Trust will be there for as long as our services are needed.



Aileen Martin
Chair

1. In that application we had indicated that we wished to expand our services into the Western Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust area (the only region where we do not have a presence). We were asked to submit a new application that was instead focused on consolidating our services in the four HSC Trust areas where we were already operating.

2. Both organisations subsequently offered the same amount of funding for different projects. We are also indebted to Enkalan and Marchig Animal Welfare Trust who supported us during this challenging period.

Information about Rosie's Trust

Charity established under Trust Deed on 20 January, 2015.

Board of Trustees (at the date of approval of the accounts)

Aileen Martin, Chair
Appointed to Board June 2023

Emer Rice, Treasurer

Josephine Mallon, Secretary
(Chair April 2023 to July 2023)

Clare Jess
Appointed to Board February 2023

Jill Hawthorne
Appointed to Board February 2023

Louise Heatley
Appointed to Board February 2023

Gail Lavery
Appointed to Board February 2023

Tim Leonard
(Chair April 2022 - September 2022)

Joyce Savage
(Chair October 2022 - March 2023)

The Trustees who resigned between the commencement date of these financial statements and the approval date are listed below:

Fiona Coulter
Resigned June 2023 for personal reasons

Richard Gapper
Resigned November 2022 for personal reasons

Diane James
Resigned February 2023 for personal reasons

Joy McGimpsey
Resigned September 2023 for personal reasons

Staff

CEO, **Dr Catriona Mac Arthur** (0.4 FTE)
Operations Manager, **Jayne McStay**
Development Officer, **Laura Quinn**
Volunteer Support Officer, **Sandra McFadden**
Marketing and Communications Lead, **Claire Smyth** (0.6 FTE)
Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, **Nuala Muldoon** (0.6 FTE)

Contact details

Telephone: 0289 1641340

Email: mail@rosiestrust.org

Postal address: The Fountain Centre, 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Independent Examiner

James Fulford & Co Ltd
Chartered Accounts
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT 23 5GW

Bankers

Co-op Bank Ltd
1, Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Santander UK plc
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

Registration

Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422

Taxation Status

As a registered charity, Rosie's Trust has claimed exemption from tax.

Who we are and What we do



Rosie's Trust is unique. We are the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to helping cancer patients, the terminally ill and older people with a disability hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them most.

When someone is faced with a cancer diagnosis, disability or terminal illness, their whole world changes. They have so much to worry about, so much to deal with and the one thing they need - especially those living alone - is the emotional support that their companion pet provides.

They are no longer able to provide their dog or cat with the same level of care they once could and their anxiety about the welfare of their beloved companion only serves to compound their distress.

At the most stressful time of their lives, they may be forced to give up their companion pet and, in so doing, experience tremendous loss, isolation and feelings of guilt.

Some people have reported that they considered delaying or even refusing treatment because they had no one to look after their pet.

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' companion dogs and/or cats in their homes when they are no longer able to look after them independently.

We provide fostering services when our beneficiaries need to spend a period of time in hospital or in hospice care. Subject always to our beneficiaries' wishes, we also find new homes for their pets when they are no longer able to care for them, including when they die.

Rosie's Trust also offers a pet bereavement service, providing emotional support to beneficiaries when their companion pet predeceases them.

We provide our services free of charge, 365 days of the year. We depend on donations to cover our service costs, and every penny gifted to us is carefully used.

Our services offer peace of mind for our beneficiaries as they know Rosie's Trust will support them in the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.

Rosie's Trust services not only help to address loneliness and social exclusion in Northern Ireland, but also to promote animal welfare, in accordance with the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011.



Our team of 150+ committed volunteers are the life force of Rosie's Trust and provide help and support in all aspects of pet care, including feeding, grooming, exercising, play and stimulation, and vet visits.

Our volunteers are our eyes and ears, ensuring when they visit that our beneficiaries are as well as can be and providing welcome social contact for many. Our volunteers work in teams, with each member making two visits a week.

An average of three volunteers is allocated to each beneficiary.

Our volunteers receive intense training before being matched to a beneficiary. This ensures they all have a sound understanding of Rosie's Trust's policies and procedures to promote the health and wellbeing of our beneficiaries, their pets, and the volunteers themselves. They are also trained to signpost to partner organisations, wherever necessary.

Since our establishment in 2015, we have served 173 beneficiaries. They are located in four of the five Health and Social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, Southern and South Eastern).

We undertake a very thorough assessment process of each of our beneficiaries and their pets. This enables us to develop tailored action plans, which take into account and address all the risks we have identified, and ensure the best match for the beneficiary with our volunteers. We also have robust safeguarding policies in place to protect our beneficiaries and our volunteers. Social workers from the Health and Social Care Trusts refer potential beneficiaries to us as do organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support (NI). We also accept self-referrals.

Our work has been made possible thanks to core funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.



Public Benefit

1) The advancement of health or the saving of lives.

We maintain the health and wellbeing of both the beneficiary and their companion animal by alleviating the stresses and anxiety felt when they are no longer able to care for their pet independently.



2) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

Rosie's Trust works with those experiencing terminal illness, acute cancer treatment, age and disability, maintaining their relationship with their companion animal and working with partner organisations to help the beneficiary overcome other challenges.



3) The advancement of animal welfare.

Our work keeping people and their pets together supports our beneficiaries in ensuring the care they provide their animal meets the five welfare needs as detailed in the Welfare of Animal Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.



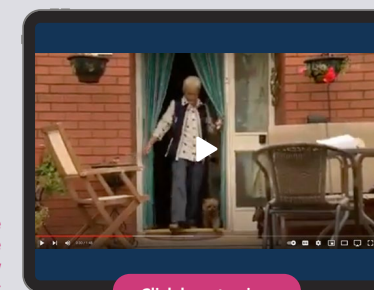
Highlights of the year

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' dogs and/or cats in their own homes when the beneficiaries are no longer able to look after their pets independently. We also provide fostering services when beneficiaries need to spend time in hospital or in hospice care and find new homes for our beneficiaries' pets when they are no longer able to care for them.

Rosie's Trust services are provided free of charge, 365 days of the year. Our services are open-ended; we support our beneficiaries with the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.



We also rehome our beneficiaries' dogs if requested to do so.



Jean Fitzgerald, Caroline Forsythe and Marnie perfectly summed up the ethos of Rosie's Trust in this interview with BBC Newsline in August

[Click here to view](#)



*This refers to the number of referrals that were assessed by staff against Rosie's Trust's comprehensive eligibility criteria.

** This concerns the number of referrals that were taken on as beneficiaries following a thorough assessment process.

Highlights of the year cont'd...

Volunteers

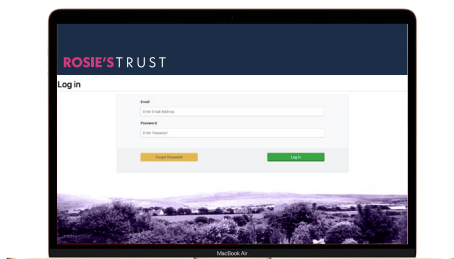
We may have a small team of staff, but we are very fortunate to have a very large team of volunteers without whom Rosie's Trust could not operate. Our volunteers are, quite simply, the lifeblood of our charity.

Each beneficiary requires an average of three volunteers to care for their companion pet.

We were able to ensure that the supply of volunteers kept pace with beneficiary demand during the year across all four of the five Health and Social Care Trust areas.

As Rosie's Trust has expanded its reach so we have created additional roles for volunteers to meet evolving requirements. In addition to 'Canine and Feline Support Volunteers' for example, Rosie's Trust now engages 'Volunteer Coordinators', 'Phone Support Volunteers', 'Foster Volunteers', 'IT and Communications Volunteers', 'Dog Listener Volunteers' and 'Pet Bereavement Volunteers'.

Mention must also be made of the Trustees who comprise the Board of Rosie's Trust. These are also voluntary roles and are much more 'hands on' than is normally the case for Board members. In addition to assuming the roles and responsibilities required of all Board members, Trustees took turns this year to be on call every weekend and each undertook different operational duties according to their individual skills set, such as finance, accounting, fundraising, and HR.

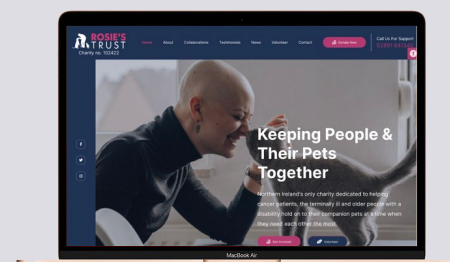


Screenshot of a page on our new Volunteer portal, kindly being developed by John McGarrigle



Recognition

It is a testament to our volunteers that Rosie's Trust was the proud recipient of the UK-wide Petplan & ADCH Animal Charity Team of the Year 2022 Award. Appropriately, the award was accepted at a ceremony in London by one of the charity's Dog Listener Volunteers and Foster Carer, Hilary Idzikowska.



What's new

Rosie's Trust re-designed our website this year to make it easier for potential volunteers and donors to navigate. It also provides hints and tips to care for our animals.

[Click here to visit](#)

Rosie's Trust introduced our new pet bereavement service this year. Staff and volunteers undertook intensive training and they then provided training to all interested volunteers so that they can be on hand to support beneficiaries if they lose their beloved companion.



Highlights of the year cont'd...

Our impact

The significant difference that Rosie's Trust makes to the lives of people with a terminal illness or cancer diagnosis and older people with a disability – not to mention to the lives of their companion pets – is reflected in the unanimously positive feedback they provided in our 2022 survey.

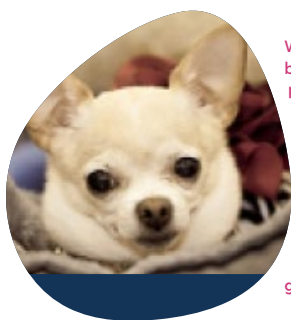
The majority of beneficiaries said that Rosie's Trust had made a big difference to:

- ♥ Their lives
- ♥ Their stress/anxiety levels
- ♥ Their feeling more confident
- ♥ Reducing loneliness and their sense of isolation

All beneficiaries reported that Rosie's Trust had made a big difference to their companion pets.

Rosie's Trust volunteers provided equally positive feedback. Many spoke of the sense of purpose the experience provided and how important and "rewarding" the service was. One volunteer summed up the majority view as follows:

"It is very rewarding knowing that you are making a difference for people and their pets... enabling them to stay together at a difficult time. As a dog owner myself I can appreciate the value and importance of the visits."



Wee Belle is just one of our beneficiaries' companion pets whose quality of life was transformed this year thanks to Rosie's Trust volunteers. She had been so anxious that she wouldn't leave the house, but after much patient care she is now enjoying her walks and getting in lots of sniffs!



Another spoke of how the volunteers' visits removed "one source of stress for a beneficiary who already has enough stress to be getting on with" and how "it's so important for the beneficiaries to see someone every day, including Christmas Day, as they are totally on their own."

Others welcomed the ease of volunteering with Rosie's Trust, for example:

"Rosie's Trust gives me the ability to make a genuine contribution to the well-being of the vulnerable and their animals, without the usual bureaucracy and, quite frankly, wastage, that I would usually associate with these kinds of organisations."

Thanks to a grant from Ards and North Down Council, Rosie's Trust was able to commission a Social Return on Investment (or Social Value) report in May 2022. The study, which was undertaken by Work West, looked at such areas as the value of befriending adults and the elderly; the value of reduced social isolation; the value of improved mental health; and the value that volunteers place on volunteering.

Work West found that, for every pound invested, Rosie's Trust generated a positive social value of "at least" £4.91. It stressed that this was a conservative estimate given that:

"This was a one-year analysis of a multi-year project and generated a really positive social value (£4.91 for £1). We believe that when the whole project is analysed as a whole the social value will be more. Furthermore the period the project activity analysed was greatly affected by the pandemic and the local lockdowns in force."

Work West also noted that the evaluation did not take into account the value of what it referred to as Rosie's Trust "crucial beneficiary", the companion pet.



Highlights of the year cont'd...

Fundraising

The financial year 2022-2023 could not have got off to a better start as it marked the beginning of an emotive marketing campaign undertaken in Belfast and regional centres to promote Rosie's Trust.

The two-week campaign was generously provided free-of-charge by Navigator Blue and the Publicity Association of Northern Ireland (PANI). Designed by students at Ulster University, the campaign sought to raise awareness of Northern Ireland's only charity dedicated to helping the terminally ill, cancer patients, and older people with a disability to hold on to their beloved pets. It called for small individual donations of £4 to help a four-legged companion by texting EVERYSTEP to 70450.

In addition to raising awareness and much-needed funds for Rosie's Trust, the campaign also sought to attract potential volunteers.

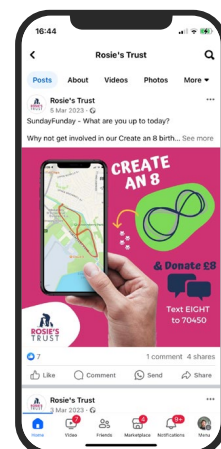
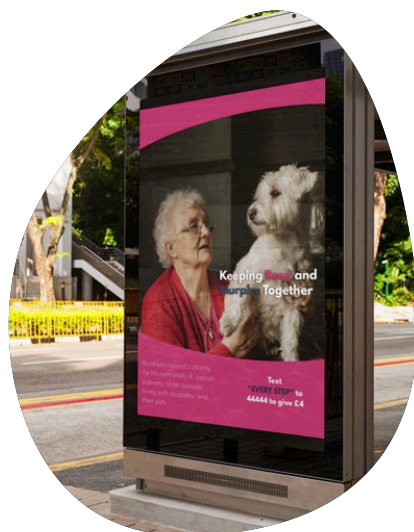


Rosie's Trust was also chosen as Charity of the Year by the NI Pet Awards in June 2022. We held a raffle at the Awards ceremony and were able to present some wonderful prizes thanks to local businesses who generously supported us.

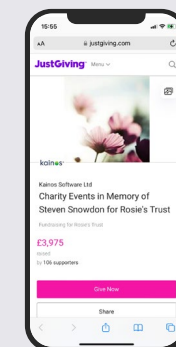
We were very pleased that Earlswood Veterinary Clinic in Belfast also chose Rosie's Trust as their Charity of the Year in 2022.

As was the case with all charities, our fundraising activities were hit hard during the pandemic. It was great to see these gather strength over the year and we are so grateful to the many individuals and organisations that fundraised on our behalf.

To celebrate our eighth birthday, we launched our 'Create an 8 and donate £8' campaign. We encouraged people to map a figure of 8 using a fitness or tracking app while out exercising, sharing photographs of their journey - on foot, by bicycle or whatever was preferred - and donating at least £8.



Other examples of fundraising



Individual Support

This beautiful Easter hamper, which included a range of goodies as well as a hand-crafted bunny, was lovingly made and donated to Rosie's Trust by our wonderful volunteer, Helen Wilson (and this was on top of a Christmas display she had also made for us to raffle!)

Donations In Memory

Rosie's Trust is also indebted to those beneficiaries who remember us in their Will, including the late Steven Snowdon who asked for donations to be given to Rosie's Trust.

Corporate Support



Fiona and the team at Hotel Chocolat, Belfast, have been steadfast supporters of Rosie's Trust throughout the year. We took advantage of a trip to the store to ask Fiona why they had chosen our charity out of so many others. This is what she told us: "As a company there's a charity chosen each year for Hotel Chocolat. However, as we aren't in GB where the majority of these charities are, we like to keep our choices local and to be of help to NI charities that can often get overlooked because they are smaller. We're all animal lovers in store and, as a dog friendly establishment, we love seeing our canine friends and having new doggy visitors. This can obviously mean a lot to some customers as well, getting to come in for a coffee and not having to leave their companion behind."



Rosie's Trust is very grateful to a group of dog lovers collectively known as the Scooby Doo Gang, who took on a staggering 100km challenge in March to raise funds for the charity and K9 Search and Rescue. They encouraged their followers to buy raffle tickets for some great prizes that were generously donated by local dog businesses.

Huge thanks to all our amazing supporters!

We have too many supporters to mention in these short pages and so we give only a couple of examples above to illustrate the fantastic people behind Rosie's Trust. Many donors prefer to remain anonymous - they know who they are so please accept our thanks once again for helping Rosie's Trust keep people and their pets together!

Financial position and reserves

At 31st March 2023, Rosie's Trust held restricted reserves of £1,806 and unrestricted reserves of £40,232. Rosie's Trust aims to hold at least three months running costs on reserves to deal with any unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to the winding up of the charity in the event of being unable to raise any further substantial funding to allow the payment of staff salaries and running costs (set at £40,000 in 2022-23). The Trustees and operations staff will consider on a regular basis the levels of funding that it holds and how this funding can be used to benefit the charity and the services that it provides and to best meet the needs of its beneficiaries and volunteers.

In the 2022-23 Rosie's Trust received income of £129,182 (2021-22: £140,882) and incurred a deficit of £29,879 (2021-22: £1,412 surplus). The main source of income was a five-year grant from National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF), which covered the majority of core costs including salaries. The NLCF grant expired on 31st December 2022 which accounts for the reduction in income and the deficit compared to the previous year.

However, in March 2023, we were fortunate to secure a further three-year grant from NLCF. In September 2022 we also secured new funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund NI, which enabled us to create two additional part-time posts aimed at future-proofing Rosie's Trust by diversifying income streams and collaborations. We also received a level of unrestricted funding, mainly from donations, which was directed to other costs as required.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the National Lottery Community Fund for their continued support which has made a substantial difference to our charity and also to all of our donors for their generosity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the organisation and that enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of Trustees' Confirmations

In the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when the report is approved, the following applies:

- a) so far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the organisation's independent examiner in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- b) each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the organisation's independent examiner is aware of that information.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Aileen Martin
Chair



Emer Rice
Treasurer

Date 26 January 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Rosie's Trust

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 20 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

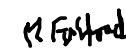
I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Margaret Fulford B.Sc. (Econ) FCA
Independent Examiner

On behalf of
James Fulford & Co Ltd,
Chartered Accountants
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT23 5GW

Date 26 January 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Prior Year Total £
Incoming from:				
<i>Charitable activities</i>	50,539	78,643	129,182	140,882
Total	50,539	78,643	129,182	140,882
Expenditure on:				
<i>Raising funds</i>	(668)	-	(668)	(523)
<i>Charitable activities</i>	(63,845)	(94,548)	(158,393)	(138,947)
Total	(64,513)	(94,548)	(159,061)	(139,470)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds	(13,974)	(15,905)	(29,879)	1,412
Reconciliation of Funds				
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>	54,206	17,711	71,917	70,505
Total Funds Carried Forward	40,232	1,806	42,038	71,917

Continuing operations - The organisation commenced operations on 20th January 2015. There has been no change in operations in the current year or the previous year.

Historical cost profit and losses - The difference between the results disclosed above and the results on an unaudited historical cost basis is not material.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

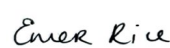
PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
INCOME				
General income, donations etc.	50,539	78,643	129,182	140,882
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Salaries and wages	21,984	63,362	85,346	108,390
Staff Pension Costs	1,007	3,119	4,126	5,132
Rent	40	440	480	480
Sundry fundraising	668	-	668	523
Direct Expenditure on Beneficiary support	6,662	-	6,662	5,090
Consultancy	20,040	16,360	36,400	1,400
Promotional materials	1,308	-	1,308	11
Travel and Motor Expenses	1,383	4,350	5,733	2,990
Training	-	-	-	722
Telephone	449	1,919	2,368	2,631
Postage, Stationery, Advertising	23	70	93	635
Insurance	338	1,741	2,079	1,647
General	6,175	2,429	8,604	6,718
Subscriptions	61	158	219	262
Depreciation	4,375	600	4,975	2,839
	64,513	94,548	159,061	139,470
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
- Normal Activities	(13,974)	(15,905)	(29,879)	1,412
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
	(13,974)	(15,905)	(29,879)	1,412

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH	2023	2022
£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Restricted Funds Equipment	1,806	2,406
General Funds Equipment	-	4,375
	1,806	6,781
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	63,060	66,447
	63,060	66,447
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	(1,826)	(1,311)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	61,234	65,136
Deferred Income	(21,002)	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	42,038	71,917
REPRESENTED BY		
Revenue reserves	42,038	71,917

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Aileen Martin  TRUSTEE

Emer Rice  TRUSTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rosie's Trust is a registered charity and a public benefit entity. The currency used for the reporting of these financial accounts is Sterling (GBP).

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Fund Accounting Policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are shown in the accounts at their purchase price (or at an equivalent amount if the assets were donated). This amount is then depreciated so that the assets are written down to their anticipated resale value over the period the company will use them. The depreciation rates and methods adopted are:

Straight Line	
Equipment, furniture and fittings	20%
Van	25%

(d) Incoming Resources

Income includes subscriptions, donations and other cash received and receivable. Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income was attributable to the one principal activity of the company carried on within the United Kingdom and Europe.

(e) Finance Leases

If assets are leased and the terms of the agreement are almost equivalent to an outright purchase, a fixed asset and an equivalent liability are created.

The fixed asset is then depreciated using the rates and method shown in note (b) above.

The interest element of the lease is charged as an expense over the primary period of the lease, based on the capital outstanding.

2. TRUSTEES' EMOLUMENTS

All board members give their services on a voluntary basis, and no remuneration is paid to them.

3. PARTICULARS OF EMPLOYEES

Rosie's Trust receives the services of many people, including volunteers (both members and non-members) and employees.

The analysis by function of the average number of people employed by the organisation during the year (excluding trustees) was:

	2023	2022
Service Delivery	3	4
Their remuneration was:		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	82,523	102,643
Employer Pension Contributions	4,126	5,132
Social Security costs	2,823	5,747
	89,472	113,522

Rosie's Trust's work would not have been as extensive as it has been without the dedicated services of our volunteers, as noted in the Trustees' Report.

We are very grateful for their gift of time to the charity.

4. FIXED ASSETS

	General Fund Assets Van	Restricted Fund Assets Equipment	Total
VALUATION/COST	£	£	£
At 31 March 2022	7,000	7,656	14,656
At 31 March 2023	7,000	7,656	14,656
DEPRECIATION			
At 31 March 2022	2,625	5,250	7,875
Charge for the year	1,750	600	2,350
Exceptional depreciation charge	2,625	-	2,625
At 31 March 2023	7,000	5,850	12,850
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2023	-	1,806	1,806

The van broke down during the year and it is not economical to repair. An exceptional additional depreciation charge has been made to write it down to nil net book value.

5. REVENUE RESERVES

The analysis of restricted funds is given below.

	Halifax	Dormant	National	
	Grant	Accounts	Lottery	
	Fund	Fund	Community	Total
	£	£	£	£
Reserves brought forward	2,406	-	15,305	17,711
Received in the year	-	25,000	74,645	99,645
	2,406	25,000	89,950	117,356
Less: Expenditure				
Income and Expenditure	-	(3,998)	(89,950)	(93,948)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Fixed assets depreciation	(600)	-	-	(600)
Deferred income c/fwd	-	(21,002)	-	(21,002)
Reserves carried forward	1,806	-	-	1,806

Revenue reserves include grants that have preconditions attached. These grants are separated as shown above and relevant expenditure is allocated against them.

Any funds unspent at the end of the year are carried forward if the charity has received them outright, and they are shown as income in the year received. Any funds received that are repayable to the granting body if unspent are shown as income to the extent that expenditure has been incurred and a deferred income liability is included for the amount not yet spent.

6. ORGANISATION INFORMATION

The organisation was formed by Trust deed. It is registered with HMRC and The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland as a charity. It operates within Northern Ireland and its registered address is The Fountain Centre, 2 Queens Parade, Bangor, BT20 3BJ.

The nature of the entity's operations and a description of the principal activities is included in the Trustees' report.

7. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 January 2024.



We'd love to talk to you about Rosie's Trust so please call us on **02891 641340** or visit **rosiestrust.org** for more information.



Rosie's Trust is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422. Registered office 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Rosie's Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102422

Annual report



Annual Report

and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

Charity Registration Number: NIC102422

Generously supported by





**Northern Ireland's only charity
dedicated to helping cancer patients,
the terminally ill and elderly people
with a disability to hold on to their
companion pets at a time when they
need them most.**

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Message from the Chair



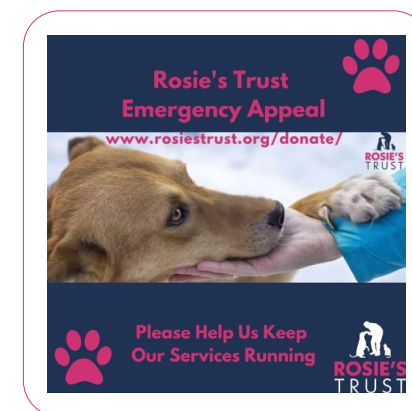
The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) was the bearer of excellent news as the financial year 2022–2023 drew to a close. This was when Rosie's Trust learned that we had been successful in our application for a second People and Communities Grant for a period of three years.

A previous application – submitted to them in October – had been unsuccessful¹ and, while the NLCF requested us to submit a revised application in December, we had a few months when we had to prepare for the possibility of a scaled-down service. We immediately launched a Christmas emergency appeal, which was designed to raise enough funds to keep our services operating at full capacity.

We are indebted to the many individuals and organisations who responded to this appeal, which raised an estimated £15,000. We also submitted grant applications to a wide range of organisations, including Ulster Garden Villages and Halifax². We learned of the success of these two applications only at end of March, by which time we were in the unusual – but happy – position of having to turn down the funds offered as they duplicated the projects provided for in our application to NLCF.

During this period, we also did extensive financial modelling, which enabled us to assess the funds required to maintain the minimum level of services to our existing beneficiaries.

In June 2022, we completed our 'Funding and Communications Strategy' to help us secure the future sustainability of the charity. This underpinned our successful application for a Dormant Accounts grant in July 2022. We were awarded the maximum grant of £100,000 over two years (payable in tranches of £25,000 every six months) and this enabled us to create two part-time positions: one focused on raising public awareness of Rosie's Trust; the second on fundraising (Trust and statutory, corporate, community fundraising/events, and individual giving).



Message from the Chair cont'd...

Beneficiary and volunteer feedback extremely positive

The importance of our having the capacity to support vulnerable members of the community to hold on to their companion pets cannot be overstated. As confirmed in an independent evaluation undertaken in June 2002, the impact of Rosie's Trust services on the lives of cancer patients, the terminally ill and older people with a disability is profound.

One beneficiary described Rosie's Trust services as "life changing" while several others referred to the "peace of mind" they bring. Another beneficiary referred to Rosie's Trust as a "godsend".

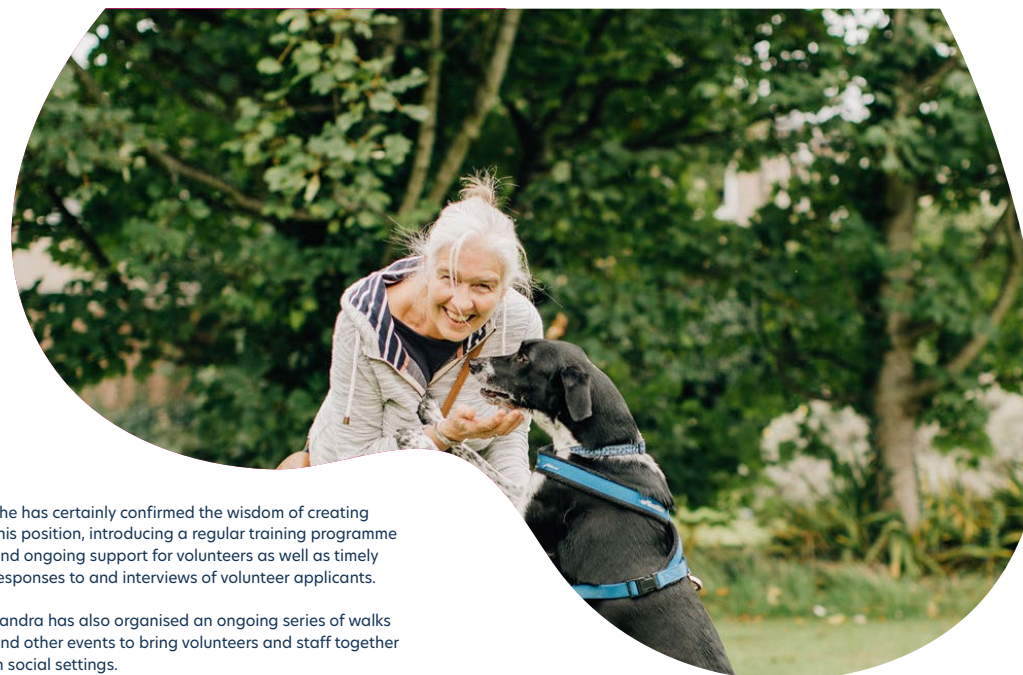
Amy Wilson, Information and Support Manager at Macmillan Cancer Support, explained the difference that Rosie's Trust makes as follows:

"The relationship people have with their pets can often provide an emotional haven when trying to deal with a cancer diagnosis. Flagging energies, dealing with treatments or attending appointments can limit their capacity to care for their pets in the way they have done previously. Being able to signpost patients to Rosie's Trust has been such a relief as we know that it puts patients' minds at ease knowing that their pet is being looked after."

The evaluation also found that Rosie's Trust had made a significant difference to the lives of our volunteers. Here is how one volunteer summed up the experience:

"I absolutely love volunteering for Rosie's Trust and think it's a very valuable use of my time. Before volunteering with Rosie's Trust, I hadn't given thought to people in these tough situations. It has really opened my eyes and I think it's just an amazing service to offer people who may be struggling."

All of us at Rosie's Trust are indebted to our fantastic team of 150+ active volunteers. It is clear that without them, we simply would not be able to operate. We are always looking at ways of showing our appreciation so that they know we do not take them for granted! We have been helped hugely in this task by the decision we took to replace one of our two Development Officer positions that had become vacant with a dedicated Volunteer Support Officer. We were very pleased to welcome Sandra McFadden who joined the team in this role in April 2022.



She has certainly confirmed the wisdom of creating this position, introducing a regular training programme and ongoing support for volunteers as well as timely responses to and interviews of volunteer applicants.

Sandra has also organised an ongoing series of walks and other events to bring volunteers and staff together in social settings.

In addition to the Volunteer Support Officer role, the Board agreed to appoint a part-time Director on an interim basis. This was necessary to alleviate the pressure on Tim Leonard, Board Chair at the time, who was effectively doing the role of the previous Director, Bronagh O'Neill as well as that of Chair while running his own business. This was clearly not a sustainable solution for the charity. In the event, Dr Catriona MacArthur held this position throughout the period under review, providing strategic leadership and direction to the team while supporting the Board to fulfil its objectives.

We also welcomed Claire Smyth to the team at Rosie's Trust. She has assumed one of the part-time jobs funded through the Dormant Accounts grant - that of Communications and Marketing Lead - and has taken our communications and events management to a whole new level of professionalism. This has included not only increasing public awareness and engagement via social media and other communications, but also equipping event staff and volunteers with Rosie's Trust kits and merchandise. Our increased visibility has resulted in more people visiting our stands at events as well as a significant increase in individual donations.

We have had less success with appointing someone to the second role provided for under the Dormant Accounts grant; that is, the fundraising position. As organisations throughout the third sector are finding, this is a particularly difficult role to engage in the current environment. I am pleased to report that we have now appointed an excellent candidate, Nuala Muldoon, as this report goes to print.

Changes in governance

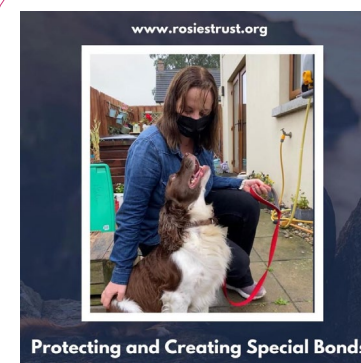
We have also seen quite a few changes at Board level. We were very pleased to welcome in February 2023 four new Trustees - Jill Hawthorne, Gail Lavery, Clare Jess, and Louise Heatley - who have brought a wealth of skills, knowledge, and expertise to our Board. Sadly, we said farewell to Diane James, who resigned in February 2023 after a short but productive tenure on the Board, and, in November 2022, to Richard Gapper who had served as a Trustee since 2019 but who, happily, remains with us as a Dog Support Volunteer.

Richard was the architect of our very comprehensive Risk Register and convened a Saturday workshop before his departure to enable the Board to undertake a thorough review of the register. As part of our ongoing review of risk and procedures we compiled a manual of approximately 50 operational policies and procedures to further safeguard our volunteers, the beneficiaries and their pets.

The policy manual is necessarily a dynamic document and one to which we are adding on a regular basis in response to need. This year, for example, we developed a new complaints policy and procedure as well as a Business Continuity Plan to ensure that Rosie's Trust is prepared for and effectively responds to emergency situations and critical incidents.

We were very pleased to receive from Access NI a Certificate of Compliance for three years following an audit of the arrangements we have in place for vetting all our staff, volunteers and Trustees.

We have necessarily been adapting our guidelines for keeping our beneficiaries and volunteers safe in accordance with the public health guidelines in relation to Covid-19. For example, we updated our Covid guidelines to coincide with the ending of free Covid testing. We stressed therein that the virus was still circulating, that our beneficiaries are among the most vulnerable in the community, and that volunteers should not enter beneficiaries' homes. In cases where volunteers were obliged to enter a beneficiary's home, we provided a series of recommendations to mitigate the risk of infection. We have continued to monitor the situation throughout the year to ensure that we are not placing unnecessary burdens on our volunteers while at the same time safeguarding our beneficiaries.



Message from the Chair cont'd...

Cost-of-living crisis

While many, if not most of our beneficiaries struggle daily to make ends meet, the cost-of-living crisis has made that challenge insurmountable for some. The rising cost of vet fees, in particular, has caused huge stress and anxiety. The Board has sought to alleviate this pressure by introducing loan agreements whereby Rosie's Trust pays the vet's fee and the beneficiary repays the charity in instalments over an agreed period. We also agreed to support those beneficiaries who are simply unable to pay these fees. To date, however, all beneficiaries have refused the latter option, insisting instead on repaying Rosie's Trust, regardless of their own financial difficulties.

In their selfless efforts to support our beneficiaries, our volunteers have felt the full impact of the increase in fuel costs. The Board therefore decided in April 2022 to reimburse volunteers for any travel expenses in excess of 10 miles. We were gratified, if not surprised, that many volunteers - who had the capacity - did not avail themselves of this option when it was offered to them. We have always known that all Rosie's Trust volunteers are very, very special people!

In order to support staff through these challenging financial times, the Board provided staff with a 5% cost-of-living increase in salary from 1 September 2022.

We are confident that as we roll out our 'Funding and Communications Strategy' over the next few years we will not only be able to withstand these challenges and become financially sustainable, but that we will have sufficient resources to be able to grow and meet increasing demand for our services. Macmillan Cancer Support estimates that the number of people living with cancer in Northern Ireland will increase by 40% by 2030. Our ageing population will also inevitably have an impact on demand for our services.

We will continue to measure and evaluate our services rigorously to ensure that we are using our resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. This year we commissioned our first 'Social Value Evaluation Report' and were very pleased with the findings. The authors, Work West, found that every pound invested by Rosie's Trust returned £4.91 in social value during the height of the pandemic. They also argued that the social value would have been far greater had Rosie's Trust been operating in "normal" circumstances.

This finding was just one of several highlights during the year that are featured in the pages that follow. I am very proud and privileged to be the Chair of this fantastic charity and am indebted to my fellow Trustees, staff and volunteers of Rosie's Trust for their support, dedication and commitment to keeping people and their pets together.

We are all indebted to the many people who have fundraised on our behalf during the year and to those who have donated to the charity. We are, of course, very thankful to the National Lottery Community Fund for its continued support of Rosie's Trust.

Above all, I extend my heart-felt thanks to the staff and volunteers for staying the course during some very challenging months this year. They continued to provide the highest standard of service and remained positive throughout. They were, and remain, an example to us all. We are determined that they should never be placed in that position again and that beneficiaries and volunteers alike know that Rosie's Trust will be there for as long as our services are needed.



Aileen Martin
Chair

1. In that application we had indicated that we wished to expand our services into the Western Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust area (the only region where we do not have a presence). We were asked to submit a new application that was instead focused on consolidating our services in the four HSC Trust areas where we were already operating.

2. Both organisations subsequently offered the same amount of funding for different projects. We are also indebted to Enkalan and Marchig Animal Welfare Trust who supported us during this challenging period.

Information about Rosie's Trust

Charity established under Trust Deed on 20 January, 2015.

Board of Trustees (at the date of approval of the accounts)

Aileen Martin, Chair
Appointed to Board June 2023

Emer Rice, Treasurer

Josephine Mallon, Secretary
(Chair April 2023 to July 2023)

Clare Jess
Appointed to Board February 2023

Jill Hawthorne
Appointed to Board February 2023

Louise Heatley
Appointed to Board February 2023

Gail Lavery
Appointed to Board February 2023

Tim Leonard
(Chair April 2022 - September 2022)

Joyce Savage
(Chair October 2022 - March 2023)

The Trustees who resigned between the commencement date of these financial statements and the approval date are listed below:

Fiona Coulter
Resigned June 2023 for personal reasons

Richard Gapper
Resigned November 2022 for personal reasons

Diane James
Resigned February 2023 for personal reasons

Joy McGimpsey
Resigned September 2023 for personal reasons

Staff

CEO, **Dr Catriona Mac Arthur** (0.4 FTE)
Operations Manager, **Jayne McStay**
Development Officer, **Laura Quinn**
Volunteer Support Officer, **Sandra McFadden**
Marketing and Communications Lead, **Claire Smyth** (0.6 FTE)
Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, **Nuala Muldoon** (0.6 FTE)

Contact details

Telephone: 0289 1641340

Email: mail@rosiestrust.org

Postal address: The Fountain Centre, 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Independent Examiner

James Fulford & Co Ltd
Chartered Accounts
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT 23 5GW

Bankers

Co-op Bank Ltd
1, Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Santander UK plc
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

Registration

Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422

Taxation Status

As a registered charity, Rosie's Trust has claimed exemption from tax.

Who we are and What we do



Rosie's Trust is unique. We are the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to helping cancer patients, the terminally ill and older people with a disability hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them most.

When someone is faced with a cancer diagnosis, disability or terminal illness, their whole world changes. They have so much to worry about, so much to deal with and the one thing they need - especially those living alone - is the emotional support that their companion pet provides.

They are no longer able to provide their dog or cat with the same level of care they once could and their anxiety about the welfare of their beloved companion only serves to compound their distress.

At the most stressful time of their lives, they may be forced to give up their companion pet and, in so doing, experience tremendous loss, isolation and feelings of guilt.

Some people have reported that they considered delaying or even refusing treatment because they had no one to look after their pet.

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' companion dogs and/or cats in their homes when they are no longer able to look after them independently.

We provide fostering services when our beneficiaries need to spend a period of time in hospital or in hospice care. Subject always to our beneficiaries' wishes, we also find new homes for their pets when they are no longer able to care for them, including when they die.

Rosie's Trust also offers a pet bereavement service, providing emotional support to beneficiaries when their companion pet predeceases them.

We provide our services free of charge, 365 days of the year. We depend on donations to cover our service costs, and every penny gifted to us is carefully used.

Our services offer peace of mind for our beneficiaries as they know Rosie's Trust will support them in the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.

Rosie's Trust services not only help to address loneliness and social exclusion in Northern Ireland, but also to promote animal welfare, in accordance with the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011.



Our team of 150+ committed volunteers are the life force of Rosie's Trust and provide help and support in all aspects of pet care, including feeding, grooming, exercising, play and stimulation, and vet visits.

Our volunteers are our eyes and ears, ensuring when they visit that our beneficiaries are as well as can be and providing welcome social contact for many. Our volunteers work in teams, with each member making two visits a week.

An average of three volunteers is allocated to each beneficiary.

Our volunteers receive intense training before being matched to a beneficiary. This ensures they all have a sound understanding of Rosie's Trust's policies and procedures to promote the health and wellbeing of our beneficiaries, their pets, and the volunteers themselves. They are also trained to signpost to partner organisations, wherever necessary.

Since our establishment in 2015, we have served 173 beneficiaries. They are located in four of the five Health and Social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, Southern and South Eastern).

We undertake a very thorough assessment process of each of our beneficiaries and their pets. This enables us to develop tailored action plans, which take into account and address all the risks we have identified, and ensure the best match for the beneficiary with our volunteers. We also have robust safeguarding policies in place to protect our beneficiaries and our volunteers. Social workers from the Health and Social Care Trusts refer potential beneficiaries to us as do organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support (NI). We also accept self-referrals.

Our work has been made possible thanks to core funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.



Public Benefit

1) The advancement of health or the saving of lives.

We maintain the health and wellbeing of both the beneficiary and their companion animal by alleviating the stresses and anxiety felt when they are no longer able to care for their pet independently.



2) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

Rosie's Trust works with those experiencing terminal illness, acute cancer treatment, age and disability, maintaining their relationship with their companion animal and working with partner organisations to help the beneficiary overcome other challenges.



3) The advancement of animal welfare.

Our work keeping people and their pets together supports our beneficiaries in ensuring the care they provide their animal meets the five welfare needs as detailed in the Welfare of Animal Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.



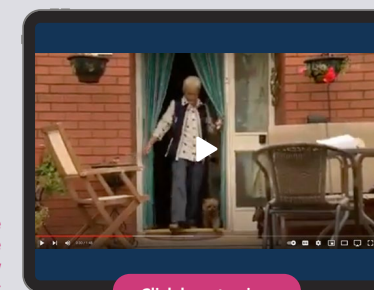
Highlights of the year

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' dogs and/or cats in their own homes when the beneficiaries are no longer able to look after their pets independently. We also provide fostering services when beneficiaries need to spend time in hospital or in hospice care and find new homes for our beneficiaries' pets when they are no longer able to care for them.

Rosie's Trust services are provided free of charge, 365 days of the year. Our services are open-ended; we support our beneficiaries with the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.



We also rehome our beneficiaries' dogs if requested to do so.



Jean Fitzgerald, Caroline Forsythe and Marnie perfectly summed up the ethos of Rosie's Trust in this interview with BBC Newsline in August

[Click here to view](#)



*This refers to the number of referrals that were assessed by staff against Rosie's Trust's comprehensive eligibility criteria.

** This concerns the number of referrals that were taken on as beneficiaries following a thorough assessment process.

Highlights of the year cont'd...

Volunteers

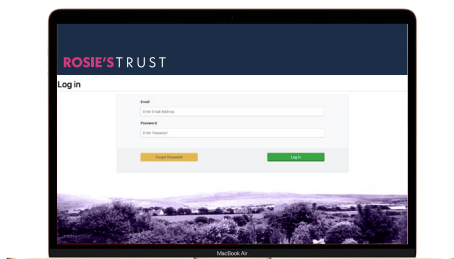
We may have a small team of staff, but we are very fortunate to have a very large team of volunteers without whom Rosie's Trust could not operate. Our volunteers are, quite simply, the lifeblood of our charity.

Each beneficiary requires an average of three volunteers to care for their companion pet.

We were able to ensure that the supply of volunteers kept pace with beneficiary demand during the year across all four of the five Health and Social Care Trust areas.

As Rosie's Trust has expanded its reach so we have created additional roles for volunteers to meet evolving requirements. In addition to 'Canine and Feline Support Volunteers' for example, Rosie's Trust now engages 'Volunteer Coordinators', 'Phone Support Volunteers', 'Foster Volunteers', 'IT and Communications Volunteers', 'Dog Listener Volunteers' and 'Pet Bereavement Volunteers'.

Mention must also be made of the Trustees who comprise the Board of Rosie's Trust. These are also voluntary roles and are much more 'hands on' than is normally the case for Board members. In addition to assuming the roles and responsibilities required of all Board members, Trustees took turns this year to be on call every weekend and each undertook different operational duties according to their individual skills set, such as finance, accounting, fundraising, and HR.

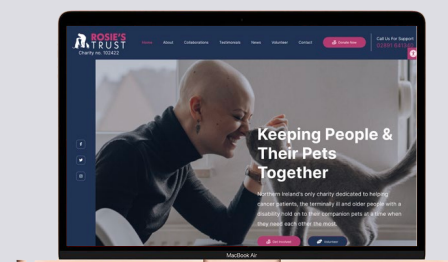


Screenshot of a page on our new Volunteer portal, kindly being developed by John McGarrigle



Recognition

It is a testament to our volunteers that Rosie's Trust was the proud recipient of the UK-wide Petplan & ADCH Animal Charity Team of the Year 2022 Award. Appropriately, the award was accepted at a ceremony in London by one of the charity's Dog Listener Volunteers and Foster Carer, Hilary Idzikowska.



What's new

Rosie's Trust re-designed our website this year to make it easier for potential volunteers and donors to navigate. It also provides hints and tips to care for our animals.

[Click here to visit](#)

Rosie's Trust introduced our new pet bereavement service this year. Staff and volunteers undertook intensive training and they then provided training to all interested volunteers so that they can be on hand to support beneficiaries if they lose their beloved companion.



Highlights of the year cont'd...

Our impact

The significant difference that Rosie's Trust makes to the lives of people with a terminal illness or cancer diagnosis and older people with a disability – not to mention to the lives of their companion pets – is reflected in the unanimously positive feedback they provided in our 2022 survey.

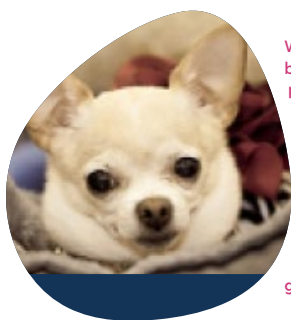
The majority of beneficiaries said that Rosie's Trust had made a big difference to:

- ♥ Their lives
- ♥ Their stress/anxiety levels
- ♥ Their feeling more confident
- ♥ Reducing loneliness and their sense of isolation

All beneficiaries reported that Rosie's Trust had made a big difference to their companion pets.

Rosie's Trust volunteers provided equally positive feedback. Many spoke of the sense of purpose the experience provided and how important and "rewarding" the service was. One volunteer summed up the majority view as follows:

"It is very rewarding knowing that you are making a difference for people and their pets... enabling them to stay together at a difficult time. As a dog owner myself I can appreciate the value and importance of the visits."



Wee Belle is just one of our beneficiaries' companion pets whose quality of life was transformed this year thanks to Rosie's Trust volunteers. She had been so anxious that she wouldn't leave the house, but after much patient care she is now enjoying her walks and getting in lots of sniffs!



Another spoke of how the volunteers' visits removed "one source of stress for a beneficiary who already has enough stress to be getting on with" and how "it's so important for the beneficiaries to see someone every day, including Christmas Day, as they are totally on their own."

Others welcomed the ease of volunteering with Rosie's Trust, for example:

"Rosie's Trust gives me the ability to make a genuine contribution to the well-being of the vulnerable and their animals, without the usual bureaucracy and, quite frankly, wastage, that I would usually associate with these kinds of organisations."

Thanks to a grant from Ards and North Down Council, Rosie's Trust was able to commission a Social Return on Investment (or Social Value) report in May 2022. The study, which was undertaken by Work West, looked at such areas as the value of befriending adults and the elderly; the value of reduced social isolation; the value of improved mental health; and the value that volunteers place on volunteering.

Work West found that, for every pound invested, Rosie's Trust generated a positive social value of "at least" £4.91. It stressed that this was a conservative estimate given that:

"This was a one-year analysis of a multi-year project and generated a really positive social value (£4.91 for £1). We believe that when the whole project is analysed as a whole the social value will be more. Furthermore the period the project activity analysed was greatly affected by the pandemic and the local lockdowns in force."

Work West also noted that the evaluation did not take into account the value of what it referred to as Rosie's Trust "crucial beneficiary", the companion pet.



Highlights of the year cont'd...

Fundraising

The financial year 2022-2023 could not have got off to a better start as it marked the beginning of an emotive marketing campaign undertaken in Belfast and regional centres to promote Rosie's Trust.

The two-week campaign was generously provided free-of-charge by Navigator Blue and the Publicity Association of Northern Ireland (PANI). Designed by students at Ulster University, the campaign sought to raise awareness of Northern Ireland's only charity dedicated to helping the terminally ill, cancer patients, and older people with a disability to hold on to their beloved pets. It called for small individual donations of £4 to help a four-legged companion by texting EVERYSTEP to 70450.

In addition to raising awareness and much-needed funds for Rosie's Trust, the campaign also sought to attract potential volunteers.

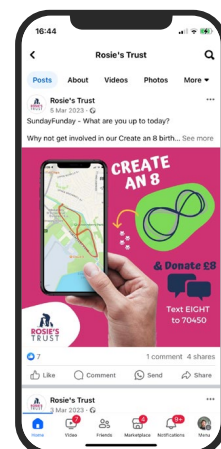
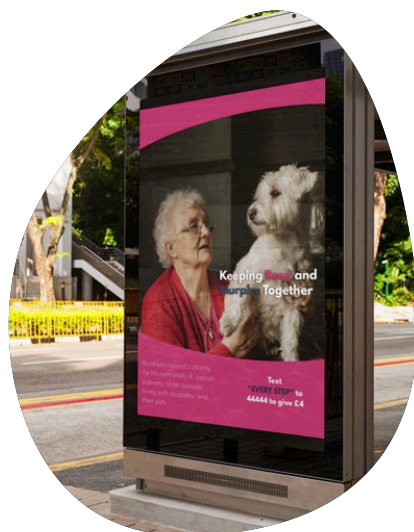


Rosie's Trust was also chosen as Charity of the Year by the NI Pet Awards in June 2022. We held a raffle at the Awards ceremony and were able to present some wonderful prizes thanks to local businesses who generously supported us.

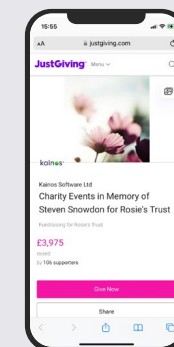
We were very pleased that Earlswood Veterinary Clinic in Belfast also chose Rosie's Trust as their Charity of the Year in 2022.

As was the case with all charities, our fundraising activities were hit hard during the pandemic. It was great to see these gather strength over the year and we are so grateful to the many individuals and organisations that fundraised on our behalf.

To celebrate our eighth birthday, we launched our 'Create an 8 and donate £8' campaign. We encouraged people to map a figure of 8 using a fitness or tracking app while out exercising, sharing photographs of their journey - on foot, by bicycle or whatever was preferred - and donating at least £8.



Other examples of fundraising



Individual Support

This beautiful Easter hamper, which included a range of goodies as well as a hand-crafted bunny, was lovingly made and donated to Rosie's Trust by our wonderful volunteer, Helen Wilson (and this was on top of a Christmas display she had also made for us to raffle!)

Donations In Memory

Rosie's Trust is also indebted to those beneficiaries who remember us in their Will, including the late Steven Snowdon who asked for donations to be given to Rosie's Trust.

Corporate Support



Fiona and the team at Hotel Chocolat, Belfast, have been steadfast supporters of Rosie's Trust throughout the year. We took advantage of a trip to the store to ask Fiona why they had chosen our charity out of so many others. This is what she told us: "As a company there's a charity chosen each year for Hotel Chocolat. However, as we aren't in GB where the majority of these charities are, we like to keep our choices local and to be of help to NI charities that can often get overlooked because they are smaller. We're all animal lovers in store and, as a dog friendly establishment, we love seeing our canine friends and having new doggy visitors. This can obviously mean a lot to some customers as well, getting to come in for a coffee and not having to leave their companion behind."



Rosie's Trust is very grateful to a group of dog lovers collectively known as the Scooby Doo Gang, who took on a staggering 100km challenge in March to raise funds for the charity and K9 Search and Rescue. They encouraged their followers to buy raffle tickets for some great prizes that were generously donated by local dog businesses.

Huge thanks to all our amazing supporters!

We have too many supporters to mention in these short pages and so we give only a couple of examples above to illustrate the fantastic people behind Rosie's Trust. Many donors prefer to remain anonymous - they know who they are so please accept our thanks once again for helping Rosie's Trust keep people and their pets together!

Financial position and reserves

At 31st March 2023, Rosie's Trust held restricted reserves of £1,806 and unrestricted reserves of £40,232. Rosie's Trust aims to hold at least three months running costs on reserves to deal with any unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to the winding up of the charity in the event of being unable to raise any further substantial funding to allow the payment of staff salaries and running costs (set at £40,000 in 2022-23). The Trustees and operations staff will consider on a regular basis the levels of funding that it holds and how this funding can be used to benefit the charity and the services that it provides and to best meet the needs of its beneficiaries and volunteers.

In the 2022-23 Rosie's Trust received income of £129,182 (2021-22: £140,882) and incurred a deficit of £29,879 (2021-22: £1,412 surplus). The main source of income was a five-year grant from National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF), which covered the majority of core costs including salaries. The NLCF grant expired on 31st December 2022 which accounts for the reduction in income and the deficit compared to the previous year.

However, in March 2023, we were fortunate to secure a further three-year grant from NLCF. In September 2022 we also secured new funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund NI, which enabled us to create two additional part-time posts aimed at future-proofing Rosie's Trust by diversifying income streams and collaborations. We also received a level of unrestricted funding, mainly from donations, which was directed to other costs as required.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the National Lottery Community Fund for their continued support which has made a substantial difference to our charity and also to all of our donors for their generosity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the organisation and that enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of Trustees' Confirmations

In the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when the report is approved, the following applies:

- a) so far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the organisation's independent examiner in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- b) each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the organisation's independent examiner is aware of that information.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Aileen Martin
Chair



Emer Rice
Treasurer

Date 26 January 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Rosie's Trust

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 20 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

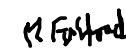
I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Margaret Fulford B.Sc. (Econ) FCA
Independent Examiner

On behalf of
James Fulford & Co Ltd,
Chartered Accountants
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT23 5GW

Date 26 January 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Prior Year Total £
Incoming from:				
Charitable activities	50,539	78,643	129,182	140,882
Total	50,539	78,643	129,182	140,882
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	(668)	-	(668)	(523)
Charitable activities	(63,845)	(94,548)	(158,393)	(138,947)
Total	(64,513)	(94,548)	(159,061)	(139,470)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds	(13,974)	(15,905)	(29,879)	1,412
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	54,206	17,711	71,917	70,505
Total Funds Carried Forward	40,232	1,806	42,038	71,917

Continuing operations - The organisation commenced operations on 20th January 2015. There has been no change in operations in the current year or the previous year.

Historical cost profit and losses - The difference between the results disclosed above and the results on an unaudited historical cost basis is not material.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
INCOME				
General income, donations etc.	50,539	78,643	129,182	140,882
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Salaries and wages	21,984	63,362	85,346	108,390
Staff Pension Costs	1,007	3,119	4,126	5,132
Rent	40	440	480	480
Sundry fundraising	668	-	668	523
Direct Expenditure on Beneficiary support	6,662	-	6,662	5,090
Consultancy	20,040	16,360	36,400	1,400
Promotional materials	1,308	-	1,308	11
Travel and Motor Expenses	1,383	4,350	5,733	2,990
Training	-	-	-	722
Telephone	449	1,919	2,368	2,631
Postage, Stationery, Advertising	23	70	93	635
Insurance	338	1,741	2,079	1,647
General	6,175	2,429	8,604	6,718
Subscriptions	61	158	219	262
Depreciation	4,375	600	4,975	2,839
	64,513	94,548	159,061	139,470
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
- Normal Activities	(13,974)	(15,905)	(29,879)	1,412
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
	(13,974)	(15,905)	(29,879)	1,412

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH	2023	2022
£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Restricted Funds Equipment	1,806	2,406
General Funds Equipment	-	4,375
	1,806	6,781
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	63,060	66,447
	63,060	66,447
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	(1,826)	(1,311)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	61,234	65,136
Deferred Income	(21,002)	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	42,038	71,917
REPRESENTED BY		
Revenue reserves	42,038	71,917

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Aileen Martin  TRUSTEE

Emer Rice  TRUSTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rosie's Trust is a registered charity and a public benefit entity. The currency used for the reporting of these financial accounts is Sterling (GBP).

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Fund Accounting Policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are shown in the accounts at their purchase price (or at an equivalent amount if the assets were donated). This amount is then depreciated so that the assets are written down to their anticipated resale value over the period the company will use them. The depreciation rates and methods adopted are:

Straight Line	
Equipment, furniture and fittings	20%
Van	25%

(d) Incoming Resources

Income includes subscriptions, donations and other cash received and receivable. Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income was attributable to the one principal activity of the company carried on within the United Kingdom and Europe.

(e) Finance Leases

If assets are leased and the terms of the agreement are almost equivalent to an outright purchase, a fixed asset and an equivalent liability are created.

The fixed asset is then depreciated using the rates and method shown in note (b) above.

The interest element of the lease is charged as an expense over the primary period of the lease, based on the capital outstanding.

2. TRUSTEES' EMOLUMENTS

All board members give their services on a voluntary basis, and no remuneration is paid to them.

3. PARTICULARS OF EMPLOYEES

Rosie's Trust receives the services of many people, including volunteers (both members and non-members) and employees.

The analysis by function of the average number of people employed by the organisation during the year (excluding trustees) was:

	2023	2022
Service Delivery	3	4
Their remuneration was:		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	82,523	102,643
Employer Pension Contributions	4,126	5,132
Social Security costs	2,823	5,747
	89,472	113,522

Rosie's Trust's work would not have been as extensive as it has been without the dedicated services of our volunteers, as noted in the Trustees' Report.

We are very grateful for their gift of time to the charity.

4. FIXED ASSETS

	General Fund Assets Van	Restricted Fund Assets Equipment	Total
VALUATION/COST	£	£	£
At 31 March 2022	7,000	7,656	14,656
At 31 March 2023	7,000	7,656	14,656
DEPRECIATION			
At 31 March 2022	2,625	5,250	7,875
Charge for the year	1,750	600	2,350
Exceptional depreciation charge	2,625	-	2,625
At 31 March 2023	7,000	5,850	12,850
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2023	-	1,806	1,806

The van broke down during the year and it is not economical to repair. An exceptional additional depreciation charge has been made to write it down to nil net book value.

5. REVENUE RESERVES

The analysis of restricted funds is given below.

	Halifax	Dormant	National	
	Grant	Accounts	Lottery	
	Fund	Fund	Community	Total
	£	£	£	£
Reserves brought forward	2,406	-	15,305	17,711
Received in the year	-	25,000	74,645	99,645
	2,406	25,000	89,950	117,356
Less: Expenditure				
Income and Expenditure	-	(3,998)	(89,950)	(93,948)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Fixed assets depreciation	(600)	-	-	(600)
Deferred income c/fwd	-	(21,002)	-	(21,002)
Reserves carried forward	1,806	-	-	1,806

Revenue reserves include grants that have preconditions attached. These grants are separated as shown above and relevant expenditure is allocated against them.

Any funds unspent at the end of the year are carried forward if the charity has received them outright, and they are shown as income in the year received. Any funds received that are repayable to the granting body if unspent are shown as income to the extent that expenditure has been incurred and a deferred income liability is included for the amount not yet spent.

6. ORGANISATION INFORMATION

The organisation was formed by Trust deed. It is registered with HMRC and The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland as a charity. It operates within Northern Ireland and its registered address is The Fountain Centre, 2 Queens Parade, Bangor, BT20 3BJ.

The nature of the entity's operations and a description of the principal activities is included in the Trustees' report.

7. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 January 2024.



We'd love to talk to you about Rosie's Trust
so please call us on **02891 641340** or visit
rosiestrust.org for more information.



Rosie's Trust is registered with the
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
NIC102422. Registered office 2 Queen's
Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Rosie's Trust

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102422

Annual return



Annual Report

and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

Charity Registration Number: NIC102422

Generously supported by





**Northern Ireland's only charity
dedicated to helping cancer patients,
the terminally ill and elderly people
with a disability to hold on to their
companion pets at a time when they
need them most.**

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Message from the Chair



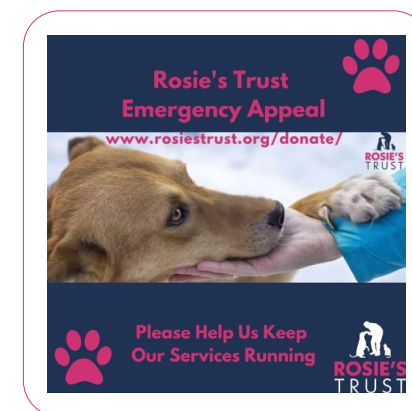
The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) was the bearer of excellent news as the financial year 2022–2023 drew to a close. This was when Rosie's Trust learned that we had been successful in our application for a second People and Communities Grant for a period of three years.

A previous application – submitted to them in October – had been unsuccessful¹ and, while the NLCF requested us to submit a revised application in December, we had a few months when we had to prepare for the possibility of a scaled-down service. We immediately launched a Christmas emergency appeal, which was designed to raise enough funds to keep our services operating at full capacity.

We are indebted to the many individuals and organisations who responded to this appeal, which raised an estimated £15,000. We also submitted grant applications to a wide range of organisations, including Ulster Garden Villages and Halifax². We learned of the success of these two applications only at end of March, by which time we were in the unusual – but happy – position of having to turn down the funds offered as they duplicated the projects provided for in our application to NLCF.

During this period, we also did extensive financial modelling, which enabled us to assess the funds required to maintain the minimum level of services to our existing beneficiaries.

In June 2022, we completed our 'Funding and Communications Strategy' to help us secure the future sustainability of the charity. This underpinned our successful application for a Dormant Accounts grant in July 2022. We were awarded the maximum grant of £100,000 over two years (payable in tranches of £25,000 every six months) and this enabled us to create two part-time positions: one focused on raising public awareness of Rosie's Trust; the second on fundraising (Trust and statutory, corporate, community fundraising/events, and individual giving).



Message from the Chair cont'd...

Beneficiary and volunteer feedback extremely positive

The importance of our having the capacity to support vulnerable members of the community to hold on to their companion pets cannot be overstated. As confirmed in an independent evaluation undertaken in June 2002, the impact of Rosie's Trust services on the lives of cancer patients, the terminally ill and older people with a disability is profound.

One beneficiary described Rosie's Trust services as "life changing" while several others referred to the "peace of mind" they bring. Another beneficiary referred to Rosie's Trust as a "godsend".

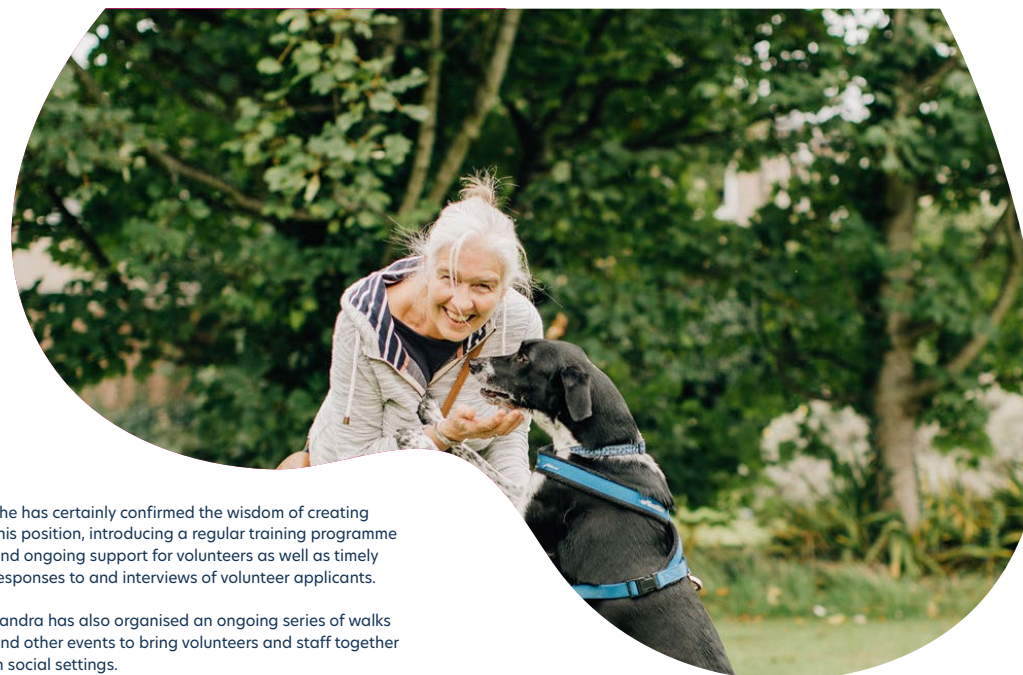
Amy Wilson, Information and Support Manager at Macmillan Cancer Support, explained the difference that Rosie's Trust makes as follows:

"The relationship people have with their pets can often provide an emotional haven when trying to deal with a cancer diagnosis. Flagging energies, dealing with treatments or attending appointments can limit their capacity to care for their pets in the way they have done previously. Being able to signpost patients to Rosie's Trust has been such a relief as we know that it puts patients' minds at ease knowing that their pet is being looked after."

The evaluation also found that Rosie's Trust had made a significant difference to the lives of our volunteers. Here is how one volunteer summed up the experience:

"I absolutely love volunteering for Rosie's Trust and think it's a very valuable use of my time. Before volunteering with Rosie's Trust, I hadn't given thought to people in these tough situations. It has really opened my eyes and I think it's just an amazing service to offer people who may be struggling."

All of us at Rosie's Trust are indebted to our fantastic team of 150+ active volunteers. It is clear that without them, we simply would not be able to operate. We are always looking at ways of showing our appreciation so that they know we do not take them for granted! We have been helped hugely in this task by the decision we took to replace one of our two Development Officer positions that had become vacant with a dedicated Volunteer Support Officer. We were very pleased to welcome Sandra McFadden who joined the team in this role in April 2022.



She has certainly confirmed the wisdom of creating this position, introducing a regular training programme and ongoing support for volunteers as well as timely responses to and interviews of volunteer applicants.

Sandra has also organised an ongoing series of walks and other events to bring volunteers and staff together in social settings.

In addition to the Volunteer Support Officer role, the Board agreed to appoint a part-time Director on an interim basis. This was necessary to alleviate the pressure on Tim Leonard, Board Chair at the time, who was effectively doing the role of the previous Director, Bronagh O'Neill as well as that of Chair while running his own business. This was clearly not a sustainable solution for the charity. In the event, Dr Catriona MacArthur held this position throughout the period under review, providing strategic leadership and direction to the team while supporting the Board to fulfil its objectives.

We also welcomed Claire Smyth to the team at Rosie's Trust. She has assumed one of the part-time jobs funded through the Dormant Accounts grant - that of Communications and Marketing Lead - and has taken our communications and events management to a whole new level of professionalism. This has included not only increasing public awareness and engagement via social media and other communications, but also equipping event staff and volunteers with Rosie's Trust kits and merchandise. Our increased visibility has resulted in more people visiting our stands at events as well as a significant increase in individual donations.

We have had less success with appointing someone to the second role provided for under the Dormant Accounts grant; that is, the fundraising position. As organisations throughout the third sector are finding, this is a particularly difficult role to engage in the current environment. I am pleased to report that we have now appointed an excellent candidate, Nuala Muldoon, as this report goes to print.

Changes in governance

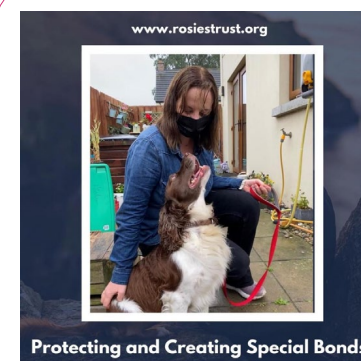
We have also seen quite a few changes at Board level. We were very pleased to welcome in February 2023 four new Trustees - Jill Hawthorne, Gail Lavery, Clare Jess, and Louise Heatley - who have brought a wealth of skills, knowledge, and expertise to our Board. Sadly, we said farewell to Diane James, who resigned in February 2023 after a short but productive tenure on the Board, and, in November 2022, to Richard Gapper who had served as a Trustee since 2019 but who, happily, remains with us as a Dog Support Volunteer.

Richard was the architect of our very comprehensive Risk Register and convened a Saturday workshop before his departure to enable the Board to undertake a thorough review of the register. As part of our ongoing review of risk and procedures we compiled a manual of approximately 50 operational policies and procedures to further safeguard our volunteers, the beneficiaries and their pets.

The policy manual is necessarily a dynamic document and one to which we are adding on a regular basis in response to need. This year, for example, we developed a new complaints policy and procedure as well as a Business Continuity Plan to ensure that Rosie's Trust is prepared for and effectively responds to emergency situations and critical incidents.

We were very pleased to receive from Access NI a Certificate of Compliance for three years following an audit of the arrangements we have in place for vetting all our staff, volunteers and Trustees.

We have necessarily been adapting our guidelines for keeping our beneficiaries and volunteers safe in accordance with the public health guidelines in relation to Covid-19. For example, we updated our Covid guidelines to coincide with the ending of free Covid testing. We stressed therein that the virus was still circulating, that our beneficiaries are among the most vulnerable in the community, and that volunteers should not enter beneficiaries' homes. In cases where volunteers were obliged to enter a beneficiary's home, we provided a series of recommendations to mitigate the risk of infection. We have continued to monitor the situation throughout the year to ensure that we are not placing unnecessary burdens on our volunteers while at the same time safeguarding our beneficiaries.



Message from the Chair cont'd...

Cost-of-living crisis

While many, if not most of our beneficiaries struggle daily to make ends meet, the cost-of-living crisis has made that challenge insurmountable for some. The rising cost of vet fees, in particular, has caused huge stress and anxiety. The Board has sought to alleviate this pressure by introducing loan agreements whereby Rosie's Trust pays the vet's fee and the beneficiary repays the charity in instalments over an agreed period. We also agreed to support those beneficiaries who are simply unable to pay these fees. To date, however, all beneficiaries have refused the latter option, insisting instead on repaying Rosie's Trust, regardless of their own financial difficulties.

In their selfless efforts to support our beneficiaries, our volunteers have felt the full impact of the increase in fuel costs. The Board therefore decided in April 2022 to reimburse volunteers for any travel expenses in excess of 10 miles. We were gratified, if not surprised, that many volunteers - who had the capacity - did not avail themselves of this option when it was offered to them. We have always known that all Rosie's Trust volunteers are very, very special people!

In order to support staff through these challenging financial times, the Board provided staff with a 5% cost-of-living increase in salary from 1 September 2022.

We are confident that as we roll out our 'Funding and Communications Strategy' over the next few years we will not only be able to withstand these challenges and become financially sustainable, but that we will have sufficient resources to be able to grow and meet increasing demand for our services. Macmillan Cancer Support estimates that the number of people living with cancer in Northern Ireland will increase by 40% by 2030. Our ageing population will also inevitably have an impact on demand for our services.

We will continue to measure and evaluate our services rigorously to ensure that we are using our resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. This year we commissioned our first 'Social Value Evaluation Report' and were very pleased with the findings. The authors, Work West, found that every pound invested by Rosie's Trust returned £4.91 in social value during the height of the pandemic. They also argued that the social value would have been far greater had Rosie's Trust been operating in "normal" circumstances.

This finding was just one of several highlights during the year that are featured in the pages that follow. I am very proud and privileged to be the Chair of this fantastic charity and am indebted to my fellow Trustees, staff and volunteers of Rosie's Trust for their support, dedication and commitment to keeping people and their pets together.

We are all indebted to the many people who have fundraised on our behalf during the year and to those who have donated to the charity. We are, of course, very thankful to the National Lottery Community Fund for its continued support of Rosie's Trust.

Above all, I extend my heart-felt thanks to the staff and volunteers for staying the course during some very challenging months this year. They continued to provide the highest standard of service and remained positive throughout. They were, and remain, an example to us all. We are determined that they should never be placed in that position again and that beneficiaries and volunteers alike know that Rosie's Trust will be there for as long as our services are needed.



Aileen Martin
Chair

1. In that application we had indicated that we wished to expand our services into the Western Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust area (the only region where we do not have a presence). We were asked to submit a new application that was instead focused on consolidating our services in the four HSC Trust areas where we were already operating.

2. Both organisations subsequently offered the same amount of funding for different projects. We are also indebted to Enkalan and Marchig Animal Welfare Trust who supported us during this challenging period.

Information about Rosie's Trust

Charity established under Trust Deed on 20 January, 2015.

Board of Trustees (at the date of approval of the accounts)

Aileen Martin, Chair
Appointed to Board June 2023

Emer Rice, Treasurer

Josephine Mallon, Secretary
(Chair April 2023 to July 2023)

Clare Jess
Appointed to Board February 2023

Jill Hawthorne
Appointed to Board February 2023

Louise Heatley
Appointed to Board February 2023

Gail Lavery
Appointed to Board February 2023

Tim Leonard
(Chair April 2022 - September 2022)

Joyce Savage
(Chair October 2022 - March 2023)

The Trustees who resigned between the commencement date of these financial statements and the approval date are listed below:

Fiona Coulter
Resigned June 2023 for personal reasons

Richard Gapper
Resigned November 2022 for personal reasons

Diane James
Resigned February 2023 for personal reasons

Joy McGimpsey
Resigned September 2023 for personal reasons

Staff

CEO, **Dr Catriona Mac Arthur** (0.4 FTE)
Operations Manager, **Jayne McStay**
Development Officer, **Laura Quinn**
Volunteer Support Officer, **Sandra McFadden**
Marketing and Communications Lead, **Claire Smyth** (0.6 FTE)
Community Engagement and Fundraising Lead, **Nuala Muldoon** (0.6 FTE)

Contact details

Telephone: 0289 1641340

Email: mail@rosiestrust.org

Postal address: The Fountain Centre, 2 Queen's Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ

Independent Examiner

James Fulford & Co Ltd
Chartered Accounts
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT 23 5GW

Bankers

Co-op Bank Ltd
1, Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Santander UK plc
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

Registration

Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC102422

Taxation Status

As a registered charity, Rosie's Trust has claimed exemption from tax.

Who we are and What we do



Rosie's Trust is unique. We are the only charity in Northern Ireland dedicated to helping cancer patients, the terminally ill and older people with a disability hold on to their companion pets at a time when they need them most.

When someone is faced with a cancer diagnosis, disability or terminal illness, their whole world changes. They have so much to worry about, so much to deal with and the one thing they need - especially those living alone - is the emotional support that their companion pet provides.

They are no longer able to provide their dog or cat with the same level of care they once could and their anxiety about the welfare of their beloved companion only serves to compound their distress.

At the most stressful time of their lives, they may be forced to give up their companion pet and, in so doing, experience tremendous loss, isolation and feelings of guilt.

Some people have reported that they considered delaying or even refusing treatment because they had no one to look after their pet.

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' companion dogs and/or cats in their homes when they are no longer able to look after them independently.

We provide fostering services when our beneficiaries need to spend a period of time in hospital or in hospice care. Subject always to our beneficiaries' wishes, we also find new homes for their pets when they are no longer able to care for them, including when they die.

Rosie's Trust also offers a pet bereavement service, providing emotional support to beneficiaries when their companion pet predeceases them.

We provide our services free of charge, 365 days of the year. We depend on donations to cover our service costs, and every penny gifted to us is carefully used.

Our services offer peace of mind for our beneficiaries as they know Rosie's Trust will support them in the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.

Rosie's Trust services not only help to address loneliness and social exclusion in Northern Ireland, but also to promote animal welfare, in accordance with the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011.



Our team of 150+ committed volunteers are the life force of Rosie's Trust and provide help and support in all aspects of pet care, including feeding, grooming, exercising, play and stimulation, and vet visits.

Our volunteers are our eyes and ears, ensuring when they visit that our beneficiaries are as well as can be and providing welcome social contact for many. Our volunteers work in teams, with each member making two visits a week.

An average of three volunteers is allocated to each beneficiary.

Our volunteers receive intense training before being matched to a beneficiary. This ensures they all have a sound understanding of Rosie's Trust's policies and procedures to promote the health and wellbeing of our beneficiaries, their pets, and the volunteers themselves. They are also trained to signpost to partner organisations, wherever necessary.

Since our establishment in 2015, we have served 173 beneficiaries. They are located in four of the five Health and Social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, Southern and South Eastern).

We undertake a very thorough assessment process of each of our beneficiaries and their pets. This enables us to develop tailored action plans, which take into account and address all the risks we have identified, and ensure the best match for the beneficiary with our volunteers. We also have robust safeguarding policies in place to protect our beneficiaries and our volunteers. Social workers from the Health and Social Care Trusts refer potential beneficiaries to us as do organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support (NI). We also accept self-referrals.

Our work has been made possible thanks to core funding from the National Lottery Community Fund.



Public Benefit

1) The advancement of health or the saving of lives.

We maintain the health and wellbeing of both the beneficiary and their companion animal by alleviating the stresses and anxiety felt when they are no longer able to care for their pet independently.



2) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

Rosie's Trust works with those experiencing terminal illness, acute cancer treatment, age and disability, maintaining their relationship with their companion animal and working with partner organisations to help the beneficiary overcome other challenges.



3) The advancement of animal welfare.

Our work keeping people and their pets together supports our beneficiaries in ensuring the care they provide their animal meets the five welfare needs as detailed in the Welfare of Animal Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.



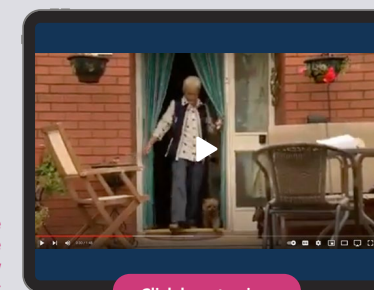
Highlights of the year

Rosie's Trust cares for our beneficiaries' dogs and/or cats in their own homes when the beneficiaries are no longer able to look after their pets independently. We also provide fostering services when beneficiaries need to spend time in hospital or in hospice care and find new homes for our beneficiaries' pets when they are no longer able to care for them.

Rosie's Trust services are provided free of charge, 365 days of the year. Our services are open-ended; we support our beneficiaries with the care of their companion pet for as long as they need us and our resources permit.



We also rehome our beneficiaries' dogs if requested to do so.



Jean Fitzgerald, Caroline Forsythe and Marnie perfectly summed up the ethos of Rosie's Trust in this interview with BBC Newsline in August

[Click here to view](#)



*This refers to the number of referrals that were assessed by staff against Rosie's Trust's comprehensive eligibility criteria.

** This concerns the number of referrals that were taken on as beneficiaries following a thorough assessment process.

Highlights of the year cont'd...

Volunteers

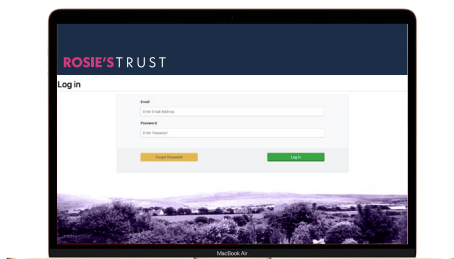
We may have a small team of staff, but we are very fortunate to have a very large team of volunteers without whom Rosie's Trust could not operate. Our volunteers are, quite simply, the lifeblood of our charity.

Each beneficiary requires an average of three volunteers to care for their companion pet.

We were able to ensure that the supply of volunteers kept pace with beneficiary demand during the year across all four of the five Health and Social Care Trust areas.

As Rosie's Trust has expanded its reach so we have created additional roles for volunteers to meet evolving requirements. In addition to 'Canine and Feline Support Volunteers' for example, Rosie's Trust now engages 'Volunteer Coordinators', 'Phone Support Volunteers', 'Foster Volunteers', 'IT and Communications Volunteers', 'Dog Listener Volunteers' and 'Pet Bereavement Volunteers'.

Mention must also be made of the Trustees who comprise the Board of Rosie's Trust. These are also voluntary roles and are much more 'hands on' than is normally the case for Board members. In addition to assuming the roles and responsibilities required of all Board members, Trustees took turns this year to be on call every weekend and each undertook different operational duties according to their individual skills set, such as finance, accounting, fundraising, and HR.

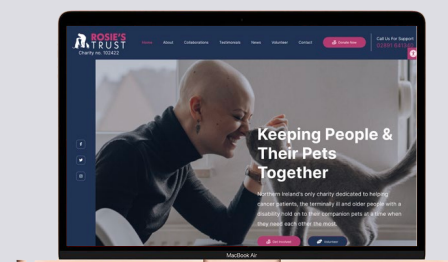


Screenshot of a page on our new Volunteer portal, kindly being developed by John McGarrigle



Recognition

It is a testament to our volunteers that Rosie's Trust was the proud recipient of the UK-wide Petplan & ADCH Animal Charity Team of the Year 2022 Award. Appropriately, the award was accepted at a ceremony in London by one of the charity's Dog Listener Volunteers and Foster Carer, Hilary Idzikowska.



What's new

Rosie's Trust re-designed our website this year to make it easier for potential volunteers and donors to navigate. It also provides hints and tips to care for our animals.

[Click here to visit](#)

Rosie's Trust introduced our new pet bereavement service this year. Staff and volunteers undertook intensive training and they then provided training to all interested volunteers so that they can be on hand to support beneficiaries if they lose their beloved companion.



Highlights of the year cont'd...

Our impact

The significant difference that Rosie's Trust makes to the lives of people with a terminal illness or cancer diagnosis and older people with a disability - not to mention to the lives of their companion pets - is reflected in the unanimously positive feedback they provided in our 2022 survey.

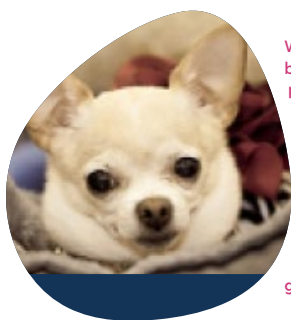
The majority of beneficiaries said that Rosie's Trust had made a big difference to:

- ♥ Their lives
- ♥ Their stress/anxiety levels
- ♥ Their feeling more confident
- ♥ Reducing loneliness and their sense of isolation

All beneficiaries reported that Rosie's Trust had made a big difference to their companion pets.

Rosie's Trust volunteers provided equally positive feedback. Many spoke of the sense of purpose the experience provided and how important and "rewarding" the service was. One volunteer summed up the majority view as follows:

"It is very rewarding knowing that you are making a difference for people and their pets... enabling them to stay together at a difficult time. As a dog owner myself I can appreciate the value and importance of the visits."



Wee Belle is just one of our beneficiaries' companion pets whose quality of life was transformed this year thanks to Rosie's Trust volunteers. She had been so anxious that she wouldn't leave the house, but after much patient care she is now enjoying her walks and getting in lots of sniffs!



Another spoke of how the volunteers' visits removed "one source of stress for a beneficiary who already has enough stress to be getting on with" and how "it's so important for the beneficiaries to see someone every day, including Christmas Day, as they are totally on their own."

Others welcomed the ease of volunteering with Rosie's Trust, for example:

"Rosie's Trust gives me the ability to make a genuine contribution to the well-being of the vulnerable and their animals, without the usual bureaucracy and, quite frankly, wastage, that I would usually associate with these kinds of organisations."

Thanks to a grant from Ards and North Down Council, Rosie's Trust was able to commission a Social Return on Investment (or Social Value) report in May 2022. The study, which was undertaken by Work West, looked at such areas as the value of befriending adults and the elderly; the value of reduced social isolation; the value of improved mental health; and the value that volunteers place on volunteering.

Work West found that, for every pound invested, Rosie's Trust generated a positive social value of "at least" £4.91. It stressed that this was a conservative estimate given that:

"This was a one-year analysis of a multi-year project and generated a really positive social value (£4.91 for £1). We believe that when the whole project is analysed as a whole the social value will be more. Furthermore the period the project activity analysed was greatly affected by the pandemic and the local lockdowns in force."

Work West also noted that the evaluation did not take into account the value of what it referred to as Rosie's Trust "crucial beneficiary", the companion pet.



Highlights of the year cont'd...

Fundraising

The financial year 2022-2023 could not have got off to a better start as it marked the beginning of an emotive marketing campaign undertaken in Belfast and regional centres to promote Rosie's Trust.

The two-week campaign was generously provided free-of-charge by Navigator Blue and the Publicity Association of Northern Ireland (PANI). Designed by students at Ulster University, the campaign sought to raise awareness of Northern Ireland's only charity dedicated to helping the terminally ill, cancer patients, and older people with a disability to hold on to their beloved pets. It called for small individual donations of £4 to help a four-legged companion by texting EVERYSTEP to 70450.

In addition to raising awareness and much-needed funds for Rosie's Trust, the campaign also sought to attract potential volunteers.

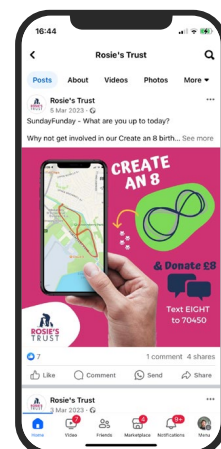
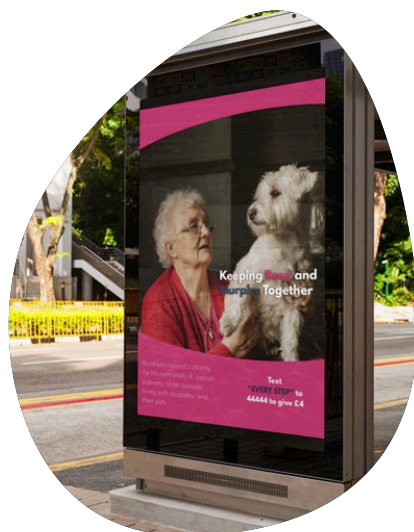


Rosie's Trust was also chosen as Charity of the Year by the NI Pet Awards in June 2022. We held a raffle at the Awards ceremony and were able to present some wonderful prizes thanks to local businesses who generously supported us.

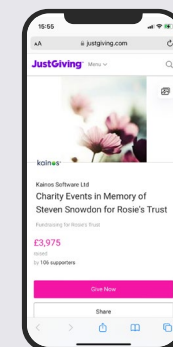
We were very pleased that Earlswood Veterinary Clinic in Belfast also chose Rosie's Trust as their Charity of the Year in 2022.

As was the case with all charities, our fundraising activities were hit hard during the pandemic. It was great to see these gather strength over the year and we are so grateful to the many individuals and organisations that fundraised on our behalf.

To celebrate our eighth birthday, we launched our 'Create an 8 and donate £8' campaign. We encouraged people to map a figure of 8 using a fitness or tracking app while out exercising, sharing photographs of their journey - on foot, by bicycle or whatever was preferred - and donating at least £8.



Other examples of fundraising



Individual Support

This beautiful Easter hamper, which included a range of goodies as well as a hand-crafted bunny, was lovingly made and donated to Rosie's Trust by our wonderful volunteer, Helen Wilson (and this was on top of a Christmas display she had also made for us to raffle!)

Donations In Memory

Rosie's Trust is also indebted to those beneficiaries who remember us in their Will, including the late Steven Snowdon who asked for donations to be given to Rosie's Trust.

Corporate Support



Fiona and the team at Hotel Chocolat, Belfast, have been steadfast supporters of Rosie's Trust throughout the year. We took advantage of a trip to the store to ask Fiona why they had chosen our charity out of so many others. This is what she told us: "As a company there's a charity chosen each year for Hotel Chocolat. However, as we aren't in GB where the majority of these charities are, we like to keep our choices local and to be of help to NI charities that can often get overlooked because they are smaller. We're all animal lovers in store and, as a dog friendly establishment, we love seeing our canine friends and having new doggy visitors. This can obviously mean a lot to some customers as well, getting to come in for a coffee and not having to leave their companion behind."



Rosie's Trust is very grateful to a group of dog lovers collectively known as the Scooby Doo Gang, who took on a staggering 100km challenge in March to raise funds for the charity and K9 Search and Rescue. They encouraged their followers to buy raffle tickets for some great prizes that were generously donated by local dog businesses.

Huge thanks to all our amazing supporters!

We have too many supporters to mention in these short pages and so we give only a couple of examples above to illustrate the fantastic people behind Rosie's Trust. Many donors prefer to remain anonymous - they know who they are so please accept our thanks once again for helping Rosie's Trust keep people and their pets together!

Financial position and reserves

At 31st March 2023, Rosie's Trust held restricted reserves of £1,806 and unrestricted reserves of £40,232. Rosie's Trust aims to hold at least three months running costs on reserves to deal with any unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to the winding up of the charity in the event of being unable to raise any further substantial funding to allow the payment of staff salaries and running costs (set at £40,000 in 2022-23). The Trustees and operations staff will consider on a regular basis the levels of funding that it holds and how this funding can be used to benefit the charity and the services that it provides and to best meet the needs of its beneficiaries and volunteers.

In the 2022-23 Rosie's Trust received income of £129,182 (2021-22: £140,882) and incurred a deficit of £29,879 (2021-22: £1,412 surplus). The main source of income was a five-year grant from National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF), which covered the majority of core costs including salaries. The NLCF grant expired on 31st December 2022 which accounts for the reduction in income and the deficit compared to the previous year.

However, in March 2023, we were fortunate to secure a further three-year grant from NLCF. In September 2022 we also secured new funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund NI, which enabled us to create two additional part-time posts aimed at future-proofing Rosie's Trust by diversifying income streams and collaborations. We also received a level of unrestricted funding, mainly from donations, which was directed to other costs as required.

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the National Lottery Community Fund for their continued support which has made a substantial difference to our charity and also to all of our donors for their generosity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the organisation and that enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of Trustees' Confirmations

In the case of each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when the report is approved, the following applies:

- a) so far as each Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information (information needed by the organisation's independent examiner in connection with preparing their report) of which the company's independent examiner is unaware; and
- b) each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the organisation's independent examiner is aware of that information.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Aileen Martin
Chair



Emer Rice
Treasurer

Date 26 January 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Charity Trustees of Rosie's Trust

We report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 20 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

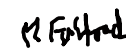
I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Margaret Fulford B.Sc. (Econ) FCA
Independent Examiner

On behalf of
James Fulford & Co Ltd,
Chartered Accountants
PO Box 152
Newtownards
BT23 5GW

Date 26 January 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Prior Year Total £
Incoming from:				
<i>Charitable activities</i>	50,539	78,643	129,182	140,882
Total	50,539	78,643	129,182	140,882
Expenditure on:				
<i>Raising funds</i>	(668)	-	(668)	(523)
<i>Charitable activities</i>	(63,845)	(94,548)	(158,393)	(138,947)
Total	(64,513)	(94,548)	(159,061)	(139,470)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in funds	(13,974)	(15,905)	(29,879)	1,412
Reconciliation of Funds				
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>	54,206	17,711	71,917	70,505
Total Funds Carried Forward	40,232	1,806	42,038	71,917

Continuing operations - The organisation commenced operations on 20th January 2015. There has been no change in operations in the current year or the previous year.

Historical cost profit and losses - The difference between the results disclosed above and the results on an unaudited historical cost basis is not material.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

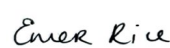
PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
INCOME				
General income, donations etc.	50,539	78,643	129,182	140,882
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Salaries and wages	21,984	63,362	85,346	108,390
Staff Pension Costs	1,007	3,119	4,126	5,132
Rent	40	440	480	480
Sundry fundraising	668	-	668	523
Direct Expenditure on Beneficiary support	6,662	-	6,662	5,090
Consultancy	20,040	16,360	36,400	1,400
Promotional materials	1,308	-	1,308	11
Travel and Motor Expenses	1,383	4,350	5,733	2,990
Training	-	-	-	722
Telephone	449	1,919	2,368	2,631
Postage, Stationery, Advertising	23	70	93	635
Insurance	338	1,741	2,079	1,647
General	6,175	2,429	8,604	6,718
Subscriptions	61	158	219	262
Depreciation	4,375	600	4,975	2,839
	64,513	94,548	159,061	139,470
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
- Normal Activities	(13,974)	(15,905)	(29,879)	1,412
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
	(13,974)	(15,905)	(29,879)	1,412

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH	2023	2022
£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Restricted Funds Equipment	1,806	2,406
General Funds Equipment	-	4,375
	1,806	6,781
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank and in Hand	63,060	66,447
	63,060	66,447
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	(1,826)	(1,311)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	61,234	65,136
Deferred Income	(21,002)	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	42,038	71,917
REPRESENTED BY		
Revenue reserves	42,038	71,917

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Aileen Martin  TRUSTEE

Emer Rice  TRUSTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Rosie's Trust is a registered charity and a public benefit entity. The currency used for the reporting of these financial accounts is Sterling (GBP).

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Fund Accounting Policy

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are those donated for use in a particular area for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

(c) Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are shown in the accounts at their purchase price (or at an equivalent amount if the assets were donated). This amount is then depreciated so that the assets are written down to their anticipated resale value over the period the company will use them. The depreciation rates and methods adopted are:

Straight Line	
Equipment, furniture and fittings	20%
Van	25%

(d) Incoming Resources

Income includes subscriptions, donations and other cash received and receivable. Donations are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income was attributable to the one principal activity of the company carried on within the United Kingdom and Europe.

(e) Finance Leases

If assets are leased and the terms of the agreement are almost equivalent to an outright purchase, a fixed asset and an equivalent liability are created.

The fixed asset is then depreciated using the rates and method shown in note (b) above.

The interest element of the lease is charged as an expense over the primary period of the lease, based on the capital outstanding.

2. TRUSTEES' EMOLUMENTS

All board members give their services on a voluntary basis, and no remuneration is paid to them.

3. PARTICULARS OF EMPLOYEES

Rosie's Trust receives the services of many people, including volunteers (both members and non-members) and employees.

The analysis by function of the average number of people employed by the organisation during the year (excluding trustees) was:

	2023	2022
Service Delivery	3	4
Their remuneration was:		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	82,523	102,643
Employer Pension Contributions	4,126	5,132
Social Security costs	2,823	5,747
	89,472	113,522

Rosie's Trust's work would not have been as extensive as it has been without the dedicated services of our volunteers, as noted in the Trustees' Report.

We are very grateful for their gift of time to the charity.

4. FIXED ASSETS

	General Fund Assets Van	Restricted Fund Assets Equipment	Total
VALUATION/COST	£	£	£
At 31 March 2022	7,000	7,656	14,656
At 31 March 2023	7,000	7,656	14,656
DEPRECIATION			
At 31 March 2022	2,625	5,250	7,875
Charge for the year	1,750	600	2,350
Exceptional depreciation charge	2,625	-	2,625
At 31 March 2023	7,000	5,850	12,850
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2023	-	1,806	1,806

The van broke down during the year and it is not economical to repair. An exceptional additional depreciation charge has been made to write it down to nil net book value.

5. REVENUE RESERVES

The analysis of restricted funds is given below.

	Halifax	Dormant	National	
	Grant	Accounts	Lottery	
	Fund	Fund	Community	Total
	£	£	£	£
Reserves brought forward	2,406	-	15,305	17,711
Received in the year	-	25,000	74,645	99,645
	2,406	25,000	89,950	117,356
Less: Expenditure				
Income and Expenditure	-	(3,998)	(89,950)	(93,948)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Fixed assets depreciation	(600)	-	-	(600)
Deferred income c/fwd	-	(21,002)	-	(21,002)
Reserves carried forward	1,806	-	-	1,806

Revenue reserves include grants that have preconditions attached. These grants are separated as shown above and relevant expenditure is allocated against them.

Any funds unspent at the end of the year are carried forward if the charity has received them outright, and they are shown as income in the year received. Any funds received that are repayable to the granting body if unspent are shown as income to the extent that expenditure has been incurred and a deferred income liability is included for the amount not yet spent.

6. ORGANISATION INFORMATION

The organisation was formed by Trust deed. It is registered with HMRC and The Regulator for Charities in Northern Ireland as a charity. It operates within Northern Ireland and its registered address is The Fountain Centre, 2 Queens Parade, Bangor, BT20 3BJ.

The nature of the entity's operations and a description of the principal activities is included in the Trustees' report.

7. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 January 2024.



We'd love to talk to you about Rosie's Trust
so please call us on **02891 641340** or visit
rosiestrust.org for more information.



Rosie's Trust is registered with the
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
NIC102422. Registered office 2 Queen's
Parade, Bangor BT20 3BJ