

# **22Q11 Northern Ireland Annual Report**

**For the year to March 31st 2025**

## Annual Report for year ended March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025

In April 2024 Gillian attended the International Conference on Integrated Care in Belfast on behalf of 22q11 Northern Ireland, in partnership with 22q Ireland (Anne Lawlor) and the NIRD. This provided some great insights on the importance of an integrated care strategy for children with complex needs, which would describe many of those with 22q.

On 18th May 2024, we once again held our annual '22q at the Moo' event at Ark Farm in Newtownards. We were lucky to have beautiful weather and many families attended enabling them to connect with new peers and support networks.

Later in May Gillian attended an event at the Sonic Arts Research Centre in support of Erin Gregg, who was presenting on her experience as someone growing up with 22q. Erin did fantastically well in what was at times an emotionally charged occasion.

Throughout the year, Gillian has continued her work as a voluntary Family Liaison Officer at the City Hospital's monthly 22q clinic. In this role, she provides emotional support, information on resources, and guidance on navigating the healthcare system to families with newly diagnosed children, ensuring they feel heard and supported during a challenging time.

Our Facebook page remains an active and vibrant community with over 1500 members. It serves as a safe space for families to connect, ask questions, share information, and offer each other encouragement.

## Public Benefit Statement

The trustees of 22q11 Northern Ireland confirm that they have complied with their duty under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 to have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the charity in the year to March 31st 2025.

The trustees believe that all of our purposes satisfy both elements of the public benefit requirement, and that the activities in 2024-24 (detailed in the annual report) contributed to each purpose:

- To seek out information about 22q through conferences, relevant lectures and the World Wide Web in order to provide advocacy through dissemination of information to the public and clinicians in Northern Ireland on symptoms and issues via lectures, articles, social media and information sharing via a dedicated website.
- To support and encourage people residing in Northern Ireland who are affected by chromosome abnormalities including but not limited to 22q11.2 deletion, 22q11.2 duplication, Ring 22, 22q13 duplication, Mosaic 22q deletion, Mosaic 22q duplication, 22q distal deletion and Trisomy 22 through the provision of recreation or other leisure time occupation for individuals, family and friends of those diagnosed with the objective of improving their quality of life.
- To raise the profile of 22q with local elected MPs, MLA's, clinicians, and all those involved in the lives of those living with 22q in Northern Ireland.
- To raise the standard of care for those living with 22q in Northern Ireland via improved health care services, employment and training, social and educational improvements.

## Financial Review

### Financial Performance

The charity has no assets or liabilities.

#### Income

We raised a total of £2474 via passive fundraising (i.e. independent volunteers donating or fundraising)

#### Expenditure

£6831 was spent in total. The most significant costs were hosting the '22q at the Moo' event at Ark Farm and having t-shirts/hoodies/caps printed for the event. There were also some

expenses related to the trip to Westminster in December 2023 that were unfortunately not submitted in a timely manner and therefore paid in this reporting period.

Full accounts are attached.

Approved and adopted by a meeting of the trustees on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and signed on their behalf,



Gillian Cassidy

Founder

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

#### **Charity Name**

22q11 Northern Ireland also known as 22qNI

#### **Charity Number**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland No 102573

#### **Principal Address**

10A Abbacy Road  
Ardkeen  
Newtownards  
BT22 1HH

### **Charity Trustees as of March 31st 2025**

Mrs Gillian Cassidy	Founder
Mr Anders Cassidy	Treasurer
Mrs Lorraine Stitt	Advocate and Support Coordinator
Miss Mia Lowden	Trustee