Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Northern Ireland · Charity number 102677

Details

Known as	NIYF
Status	Received
Registered	2016-04-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	N I Youth Forum 68 Berry Street Belfast Bt1 1fj BT1 1FJ
Phone	02890331990
Email	info@niyf.org
Website	www.niyf.org

Activities

Purposes: The Northern Ireland Youth Forum exists to inspire, motivate, empower and support young people to have a voice and effect change on personal; peer; community and societal levels. The Youth Forum is established to empower young people to challenge disadvantage and inequality; effect change and contribute to building a just, fair and equal society; and to help young people who do not have what they need because of poverty, who are being treated unfairly or because the don’t have the help and support they need when they need it. The Youth Forum works to promote the voice and benefit of young people; primarily in in Northern Ireland; and also within the Republic of Ireland; Great Britain; Europe and further afield (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") and to educating and supporting such young people so as to develop their personal, physical and mental capacities, that they may develop holistically as individuals and members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved

What the charity does: The advancement of education,The advancement of citizenship or community development,The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity,The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Accommodation/housing,Advice/advocacy/information,Community development,Counselling/support,Criminal justice,Cross-border/cross-community,Cultural,Disability,Economic

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development,Education/training,Gender,General charitable purposes,Grant making,Heritage/historical,Human rights/equality,Medical/health/sickness,Relief of poverty,Research/evaluation,Rural development,Sport/recreation,Urban development,Volunteer development,Youth development

Who the charity helps: Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse),Adult training,Asylum seekers/refugees,Carers,Children (5-13 year olds),Community safety/crime prevention,Ethnic minorities,Ex-offenders and prisoners,General public,Homelessness,Interface communities,Language community,Learning disabilities,Men,Mental health,Overseas/developing countries,Parents,Physical disabilities,Sensory disabilities,Sexual orientation,Specific areas of deprivation,Tenants,Travellers,Unemployed/low income,Victim support,Voluntary and community sector,Volunteers,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,305,643	£1,143,639	£-61,473	19

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Aoife Murphy		
Miss Brooke Kearney		
Miss Carla Hannan		
Miss Ciara Hesketh		
Miss Claire Ni Huisceith		
Miss Eimear Crozier		
Miss Ellen Taylor		
Miss Genevieve Mccollum		
Miss Laura Blackledge		
Mr Cohen Taylor		
Mr Eoin Millar		
Mr Jack Dalzell		
Mr Tomas Murphy		
Mr Tristin Nicholls		

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Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102677

Accounts

Charity Registration No. NIC102677/XR36973

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM
FÓRAM ÓIGE THUAISCEART ÉIREANN
NORLIN AIRLAN YOUNGLINS COLLOGUE

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

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NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Ahmad Adam	Resigned January 2025
Aoife Murphy	Appointed September 2023
Brooke Kearney	Appointed September 2023
Carla Hannan (Vice Chair)	Appointed September 2023
Ciara Ni hUisceith (Secretary)	Appointed September 2023
Claire Ni hUisceith	Appointed September 2023
Cohen Taylor (Chair)	Appointed September 2023
Eimear Crozier	Appointed September 2023
Ellen Taylor	Appointed September 2023
Eóin Millar (Treasurer)	Appointed September 2023
Genevieve McCollum	Appointed September 2023
Jack Dalzell	Appointed September 2023
James Reynolds	Resigned January 2025
Kseniia Heorhiieva	Resigned April 2025
Laura Blackledge	Appointed September 2023
Ryan Kearney	Appointed September 2023
Tomás Murphy	Appointed September 2023
Tristin Nicholls	Appointed September 2023

Executive Committee Members (Under 18)

Ryan Kearney	Appointed September 2023

Interim CEOs

Amanda Stewart	Appointed July 2025
Natalie Corbett	Appointed July 2025

CEO

Paul Dynes	*Resigned November 2025*

Office
68 Berry Street
Belfast
BT1 1FJ

Registered Charity No
NIC102677/XR36973

Auditors
Moore (N.I.) LLP
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Bankers
Ulster Bank Ltd
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 12.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Northern Ireland Youth Forum exists to inspire, motivate, empower and support young people to have a voice and effect change on personal; peer; community and societal levels.

The Youth Forum is established to empower young people to challenge disadvantage and inequality; effect change and contribute to building a just, fair and equal society; and to help young people who do not have what they need because of poverty, who are being treated unfairly or because they don't have the help and support, they need when they need it.

The Youth Forum works to promote the voice and benefit of young people; primarily in in Northern Ireland; and also within the Republic of Ireland; Great Britain; Europe and further afield (hereinafter called the "area of benefit"') and to educating and supporting such young people so a s to develop their personal, physical and mental capacities, that they may develop holistically as individuals and members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved.

In furtherance of the above objectives, the Norther Ireland Youth Forum may:

1. Provide or secure the provision of educational and recreational facilities and practical assistance for young people within the area of benefit.
2. Promote and carry out, or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and publish the useful results therefore.
3. Organise or assist in organising meetings, events, projects, training and debates and publish or assist in publishing reports, periodicals, recordings, books or other documents.
4. Procure to be written and printed, published, issued, distributed and circulated reports, periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets or other documents or communications in furtherance of the above objects.
5. Obtain, collect and receive money by way of grants, donations, bequests, legacies or other lawful method, provided that the Forum may not engage in any form of permanent trading.
6. Invest the monies of the Forum not immediately required for the furtherance of the said objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions if any) as may for the time being be imposed or required by law.
7. Recruit and train volunteers with relevant skills to carry out the objects of the Forum.
8. Employ or pay any person to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the Youth Forum and make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of remuneration to employees.
9. Promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above objects and to that end to work in association with the voluntary and statutory youth service (and other bodies), including local authorities and governments; voluntary organisations; and other partners across Ireland, GB and further afield engaged in the furtherance of the above objects in the area of benefit.
10. Do all such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

MEMBERSHIP

The Youth Forum is a membership organisation and as such the membership structures are detailed below:

- Individual members;
- Affiliate members;
- Organisational members;
- Executive Committee;

a. Individual members

i. All young people aged 11 – 25, whose residence is in Northern Ireland are entitled to become individual members of the Youth Forum providing they fulfil the following criteria:

1. They should be aged 11-25.
2. They should actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
3. By completing relevant membership registration.
4. Individual members have the opportunity to participate in all NIYF programmes and will be informed about these via a range of communications mechanisms.
5. Individual members are not required to attend AGMs, but are invited to do so.
6. Individual members are entitled to voting rights.

b. Affiliate members (Global Affiliate and Young Adult)

i. Global Affiliate membership is open to any young person, aged 11-25, who lives outside of Northern Ireland and has an interest the work of the Youth Forum; issues that young people face in the jurisdiction; and / or would like to become involved in applicable Youth Forum project work, campaigns, events, seminars etc.

ii. Young Adult Affiliate membership is open to any young person, aged 26-31 who lives in Northern Ireland and has an interest the work of the Youth Forum; issues that young people face in the jurisdiction; and / or would like to become involved in applicable Youth Forum project work, campaigns, events, seminars etc.

Affiliate members are required to fulfil the following criteria:

1. They should be aged 11-25 in the case of Global Affiliate members and 26-31 in the case of Young Adult Affiliate members.
2. They should actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
3. By completing relevant membership registration.
4. Affiliate members have the opportunity to participate in all NIYF programmes and will be informed about these via a range of communications mechanisms.
5. Affiliate members are not required to attend AGMs, but are invited to do so.
6. Affiliate members are not entitled to voting rights.

c. Organisational Members

i. Organisational Membership is open to local Youth Councils; Youth Forums; Youth Clubs; Schools; Community Groups; Regional Voluntary organisations or other relevant young people's organisation so long as they promote the participation of young people and that:

1. They actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
2. They actively promote the participation of young people in decision making within their organisation.
3. Each organisation must apply in writing to the Youth Forum by completing the necessary application process.
4. Organisational members include those that we are actively working with and will represent a network of like-minded organisations who will provide opportunities for young people and collectively promote youth voice.

d. Executive Committee

i. The Northern Ireland Youth Forum will be managed by an Executive Committee.
ii. The Executive Committee are responsible for organisational governance and overseeing the day-to-day management of NIYF. Whilst it is not a pre-requisite that the Executive Committee

is a fully representative group; the Youth Forum will be mindful of the makeup of the committee in terms of equality legislation.

iii. The Executive Committee will be made up of no fewer than 12 and no more than 20 young people (aged 11 – 25) who will be drawn from the Youth Forum's membership through election and co-option if deemed appropriate.

iv. Executive Committee members will be elected on a tri-annual (three yearly) basis following a vote at AGM and subsequent co-option by the incoming Executive Committee if outlined in Election Documentation.

v. The number of seats available on the Executive Committee will be agreed by the outgoing Committee based on numbers of nominations received, representation and strategic direction at that time.

vi. Executive Committee members aged over the age of 18 shall be named as Trustees.

vii. Trustee only votes can be triggered for matters of significant legal concern. Such a vote can be trigged by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and/or the Treasurer, taking into consideration advice from the Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer. Trustee only votes are binding, though the thoughts of the wider Executive Committee must be noted in the minutes.

viii. The Executive Committee has the authority to co-opt members.

ix. The Executive Committee has authority to bring in independent advisors to the committee on an issue-by-issue basis.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting of the Youth Forum shall be held at such place and time (not being more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding Annual General Meeting) as the Committee shall determine.

To hold an Annual General Meeting, or Extraordinary General Meeting, the Youth Forum needs one quarter of active members represented, including two office bearers.

Any active Members who are not able to attend Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings and who send apologies to the NIYF Secretary are entitled to vote by proxy. Apologies can be received via written or electronic communications.

At such Annual General Meeting the business shall include the following:

a) The election of members to serve on the committee. Committee elections normally take place every 2 years.
b) The appointment of an auditor or auditors.
c) The consideration of an Annual Report of work done by or under the auspices of the Committee.
d) The consideration of the audited accounts.
e) The transaction of such other matters as may from time to time be considered necessary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICER BEARERS:

The following office bearers shall be elected at the A.G.M. to serve on the Executive Committee.

CHAIRPERSON: The Chairperson shall convene and chair meetings of the Youth Forum and its Executive Committee. In conjunction with the Secretary, the Chairperson should liaise with staff. Additionally, the Chairperson shall be expected to represent the organisation at external events.

VICE CHAIRPERSON: In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall be expected to carry out the duties of the Chairperson. They shall be expected to be in attendance at all meetings of the Youth Forum and its Executive Committee.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall liaise with the employees to ensure that the general business of the Youth Forum and the Youth Forums office is being carried out properly. In addition, they are required to be in attendance at regular staff meetings to ensure the above.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be responsible for working with the staff to ensure that the Youth Forum has enough resources to fulfil its objectives. They shall produce a balance sheet to be presented at the AGM.

Further posts will be reserved for other young people.

Where Executive members need additional support to enable them to carry out their duties, the Youth Forum shall, where possible, employ the professional expertise to give guidance and advice.

FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet no less than four times per year. The Chair will be responsible for setting the agenda of these meetings through direct engagement with the CEO, staff and active members. The Executive Committee shall:

- meet a minimum of four times per year. To hold a meeting of the Executive Committee there needs to be half of the Executive Committee members in attendance.
- ensure the day to day running of the organisation and make any important decisions necessary.
- support the CEO in responsibility for the employment of, supervision of and support for staff, advising the organisation on financial matters and monitoring the programme to ensure the Youth Forum is meeting its aims and objectives.
- actively support and promote the aims of the Youth Forum and the activities, work etc., of the organisation.
- If required, discuss any matter relating to an employee. If the Executive Committee is required to do this and a member of it has been in anyway involved in the incident, the individual shall withdraw from the discussion. The Executive Committee should also refer to the Contracts of Employment relating to each particular post.
- In the case of an individual's absence from two or more consecutive Executive Committee meetings without written apology, the Executive Committee shall consider whether to co-opt an alternative into that post to carry out the associated duties for as long as is deemed necessary.
- Where necessary the Executive Committee shall seek advice from professional experts in relation to financial, legal or strategic matters.
- Each Executive Committee member is expected to serve the duties of their office for a period of three years.
- The Executive Committee may appoint such sub-committees, advisory groups or working parties of their own members and other persons from time to time, necessary for the carrying out of their work and may determine their terms of reference, duration and composition. All such sub-committees shall make regular reports to the Executive Committee. No sub-committee shall make any decisions without this going to the full Executive Committee. Where possible the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson shall chair these sub-committees.
- Members of the Executive committee are expected to act with integrity and within the ethos of the Youth Forum. It is expected that as such Youth Forum strategy and policy comes before any other interest outside of the work of the Youth Forum. Committee members are expected to ensure the organisation remains apolitical. Should any conflict of interest hamper an individual's role as an Executive Committee member they will be expected to reconsider their position.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The organisation had net income for the year of £162,004 (net expenditure 2024: £63,216). When added to the reserves brought forward the total reserves at 31 March 2025 are £538,913 (2024: £378,595).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted reserves of a minimum of six months running costs of resources expended on general activities. The organisation also has a policy to maintain further unrestricted reserves of the current redundancy costs of the organisation. At 31 March 2025 this would equate to £63,124 (2024: £62,810).

RELATED PARTIES

The Charity has no related parties.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Over the coming year, NI Youth Forum will work to consolidate and further develop our organisation. We will

work to secure resources and essential core funding to support our work as we move forward.

NI Youth Forum is equipped well to deal with a changing policy and funding landscape, and we will continue to sustain and develop collaborations and partnerships; create space for innovation and development; and continue to diversify funding streams.

The growth and development of innovative youth work programmes, increasing international networks and funding opportunities, as well as maintaining our profile enables the ongoing sustainability of the NI Youth Forum.

Up to date financial systems and planning, alongside strong governance structures are key priorities as reflected in our strategic plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The main risk which faces the NI Youth Forum is the uncertainty of funding. The Executive Committee continually monitor the financial position of the NI Youth Forum and have examined the major risks which the organisation faces and confirm that policies and procedures have been established so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks. An organisational risk register is maintained at the NI Youth Forum.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson's Report

NI Youth Forum continues to focus on the things that matter most to our members. Combatting the cost of living, embedding youth voice at the heart of government, advocating for social justice and bringing young people together to promote peace building.

Young people continue to feel the impact of the rising cost of living, and much of our work this year has focused on supporting those most affected. Our staff have worked with exceptional dedication, offering practical support, safe spaces, and opportunities for employment, education and personal development. Through our role as Secretariat to the All-Party Group on Youth Participation, we have ensured these experiences remain central to discussions on housing and youth policy.

We also launched our Programme for Change, developed in response to the Programme for Government consultation. This youth-led document sets out clear priorities for improving young people's lives, calling for meaningful action to promote youth voice, social justice and peace building. As with all of our work, this is underpinned by our commitment to a rights-based approach in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 2024-25 we met with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Hillary Benn MP and Officials from the Irish Government to further our advocacy on behalf of young people. Following our meeting with the Secretary of State, we welcome the UK Government's announcement on the introduction of votes at sixteen, a long-term campaign of the NI Youth Forum.

The Executive Committee have worked to review and continually improve our financial position and organisational governance over the past financial year. This body of work, undertaken with the support of our staff, in particular, Amanda Stewart and Arón Hughes, has enabled us to establish two new sub committees. These include the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee led by our Treasurer, and the Governance, People and Strategy Committee led by our Vice Chair. I look forward to working alongside our staff team and the Executive Committee as this new way of working takes shape.

Lastly, I want to thank our staff team, volunteers, and Executive Committee for their commitment and passion. Their work ensures young people's voices continue to shape decisions locally and nationally, and that the NI Youth Forum remains a place where young people are supported, heard, and empowered.

Cohen Taylor
Chairperson

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Secretary's Report

The 2024/25 year has been another strong one for the NI Youth Forum. Our staff and volunteers have continued to deliver high-quality support and create meaningful opportunities for participation, learning and development among our membership. Their commitment has ensured that young people remain at the heart of everything we do.

2024 saw our AGM take place in December, where members voted to support important constitutional changes. Their engagement and trust in our direction has strengthened the organisation and ensured we remain responsive, representative and youth-led.

The Executive Committee has responded to three motions passed by the NI Youth Forum membership at our AGM and I would like to thank the proposer of these motions, Callum Seenan, for his work on drafting them. Alongside this, we have continued to strengthen our governance and organisational systems, placing the Forum in a stable and accountable position for the years ahead.

I want to thank our Executive Committee for their leadership, our staff team for their dedication, and our membership for their continued support. Together, we remain committed to amplifying youth voice and championing the rights of young people across the North of Ireland.

Ciara Ni hUisceith
Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Executive Committee is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs and of its income and expenditure for the year. In preparing the financial statement the executive committee are required to select suitable accounting policies, to apply them consistently and to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The Executive Committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity. To ensure that proper books and records are kept the charity has employed appropriately qualified personnel and has maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. It is 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.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITORS

So far as the members of the Executive Committee are aware there, is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware and they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information

Approved by the committee and signed on their behalf on by:

Name..... Date: 23/01/26.

Title: Chairperson

Name..... Date: 23/01/26

Title: Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion
We have audited the accounts of Northern Ireland Youth Forum (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charity.

Based on our understanding of the charity and its operating environment, we determined that the most significant frameworks which have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements are those related to the reporting framework, (FRS 102, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 the Charity SORP and UK financial reporting standards as issues by the Financial Reporting Council). Additionally, we concluded that there are significant laws and regulations in relation to the entity's charitable status and activities of which non-compliance may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, including evaluating management's incentives and opportunities to manage earnings or influence the reported results. From the results of our assessment, we determined that the principal risks of fraud relate to posting inappropriate journal entries and use of charity funds for purposes outside of restrictions imposed by the donor. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

Audit response to risks identified

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- We obtained an understanding of the charity internal control systems in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations, including those as a result of its registration with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance.
- Enquired of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.

- Enquired of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud
- Reviewed minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- Reviewed financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment through collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

R. J. Peters Gallagher

28/01/2026

Moore (NI) LLP
Chartered Accountants

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4th Floor Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (General) 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds (Designated) 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds (General) 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds (Designated) 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:									
Charitable activities:									
Grants Receivable	4	**139,534**	**73,333**	**1,080,983**	**1,293,850**	42,347	106,829	1,016,591	1,165,767
Other income	5	**11,793**	-	-	**11,793**	450	-	-	450
Total income		**151,327**	**73,333**	**1,080,983**	**1,305,643**	42,797	106,829	1,016,591	1,166,217
Expenditure on:									
Charitable activities	7	**57,315**	**63,116**	**1,004,448**	**1,124,879**	246,187	22,827	939,943	1,208,957
Governance	6	**15,680**	-	**3,080**	**18,760**	13,312	-	7,164	20,476
Total Expenditure		**72,995**	**63,116**	**1,007,528**	**1,143,639**	259,499	22,827	947,107	1,229,433
Net income/(expenditure)		**78,332**	**10,217**	**73,455**	**162,004**	(216,702)	84,002	69,484	(63,216)
Gain/(loss) on foreign exchange		**(1,686)**	-	-	**(1,686)**	-	-	-	-
Transfer between funds	12	**(34,992)**	-	**34,992**	-	(66,574)	-	66,574	-
Total funds brought forward	12	**173,735**	**161,784**	**43,076**	**378,595**	457,011	77,782	(92,982)	441,811
Total funds carried forward	12, 13	**215,389**	**172,001**	**151,523**	**538,913**	173,735	161,784	43,076	378,595

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets	8		**52,858**		56,206
Current Assets					
Debtors	9	**63,206**		6,725	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	10	**484,322**		335,864	
		547,528		342,589	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	**(61,473)**		(20,200)	
Net Current Assets			**486,055**		322,389
Net Assets			**538,913**		378,595
Funds:					
Unrestricted Reserves	12		**387,390**		335,519
Restricted Reserves	12		**151,523**		43,076
			538,913		378,595

Approved by the executive committee on and signed on its behalf by: -

Name C. Taylor Date: 23/01/26.

Title: Chairperson

Name [signature] Date: 23/01/26

Title: Treasurer

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Net cash inflow					
From operating activities	15		**159,826**		229,833
Returns on investment and servicing of finance					
Interest received		-		-	
Net cashflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance		-		-	
Capital expenditure and financial investment					
Payment to acquire tangible fixed assets		**(9,682)**		(28,647)	
Net cashflow from capital expenditure and financial investment			**(9,682)**		(28,647)
Effects of foreign exchange on cash			**(1,686)**		-
Increase/(decrease) in cash			**148,458**		201,186
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year			**335,864**		134,678
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of year			**484,322**		335,864

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard which applies in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019 - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1.2 Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing accounts.

1.3 Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write-off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life.

Computer Equipment	25% reducing balance
Fixtures fittings & Equipment	25% reducing balance
Leasehold improvements	15% reducing balance

1.4 Fund Accounting

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

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which the Trustees have set aside for specific purposes. These funds comprise income received in previous financial years from Translink and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive which the Trustees have designated to be used for tender.

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

1.5 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payables are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

1.6 Allocation of Costs

Resources expended are allocated to a particular activity where the costs relate directly to that activity. Core costs which cannot be directly allocated have been apportioned.

1.7 Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:
Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
Investment income is included when receivable.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support programme activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

1.8 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Funding provided through contractual

agreements and performance related grants are recognised as goods or services are supplied.
Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.
Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating office property costs by floor areas, management and human resources costs by the number of staff, and finance and IT costs by work done.

1.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.11 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Financial Instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2 Salaries

The total charge for salaries, national insurance and pension costs was £772,514. This has been disclosed in the statement of financial activities as follows: -

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	**661,020**	670,217
Social security costs	**59,207**	57,492
Other pension costs	**52,287**	53,450
	772,514	781,159

	2025	2024
Average number of employees during period:	**19**	21

There was one employee whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 (2024: None). The key management personnel of the Charity include the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees and Assistant Directors. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £192,991(2024: £186,614).

3 Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. The total contributions paid into the scheme in the year by the charity were £52,288 (2024: 53,450). There were no contributions outstanding at the year-end (2024: £nil).

4 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds Designated	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants Receivable					
EA Core Grants	-	-	**721**	**721**	-
NI Housing Executive	-	**40,000**	-	**40,000**	40,163
Translink	-	**33,333**	-	**33,333**	66,666
DFC/NIHE	-	-	-	-	110,000
Belfast City Council	-	-	-	-	986
Tudor Trust	-	-	**60,000**	**60,000**	62,000
CFNI	-	-	**101,620**	**101,620**	135,493
Henry Smith	-	-	**220,011**	**220,011**	59,800
Joseph Rowntree	-	-	-	-	50,000
NIO	-	-	-	-	38,723
BCC Community Support Recovery	-	-	-	-	300
BL Relentless Change	-	-	-	-	220,011
NIHE Sustaining Tenancies	-	-	**707**	**707**	24,952
Henry Smith Therapeutic	-	-	**40,000**	**40,000**	80,000
CIN - Youth Social Action	-	-	**38,391**	**38,391**	44,864
North South Youth Forum	-	-	-	-	84,664
Community Knowledge Fund	-	-	-	-	2,000
Youth Start	-	-	**80,957**	**80,957**	92,173
BCC	-	-	**30,479**	**30,479**	9,950
The Pilgrim Trust	-	-	-	-	30,000
General	**73,284**	-	-	**73,284**	(15,153)
Electoral Commission	**15,000**	-	-	**15,000**	7,500
BCC Medium Grant	-	-	**950**	**950**	3,800
CVS	-	-	-	-	3,125
DFC	-	-	**48,620**	**48,620**	13,750
PeacePlus	-	-	**260,114**	**260,114**	-
Sustaining Tenancies South /East	-	-	**47,835**	**47,835**	-
Sustaining Tenancies North/West	-	-	**47,834**	**47,834**	-
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	**51,250**	-	-	**51,250**	-
Awards for all	-	-	**20,000**	**20,000**	-
Electoral Commission - Train the Practitioner	-	-	**10,000**	**10,000**	-
EA Core	-	-	**3,000**	**3,000**	-
Esmee Fairbairn	-	-	**50,000**	**50,000**	-
Oak Foundation	-	-	**19,744**	**19,744**	-
	139,534	**73,333**	**1,080,983**	**1,293,850**	1,165,767

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Core Contribution					
Training	**11,793**	-	-	**11,793**	450
	11,793	-	-	**11,793**	450

6 Governance

	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Audit Fee	**2,650**	-	**3,080**	**5,730**	7,164
Depreciation	**13,030**	-	-	**13,030**	13,312
	15,680	-	**3,080**	**18,760**	20,476

7 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

		Unrestricted expenditure	Translink Designated	NIHE Designated	Relentless Change	Youth Start	PeacePlus	Sustaining Tenancies S/E	Sustaining Tenancies N/W	DFC	Other restricted grant projects	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salary and Pension Costs	D	40,002	14,741	30,000	123,878	75,133	233,788	40,000	40,000	46,610	128,362	772,514	781,159
Facilitation Costs	D	-	-	-	2,176	4,187	-	-	-	-	332	6,695	790
Rent	S	-	-	-	-	6,529	14,062	-	-	-	5,499	26,090	25,365
Insurance	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,665	2,665	2,541
Heat & Light	S	447	-	-	955	1,264	2,491	-	-	304	1,853	7,314	9,271
Telephone	S	452	-	-	1,610	206	442	47	205	268	1,284	4,514	6,910
Postage, Stat & Photocopying	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,012	1,012	55
Finance & Bank Fees	D	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-
Cleaning Costs	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Room Hire	D	-	-	-	-	487	-	-	-	-	-	487	1,460
Accreditation	S	-	-	-	-	3,548	-	-	-	-	-	3,548	8,299
Production	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,500	3,500	-
Legal & Professional	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,440	1,440	860
General Expenses	D	3,616	-	2,181	2,374	3,787	6,972	-	52	3,779	10,831	33,592	60,921
Staff Travel	D	711	30	121	737	1,697	-	-	41	117	1,501	4,955	10,498
Members/Volunteer Travel	D	-	-	706	490	4,235	-	-	-	92	1,151	6,674	4,206
Residential Costs	D	165	-	-	-	10,091	6,578	-	-	-	9,511	26,345	23,346
Resources	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,121
Computer Running Costs	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,120
Conference/seminars	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,286	1,286	2,503
PR	D	-	-	-	-	1,801	-	-	-	-	2,970	4,771	5,641
Evaluation Costs	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
Support and admin	D	672	-	-	11,200	1,426	3,000	-	-	-	540	16,838	30,722
Repairs	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,744
Other Programme Costs	D	11,208	10,995	4,342	28,269	12,733	49,251	6,843	8,412	10,489	58,055	200,597	216,618
		57,315	25,766	37,350	171,689	127,124	316,584	46,890	48,710	61,659	231,792	1,124,879	1,209,194

Basis of Apportionment of costs

D – Direct costs attributed to the projects

S – Costs apportioned to the projects on the basis of staff time

8 Fixed Assets

	Leasehold improvements	Computer equipment	Furniture and other equipment	Total
		£	£	£
Cost				
At 1st April 2024	51,090	75,083	77,126	203,299
Additions	-	8,543	1,139	9,682
At 31st March 2025	**51,090**	**83,626**	**78,265**	**212,981**
Depreciation				
At 1st April 2024	(15,295)	(65,947)	(65,851)	(147,093)
Charge for year	(5,507)	(4,420)	(3,103)	(13,030)
At 31st March 2025	**(20,802)**	**(70,367)**	**(68,954)**	**(160,123)**
Net Book Value				
At 31st March 2025	**30,288**	**13,259**	**9,311**	**52,858**
At 31st March 2024	35,795	9,136	11,275	56,206

9 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors	**59,317**	3,278
Prepayments	**3,889**	3,447
	63,206	6,725

10 Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2025	2024
	£	£
Ulster Bank Current Account	**483,204**	334,878
Ulster Bank Business Reserve Account	**584**	584
Petty Cash	**534**	402
	484,322	335,864

11 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	563
Other creditors	**61,473**	19,637
	61,473	20,200

12 Reserves

	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gain & Loss	Transfer £	Closing Balance £
Restricted						
EA Core	2,196	721	-	-	-	**2,917**
Ards & North Down B.C	6,833	-	-	-	-	**6,833**
Peace IV - Amplify	27,088	-	-	-	-	**27,088**
Big Lottery Relentless Charge	5,762	-	-	-	-	**5,762**
Paul Hamlyn - Follow on Fund	1,289	-	-	-	-	**1,289**
BCC	1,846	-	-	-	-	**1,846**
Tudor Trust	35,324	60,000	(32,582)	-	-	**62,742**
Henry Smith	-	-	(20)	-	20	-
TNL Dormant Accounts	-	-	(34,101)	-	34,101	-
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	1	-	-	-	(1)	-
BCC Community Support	300	-	-	-	-	**300**
CFNI	(61,950)	101,620	(31,265)	-	-	**8,405**
BL Relentless Change	24,661	220,011	(171,689)	-	-	**72,983**
The Pilgrim Trust	31	-	(28,422)	-	-	**(28,391)**
UK Community Renewal	2,725	-	-	-	-	**2,725**
NIHE Sustaining Tenancies	(703)	707	-	-	(4)	-
Henry Smith Therapeutic	18,818	40,000	(33,437)	-	-	**25,381**
TEO Good Relations 2022-2023	(38,391)	38,391	-	-	-	**(0)**
CIN - Youth Social Action	14,472	-	(14,226)	-	-	**246**
HPF	10,974	-	-	-	-	**10,974**
Youth Start	(20,673)	80,957	(127,124)	-	-	**(66,840)**
BCC	(8,202)	30,479	(21,021)	-	-	**1,256**
BCC Medium Grant	3,800	950	(356)	-	-	**4,394**
Commission for Victims and Survivors	3,125	-	(6,064)	-	-	**(2,939)**
PeacePlus	-	260,114	(317,164)	-	-	**(57,050)**
Sustaining Tenancies South /East	-	47,835	(46,890)	-	-	**945**
Sustaining Tenancies North/West	-	47,834	(48,710)	-	876	-
DFC	13,750	48,620	(61,659)	-	-	**711**
Awards for all	-	20,000	(19,845)	-	-	**155**
Electoral Commission - Train the Practitioner	-	10,000	(9,954)	-	-	**46**
EA Core	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-	-
Esmee Fairbairn	-	50,000	-	-	-	**50,000**
North South Shared Island Civic Society Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oak Foundation	-	19,744	-	-	-	**19,744**
				-	-	
	43,076	1,080,983	(1,007,528)	-	34,992	**151,523**
Unrestricted						
Designated unrestricted	161,784	73,333	(63,116)		-	**172,001**
General unrestricted	173,735	151,327	(72,995)	(1,686)	(34,992)	**215,389**
	335,519	224,660	(136,11)	(1,686)	(34,992)	**387,390**
Total Reserves	378,595	1,305,643	(1,143,639)	(1,686)	-	**538,913**

Note: £34,992 (2024: £66,574) has been transferred from the general unrestricted fund to the restricted reserve balances to clear any balances in deficit, in which further funding is not expected to be received.

13 Net assets

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Fixed Assets	**52,858**	**-**	**-**	**52,858**
Current Assets	**162,531**	**172,001**	**151,523**	**486,055**
Net assets	**215,389**	**172,001**	**151,523**	**538,913**

14 Contingent Liabilities

The charity may become liable to repay grants received from various funders should it fail to comply with conditions set out in the relevant letters of offer.

15 Reconciliation of movement of funds to net cashflows from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net movement in funds	162,004	(63,216)
Depreciation	13,030	13,312
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(56,481)	291,280
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	41,273	(11,543)
	159,826	229,833

Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102677

Accounts

Charity Registration No. NIC102677/XR36973



NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM
FÓRAM ÓIGE THUAISCEART ÉIREANN
NORLIN AIRLAN YOUNGLINS COLLOGUE

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Nicole Parkinson-Kelly	Resigned September 2023
Ryan Harling	Resigned September 2023
Oisín-Tomás Ó Raghallaigh	Resigned September 2023
Ciara Ni hUisceith	Reappointed September 2023
Adam Crothers	Resigned September 2023
Aoife Murphy	Reappointed September 2023
Cohen Taylor	Reappointed September 2023
Eóin Millar	Reappointed September 2023
Kate Lynch	Resigned September 2023
Madison Murphy	Resigned September 2023
Max Kieran	Resigned September 2023
Niamh Mallaghan	Resigned September 2023
Ruari McBride	Resigned September 2023
Ahmad Adam	Appointed September 2023
Brooke Kearney	Appointed September 2023
Carla Hannan	Appointed September 2023
Inez Murray	Resigned July 2024
James Reynolds	Appointed September 2023
Kseniia Heorhiieva	Appointed September 2023
Laura Blackledge	Appointed September 2023
Zinha Bernardo	No longer a board member – June 2024

Executive Committee

John Kane	Resigned September 2023
Sofia Anderson	Resigned September 2023
Jack Dalzell	Reappointed September 2023
Claire Hesketh	Appointed September 2023
Eimear Crozier	Appointed September 2023
Ellen Taylor	Appointed September 2023
Genevieve McCollum	Appointed September 2023
Ryan Kearney	Appointed September 2023
Tomás Murphy	Appointed September 2023
Tristin Nicholls	Appointed September 2023

Assistant Directors

Amanda Stewart

Natalie Corbett

CEO

Paul Dynes — Appointed April 2024

Office

68 Berry Street
Belfast
BT1 1FJ

Registered Charity No

NIC102677/XR36973

Auditors

Moore (N.I.) LLP
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Bankers
Ulster Bank Ltd
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

The trustees present their report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 12.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Youth Forum is established to promote the voice and benefit of young people in Northern Ireland (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") and to educating and assisting such young people through their leisure time activities, so as to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities, that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved.

In furtherance of the above objects the Youth Forum may:

- provide or secure the provision of educational and recreational facilities and practical assistance for young people within the area of benefit.
- promote and carry out, or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and publish the useful results.
- organise or assist in organising meetings, training and debates and publish or assist in publishing reports, periodicals, recordings, books or other documents.
- procure to be written and printed, published, issued, distributed and circulated reports, periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets or other documents or communications in furtherance of the above objects.
- obtain, collect and receive money by way of grants, donations, bequests, legacies or other lawful method, provided that the Forum may not engage in any form of permanent trading.
- invest the monies of the Forum not immediately required for the furtherance of the said objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) as may for the time be imposed or required by law.
- recruit and train volunteers with relevant skills to carry out the objects of the Forum.
- employ or pay any person to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the Youth Forum and make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of remuneration to employees.
- promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above objects and to that end to work in association with local authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above objects in the area of benefit.
- do all such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

MEMBERSHIP

The Youth Forum is a membership organisation and as such the membership structures are detailed below:

- Individual members;
- Affiliate members;
- Organisational members;
- Executive Committee;

a. Individual members

i. All young people aged 11 – 25, whose residence is in Northern Ireland are entitled to become individual members of the Youth Forum providing they fulfil the following criteria:

1. They should be aged 11-25.
2. They should actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
3. By completing relevant membership registration.
4. Individual members have the opportunity to participate in all NIYF programmes and will be informed about these via a range of communications mechanisms.
5. Individual members are not required to attend AGMs, but are invited to do so.
6. Individual members are entitled to voting rights.

b. Affiliate members

i. Affiliate membership is open to any young person, aged 11 – 25, who lives outside of Northern Ireland and have an interest the work of the Youth Forum; issues that young people face in the jurisdiction; and / or would like to become involved in applicable Youth Forum project work, campaigns, events, seminars etc. Affiliate members are required to fulfil the following criteria:

1. They should be aged 11-25.
2. They should actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
3. By completing relevant membership registration.
4. Affiliate members have the opportunity to participate in all NIYF programmes and will be informed about these via a range of communications mechanisms.
5. Affiliate members are not required to attend AGMs, but are invited to do so.
6. Affiliate members are not entitled to voting rights.

c. Organisational Members

i. Organisational Membership is open to local Youth Councils; Youth Forums; Youth Clubs; Schools; Community Groups; Regional Voluntary organisations or other relevant young people's organisation so long as they promote the participation of young people and that:

1. They actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
2. They actively promote the participation of young people in decision making within their organisation.
3. Each organisation must apply in writing to the Youth Forum by completing the necessary application process.

ii. Organisational members include those that we are actively working with and will represent a network of like-minded organisations who will provide opportunities for young people and collectively promote youth voice.

d. Executive Committee

i. The Northern Ireland Youth Forum will be managed by an Executive Committee.

ii. The Executive Committee are responsible for organisational governance and overseeing the day-to-day management of NIYF. Whilst it is not a pre-requisite that the Executive Committee is a fully representative group; the Youth Forum will be mindful of the makeup of the committee in terms of equality legislation.

iii. The Executive Committee will be made up of no fewer than 12 and no more than 20 young people (aged 11 – 25) who will be drawn from the Youth Forum's membership through election and co-option if deemed appropriate.

iv. Executive Committee members will be elected on a tri-annual (three yearly) basis following a vote at AGM and subsequent co-option by the incoming Executive Committee if outlined in Election Documentation.

v. The number of seats available on the Executive Committee will be agreed by the outgoing Committee based on numbers of nominations received, representation and strategic direction at that time.

vi. Executive Committee members aged over the age of 18 shall be named as Trustees.

vii. Trustee only votes can be triggered for matters of significant legal concern. Such a vote can be trigged by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and/or the Treasurer, taking into consideration advice from the Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer. Trustee only votes are binding, though the thoughts of the wider Executive Committee must be noted in the minutes.

viii. The Executive Committee has the authority to co-opt members.

ix. The Executive Committee has authority to bring in independent advisors to the committee on an issue-by-issue basis. (Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Constitution Article 3)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting of the Youth Forum shall be held at such place and time (not being more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding Annual General Meeting) as the Committee shall determine.
To hold an Annual General Meeting, or Extraordinary General Meeting, the Youth Forum needs one quarter of active members represented, including two office bearers.
Any active Members who are not able to attend Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings and who send apologies to the NIYF Secretary are entitled to vote by proxy. Apologies can be received via written or electronic communications.
At such Annual General Meeting the business shall include the following:

a) The election of members to serve on the committee. Committee elections normally take place every 2 years.
b) The appointment of an auditor or auditors.
c) The consideration of an Annual Report of work done by or under the auspices of the Committee.
d) The consideration of the audited accounts.
e) The transaction of such other matters as may from time to time be considered necessary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICER BEARERS:

The following office bearers shall be elected at the A.G.M. to serve on the Executive Committee.

CHAIRPERSON: The Chairperson shall convene and chair meetings of the Youth Forum and its Executive Committee. In conjunction with the Secretary, the Chairperson should liaise with staff. Additionally, the Chairperson shall be expected to represent the organisation at external events.

VICE CHAIRPERSON: In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall be expected to carry out the duties of the Chairperson. He/she shall be expected to be in attendance at all meetings of the Youth Forum and its Executive Committee.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall liaise with the employees to ensure that the general business of the Youth Forum and the Youth Forums office is being carried out properly. In addition, he/she is required to be in attendance at regular staff meetings to ensure the above.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be responsible for working with the staff to ensure that the Youth Forum has enough resources to fulfil its objectives. He/she shall produce a balance sheet to be presented at the AGM.

Further posts will be reserved for other young people.

Where Executive members need additional support to enable them to carry out their duties, the Youth Forum shall, where possible, employ the professional expertise to give guidance and advice.

FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet no less than four times per year. The Chair will be responsible for setting the agenda of these meetings through direct engagement with the CEO, staff and active members. The Executive Committee shall:

- meet a minimum of four times per year. To hold a meeting of the Executive Committee there needs to be half of the Executive Committee members in attendance.
- ensure the day to day running of the organisation and make any important decisions necessary.
- support the CEO in responsibility for the employment of, supervision of and support for staff, advising the organisation on financial matters and monitoring the programme to ensure the Youth Forum is meeting its aims and objectives.

- actively support and promote the aims of the Youth Forum and the activities, work etc., of the organisation.
- if required, discuss any matter relating to an employee. If the Executive Committee is required to do this and a member of it has been in anyway involved in the incident, he/she shall withdraw from the discussion. The Executive Committee should also refer to the Contracts of Employment relating to each particular post.
- in relation to an individual's absence from two or more consecutive executive meetings without written apology co-opt an alternative into that post to carry out the duties that go with it for up to as long as is deemed necessary.
- Where necessary the Executive Committee shall seek advice from professional experts in relation to financial, legal or strategic matters.
- Each Executive Committee member is expected to serve the duties of their office for a period of two years.
- The Executive Committee may appoint such sub-committees, advisory groups or working parties of their own members and other persons from time to time, necessary for the carrying out of their work and may determine their terms of reference, duration and composition. All such sub-committees shall make regular reports to the Executive Committee. No sub-committee shall make any decisions without this going to the full Executive Committee. Where possible the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson shall chair these sub-committees.
- Members of the Executive committee are expected to act with integrity and within the ethos of the Youth Forum. It is expected that as such Youth Forum strategy and policy comes before any other interest outside of the work of the Youth Forum. Committee members are expected to ensure the organisation remains apolitical. Should any conflict of interest hamper an individual's role as an Executive Committee member they will be expected to reconsider their position.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The organisation had net expenditure for the year of £63,216 (2023: £216,983). When added to the reserves brought forward the total reserves at 31 March 2024 are £378,595 (2023: £441,811).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted reserves of a minimum of six months running costs of resources expended on general activities. The organisation also has a policy to maintain further unrestricted reserves of the current redundancy costs of the organisation. At 31 March 2024 this would equate to £62,810 (2023: £32,271).

RELATED PARTIES

The Charity has no related parties.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Over the coming year the NIYF will work to consolidate as well as continue to develop our organisation. We will work to secure resources and essential core funding to support NIYF through as we move towards independence.

NIYF is equipped well to deal with a changing policy and funding landscape, and we will continue to sustain and develop collaborations and partnerships; create space for innovation and development; and continue to diversify funding streams.

Through a growth and development of innovative youth work programmes, increasing international networks and funding opportunities, as well as maintaining our profile enables the ongoing sustainability of the NI Youth Forum.

Up to date financial systems and planning, alongside strong governance are key properties as reflected in our strategic plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The main risk which faces NIYF is the uncertainty of funding. The Executive Committee continually monitor the financial position of the Youth Forum and have examined the major risks which the organisation faces and confirm that policies and procedures have been established so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks. An organisational risk register is maintained at the NIYF.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson's Report

developed its employability work this year; this has been a positive contribution to the organisation. Offering some of the most vulnerable young people an opportunity for future training and employment.

One of NIYF's key priorities is investing in our staff. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their passion, dedication, and hard work. Thank you to NIYF's executive committee for fulfilling their roles above and beyond those of trustees. Finally, I would like to praise my fellow executive members for their commitment to the Northern Ireland Youth Forum. Their dedication to the Youth Forum is inspiring as it continues to grow and safeguard an organisation we are proud of.

Ciara Ni hUisceith

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Executive Committee is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs and of its income and expenditure for the year. In preparing the financial statement the executive committee are required to select suitable accounting policies, to apply them consistently and to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The executive committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity. To ensure that proper books and records are kept the charity has employed appropriately qualified personnel and has maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. It is 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.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITORS

So far as the members of the Executive Committee are aware there, is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware and they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the committee and signed on their behalf on by:

Name. _____ Date: 29/01/25.

Title: Chairperson

Name. _____ Date: 29/1/25

Title: Secretary

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion
We have audited the accounts of Northern Ireland Youth Forum (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2013 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees', are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charity.

Based on our understanding of the charity and its operating environment, we determined that the most significant frameworks which have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements are those related to the reporting framework, (FRS 102, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charity SORP and UK financial reporting standards as issues by the Financial Reporting Council). Additionally, we concluded that there are significant laws and regulations in relation to the entity's charitable status and activities of which non-compliance may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, including evaluating management's incentives and opportunities to manage earnings or influence the reported results. From the results of our assessment, we determined that the principal risks of fraud relate to posting inappropriate journal entries and use of charity funds for purposes outside of restrictions imposed by the donor. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

Audit response to risks identified

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- We obtained an understanding of the charity internal control systems in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations, including those as a result of its registration with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance.
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.

- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment through collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore (NI) LLP

29.01.2025

Moore (NI) LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

4th Floor Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (General) 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds (Designated) 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds (General) 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds (Designated) 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income from:									
Charitable activities:									
Grants Receivable	3	42,347	106,829	1,016,591	1,165,767	219,268	60,929	743,852	1,024,049
Other income	4	450	-	-	450	13,161	-	-	13,161
Total income		42,797	106,829	1,016,591	1,166,217	232,429	60,929	743,852	1,037,210
Expenditure on:									
Charitable activities	6	246,187	22,827	939,943	1,208,957	223,598	26,330	990,164	1,240,092
Governance	5	13,312	-	7,164	20,476	10,201	-	3,900	14,101
Total Expenditure		259,499	22,827	947,107	1,229,433	233,799	26,330	994,064	1,254,193
Net income/(expenditure)		(216,702)	84,002	69,484	(63,216)	(1,370)	34,599	(250,212)	(216,983)
Transfer between funds	11	(66,574)	-	66,574	-	(15,689)	-	15,689	-
Total funds brought forward	11	457,011	77,782	(92,982)	441,811	474,070	43,183	141,541	658,794
Total funds carried forward	11, 12	173,735	161,784	43,076	378,595	457,011	77,782	(92,982)	441,811

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets	7		56,206		40,871
Current Assets					
Debtors	8	6,725		298,005	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	9	335,864		134,678	
		342,589		432,683	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(20,200)		(31,743)	
Net Current Assets			322,389		400,940
Net Assets			378,595		441,811
Funds:					
Unrestricted Reserves	11, 12		335,519		534,793
Restricted Reserves	11, 12		43,076		(92,982)
			378,595		441,811

Approved by the executive committee on and signed on its behalf by: -

Name..... Date: 29/01/25

Title: Chairperson

Name..... Date: 29/01/2025

Title: Treasurer

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Net cash inflow					
From operating activities	14	229,833		(195,803)	
Returns on investment and servicing of finance					
Interest received		-		-	
Net cashflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance		-		-	
Capital expenditure and financial investment					
Payment to acquire tangible fixed assets		(28,647)		(13,348)	
Net cashflow from capital expenditure and financial investment			(28,647)		(13,348)
Increase/(decrease) in cash			201,186		(209,151)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year			134,678		343,829
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of year			335,864		134,678

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard which applies in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1.2 Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing accounts.

1.3 Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write-off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life.

Computer Equipment	25% reducing balance
Fixtures fittings & Equipment	25% reducing balance
Leasehold improvements	15% reducing balance

1.4 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted 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 or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

1.5 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

1.6 Allocation of Costs

Resources expended are allocated to a particular activity where the costs relate directly to that activity. Core costs which cannot be directly allocated have been apportioned.

1.7 Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:
Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
Investment income is included when receivable.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support programme activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

1.8 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Funding provided through contractual agreements and performance related grants are recognised as goods or services are supplied.
Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.
Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with

constitutional and statutory requirements.
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating office property costs by floor areas, management and human resources costs by the number of staff, and finance and IT costs by work done.

1.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.11 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Financial Instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2 **Salaries**

The total charge for salaries, national insurance and pension costs was £781,159. This has been disclosed in the statement of financial activities as follows: -

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**670,217**	674,219
Social security costs	**57,492**	64,545
Other pension costs	**53,450**	51,811
	781,159	790,575

	2024	2023
Average number of employees during period:	**21**	21

There were no employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 (2023: one). The key management personnel of the Charity include the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees and Assistant Directors. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £186,614 (2023: £137,571).

3 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds Designated	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants Receivable					
EA Core Grants	-	-	-	-	7,500
NI Housing Executive	-	40,163	-	40,163	33,135
Translink	-	66,666	-	66,666	27,794
Youth Network for Peace (Peace IV)	-	-	-	-	7,733
Ards and North Down B.C.	-	-	-	-	-
Peace IV - Amplify	-	-	-	-	107,981
Tudor Trust	-	-	-	-	-
DFC/NIHE	-	-	110,000	110,000	-
Belfast City Council	-	-	986	986	20,973
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Reconciliation Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Esmee Fairburn	-	-	-	-	60,000
Tutor Trust	-	-	62,000	62,000	60,000
BCC Covid Recovery	-	-	-	-	4,945
CFNI	-	-	135,493	135,493	66,318
Henry Smith	-	-	59,800	59,800	58,900
Whitemountain	-	-	-	-	23,936
Joseph Rowntree	50,000	-	-	50,000	60,000
TNL Dormant Accounts	-	-	-	-	66,667
NIHE Homelessness Prevention Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Community Relations Council	-	-	-	-	(1,239)
UK Community Renewal	-	-	-	-	25,948
NIO	-	-	38,723	38,723	31,035
BCC Community Support Recovery	-	-	300	300	1,200
BL Relentless Change	-	-	220,011	220,011	184,710
NIHE Sustaining Tenancies	-	-	24,952	24,952	23,714
Henry Smith Therapeutic	-	-	80,000	80,000	712
CIN - Youth Social Action	-	-	44,864	44,864	4,985
Electorial Commission	-	-	-	-	7,500
EA Core	-	-	-	-	5,305
HPF	-	-	-	-	52,000
North South Youth Forum	-	-	84,664	84,664	-
Community Knowledge Fund	-	-	2,000	2,000	8,000
Youth Start	-	-	92,173	92,173	-
BCC	-	-	9,950	9,950	-
The Pilgrim Trust	-	-	30,000	30,000	30,000
General	(15,153)	-	-	(15,153)	44,297
Electoral Commission	7,500	-	-	7,500	-
BCC Medium Grant	-	-	3,800	3,800	-
CVS	-	-	3,125	3,125	-
DFC	-	-	13,750	13,750	-
QUB	-	-	-	-	-
	42,347	106,829	1,016,591	1,165,767	1,024,049

4 Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Core Contribution	-	-	-	-	1,542
Other Income	-	-	-	-	-
Room Hire	450	-	-	450	11,619
Training					
	450	-	-	**450**	13,161

5 Governance

	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Audit Fee	-	-	7,164	7,164	3,900
Depreciation	13,312	-	-	13,312	10,201
	13,312	-	7,164	20,476	14,101

6 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

		Unrestricted £	Translink £	NIHE YCNI (Core) £	Amplify £	Youth Network for Peace £	Big Lottery Relentless Change £	Other projects £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Salary & Pension Costs	S	171,554	11,766	-	-	-	-	597,839	781,159	790,822
Facilitation Costs	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	790	790	-
Rent	S	6,219	-	-	-	-	-	19,086	25,305	23,987
Insurance	S	62	-	-	-	-	-	2,541	2,603	2,306
Heat & Light	S	2,539	-	-	-	-	-	6,445	8,984	4,802
Telephone	S	1,073	-	-	-	-	-	5,837	6,910	12,430
Postage, Stat & Photocopying	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,488
Finance Costs & Bank Fees	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,294
Cleaning Costs	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,882
Room Hire	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,460	1,460	-
Accreditation	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,299	8,299	-
Legal & Professional	D	316	-	-	-	-	-	-	316	997
Training	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	860	860	4,771
General Expenses	D	1,225	-	-	-	-	-	32,658	77,288	15,973
Staff Travel	D	2,236	165	-	-	7,459	35,946	7,943	10,344	13,237
Members and Volunteer Travel	D	11	-	-	-	-	-	4,195	4,206	7,121
Residential Costs	D	-	46	-	-	-	-	23,300	23,346	20,168
Resources	D	-	28	-	-	-	-	3,093	3,121	-
Computer Running Costs	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,700
Conference/seminars/activities	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,503	2,503	5,446
PR	D	1,125	-	-	-	-	-	4,516	5,641	10,340
Evaluation Costs	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	44	2,000
Support and admin	D	1,216	-	-	-	-	-	29,507	30,723	33,615
Repairs	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,134
Other Programme Costs	D	58,611	10,822	-	-	-	-	145,622	215,055	243,073
		246,187	22,827	-	-	7,459	35,946	- 896,538	1,208,957	1,240,092

Basis of Apportionment of costs

D – Direct costs attributed to the projects

S – Costs apportioned to the projects on the basis of staff time

7 Fixed Assets

	Leasehold improvements	Computer equipment	Furniture and other equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1st April 2023	31,378	72,478	70,796	174,652
Additions	19,712	2,605	6,330	28,647
At 31st March 2024	51,090	75,083	77,126	203,299
Depreciation				
At 1st April 2023	(8,787)	(62,902)	(62,092)	(133,781)
Charge for year	(6,508)	(3,045)	(3,759)	(13,312)
At 31st March 2024	**(15,295)**	**(65,947)**	**(65,851)**	**(147,093)**
Net Book Value				
At 31st March 2024	**35,795**	**9,136**	**11,275**	**56,206**
At 31st March 2023	22,591	9,576	8,704	40,871

8. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Debtors	3,278	294,240
Prepayments	3,447	3,765
	6,725	298,005

9. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2024	2023
	£	£
Ulster Bank Current Account	334,878	133,643
Ulster Bank Business Reserve Account	584	584
Petty Cash	402	451
	335,864	134,678

10. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	563	16,175
Other creditors	19,637	15,568
	20,200	31,743

11. Reserves

	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Closing Balance £
Restricted					
EA Core	2,196	-	-	-	**2,196**
Ards & North Down B.C	6,833	-	-	-	**6,833**
Peace IV - Amplify	34,547	-	(7,459)	-	**27,088**
Youth Network for Peace	13,180	-	(35,946)	22,766	-
Big Lottery Relentless Charge	5,762	-	-	-	**5,762**
Paul Hamlyn - Follow on Fund	1,289	-	-	-	**1,289**
DFC/NIHE	(54,216)	110,000	(55,991)	207	-
BCC	1,625	986	(765)	-	**1,846**
Tudor Trust	42,734	62,000	(69,410)	-	**35,324**
BCC - Covid Recovery Grant	-	-	(191)	191	-
Henry Smith	(7,713)	59,800	(64,177)	12,090	-
TNL Dormant Accounts	34,072	-	(34,483)	411	-
CFNI	(42,461)	135,493	(154,982)	-	**(61,950)**
BL Relentless Change	420	220,011	(195,770)	-	**24,661**
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	1	-	-	-	**1**
The Pilgrim Trust	(3,345)	30,000	(26,624)	-	**31**
UK Community Renewal	2,987	-	(262)	-	**2,725**
BCC Community Support	-	300	-	-	**300**
203. NIHE Sustaining Tenancies	(922)	24,952	(24,733)	-	**(703)**
204. Henry Smith Therapeutic	(33,486)	80,000	(27,696)	-	**18,818**
205. TEO Good Relations 2022-2023	(43,827)	-	(51)	5,487	**(38,391)**
206. NIO 22/23	(38,723)	38,723	-	-	-
CIN - Youth Social Action	(9,154)	44,864	(21,238)	-	**14,472**
208 - Electorial Commission	(7,339)	-	-	7,339	-
210 - HPF	11,008	-	(34)	-	**10,974**
Victims & Surviors Comm	(16,450)	-	-	16,450	-
North South Youth Forum	-	84,664	(86,297)	1,633	-
Community knowledge fund	8,000	2,000	(10,000)	-	-
Youth Start	-	92,173	(112,846)	-	**(20,673)**
BCC	-	9,950	(18,152)	-	**(8,202)**
BCC Medium Grant	-	3,800	-	-	**3,800**
Commission for Victims and Survivors	-	3,125	-	-	**3,125**
DFC	-	13,750	-	-	**13,750**
	(92,982)	1,016,591	(947,107)	66,574	**43,076**
Unrestricted					
Designated unrestricted	77,782	106,829	(22,827)	-	**161,784**
General unrestricted	457,011	42,797	(259,499)	(66,574)	**173,735**
	534,793	149,626	(282,326)	(66,574)	**335,519**
Total Reserves	441,811	1,166,217	(1,229,433)	-	**378,595**

Note: £66,574 (2023: £15,689) has been transferred from the general unrestricted fund to the restricted reserve balances to clear any balances in deficit, in which further funding is not expected to be received.

12. Net assets

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Fixed Assets	56,206	-	-	56,206
Current Assets	17,529	161,784	43,076	322,389
Net assets	173,735	161,784	43,076	378,595

13. Contingent Liabilities

The charity may become liable to repay grants received from various funders should it fail to comply with conditions set out in the relevant letters of offer.

14. Reconciliation of movement of funds to net cashflows from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds	(63,216)	(216,983)
Depreciation	13,312	10,201
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	291,280	52,104
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(11,543)	(41,125)
	229,833	(195,803)

Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102677

Annual report

NI YOUTH FORUM
PROMOTING YOUTH VOICE

WWW.NIYF.ORG



NI Youth Forum's ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Published November 2024

NI Youth Forum projects work to promote:

YOUTH VOICE
SOCIAL JUSTICE
PEACE BUILDING

NI Youth Forum
Youth Manifesto for Change

Youth led consultation response to the Draft Programme for Govenment.

NI Youth Forum
Youth Programme for Change

Youth led policy document focused on young people's key asks for change.

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WHO WE ARE

The Youth Forum is an independent, youth led regional body. We support young people to have a say on issues that affect their lives.



OUR PURPOSE
To promote the voices of young people and speak truth to Power. By working together we speak more loudly and we will make sure those in positions of power will hear your opinion.



OUR VISION
All young people have opportunities to have a say on issues that affect their lives.



OUR MISSION
Our mission is to empower young people to challenge disadvantage and inequality; effect change and contribute to building a just, fair and equal society.

OUR VALUES



YOUTH LED
The Youth Forum is youth led and adult supported.



YOUTH VOICES
All young people have the right to have a say and their views should be taken into account and acted upon.



CARING
We want everyone who works with us to feel safe, respected and valued. Kindness and how we treat one another is at the heart of what we do.



RIGHTS BASED
We are a rights based organisation and our practice is embedded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



EQUALITY, DIVERISTY AND INCLUSION
All young people have a say; are welcome and should be supported.






NI YOUTH FORUM
YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE
OUR 4 BIG ASKS ARE:
A Minister for Youth
A political role who is responsible for our issues and rights.
An All-Party Working Group for young people
Government and young people working together on issues impacting young people.
Knowledge of Rights
Rights education from a young age is key.
A Bill of Rights that protects young people
An official document that ensures all young people's rights are included in law.
I WILL PROMOTE THE 4 BIG ASKS FOR THE YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE



CHAIR'S REPORT

The NI Youth Forum continue to advocate for positive, progressive and inclusive change that will make a real difference to our members everyday lives.



It is an absolute honour and privilege to serve as the NI Youth Forum Chairperson, working alongside our Executive Committee, staff team, young people, our funders and other stakeholders to promote youth voice.

I would like to thank Oisín-Tomás Ó'Raghallaigh, my predecessor, and everyone who served on our previous Executive Committee throughout the 2021-23 term. The significant body of work documented within this annual report is a testament to the leadership and drive shown by our Committee and their commitment to our organisation.

Moreover, our staff team go above and beyond to support the young people we work with across the NI Youth Forum. I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Chris Quinn who left the NI Youth Forum after more than a decade as our Director in September 2023. His leadership and dedication to youth voice, social justice and peace building has laid solid foundations upon which our new Executive Committee and leadership team continue to build.

On the day I was elected by our membership to serve as Chairperson, the role of Director remained vacant. One of my initial priorities was to ensure the organisation had a leadership team in place to deliver upon our strategic plan and operational objectives in the years to come.

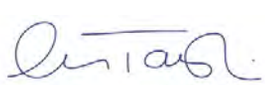
I am incredibly grateful for the support, mentorship and tireless dedication shown by Amanda Stewart and Natalie Corbett who served as the organisation's Interim Directors from September 2023 to April 2024. Their leadership and support in guiding our organisation over those critical months cannot be overstated and I am so pleased that both are now in post as Assistant Directors.

This Annual Report attempts to incapsulate the breadth and depth of work staff and young people deliver here at the NI Youth Forum. From giving evidence on the implementation of the UNCRC in Geneva, closing out the youth work process with one Executive Committee, and electing their successors, this has been a year of transformational change at NI Youth Forum.

Events such as the North-South Youth Peace Summit, meetings of the new All Party Group on Youth Participation and our part in the Welcome to Your Vote Week campaign all highlight the role our Executive Committee and members have had in influencing government policy at a strategic level.

There is however a lot more to do. From working to ensure we deliver sustained, transformational government that meets the needs of young people, to building a fairer, more equitable and just society. We need meaningful change that is underpinned by youth voice, social justice and peace building. It is essential that this change is felt by everyone across our society.

I look forward to working with our membership, our Executive Committee, new CEO, Paul Dynes, our wider staff team and our stakeholders to promote youth rights and deliver change, together.



Cohen Taylor
Chairperson and Trustee

CEO'S REPORT

2023-24 has been a momentous year for the Northern Ireland Youth Forum - one of great success accompanied by organisational evolution. Our annual report celebrates the many accomplishments of our members over the past 12 months, and illustrates the depth of work being delivered by NIYF's staff team, who continuously go that extra mile in supporting young people. We take pride in the variety of opportunities that were provided to young people while staying true to our core purpose of creating positive social change through meaningful youth participation.



This financial year has seen young people at NIYF achieve the first of their key asks from our Youth Manifesto for Change, the establishment of an All-Party Working Group on Youth Participation. In February 2024, when the Government returned, an All-Party Working Group was formally constituted with NIYF to fill the secretariat duties. This year has seen us support young people and work alongside key partners in the sector to not only bring youth voices to the decision-making table but to act upon young people's views, thoughts and opinions.

In September 2023, our long-serving director of 15 years, Chris Quinn, was appointed as Northern Ireland's Commissioner for Children and Young People. This achievement was celebrated by NIYF staff, members and partners as we felt it was not only a reflection of all Chris's hard work but vindication of the great achievements of NIYF during his service, thanks for everything Chris. Also, a special thanks to Natalie Corbett and Amanda Stewart for their time as joint deputy directors and joint interim directors. Their experience and dedication were invaluable during this period of transition.

At NIYF's AGM in September 2023, a new Executive Committee was elected/co-opted. I would like to thank previous Executive Committee members who had a profound impact on NIYF throughout their term. Specifically, you played a leading role in NIYF's organisational rebrand, the development and launch of a Quality Assurance Framework, the design and delivery of the Youth Manifesto for Change, constitutional reform and much more. The leadership of our previous Chairperson, Oisín-Tomãs Ó'Raghallaigh, has been instrumental in the strategic development of NIYF. The new Executive Committee have built upon these foundations under the leadership of Cohen Taylor.

This is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the NIYF. I am very proud to have been appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Ireland Youth Forum. I look forward to building on the amazing achievements of 2023-24.

Paul Dynes
Chief Executive Officer

YOUTH VOICE 23-24

UNCRC Government Sitting, Geneva 17th - 20th May 2023



AGM 2023, NIYF 30th September 2023



TYF Summit, Windsor Park Belfast, Friday 24th November 2024



Welcome to Your Vote Week, Stormont Event 29th January 2024



North South Peace Day, Belfast City Hall 23rd March 2024



SOCIAL JUSTICE 23-24

- Youth Start Launch, Belfast – 27th July 2023
- Elephant Coming Out of the Dark – Critical Conversation on Mental Health and Well-being in Education, Belfast City Hall, 1st December 2023
- The Showcase, Housing and Homelessness, 17th August 2024
- Homeless Awareness Week social media campaign, “Homeless not Helpless”, 4th -10th December 2024
- APG on Youth Participation, Mental Health meetings - 24/04/23, 6/06/23, 04/09/23, 16/10/23, 27/11/23, 29/01/24, 04/03/24.

STRATEGIC PLAN



Our Strategic plan is set by our executive committee and forms the basis of the how we do our work. It is based on 4 key areas of work:

1. MEMBERSHIP

Everyone aged between 11 – 25 who lives in NI can become a member. We want to make sure as many people know this and help them to take part in what we do.

2. PARTICIPATION

By participation we mean having a say on issues that are important to you. We have a wide range of programmes and activities for young people to take part in that are enjoyable and meaningful.

3. REAL LIFE EXPERIENCES

Our life experiences shape who we are and how we see the world. We want to help young people understand their own circumstances and experience new things.

4. CORPORATE

This is the stuff that helps us in our work. How we support our staff and how we raise our funds.

Our current strategic plan 'Unmuted' has laid a solid foundation for what has been a phenomenal year. We have worked hard to enhance young people's opportunities to Speak Truth to Power locally and internationally, as well as to continue to develop and embed new services and ways of working.

Both our outgoing and incoming Executive Committee have benefited from enhanced support helping them to grow in confidence and make changes to the way the organisation operates.

YOUTH MANIFESTO

OUR MANIFESTO HAS 4 OVERARCHING ASKS:

- A Minister for Youth
- **An All Party Working Group for Youth Participation** ✓
- Knowledge of Rights
- A Bill of Rights

ALL PARTY GROUP

Young People at the NIYF achieved the first of their four key asks as an All Party Working Group (APG) on Youth Participation was established, creating a mechanism for young people to engage directly with decision-makers on issues important to them. The NIYF acts as the secretariat on the APG, which has seen key community stakeholders and young people lobby on mental health and homelessness. Issues which detrimentally impact the lives of many young people

OUR MANIFESTO PINPOINTS SPECIFIC ISSUES OF CONCERN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

These are: Mental Health | Youth Voice | Education | Housing and Homelessness | Poverty | Policing, Justice and Safety | Transport | Environment | Peace Building

The principles of equality, diversity and inclusion underpin these themes. Empowering young people to challenge disadvantage and inequality.

THE YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR CHANGE HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO:

- Department of Foreign Affairs Conference
- Seanad Éireann sitting
- Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
- Fine Gael conference
- Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
- United Nation Committee on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 92nd session
- Northern Ireland Office
- US State Department
- The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
- Advisor to President Biden at the Whitehouse
- British and Irish Embassies NYC, DC and Boston
- NI Bureau and the Scottish Government in Brussels

QUALITY ASSURANCE

In their previous term, the Executive Committee developed and launched NI Youth Forum Defined. A Quality Assurance Framework outlining what we do as an organisation, how we do it and how we reflect on our performance and plan for the future.



'Defined' consists of three strands which are:

- Developing People
- Developing the Organisation
- Developing Youth Work Practice

GOVERNANCE

The NI Youth Forum makes connections through online engagement and social media platforms with stakeholders including young people. The organisation has online profiles and all NI Youth Forum staff have online organisational profiles. NI Youth Forum staff have direct engagement with young people hosting 'Have Your Say Day' events, including the signposting to other youth organisations, outreach projects in communities and funded partnerships with statutory bodies and the private sector. We receive funding for our work from many sources with most of our programmes being commissioned through tender applications. We aim to fill gaps in voluntary youth work provision across the region and deliver high quality, fit for purpose provision that meets targets and fulfils its aims.

Our diverse funding streams provide flexibility within the organisation and allow the NI Youth Forum to work on a broad range of programme themes ranging from Speaking Truth to Power, Mental Health, Transport, Good Relations, Housing and Homelessness and much more. We are funded by the public, private and third sector. We ensure our management committee are aware of the rules and responsibilities of their role through training, policy access and discussion, review of our code of conduct, standing orders and constitutional review and engagement with organisations such as NICVA to communicate statutory requirements of holding a trustee position.

The organisation publishes an operational plan each quarter along with an annual report such as this, and a strategic plan every five years. All programmes and projects have in depth evaluation from all stakeholders which is reviewed in line management and supervision meetings to shape and improve practice. Each funder sets out programme specific targets and benchmarks which staff collate and produce programme specific evidence to demonstrate meeting such targets. Retainment of young people across multiple programmes is also used as an indication that such young people have experienced quality provision which has made them more likely to return for an additional programme. Capacity building within young people through both social and emotional change and attainment of additional qualifications speaks to their personal development within NI Youth Forum programmes and projects.

GLOBAL YOUTH WORK

Over the past number of years, the Northern Ireland Youth Forum have endeavoured to provide developmental international opportunities for young people and staff. In recent years we have seen young people access opportunities to engage in nationally celebrated programs in Switzerland, Palestine/Israel, France, Belgium and America.

In May 2023, young people from our executive committee had the opportunity to travel to Geneva to inform the reporting process, advocate on emerging issues and engage with decision makers reporting back to the UNCRC committee. This allowed for young people to have direct influence in the concluding observations which are set for government action. The key themes highlighted emerging concern around the cost-of-living crisis on young people's lives.

A number of our members engaged international exchanges involving young people from Switzerland, Palestine, Israel and both Northern and Southern Ireland. These programmes were facilitated in the Alps and Jura mountains in Switzerland, on Cape Clear Island off the coast of County Cork and different parts of the middle east. The experience has been described as incredible and life changing. The program focused on peace building, building work for local communities and political education.

A new opportunity arose this year were one of our members travelled to the Nicosia area of Cyprus with Her Story Ireland. The project focused on the role that local woman had in peace building in the area. This was an inspirational experience filled with learning that would be brought back and fed into the peace building and young women's work at the forum.





Staff were invited to present at the annual Ali Forney conference in New York City in April 2024. This global conference involved partners from across USA, South America, Central America, Africa and Europe. Ali Forney is an organisation that works with homeless LGBTQ youth in Harlem. The purpose of the conference was developing youth work practice when engaging young people. The NIYF presented on their Youth Apprentice Model which employs young people with lived experience of homeless. This was a fantastic opportunity, and we continue to engage in the this is global forum.
Young people and staff attended One Young World's global summit conference that was held in Belfast. The summit was a chance for the next crop of international young leaders to engage in workshops, seminars and attend speeches form some of the worlds most influential people. The young people brought this learning back to the NIYF and adopt into practice and programs.

The Northern Ireland Youth Forum partnered with University of Ulster to develop an evaluation of the Global Service Learning delivered this year. The report incorporates input from young people and staff while linking their experiences to youth work theory. This report can be found on our website www.niyf.org



OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Our Executive Committee

The NI Youth Forum is a youth led body. We are governed by a management committee of young people. We have been able to provide additional support to our Executive Committee through the National Lottery Dormont Accounts Fund.

The term for the Executive Committee 2021-2023 ended in 2023 – some key highlights of their final few months in post include: Establishment of the Cross-Party Working Group on Youth Participation and later All-Party Group on Youth Participation Impact Report with Ulster University Delivering on NIYF's Youth Manifesto for Change Various 'Speaking Truth to Power' engagements including the UN Committee UK Taskforce members, the NIYF Political Champions and the PSNI Chief Constable. The members also closed their term sharing their stories with the wider staff team. To wrap the process the executive committee went on residential to reflect together at one last beach campfire - and a surprise appearance of some dolphins!

The new Executive Committee for 2023-2026 were elected on 30th September 2023. Once the full 20 were on board, we got started on introducing the roles to the Executive Committee members - including discussing our constitution and completing training on: governance, HR & recruitment and participation, lobbying and democracy training. They also took part in teambuilding as an Executive Committee and with the NIYF staff team.

The new NIYF Executive Committee have also been representing youth voice on a range of platforms. Cohen, our NIYF Chairperson represents NIYF on the Shared Island Youth Forum; Aoife, our NIYF vice-chairperson went on an international trip to Cyprus to learn more about women's role in peace-building; and all of our NIYF Executive Committee members are in subgroups to support promoting youth voice on areas within our Youth Manifesto for change.

This has been seen through supporting events and advocating at the All-Party Group on Youth Participation. Our new Executive Committee have spearheaded the recruitment process of our new Director and we were delighted to ensure young people were a part of this important change.

All-Party Group
on Youth Participation





TRANSLINK YOUTH FORUM

Translink Youth Forum

Translink Youth Forum aims to improve public transport for young people across the region and ensure their voice is heard to decision makers and adults in power.

15 young people aged 14-24 from across NI meet on a Monthly basis to discuss all things transport, with further involvement in other Translink initiatives throughout the year.

Translink Youth Forum have continued to work alongside Translink to ensure young people are in the driving seat with regards to having their voice heard and meaningful positive change taking place with regards public transport.

A focus and passionate group of young people who are motivated to support Translink to bring about further change and ensure they have the best possible services available to them no matter if you live in the city or rurally.

Some recent highlights included:

- Taking part in Translink consultations.
- Site visits to the New Belfast Central Station and feedback provided to make improvements for young people.
- The design and launch of a peer led educational resource 'Change makers' which aimed to encourage dialogue on sustainable travel and the environment, this was delivered at COP26.
- Designed and hosted Translink Youth Summit November 2023 @ National Football Stadium, Windsor Park with over 100 young people in attendance.






Translink Youth Forum (TYF) in Partnership with Translink, is a real platform for young people to share their views and opinions on public transport with the leadership of Translink. The Youth Forum support and look forward to the finish of the new Belfast Grand Central Station, This will see further increase of passengers and will attract more young people to use public transport and accessibility to Belfast and other town and cities around NI.

TYF, has given young people a voice and helps to reach out across the region to hear the voices of those living rurally and often those voices unheard.

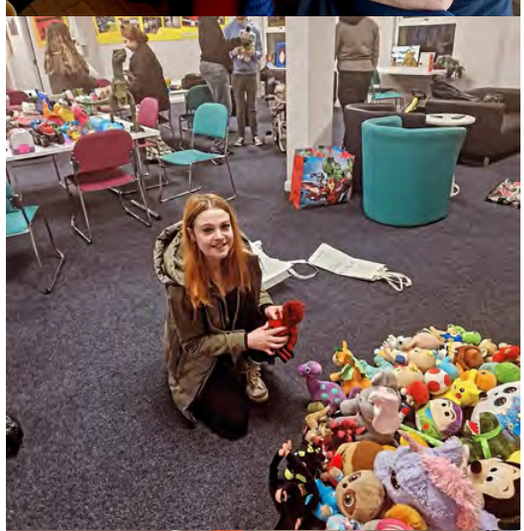
Translink Youth Summit 2023 @ the National Stadium Windsor Park was attended by over 100 young people representing schools from across Northern Ireland. Students had the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops and a Q&A with Chris Conway CEO Translink, Chris Quinn NI Childrens' Commissioner, Noyona Chundur of CEO Consumer Council along with Declan Lynch (Antrim GAA) and Marrisa Callaghan (NI Women) and Rachel Telford (TYF Member).

Housing Executive

NIHE YOUTH FORUM











NIHE Youth Forum

The NIHE Youth Forum has been operational since 2018, with NIYF's partnership with NIHE dating back to 2008. This year saw the project develop and grow with now a 2-step phase. We have the development phase and the shadow/steering group phase.

NIHE Development group – The group have been extremely active with young people engaging in personal and social development, residentials, social action, strategic planning and leadership workshops. Young people have completed bespoke training delivered by supporting communities to expand their knowledge and equip them to speak truth to power. This training has helped young people develop an understanding of community development, leadership, committee structures and code of conduct. Another key part of their capacity training was training in housing rights delivered by youth apprentices at the NIYF.

The social action project- The NIHE development group run a Christmas appeal which was a huge success in helping those in need. The project was able to provide food, sanitary products, male and female toiletries, toys for kids, gas and electric top ups which was then delivered to individuals and families in need to ensure Christmas time was enjoyable.

NIHE Steering group – The NIHE steering group includes participants who completed the development phase of the project in recent years. The young people worked alongside others in the housing sector to represent the opinions of young people on housing matters. This involved:

- Shadowing Good Relations Officers form the NIHE
- Shadowing Community Development Officers from Supporting Communities
- Engaging in cultural and community-based activities
- Engaging in the housing community network (HCN)

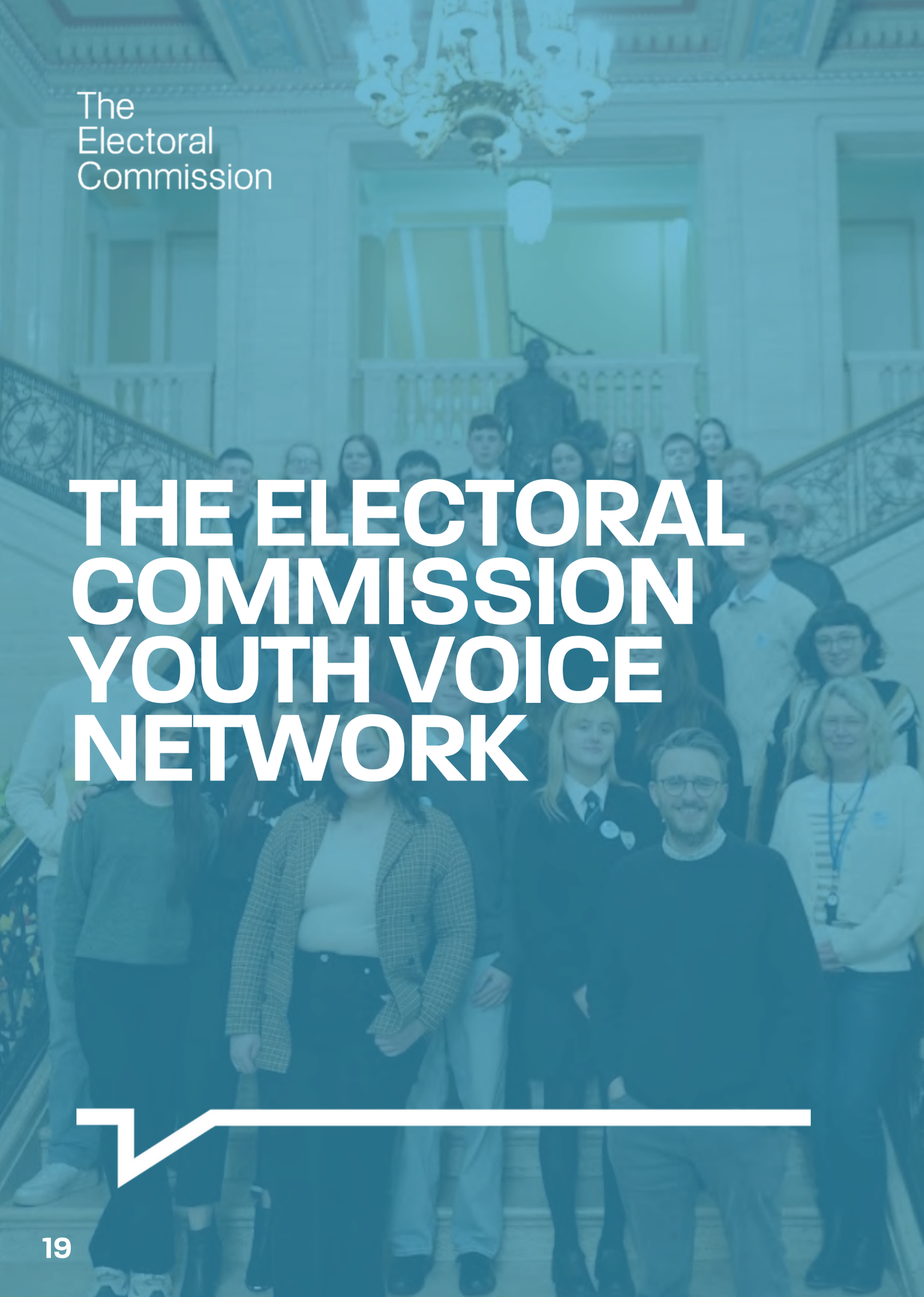
The steering group meet monthly to provide sector updates and connect their learning as they strengthen youth voice within NIHE structures.

Young people engaging at Central housing forum and the wider housing community network has been a great achievement. It has been an ongoing process pushing to place young people in arenas to influence and shape policy regarding housing... This is only the beginning, the participants involved are passionate and motivated to fully advocate on behalf of all young people. Young people are continuously supported by the youth work team during this process.

This year the project has worked with 24 young people across both phases of the project. The young people have

- Grew in confidence and self-belief
- Built positive supportive relationships
- Developed their knowledge of the statutory and voluntary housing service
- Developed an understanding of their rights
- Have had their voice heard in strategic arenas
- Supported the most marginalised in society

The year has been filled with many achievements that the young people should be proud of. Both phases of the project have went from strength to strength with young peoples drive and energy being central to all of this.



THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION YOUTH VOICE NETWORK

The Electoral Commission Youth Voice Network

This year we were delighted to continue working with the Electoral Commission. On this programme we work with young people who want to learn more about or have an interest in promoting politics and democracy to other young people. Another role of this group is to take part in consultations from the Electoral Commission on resources, campaigns, and messaging - an example of this is how the Youth Voice Network influenced the decision of this year's theme of welcome to your vote week – 'Your Voice Matters.

The young people involved in the programme want to ensure the electoral commission has a more "user-friendly" approach by ensuring that it meets everyone's needs and that young people, and adults, can understand the language used, rather than being filled with political jargon - which some people may struggle to understand. As part of this programme, we have explored what democracy means, looked at different government systems, developed an understanding of the role of government and political representatives and we are eager to keep the momentum building.



As a group, the participants want to have their say in a meaningful way by influencing politicians with events such as these and encouraging young people to actively involve themselves more in democracy, however big or small a role they feel that they can or want to play. This year for 'Welcome to Your Vote Week' the Electoral Commission Youth Voice Network decided to host an event in Stormont to bring together young people, MLAs, and officials from the Electoral Commission to discuss youth engagement in politics and the importance of voting.

As part of 'Welcome to Your Vote Week', the participants created unique social media content which has over 3.2k views on TikTok and 3.9k on Instagram & on Facebook. The group discussed the lack of political education young people in Northern Ireland receive and to address this decided to create a resource filled with activities and youth friendly information aiming to educate young people about politics and our government structures. This was launched as part of 'Welcome to Your Vote Week' 2024.

An Electoral Commission Youth Voice Network Participant said, "This group has allowed me to meet with other young people who want to learn more about or have an interest in promoting politics and democracy to young people - it is like a breath of fresh air given the attitudes to politics here in NI and really without this group I would never have had this opportunity, or the opportunity to speak at an event in Stormont".

The Community Foundation Northern Ireland

Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

ELEPHANT COMING OUT OF THE DARK









Elephant Coming out of the Dark

Elephant Coming Out of the Dark (ECOOTD) has been involved in some great lobbying and campaigning work throughout 2023/24. The programme grew stronger and became more established making more connection's in the sector as the year went on. The power in youth voice was evident and people started listening more.

This program highlights key recommendations for change by young people for young people in terms of mental health services in Northern Ireland. It established key asks which the Elephant Coming Out of the Dark programme continues to lobby and campaign for.

From April 23, the youth steering group were involved in many different projects:

April to May 23 - Planning for Mental Health Awareness week (Social Media takeover) Young people's
Social Media takeover to support Awareness raising of Mental Health Awareness Week.

June 23 - Self-Care Month with holistic therapies, meditation session, laughter therapy, team building
session.

July – September 23 - Training – Mental Health First Aid, Eating Disorders Awareness, Autism Awareness, etc.

September to October 23 - Planning for World Mental Health Day Event on 10th Oct World Mental
Health Day Event Evaluation of World Mental Health Day Event Support the Cross Party Working
Group for Youth Participation who are currently exploring Mental Health as their topical issue.

November - December 23 - Planning for Practitioner Event at City Hall with Secondary Schools Student Union Northern Ireland (SSUNI) Planning for Social Action Projects Practitioner Event with SSUNI at City Hall on 1st Dec Social Action projects – website support services for website creation and 'Spreading Kindness' candy cane giving at Christmas Market.

January to March 24 - Follow up meeting with Dept of Education and the Well-being teams in the HSC Trust Vision boards and progression Closing Residential Evaluation of the 2-year programme 1-2-1 support for progression.

Key Data:

- 18 young people across NI engaged in the ECOOTD Youth Steering Group.
- 418 young people completed LIFEMAPS delivery across NI.
- 3 Key Youth-led Events – Mental Health Awareness Week Social Media Takeover 15th – 21st May 2023.
- World Mental Health Day Youth Event @ NIYF with over 100 young people on 10th October 2023.
- Support with Cross Party Working Group at Stormont – highlight Mental Health as young people's top issue.

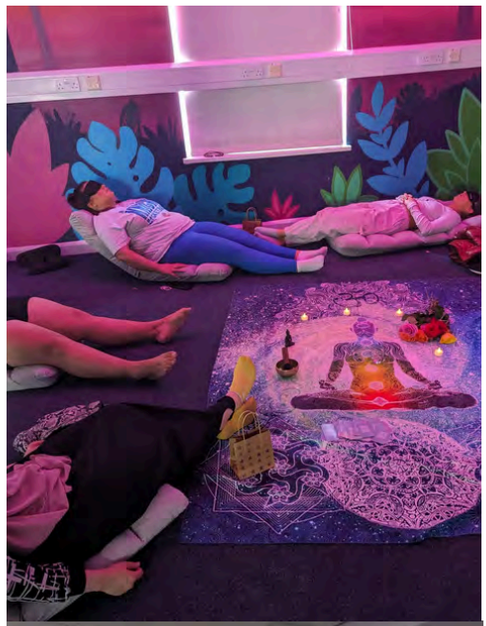
"The Elephant program has had a huge positive impact on me over the last 2 years. It has definitely come with its challenges, but none that I couldn't overcome with the support of other participants involved. This journey with Elephant has been amazing from the very beginning, I've made friends that I will never part with and have made memories that I shall never forget. I have always struggled with making new friends and using my voice. However, with the Elephant program over time, I found my confidence grew and I began to find it rather easy to voice my opinion as it was valued within the group" –, L.W ECOOTD Steering Group Member

"Even though I was late to the party, I was welcomed to the Elephant family with open arms. From presenting a World Mental Health Day event to 'Spreading Kindness' at Christmas, I have been able to build my confidence, grow as a person and help the community more because of Elephant, while making lasting friendships along the way! It was an opportunity I am proud to of taken part in" – J.R, ECOOTD Steering Group Member

The
Henry Smith
Charity

founded in 1628

THE HOME PROJECT







The Home Project

Over the past 2 years the Home Project has allowed the NIYF to adopt a therapeutic approach when supporting our members. This wrap around approach has been invaluable as young people present with complex needs and struggle to access the relevant mantal health support in a timebound fashion. Our youth work staff have been able to embed a therapeutic approach alongside their youth work practice. This approach has proven hugely successful and over the past 2 years we have been able to support over 200 young people.

This year has seen us support similar numbers of young people and the project has provided essential support to some of the most vulnerable in in society including:

- Those at risk of homelessness
- Young people facing mental ill health
- Young mothers
- Young men engaging in risk taking behaviour.
- Those presenting in crisis and a risk of suicide

A key element on the Home Project has been our counselling service. Our counsellors are trained to work with young people facilitating person-centred and solution focused therapy. We pride ourselves on the young people being able to access the counselling service within a number of days, this has been pivotal in ensuring effective intervention.

For the young people involved in the Home project, we have adopted a needs led approach which shaped the support provided. The young people who were vulnerably housed opted for a one-to-one support service which assessed their situation and through a peer led approach make choices and take action to improve their lives. The young people were also supported in other areas of their life as the focused on money management, connecting with community and improving their mental health.

Our young mothers engaged in a weekly group work support programme which improved their mental wellbeing. This consisted of peer-to-peer support and collaborative work with the Falls women centre to create a tailor-made wellbeing project which run for 6 months. The program seen the young mums engage in structured personal training session with 2 skilled coaches at Academy1 Fitness as they improved their physical and mental fitness. Throughout the entirety of this program, we provided childcare for the young women, this rest bite has had a profound impact on their outlook.

The Home project has also created gender specific spaces for both male and female members. Our young women's work seen us engage homeless young people and newcomer young people as we offered both group work and one to one support. The program ran for 4 months looking at the concept of self-care. The girls engaged in mindfulness sessions and used art as tool for expression. The Project also supported the young women on a one to one basis around their housing situation and through times of crisis. Our male focused project seen us engage with young men at risk. We adopted a group work and one to one approach as we worked with young men for 4 months. Throughout their group work process the young men engaged in art therapy and created a joint community art piece. The final element of the project seen the young men engage in health and fitness project with a skilled PT that focused on improving overall wellbeing.

The Home project has been invaluable to growth of the NIYF. It has allowed us to tie a therapeutic support service into our youth work approach which has broadened our services and furthered our reach in regards supporting young people. We are proud of the fact that we have been able to support those in times of crises and over time watch them grow and develop into someone that they are proud off.

Another key element of the project was our residential work with our groups. The residentials provided some of the most memorable moments as amazing relationships were built, and the magic happened.

"The project has turned me from a boy to a man"

" I would have been lost without counselling, I really don't know were I would be without it"

Who we have worked with:
Counselling services | 21 young people with 212 sessions delivered | Focused Therapeutic Group work | 72 young people | One to one work | 22 young people

Housing Executive

MY PLACE PROJECT



My PLACE Project

Northern Ireland Youth Forum identified a gap in housing support in relation to tenancy sustainment for those aged 18-30.Young people at times felt lost when faced with the challenges of running a household and they struggled to access the necessary support. The Housing Executive listened to these concerns and supported us to employ a trainee youth support worker who would support Housing Executive tenants.

To date the project has supported over 31 young people from South & East Belfast. Many of these young people have presented with multiple complex needs such as mental ill health, addiction, hording and agoraphobia. The youth support worker built trusting and transformational relationships with young people on the program. The youth support worker placed time, care, and attention to the development needs of the young people while connecting them with the support services within the Housing Executive. The project also made positive connections with local support services that young people could avail of including food banks, community groups, educational support services, mother and toddler groups. We also partnered up with the Cooperative Initiative who delivered a sustaining tenancy OCN which seen 9 young people gain the qualification.

The project has been highly successful at times taking young people from the brink of homelessness to thriving in life. Some participants have re engaged with further education rebuilt positive relationship with family and others for the first time since having a home feel financially secure

The work of the My PLACE Project has been highlighted and celebrated in the public arena on several occasions. A participant was supported to speak at our showcasing event highlighting her journey on the project. A young person who presented in crisis had built herself to a place to present in front of over 50 people including Housing Executive staff, decision makers and young people. She was then invited on to the Lynette Faye show where she shared her story live on air. This built self esteem and confidence within the young person while inspiring others.





THE CHANGE PROJECT

The Change Project

The Change Project is funded by the NI Housing Executive. The project is based on adopting a peer approach to ending youth homelessness and enables NIYF to employ young people with lived experiences to support and educate their peers and speak truth to power on housing and homelessness related issues.

The project has now completed its fifth year of delivery which focused predominately on bringing our Homeless Prevention workshops to young people in schools and youth organisations across Northern Ireland. All groupwork was planned and delivered by our Youth Apprentices with the support of a Relentless Youth Worker.

NIYF Youth Apprentice Shannon Gordon says 'Homeless prevention work is vital, young people in schools and alternative educations are potentially falling through gaps as there is a stigma around homelessness. Many young people believed a friend allowing them to stay on their sofa is just a good friend when the harsh reality is they are homeless. Breaking down barriers and decreasing the stigma around homelessness allows young people to be more open in discussing youth homelessness. Sharing real life experiences of homelessness humanises the issue. DFC also educates young people on housing rights and how the NIHE works and most importantly who can support them if they themselves or someone they know is at risk of homelessness.

In addition to a successful year of programme delivery, Shannon and her colleagues attended the Centre Point's National Youth Homelessness Conference in Coventry where they had a stall to promote NIYF's Youth Apprenticeship Practice Model.







Young people who engaged in DFC Workshops:

Include Youth Armagh: 4 | Include Youth Ballymena: 5 | Include Youth Belfast: 8
Extern Pathways East: 6 | Nelson Street: 5 | Springvale: 25
Lagmore: 30 | Abbey CBS Newry: 15 | Blessed Trinity School: 25
St John's Baptist Portadown: 25 | Keady High School: 80

Youth Apprentice, Shannon states, "I can see that this work has a great impact on young people as they begin to empathise and begin to understand that people's journeys in homelessness don't define them. Also, it educates young people on housing rights and most importantly who can offer them support if they themselves or someone they know is at risk or ends up homeless."

COMMUNITY FUND

RELENTLESS LEADERSHIP PROJECT

SCAN ME FOR VIDEOS!








Relentless Leadership Project

RLP is aimed at working with young people from 16-25 who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or vulnerably housed. The project supports these young people to gain the skills they need for their future by aiming to help them better their relationships with their support networks and communities.

RLP has now completed its second year of delivery and with the ever-growing needs of youth homelessness in Northern Ireland its services are needed now more than ever.

We have continued our work with Belfast Foyer and Flax Foyer and forged a new partnership with the Magnet Young Adult Centre in Newry. Out of these organisations we run our weekly drop-in services and work directly with young people to offer support through their journeys of homelessness and housing issues. RLP promotes personal and social development through experiential learning such as, team building and group work activities. They can also support and advise on housing rights e.g. navigating the NIHE points system, understanding how points allocation works etc. RLP staff can also offer one-to-one support sessions, so participants can voice their needs in a quieter dedicated space for them other than Drop-In. They also have access to therapeutic services like counselling and alternative therapies so to help young people manage their well-being without having to sit on a waiting list before accessing services.

This year seen our accredited University Experience successfully completed by two cohorts of young people, where they gained a level four qualification in Civic Empowerment through the Ulster University.

In December the RLP team and young people took part in our weeklong social media campaign for Homelessness Awareness Week 2023 “Homeless Not Helpless” where they highlighted the issues young people living through youth homelessness are facing, but also celebrated their resilience and determination to keep going through much adversity.

In February 2024 we had the opportunity to travel to Coventry for Centre Point’s National Youth Homelessness Conference where our Youth Apprentices showcased our work on out youth apprentice practise model.

Key data:

Over 200 young people have engaged with RLP services over the last two years.

This year - New Drop-In Service opened in partnership with Magnet YAC, in Newry.

This year - 15 Young people received one to one support and advocacy work.

This year -18 Young people achieved a level four qualification in Civic Empowerment with Ulster University through RLP Uni Experience.

This year - 5 Young people accessed counselling without having to sit on a waiting list.

Nuala McCallam, Flax Foyer Manager comments ‘The Relentless Change Programme has had a major impact on our young people. The leaders provided consistent, targeted group work and mentoring support, identifying challenging goals that enabled our young people to realize and harness their true potential. Our young people thrive on consistency and opportunity, the RLP has provided both with a passionate youth work focus. In the time the project has been facilitated in Flax Foyer, I have witnessed real growth and personal change, a lot of which would not have been possible without the dedication of the RLP team. The young people have challenged their leaders, made mistakes, and learnt many lessons, all helping to shape these young people to live more fulfilling and independent lives. The lives of young people living in Supported Living accommodation can be chaotic and complex, the RLP has given our young people the time out needed to think of a positive future they can believe in!’

Funded by
UK Government

YOUTH START



YouthAction NORTHERN IRELAND · springboard opportunities limited · Prince's Trust Northern Ireland · include YOUTH · START360 · NI YOUTH FORUM · bytes

Youth Start

Youth Start is a regional youth employability project targeting economically inactive young people aged 16-30 years old. The Youth Start consortium is a partnership between 7 leading youth work organisations (Youth Action NI (Lead Partner), Include Youth, Springboard Opportunities, Princes Trust, Start360, NI Youth Forum and BYTES) in NI who use a youth work approach to build young peoples skills for life, learning and work.

The Youth Start project delivers employability and high-quality life skills to support and grow young people's confidence and skills and improve their opportunities to enter, sustain and progress in the labour market, reflecting government priorities and plans to address economic inactivity. Youth Start supports young people to retain employment and to gain essential life and basic skills. Over two years, NIYF will recruit, engage and support 100 young people aged 16 to 30 who are economically inactive.

Young people who have engaged in the Youth Start programme at NIYF have focused on job searching, job application sessions, gaining relevant qualifications, c.v building, participated in work experience programmes, attended skills days, residentials, volunteering, personal and social development programmes and have been successfully supported into employment, education, and training. The programme will continue to support a further 50 plus young people in its second year.



THE
PILGRIM TRUST

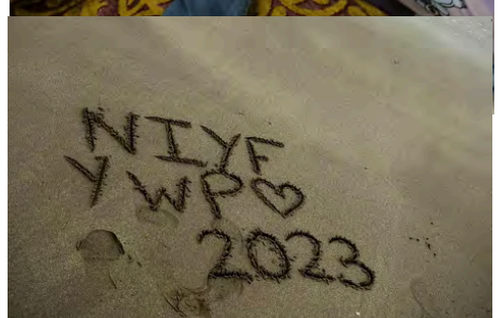
YOUNG WOMEN'S PROJECT

SCAN ME
FOR VIDEO!















Young Women's Project

The young women's wellbeing project was established 2 years ago and funded by The Pilgrim Trust . The programme is funded to work with young women regionally who are aged 16-25. Over the past 2 years we have worked with over 50 young women to support them in all aspects of their lives. with focus on improving their mental wellbeing.

Over the past year the young women's project has been an extremely important support for our members. Our focus is on group work, one to one support, peer support, providing rest bite, alternative therapies, and issue- based work. We found that mental health, anxiety, risk taking behaviours, lack of family support and parenting was the common themes with groups of young women we engaged. This year seen us work with 5 different groups. We met the young women on a weekly basis, created a safe space for them to share their stories, be supported, be listened too, and feel valued to use their voice. This weekly session became the bedrock of the projects.

Our program is inclusive of range of young women. One program worked specifically with young mums while another focused on young women facing housing issues and living through homelessness. We supported several young women on a level 4 university project facilitated at the University of Ulster and have just kicked off collaborative program with Mencap which looks at societal issues affecting young women.

There have been a lot of highlights this year. One of these was our 'HERstory' workshop, an inspirational storytelling session which inspired young women to speak up, speak out and create change. This led to a young woman from the NIYF to travel to Cyprus to take part in an all-women's activism project. The young person came back with so much knowledge and felt it was a massive driving force in fuelling her interest in women's work.

One to one support is a key pillar on the project. Our service works with young women during times of crisis. Others are supported over a sustained period as they focused on improving their living situation and build resilience. Focused counselling was also an option for anyone on the project. Residential work has been recognised by both the young women and the staff as highlights on the project. These have been used as a space for team building, fun based activities, educational workshops and intense wellbeing work. Most importantly this was a safe space for the young women to get away from their day to day lives and enjoy an build meaningful friendships.

Key Data:
52 young women engaged | 5 different female focused projects | 4 Residentials |

The project has had a profound impact on young women's lives. Subjects that were never talked about before were starting to be talked about, young women having the confidence to open up to others about their experiences while others expressed thoughts feelings and aspiration for the first time.

Some of the young women talked about how this program gave them a new confidence. One young person who struggled with anxiety and lacked confidence felt this program pushed her out of her comfort zone and supported her to secure a part time job. This was a goal she had been setting herself for so long but always felt it was unachievable. It was a massive help for her mental health, confidence and financially as the past year had been a struggle. Another young woman struggled with her mental health after childbirth and never thought she would have the opportunity to be in a group with like-minded women who support her. It's hard to put into words the impact this project has had on young women as it is more of a feeling of connectiveness.

These women and their real-life stories are living proof that bringing women together can build a foundation for the rest of their lives. There are stories off new friendships, newfound confidence, positive impact on mental health and young women finally standing up finding their voices and encouraging each other to use them.

"Every woman's success should be an inspiration to another, we're strongest when we cheer each other on"



SUPPORTED BY

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

LEADERS INTERNATIONAL

Leaders International

BBC Children in Need, in partnership with the #iwill Fund and The Hunter Foundation, have funded NI Youth Forum to carry out a youth social action project with young people who have experiences of seeking asylum and safety in NI. The fund enables NIYF to build young people's confidence and skills, empowering them to take an active and leading role in developing solutions to issues which affect their lives and their communities.

The Leaders International Project successfully recruited a group of young people who are actively seeking asylum and safety in NI. The young people who have engaged in the programme which has helped to reduce the isolation and loneliness they feel, has created opportunities for the young people to engage in fun and meaningful activities and allowed them once again to enjoy life and it has also helped to increase their self-esteem and confidence. The young people are currently designing an educational resource and short video to help other young people who are seeking asylum and safety in NI to highlight services and opportunities that are available to them here in NI. The resource under certain themes as agreed by the group that are important also highlight their rights under the UNCRC. This resource will be available in many of the Belfast hotel sites where young asylum seekers are living with their families when they arrive in NI and available in some of the Belfast Colleges where young asylum seekers are studying. This project will run until June 2024.









LGFA TALK PROJECT

LGFA Talk Project

The Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) along with ourselves at NI Youth Forum continue to develop and work in partnership on the LGFA TALK Project, which is available to clubs in Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone.

The LGFA TALK Project is a six-week club-based initiative aimed at increasing the awareness of positive mental health in young members aged 13-18 years, and removing the stigma associated with the subject area. The project will only be rolled out for clubs in the six counties.

The aims of the project are as follows:

- To transform the club into a hub for positive youth mental health in the community
- To remove the stigma attached to discussing mental health amongst young members and their peers, mentors and parents
- To increase awareness of the impact of positive mental health on young members
- To provide tools for the project team to successfully implement the project in their club

Clubs who Participated in this year's programme included;

- Antrim: Patrick Pearses GAC
- Armagh: Madden Raparees
- Derry: Steelstown Brian Ōgs
- Down: Carryduff GAC
- Fermanagh: Belnaleck GAC
- Tyrone: Urney St Columba's

The benefits of being involved in the programme are as follows:

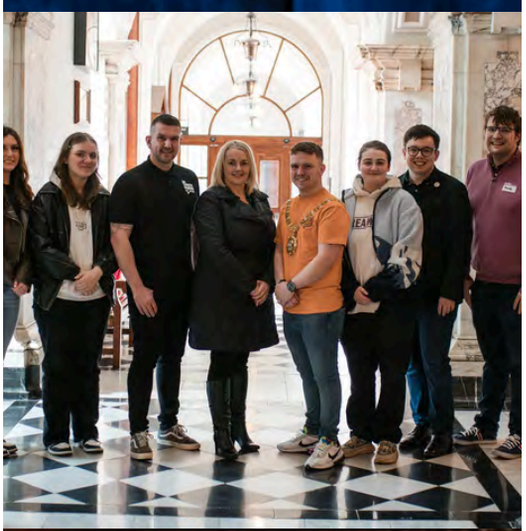
- Exclusive access to LGFA TALK Project Resources.
- Expert education provided to project team through the NI Youth Forum.
- Increased awareness of positive Youth Mental Health in your club.
- Opportunity to share learnings and experiences with like-minded clubs across Northern Ireland.
- Better engagement with youth members in your club.
- Changes in attitudes towards mental health.
- Chance to set a positive example and make an ever-lasting impact on your young members.
- Sense of achievement as a club.
- Recognition as a leader in in this area by LGFA.



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

NORTH-SOUTH YOUTH FORUM







BRYR Ballymun Regional Youth Resource
Youth Work Ireland Louth
Youth Work Ireland Galway

North-South Youth Forum

Partners: Ballymun Regional Youth Resource, Youth Work Ireland Louth & Youth Work Ireland Galway

The North South Youth Forum (NSYF) was established to create a platform for young people to speak truth to power and participate in meaningful youth-led engagement across the island of Ireland. The NSYF has been a driving force for consultation, cooperation, and action on issues for young people on a cross-border basis.

This includes meeting and engaging with many stakeholders across this island around the NSYF's vision and mission, with particular emphasis on seeking the support of political representatives to listen to young people and to take action. Its main purpose is for young people across the island to work on issues of common interest to make meaningful changes at individual, peer, community, and societal levels.

Over the past year, the NSYF has built on the amazing work which happened in phase 1 of the programme in 2021/22. We recruited a new cohort of young people to represent different regions of the island and began a process of team building and began to develop an understanding of the challenges and opportunities young people face in each region and explore the core issues which young people face.

As part of the programme, young people took part in core training focused on rights, democracy, and lobbying. The training was centred around what the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is, what rights young people have both North and South, what is a democracy and how can young people lobby and advocate for change. Participants also worked with university lecturers to explore history including how the border came about, the Troubles, the Belfast Good Friday Agreement and Brexit - to name a few key moments.

Throughout the programme, members came together every month online for team building and training. We have also had 'Together Days' where the NSYF partners and young people come together in person to develop their relationships, take part in training to learn more about our history and the challenges that young people face and to speak truth to power.

Throughout the programme, members of the NSYF have identified the issues most important to them and young people and met and engaged with local and regional politicians ranging from councillors, TD's, MLA's, MPs, and Government Ministers to make their voice heard and advocate for the change they wanted to see. A huge achievement of the NSYF was being able to present to the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in the Oireachtas in February 2024. This committee is made up of TD's, Senators, and MP's. Representatives from the group presented on the key issues of regeneration, lack of services, mis/dis information, and political stability.

In March 2024, the NSYF hosted a "North-South Youth Peace Event" in Belfast City Hall which brought together over 100 young people and decision-makers to explore "Peace" and the other core issues which face young people today such as mental health, lack of services, the impact of mis and dis information and the challenge of political instability.

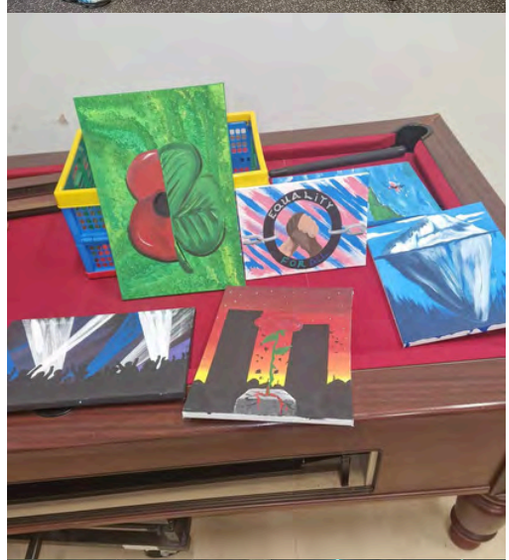
The programme has provided insight and learning for the participants on what issues other young people are facing, how we can face the same issues no matter where we live, how history can inform society and better understanding of each other's daily lives. Young people have had a range of learning experiences from exploring historic landmarks, to unique speaking truth to power engagements and their own personal and social development learning and socialising with other young people they may never have met.

the Tudor trust

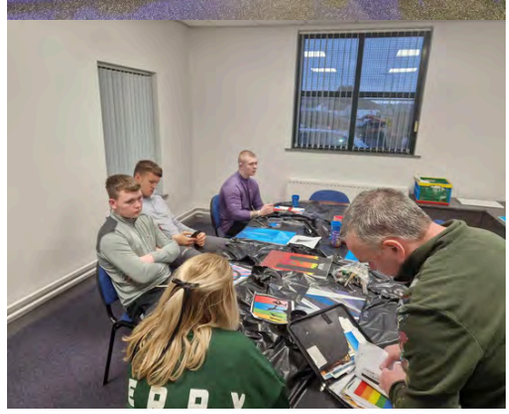
THE THRIVE PROJECT











The Thrive Project

The Thrive project, funded by the Tudor Trust has been operational since 2018. The project is focused on supporting young people who are at risk of influence within paramilitary run communities. Our approach adopts a youth work methodology implementing a bespoke and needs led process. In November of 2023, we began our latest round delivery.

The Thrive Project has continued to grow, supporting young people who are marginalised. As part of this process we listen to young people, gain an understanding of their needs and challenges. We then adapt the process based on the individual or collective needs.

To date there have been 15 young people engaged on the Thrive Project. This has been broken down to those who participated in groupwork and those availing of tailored one-to-one support.

Groupwork – A group of 9 young males from White City and surrounding areas have actively been involved in a 5-month project. During which their attitudes, values, beliefs and choices where at the forefront of our planned sessions. The project has fouces on

- Art based cultural project which foces on community identity and expression
- Health and fitness project – An 8 week fitness project to improve wellbeing and create positive habits
- Overnight Residential that focused on challaneging attitides, beliefs and actions

One to one support is a cornerstone on the project as we support those most marginalised and at risk from paramilitary organisations, the Thrive Project has been able to consistently support 6 young people who display a range of complex needs. Through a consistent approach the project has encouraged better life choices, supported young people through judicial cases, supported their housing issues and made referrals to a professional counsellor to address mental health issues. We have worked with community based organisation to mitigate the danger posed to these young people

Key Data:

- Participants: (Groupwork 9, one-to-one 6)
- Breakdown: (14 M, 8 PUL, 6 CNR)
- Delivery: (24 Groupwork sessions, 34 one-to-one sessions)

The impact of the project has been exactly what it aimed to do, which was to provide a bespoke personal development and transformational project. The impact for the young people was understanding the choices we make and the consequences they hold, appreciation for identity and culture, increased understanding on the benefits of healthier choices.

Better informed choices – Through discussion-based workshops we explored how the decisions we make whether negative or positive always come with consequence. The areas explored looked at family, education, community, identity and future career goals. There is an increased sense of awareness from the young people around the impact of their actions.

Better understanding of self – Exploring Identity through the arts-based workshops, the young people had a better understanding of who they are, what's important to them, while also developing an increased sense of appreciation of their culture and beliefs.

Developing healthier choices – The Thrive Project young people expressed how the project has encouraged them to adapt healthier choices in their personal life. The health and fitness project highlighted the benefits of exercise and healthy diet to which the young people adapted in their life away from the project. They have all progressed onto employment, college and some remained in school, all striving to achieve their life goals.

The Thrive project has got of to a fantastic start over the past 6 months and we will strive to provide timely interventions and essential support over the next 2 years.

OUR TEAM

NIYF STAFF TEAM

Chief Executive Officer
Paul Dynes

Assistant Directors
Amanda Stewart and Natalie Corbett

Senior Youth Work Managers
Louisa Ward and Marty Kelly

Office Manager
Paula Williams

Youth Work Managers
James Begley
Rebekah Rushe

Relentless Youth Workers
Arōn Hughes
Caitlin Ewing
Dearbhla Ní Ruanaidh
Lauren McAreavey
Lisa McCroy
Orla Trainor

Office Administrator
Victoria Patton

Youth Support Workers
Blair Anderson
Holly Clyde

Youth Apprentices
Demi Laverty
Shannon Gordon

Thank you to Chris Quinn, Phil Glennon and Clodagh Cooke, for their work to promote youth voice throughout 2023-24, we wish them all the best in their new roles.

NIYF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & TRUSTEES

Corporate Affairs Team:
Cohen Taylor - Chairperson
Carla Hannan - Acting Vice Chair & Governance Lead
Ciara Ní hUisceith - Secretary
Eōin Millar - Treasurer

Trustees:
Ahmad Adam (Trustee)
Aoife Murphy (Trustee)
Brooke Kearney (Trustee)
Carla Hannan (Trustee)
Ciara Ní hUisceith (Trustee)
Claire Hesketh (Trustee)
Cohen Taylor (Trustee)
Ellen Taylor (Trustee)
Eōin Millar (Trustee)
Jack Dalzell (Trustee)
James Reynolds (Trustee)
Kseniia Heorhiieva (Trustee)
Laura Blackledge (Trustee)
Tristin Nicholls (Trustee)

Executive Committee Members:
Eimear Crozier (Executive Committee Member)
Genevieve McCollum (Executive Committee Member)
Ryan Kearney (Executive Committee Member)
Tomās Murphy (Executive Committee Member)

Thank you to our 2021-23 Executive Committee who concluded their term during 2023-24 for all of their work and dedication to our organisation. We would like to thank our former Chairperson, Oisín-Tomās Ō'Raghallaigh for his work leading the outgoing committee.



THANK YOU
TO OUR FUNDERS

Department for Communities
An Roinn Pobal
Depairtment fur Commonities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

Housing Executive

The Community Foundation Northern Ireland

The Henry Smith Charity
founded in 1628

Esmée Fairbairn FOUNDATION

The Electoral Commission

THE JOSEPH ROWNTREE CHARITABLE TRUST

COMMUNITY FUND

SUPPORTED BY BBC CHILDREN IN NEED

THE PILGRIM TRUST

the Tudor trust

Translink

Belfast City Council

Funded by UK Government

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

NI YOUTH FORUM



info@niyf.org
https://www.niyf.org/

Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102677

Annual return

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion
We have audited the accounts of Northern Ireland Youth Forum (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2013 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees', are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charity.

Based on our understanding of the charity and its operating environment, we determined that the most significant frameworks which have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements are those related to the reporting framework, (FRS 102, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charity SORP and UK financial reporting standards as issues by the Financial Reporting Council). Additionally, we concluded that there are significant laws and regulations in relation to the entity's charitable status and activities of which non-compliance may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, including evaluating management's incentives and opportunities to manage earnings or influence the reported results. From the results of our assessment, we determined that the principal risks of fraud relate to posting inappropriate journal entries and use of charity funds for purposes outside of restrictions imposed by the donor. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

Audit response to risks identified

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- We obtained an understanding of the charity internal control systems in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations, including those as a result of its registration with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance.
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.

- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment through collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore (N.I) LLP

29.01.2025

Moore (NI) LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

4th Floor Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (General) 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds (Designated) 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds (General) 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds (Designated) 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income from:									
Charitable activities:									
Grants Receivable	3	42,347	106,829	1,016,591	1,165,767	219,268	60,929	743,852	1,024,049
Other income	4	450	-	-	450	13,161	-	-	13,161
Total income		42,797	106,829	1,016,591	1,166,217	232,429	60,929	743,852	1,037,210
Expenditure on:									
Charitable activities	6	246,187	22,827	939,943	1,208,957	223,598	26,330	990,164	1,240,092
Governance	5	13,312	-	7,164	20,476	10,201	-	3,900	14,101
Total Expenditure		259,499	22,827	947,107	1,229,433	233,799	26,330	994,064	1,254,193
Net income/(expenditure)		(216,702)	84,002	69,484	(63,216)	(1,370)	34,599	(250,212)	(216,983)
Transfer between funds	11	(66,574)	-	66,574	-	(15,689)	-	15,689	-
Total funds brought forward	11	457,011	77,782	(92,982)	441,811	474,070	43,183	141,541	658,794
Total funds carried forward	11, 12	173,735	161,784	43,076	378,595	457,011	77,782	(92,982)	441,811

Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102677

Accounts

Charity Registration No. NIC102677/XR36973

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM
FÓRAM ÓIGE THUAISCEART ÉIREANN
NORLIN AIRLAN YOUNGLINS COLLOGUE

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Nicole Parkinson-Kelly	Resigned September 2023
Ryan Harling	Resigned September 2023
Oisín-Tomás Ó Raghallaigh	Resigned September 2023
Ciara Ni Huisceith	Resigned September 2023
Adam Crothers	Resigned September 2023
Aoife Murphy	Reappointed September 2023
Cohen Taylor	Reappointed September 2023
Eóin Millar	Reappointed September 2023
Kate Lynch	Resigned September 2023
Madison Murphy	Resigned September 2023
Max Kieran	Resigned September 2023
Niamh Mallaghan	Resigned September 2023
Ruari McBride	Resigned September 2023
Ahmad Adam	Appointed September 2023
Brooke Kearney	Appointed September 2023
Carla Hannan	Appointed September 2023
Ciara Hesketh	Appointed September 2023
Inez Murray	Appointed September 2023
James Reynolds	Appointed September 2023
Kseniia Heorhiieva	Appointed September 2023
Laura Blackledge	Appointed September 2023
Zinha Bernardo	Appointed September 2023

Executive Committee

John Kane	Resigned September 2023
Sofia Anderson	Resigned September 2023
Jack Dalzell	Reappointed September 2023
Claire Hesketh	Appointed September 2023
Eimear Crozier	Appointed September 2023
Ellen Taylor	Appointed September 2023
Genevieve McCollum	Appointed September 2023
Ryan Kearney	Appointed September 2023
Tomás Murphy	Appointed September 2023
Tristin Nicholls	Appointed September 2023

Interim Directors
Amanda Stewart
Natalie Corbett

Office
68 Berry Street
Belfast
BT1 1FJ

Registered Charity No
NIC102677/XR36973

Auditors
Moore (N.I.) LLP
Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Bankers
Ulster Bank Ltd
11-16 Donegall Square East
Belfast
BT1 5UB

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 12.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Youth Forum is established to promote the voice and benefit of young people in Northern Ireland (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") and to educating and assisting such young people through their leisure time activities, so as to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities, that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved.

In furtherance of the above objects the Youth Forum may:

- provide or secure the provision of educational and recreational facilities and practical assistance for young people within the area of benefit.
- promote and carry out, or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and publish the useful results.
- organise or assist in organising meetings, training and debates and publish or assist in publishing reports, periodicals, recordings, books or other documents.
- procure to be written and printed, published, issued, distributed and circulated reports, periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets or other documents or communications in furtherance of the above objects.
- obtain, collect and receive money by way of grants, donations, bequests, legacies or other lawful method, provided that the Forum may not engage in any form of permanent trading.
- invest the monies of the Forum not immediately required for the furtherance of the said objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) as may for the time being be imposed or required by law.
- recruit and train volunteers with relevant skills to carry out the objects of the Forum.
- employ or pay any person to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the Youth Forum and make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of remuneration to employees.
- promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above objects and to that end to work in association with local authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above objects in the area of benefit.
- do all such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

MEMBERSHIP

Individual members

All young people aged 11 – 25, whose residence is in Northern Ireland are entitled to become individual members of the Youth Forum providing they fulfil the following criteria:

a) They should be aged 11-25.
b) They should actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
c) Complete relevant membership registration.

Individual members have the opportunity to participate in all NIYF programmes and will be informed about these via a range of communications mechanisms.
Individual members are not required to attend AGMs, but are invited to do so, they are not entitled to voting rights but those who wish to have voting entitlement in organisational matters will be directed to the 'active membership' tier.

Organisational Members

Organisational Membership is open to local Youth Councils, Youth Forums, Youth Clubs, School, Community Groups, Regional Voluntary organisations or other relevant young people's organisations in Northern Ireland, so long as they promote the participation of young people and that:

a) They actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
b) They actively promote the participation of young people in decision making within their organisation.

i. Each organisation must apply in writing to the Youth Forum by completing the necessary application process.
ii. Each organisation is entitled to nominate 2 representatives who will participate in the (NIYF) Active Membership group.
iii. Organisational members will be entitled to a range of benefits based on the Youth Forum's programme of work at any particular time.
iv. It is an expectation of the Youth Forum that each member organisation would attend the AGM unless apologies are received. If a member organisation does not attend 3 consecutive AGM's and does not provide apologies, the Executive Committee may review their membership.

Active members

The active membership tier is a group of Youth Forum members who regularly engage in centrally organised Youth Forum activities. Active members have voting rights on matters of strategic importance to the Youth Forum. Each active member will have one vote.

The Active membership tier will act as the Youth Forum's representative body of young people and this is where the organisation will seek direction on the needs of young people and issues, which the organisation should address. Active members will be heavily involved in setting the strategic direction of the Youth Forum.

To become an active member young people can:
a) Be nominated by a member organisation
b) Self-nominate following engagement in Youth Forum work at a local level

Active members must:
a) Be aged 11- 25
b) Actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum
c) Be actively involved in a locally based participative practice
d) Be available to participate in regular centrally organised Youth Forum activities
e) Endeavour to attend AGMs and EGMs.

Active members will be appointed on a bi-annual basis following the AGM. If active members are regularly absent from centrally organised Youth Forum activities without apology or reasonable explanation, their position will be reviewed. In the event that a young person can no longer participate in the active tier, they can remain an Individual Member of the Youth Forum providing they still meet the eligibility criteria. There will be a minimum of two Active Membership group meetings per year.

Executive Committee

The Northern Ireland Youth Forum is managed by an Executive Committee.
The Executive Committee is made up of no fewer than 12 and no more than 20 young people (aged 11 – 25) who are drawn from the active membership tier. Executive Committee members will be elected on a bi-annual basis following a vote at AGM by the active membership. The number of seats available on the Executive Committee will be agreed by the outgoing Committee based on numbers of nominations received, representation and strategic direction as set by the active tier at that time.
The Executive Committee are responsible for the overseeing the day-to-day management of NIYF. Whilst it is not a pre-requisite that the Executive Committee is a fully representative group; the Youth Forum will be mindful of the makeup of the committee in terms of equality legislation.
The Executive committee shall appoint up to 3 adults to the committee; (usually defined as someone aged over 25 and therefore does not qualify to be a member of the Youth Forum).

The role of these individuals will be to support the young people in their roles. It is proposed that each of these representatives will have experience in one of the following areas:
- Community/Youth/Voluntary Sector
- Financial management
- Human Resource management
- Law

These adults cannot act in the Chairperson, Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary or Treasurer capacity. They do not have a vote on organisational or strategic matters, as with other Executive Committee members, but should provide input and advice. The adult Executive members will be co-opted onto the Executive Committee by the Executive Committee when in place. This approach will allow the NIYF to maintain its youth led status but will also provide mechanisms whereby young people are supported in their roles as Executive Committee members.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting of the Youth Forum shall be held at such place and time (not being more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding Annual General Meeting) as the Committee shall determine.
To hold an Annual General Meeting, or Extraordinary General Meeting, the Youth Forum needs one quarter of active members represented, including two office bearers.
Any active Members who are not able to attend Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings and who send apologies to the Honorary Secretary are entitled to vote by proxy. Apologies can be received via written or electronic communications.
At such Annual General Meeting the business shall include the following:

a) The election of members to serve on the committee. Committee elections normally take place every 2 years.
b) The appointment of an auditor or auditors.
c) The consideration of an Annual Report of work done by or under the auspices of the Committee.
d) The consideration of the audited accounts.
e) The transaction of such other matters as may from time to time be considered necessary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICER BEARERS:

The following office bearers shall be elected at the A.G.M. to serve on the Executive Committee.

CHAIRPERSON: The Chairperson shall convene and chair meetings of the Youth Forum and its Executive Committee. In conjunction with the Honorary Secretary, the Chairperson should liaise with staff. Additionally, the Chairperson shall be expected to represent the organisation at external events.

VICE CHAIRPERSON: In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall be expected to carry out the duties of the Chairperson. He/she shall be expected to be in attendance at all meetings of the Youth Forum and its Executive Committee.

HONORARY SECRETARY: The Honorary Secretary shall liaise with the employees to ensure that the general business of the Youth Forum and the Youth Forums office is being carried out properly. In addition, he/she is required to be in attendance at regular staff meetings to ensure the above.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be responsible for working with the staff to ensure that the Youth Forum has enough resources to fulfil its objectives. He/she shall produce a balance sheet to be presented at the AGM.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: The Public Relations Officer shall work with the nominated communications staff member in dealing with the local and national media outlets. He/she shall keep in close contact and meet with the local media, issue press releases and deal with other publicity articles.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER: The External Affairs Officer will be responsible for creating and maintaining links and contacts with organisations, groups and individuals outside of the Youth Forum. They should also support the role of the Chair and the Public Relations Officer in representing the Youth Forum on external bodies and to the media. They should also have priority responsibility for representing the Youth Forum outside of Northern Ireland, particularly in a cross-border, UK and European context.

Further posts will be reserved for other young people.

Where Executive members need additional support to enable them to carry out their duties, the Youth Forum shall, where possible, employ the professional expertise to give guidance and advice.

Three additional seats on the Executive Committee shall be reserved for independent expert representatives who will be co-opted to provide support to the Executive Committee. These individuals should have specific skills, as directed by the Executive. These members may be over 25 and will not have voting rights.

FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet no less than four times per year. The Chair will be responsible for setting the agenda of these meetings through direct engagement with the Director, staff and active members. The Executive Committee shall:

- meet a minimum of four times per year. To hold a meeting of the Executive Committee there needs to be half of the Executive Committee members in attendance.
- ensure the day to day running of the organisation and make any important decisions necessary.
- support the Director in responsibility for the employment of, supervision of and support for staff, advising the organisation on financial matters and monitoring the programme to ensure the Youth Forum is meeting its aims and objectives.
- actively support and promote the aims of the Youth Forum and the activities, work etc., of the organisation.
- if required, discuss any matter relating to an employee. If the Executive Committee is required to do this and a member of it has been in anyway involved in the incident, he/she shall withdraw from the discussion. The Executive Committee should also refer to the Contracts of Employment relating to each particular post.
- in relation to an individual's absence from two or more consecutive executive meetings without written apology co-opt an alternative into that post to carry out the duties that go with it for up to as long as is deemed necessary.
- Where necessary the Executive Committee shall seek advice from professional experts in relation to financial, legal or strategic matters.
- Each Executive Committee member is expected to serve the duties of their office for a period of two years.
- The Executive Committee may appoint such sub-committees, advisory groups or working parties of their own members and other persons from time to time, necessary for the carrying out of their work and may determine their terms of reference, duration and composition. All such sub-committees shall make regular reports to the Executive Committee. No sub-committee shall make any decisions without this going to the full Executive Committee. Where possible the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson shall chair these sub-committees.
- Members of the Executive committee are expected to act with integrity and within the ethos of the Youth Forum. It is expected that as such Youth Forum strategy and policy comes before any other interest outside of the work of the Youth Forum. Committee members are expected to ensure the organisation remains apolitical. Should any conflict of interest hamper an individual's role as an Executive Committee member they will be expected to reconsider their position.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The organisation had net expenditure for the year of £216,983 (2022: £111,881). When added to the reserves brought forward the total reserves at 31 March 2023 are £441,811 (2022: £658,794).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted reserves of a minimum of six months running costs of resources expended on general activities. The organisation also has a policy to maintain further unrestricted reserves of the current redundancy costs of the organisation. At 31 March 2023 this would equate to £32,271 (2022: £32,271).

RELATED PARTIES

The Charity has no related parties.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Over the coming year the NIYF will work to consolidate as well as continue to develop our organisation. We will work to secure resources and essential core funding to support NIYF through as we move towards independence.

NIYF is equipped well to deal with a changing policy and funding landscape, and we will continue to sustain and develop collaborations and partnerships; create space for innovation and development; and continue to diversify funding streams.

Through a growth and development of innovative youth work programmes, increasing international networks and funding opportunities, as well as maintaining our profile enables the ongoing sustainability of the NI Youth Forum.

Up to date financial systems and planning, alongside strong governance are key properties as reflected in our strategic plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The main risk which faces NIYF is the uncertainty of funding. The Executive Committee continually monitor the financial position of the Youth Forum and have examined the major risks which the organisation faces and confirm that policies and procedures have been established so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson's Report

As the newly elected Chairperson of the NI Youth Forum Executive Committee, I am so proud of all that our organisation achieved over the 2022-23 financial year. Despite ongoing external challenges such as the rising cost of living and lack of a power sharing government at Stormont, the NI Youth Forum has continued to deliver high quality youth provision that meets the evolving needs of our membership.

Our membership are at the heart of everything we do. This year, our phenomenal housing and homelessness team supported 158 young people as they navigated the cost-of-living crisis. Moreover, as we have emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have supported 247 young people to access therapeutic support and counselling provision. It should be noted that any fund or subsidiary that was in deficit at the end of the last financial year has been received after year end, eliminating the deficit.

Young people across our organisation have had incredible impact in terms of participation and speaking truth to power. Young people from our Executive Committee and the 'Elephant coming out of the dark' programme travelled to Geneva, Switzerland to speak at the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. In addition, young people engaged with Local Councillors, MLAs, MPs, Lords, TDs and Senators from across the political spectrum. For us, participation takes place at local, regional, national and international levels and our broad political engagement reflects this.

The 2021-23 Executive Committee enacted several long-term strategic changes to our organisation with the publication of our youth-led Quality Assurance Framework, 'NI Youth Forum Defined', alongside our 'Youth Manifesto for Change'. In addition, the Committee led on a transformational rebrand with a new brand identity, a new logo and digital communications strategy which included the redesigning of our website. The membership also approved important changes to our Constitution in December 2022 to facilitate the implementation of new Standing Orders, delivery of new Election Documentation and the creation of the Policy Officer role within the Committee. In order to be able to do this all trustees must commit to a thorough induction and training programme in line with our governing documents, NIYF Constitution and Standing Orders.

Our staff team work tirelessly to meet the ever-evolving needs of our membership as best they can, and it is my privilege to work alongside them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our staff team for everything that they do to live out our vision and values. Pay and remuneration of all personnel is set by the Trustees in line with National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

This was a year of many achievements and so much joy across our organisation, however, it was also a year marked by profound sadness and loss for many young people and staff. Lucy Grainger, who served as Chairperson from 2018 until 2021, passed away in October 2022. Lucy had an immeasurable impact on our organisation and every individual she met. Lucy's inspirational leadership, care for others and deep kindness will be remembered and cherished by all of us at the NI Youth Forum and beyond. Her legacy will continue to live on in all that we do.

Cohen Taylor
Chairperson

Hon. Secretary's Report

The 2022/23 financial year has been hugely successful for NIYF, we are privileged to be working with so many young people throughout the region whilst promoting youth voice. The out workings of the Covid – 19 pandemic has offered many learning opportunities for staff who continued to implement positive change to creatively meet the needs of young people in all elements of our work.

Throughout this year NIYF have worked hard to diversify funding streams and are continuing to build upon positive relationships locally, nationally, and internationally. The youth service funding climate continues to be competitive, and we look forward to identifying new funding streams.

Some of our key highlights and achievements this year have been the launch of NIYF's Youth Manifesto for Change, presenting at the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, attending the global youth homelessness conference in New York City and the establishment of NI's first cross-party working group on youth participation. 500 individually young people have been supported through programmes and training with a wide network of young activists trained and supported demonstrating impact on skills, knowledge, and confidence.

One of NIYF's key priorities is the investment in our staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their passion, dedication, and hard work. Thank you to NIYF's executive committee for fulfilling their roles over and above as trustees.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Executive Committee is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs and of its income and expenditure for the year. In preparing the financial statement the executive committee are required to select suitable accounting policies, to apply them consistently and to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The executive committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity. To ensure that proper books and records are kept the charity has employed appropriately qualified personnel and has maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. It is 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.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITORS

So far as the members of the Executive Committee are aware there, is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware and they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the committee and signed on their behalf on by:

Name. COHEN TAYLOR Date: 30/1/24

Title: Chairperson

Name. EÓIN MILLAR Date: 30/1/24

Title: Treasurer

Opinion
We have audited the accounts of Northern Ireland Youth Forum (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charities Act Northern Ireland) 2013.

Basis for opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2013 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees', are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charity.

Based on our understanding of the charity and its operating environment, we determined that the most significant frameworks which have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements are those related to the reporting framework, (FRS 102, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charity SORP and UK financial reporting standards as issues by the Financial Reporting Council). Additionally, we concluded that there are significant laws and regulations in relation to the entity's charitable status and activities of which non-compliance may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, including evaluating management's incentives and opportunities to manage earnings or influence the reported results. From the results of our assessment, we determined that the principal risks of fraud relate to posting inappropriate journal entries and use of charity funds for purposes outside of restrictions imposed by the donor. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

Audit response to risks identified

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- We obtained an understanding of the charity internal control systems in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations, including those as a result of its registration with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance.
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.

- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment through collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore (NI) LLP

30/1/2024

Moore (NI) LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

4th Floor Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (General) 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds (Designated) 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds (General) 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds (Designated) 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income from:									
Charitable activities:									
Grants Receivable	3	**219,268**	**60,929**	**743,852**	**1,024,049**	117,970	63,937	668,635	850,542
Other income	4	**13,161**	-	-	**13,161**	12,786	-	-	12,786
Total income		**232,429**	**60,929**	**743,852**	**1,037,210**	130,756	63,937	668,635	863,328
Expenditure on:									
Charitable activities	6	**223,598**	**26,330**	**990,164**	**1,240,092**	106,985	38,977	816,415	962,377
Governance	5	**10,201**	-	**3,900**	**14,101**	8,932	-	3,900	12,832
Total Expenditure		**233,799**	**26,330**	**994,064**	**1,254,193**	115,917	38,977	820,315	975,209
Net income/(expenditure)		**(1,370)**	**34,599**	**(250,212)**	**(216,983)**	14,839	24,960	(151,680)	(111,881)
Transfer between funds	11	**(15,689)**	-	**(15,689)**	-	(12,383)	11,194	1,189	-
Total funds brought forward	11	**474,070**	**43,183**	**141,541**	**658,794**	471,614	7,029	292,032	770,675
Total funds carried forward	11, 12	**457,011**	**77,782**	**(92,982)**	**441,811**	474,070	43,183	141,541	658,794

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets	7		40,871		37,724
Current Assets					
Debtors	8	298,005		350,109	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	9	134,678		343,829	
		432,683		693,938	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(31,743)		(72,868)	
Net Current Assets			400,940		621,070
Net Assets			441,811		658,794
Funds:					
Unrestricted Reserves	11, 12		534,793		517,253
Restricted Reserves	11, 12		(92,982)		141,541
			441,811		658,794

Approved by the executive committee on and signed on its behalf by: -

Name COHEN TAYLOR Date: 30/1/24

Title: Chairperson

Name EÓIN MILLAR Date: 30/1/24

Title: Treasurer

NORTHERN IRELAND YOUTH FORUM

CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Net cash inflow					
From operating activities	14	**(195,803)**		(55,570)	
Returns on investment and servicing of finance					
Interest received		-		-	
Net cashflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance		-		-	
Capital expenditure and financial investment					
Payment to acquire tangible fixed assets		**(13,348)**		-	
Net cashflow from capital expenditure and financial investment			**(13,348)**		-
Increase/(decrease) in cash			**(209,151)**		(55,570)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year			**343,829**		399,399
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of year			**134,678**		343,829

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard which applies in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

1.2 Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing accounts.

1.3 Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write-off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life.

Computer Equipment	25% reducing balance
Fixtures fittings & Equipment	25% reducing balance
Leasehold improvements	15% reducing balance

1.4 Fund Accounting

Unrestricted 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 or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

1.5 Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year they are payable.

1.6 Allocation of Costs

Resources expended are allocated to a particular activity where the costs relate directly to that activity. Core costs which cannot be directly allocated have been apportioned.

1.7 Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:
Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.
Investment income is included when receivable.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support programme activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

1.8 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Funding provided through contractual agreements and performance related grants are recognised as goods or services are supplied.
Costs of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.
Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets and are primarily associated with

constitutional and statutory requirements.
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, e.g. allocating office property costs by floor areas, management and human resources costs by the number of staff, and finance and IT costs by work done.

1.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.11 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.12 Financial Instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2 **Salaries**

The total charge for salaries, national insurance and pension costs was £790,575. This has been disclosed in the statement of financial activities as follows: -

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	**674,219**	489,109
Social security costs	**64,545**	43,687
Other pension costs	**51,811**	38,112
	790,575	570,908

	2022	2022
Average number of employees during period:	**21**	16

There was one employee whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 (2022: nil). The key management personnel of the Charity include the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary,Trustees and Interim Directors. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £137,571 (2022: £102,140).

3 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds Designated	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants Receivable					
EA Core Grants	-	-	7,500	7,500	69,060
NI Housing Executive	-	33,135	-	33,135	30,591
Translink	-	27,794	-	27,794	33,346
Youth Network for Peace (Peace IV)	-	-	7,733	7,733	1,935
Ards and North Down B.C.	-	-	-	-	4,456
Peace IV - Amplify	-	-	107,981	107,981	159,361
Tudor Trust	-	-	-	-	60,000
DFC Change Project	-	-	-	-	55,000
Belfast City Council	-	-	20,973	20,973	19,990
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Reconciliation Fund	-	-	-	-	84,970
Esmee Fairburn	60,000	-	-	60,000	50,000
Tutor Trust	-	-	60,000	60,000	-
BCC Covid Recovery	-	-	4,945	4,945	3,994
CFNI	-	-	66,318	66,318	99,477
Henry Smith	-	-	58,900	58,900	58,900
Whitemountain	23,936	-	-	23,936	-
Joseph Rowntree	60,000	-	-	60,000	50,000
TNL Dormant Accounts	-	-	66,667	66,667	-
NIHE Homelessness Prevention Fund	-	-	-	-	40,000
Community Relations Council	-	-	(1,239)	(1,239)	1,239
UK Community Renewal	-	-	25,948	25,948	8,813
NIO	31,035	-	-	31,035	-
BCC Community Support Recovery	-	-	1,200	1,200	1,440
BL Relentless Change	-	-	184,710	184,710	-
NIHE Sustaining Tenancies	-	-	23,714	23,714	-
Henry Smith Therapeutic	-	-	712	712	-
CIN - Youth Social Action	-	-	4,985	4,985	-
Electorial Commission	-	-	7,500	7,500	-
EA Core	-	-	5,305	5,305	-
HPF	-	-	52,000	52,000	-
Community Knowledge Fund	-	-	8,000	8,000	-
The Pilgrim Trust	-	-	30,000	30,000	-
General	44,297	-	-	44,297	-
Electoral Commission	-	-	-	-	8,985
QUB	-	-	-	-	8,985
	219,268	60,929	743,852	1,024,049	850,542

4 Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds General £	Unrestricted Funds Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Core Contribution					
Other Income	**1,542**	-	-	**1,542**	8,406
Room Hire	-	-	-	-	4,380
Training	**11,619**	-	-	**11,619**	-
	13,161	-	-	**13,161**	12,786

5 Governance

	Unrestricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Audit Fee	-	-	**3,900**	**3,900**	3,900
Depreciation	**10,201**	-	-	**10,201**	8,932
	10,201	-	**3,900**	**14,101**	12,832

6 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

		Unrestricted £	Translink £	NIHE	YCNI (Core) £	Amplify £	Youth Network for Peace £	Big Lottery Relentless Change £	Other projects £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Salary & Pension Costs	S	124,353	12,479	-	5,304	-	-	-	648,686	790,822	570,908
Job Retention Scheme Salary Costs	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facilitation Costs	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,234
Rent	S	4,162	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,825	23,987	28,945
Insurance	S	(353)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,659	2,306	1,834
Heat & Light	S	1,197	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,605	4,802	1,055
Telephone	S	5,165	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,265	12,430	8,990
Postage, Stat & Photocopying	S	284	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,204	4,488	4,831
Finance Costs & Bank Fees	D	292	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,002	2,294	2,127
Cleaning Costs	S	744	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,138	5,882	9,786
Legal & Professional	D	(25)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,022	997	13,606
Training	D	(34)	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,805	4,771	1,435
General Expenses	D	3,096	-	-	-	-	28,506	-	12,877	15,973	648
Staff Travel	D	2,879	71	-	-	-	-	-	10,287	13,237	3,026
Members and Volunteer Travel	D	2,096	13	-	-	-	-	-	5,012	7,121	1,962
Residential Costs	D	1,066	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,102	20,168	8,538
Computer Running Costs	D	3,950	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,750	6,700	323
Conference/seminars/activities	S	1,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,046	5,446	28,035
PR	D	2,017	1,808	-	-	-	-	-	6,515	10,340	3,200
Evaluation Costs	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	27
Support and admin	D	282	715	-	-	-	-	-	32,618	33,615	28,101
Repairs	D	(837)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,971	1,134	6,679
Other Programme Costs	D	71,864	11,244	-	-	168	-	-	159,797	243,073	225,089
		223,598	26,330	-	5,304	168	28,506	-	956,186	1,240,092	962,377

Basis of Apportionment of costs

D – Direct costs attributed to the projects

S – Costs apportioned to the projects on the basis of staff time

7 Fixed Assets

	Leasehold improvements	Computer equipment	Furniture and other equipment	Total
		£	£	£
Cost				
At 1st April 2022	21,378	69,130	70,796	161,304
Additions	10,000	3,348	-	13,348
At 31st March 2023	31,378	72,478	70,796	174,652
Depreciation				
At 1st April 2022	(4,680)	(59,710)	(59,190)	(123,580)
Charge for year	(4,107)	(3,192)	(2,902)	(10,201)
At 31st March 2023	**(8,787)**	**(62,902)**	**(62,092)**	**(133,781)**
Net Book Value				
At 31st March 2023	**22,591**	**9,576**	**8,704**	**40,871**
At 31st March 2022	16,698	9,420	11,606	37,724

8. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Debtors	**294,240**	348,929
Prepayments	**3,765**	1,180
	298,005	350,109

9. Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2023	2022
	£	£
Ulster Bank Current Account	**133,643**	343,195
Ulster Bank Business Reserve Account	**584**	584
Petty Cash	**451**	50
	134,678	343,829

10. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	**16,175**	63,147
Other creditors	**15,568**	9,721
	31,743	72,868

11. Reserves

	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Closing Balance £
Restricted					
EA Core	-	7,500	(5,304)	-	**2,196**
Ards & North Down B.C	6,833	-	-	-	**6,833**
Peace IV - Amplify	(73,266)	107,981	(168)	-	**34,547**
Youth Network for Peace	33,953	7,733	(28,506)	-	**13,180**
Big Lottery Relentless Charge	5,762	-	-	-	**5,762**
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	(5,477)	-	(318)	5,795	-
Paul Hamlyn - Follow on Fund	1,289	-	-	-	**1,289**
DFC/NIHE	-	-	(54,216)	-	**(54,216)**
BCC	2,178	20,973	(21,526)	-	**1,625**
Tudor Trust	21,501	60,000	(38,767)	-	**42,734**
National Lottery - Elephant speaks truth to power	(347)	-	-	347	-
BCC - Covid Recovery Grant	(1,908)	4,945	(4,944)	1,907	-
Henry Smith	(1,528)	58,900	(65,085)	-	**(4,736)**
TNL Dormant Accounts	-	66,667	(32,595)	-	**34,072**
NIHE Homelessness Prevention	-	-	(137)	137	-
CFNI	70,662	66,318	(179,441)	-	**(42,461)**
BL Relentless Change	-	184,710	(184,290)	-	**420**
Community Relations Council	(1,311)	(1,239)	-	2,550	-
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	78,882	-	(78,881)	-	**1**
The Pilgrim Trust	-	30,000	(33,345)	-	**(3,345)**
UK Community Renewal	4,096	25,948	(27,057)	-	**2,987**
BCC Community Support	222	1,200	(1,730)	308	-
203. NIHE Sustaining Tenancies	-	23,714	(24,636)	-	**(922)**
204. Henry Smith Therapeutic	-	712	(34,198)	-	**(33,486)**
205. TEO Good Relations 2022-2023	-	-	(43,827)	-	**(43,827)**
206. NIO 22/23	-	-	(43,368)	4,645	**(38,723)**
CIN - Youth Social Action	-	4,985	(14,139)	-	**(9,154)**
208 - Electorial Commission	-	7,500	(14,839)	-	**(7,339)**
209 - EA Core	-	5,305	(5,305)	-	-
210 - HPF	-	52,000	(40,992)	-	**11,008**
Victims & Surviors Comm	-	-	(16,450)	-	**(16,450)**
Community knowledge fund	-	8,000	-	-	**8,000**
	141,541	743,852	(994,064)	15,689	**(92,982)**
Unrestricted					
Designated unrestricted	43,183	60,929	(26,330)	-	**77,782**
General unrestricted	474,070	232,429	(233,799)	(15,689)	**457,011**
	517,253	293,358	(260,129)	(15,689)	**534,793**
Total Reserves	658,794	1,037,210	(1,254,193)	-	**441,811**

12. Net assets

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Fixed Assets	40,871	-	-	40,871
Current Assets	416,140	77,782	(92,982)	400,940
Net assets	457,011	77,782	(92,982)	441,811

13. Contingent Liabilities

The charity may become liable to repay grants received from various funders should it fail to comply with conditions set out in the relevant letters of offer.

14. Reconciliation of movement of funds to net cashflows from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds	(216,983)	(111,811)
Depreciation	10,201	8,932
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	52,104	(2,763)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(41,125)	50,142
	(195,803)	(55,570)

15. Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	-	108
Between two and five years	-	-
	-	108

16. Transactions with trustees

One trustee received a total of £nil expenses paid (2022: £25 expenses paid for transport costs) incurred in relation to carrying out charity related activities.

Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102677

Annual report

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 12.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Youth Forum is established to promote the voice and benefit of young people in Northern Ireland (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") and to educating and assisting such young people through their leisure time activities, so as to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities, that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and that their conditions of life may be improved.

In furtherance of the above objects the Youth Forum may:

- provide or secure the provision of educational and recreational facilities and practical assistance for young people within the area of benefit.
- promote and carry out, or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys and investigations and publish the useful results.
- organise or assist in organising meetings, training and debates and publish or assist in publishing reports, periodicals, recordings, books or other documents.
- procure to be written and printed, published, issued, distributed and circulated reports, periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets or other documents or communications in furtherance of the above objects.
- obtain, collect and receive money by way of grants, donations, bequests, legacies or other lawful method, provided that the Forum may not engage in any form of permanent trading.
- invest the monies of the Forum not immediately required for the furtherance of the said objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) as may for the time being be imposed or required by law.
- recruit and train volunteers with relevant skills to carry out the objects of the Forum.
- employ or pay any person to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the Youth Forum and make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of remuneration to employees.
- promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above objects and to that end to work in association with local authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above objects in the area of benefit.
- do all such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

MEMBERSHIP

Individual members

All young people aged 11 – 25, whose residence is in Northern Ireland are entitled to become individual members of the Youth Forum providing they fulfil the following criteria:

a) They should be aged 11-25.
b) They should actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
c) Complete relevant membership registration.

Individual members have the opportunity to participate in all NIYF programmes and will be informed about these via a range of communications mechanisms.
Individual members are not required to attend AGMs, but are invited to do so, they are not entitled to voting rights but those who wish to have voting entitlement in organisational matters will be directed to the 'active membership' tier.

Organisational Members

Organisational Membership is open to local Youth Councils, Youth Forums, Youth Clubs, School, Community Groups, Regional Voluntary organisations or other relevant young people's organisations in Northern Ireland, so long as they promote the participation of young people and that:

a) They actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum.
b) They actively promote the participation of young people in decision making within their organisation.

i. Each organisation must apply in writing to the Youth Forum by completing the necessary application process.
ii. Each organisation is entitled to nominate 2 representatives who will participate in the (NIYF) Active Membership group.
iii. Organisational members will be entitled to a range of benefits based on the Youth Forum's programme of work at any particular time.
iv. It is an expectation of the Youth Forum that each member organisation would attend the AGM unless apologies are received. If a member organisation does not attend 3 consecutive AGM's and does not provide apologies, the Executive Committee may review their membership.

Active members

The active membership tier is a group of Youth Forum members who regularly engage in centrally organised Youth Forum activities. Active members have voting rights on matters of strategic importance to the Youth Forum. Each active member will have one vote.

The Active membership tier will act as the Youth Forum's representative body of young people and this is where the organisation will seek direction on the needs of young people and issues, which the organisation should address. Active members will be heavily involved in setting the strategic direction of the Youth Forum.

To become an active member young people can:
a) Be nominated by a member organisation
b) Self-nominate following engagement in Youth Forum work at a local level

Active members must:
a) Be aged 11- 25
b) Actively support the values, priorities, aims and objectives of the Youth Forum
c) Be actively involved in a locally based participative practice
d) Be available to participate in regular centrally organised Youth Forum activities
e) Endeavour to attend AGMs and EGMs.

Active members will be appointed on a bi-annual basis following the AGM. If active members are regularly absent from centrally organised Youth Forum activities without apology or reasonable explanation, their position will be reviewed. In the event that a young person can no longer participate in the active tier, they can remain an Individual Member of the Youth Forum providing they still meet the eligibility criteria. There will be a minimum of two Active Membership group meetings per year.

Executive Committee

The Northern Ireland Youth Forum is managed by an Executive Committee.
The Executive Committee is made up of no fewer than 12 and no more than 20 young people (aged 11 – 25) who are drawn from the active membership tier. Executive Committee members will be elected on a bi-annual basis following a vote at AGM by the active membership. The number of seats available on the Executive Committee will be agreed by the outgoing Committee based on numbers of nominations received, representation and strategic direction as set by the active tier at that time.
The Executive Committee are responsible for the overseeing the day-to-day management of NIYF. Whilst it is not a pre-requisite that the Executive Committee is a fully representative group; the Youth Forum will be mindful of the makeup of the committee in terms of equality legislation.
The Executive committee shall appoint up to 3 adults to the committee; (usually defined as someone aged over 25 and therefore does not qualify to be a member of the Youth Forum).

The role of these individuals will be to support the young people in their roles. It is proposed that each of these representatives will have experience in one of the following areas:
- Community/Youth/Voluntary Sector
- Financial management
- Human Resource management
- Law

These adults cannot act in the Chairperson, Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary or Treasurer capacity. They do not have a vote on organisational or strategic matters, as with other Executive Committee members, but should provide input and advice. The adult Executive members will be co-opted onto the Executive Committee by the Executive Committee when in place. This approach will allow the NIYF to maintain its youth led status but will also provide mechanisms whereby young people are supported in their roles as Executive Committee members.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting of the Youth Forum shall be held at such place and time (not being more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding Annual General Meeting) as the Committee shall determine.
To hold an Annual General Meeting, or Extraordinary General Meeting, the Youth Forum needs one quarter of active members represented, including two office bearers.
Any active Members who are not able to attend Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings and who send apologies to the Honorary Secretary are entitled to vote by proxy. Apologies can be received via written or electronic communications.
At such Annual General Meeting the business shall include the following:

a) The election of members to serve on the committee. Committee elections normally take place every 2 years.
b) The appointment of an auditor or auditors.
c) The consideration of an Annual Report of work done by or under the auspices of the Committee.
d) The consideration of the audited accounts.
e) The transaction of such other matters as may from time to time be considered necessary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICER BEARERS:

The following office bearers shall be elected at the A.G.M. to serve on the Executive Committee.

CHAIRPERSON: The Chairperson shall convene and chair meetings of the Youth Forum and its Executive Committee. In conjunction with the Honorary Secretary, the Chairperson should liaise with staff. Additionally, the Chairperson shall be expected to represent the organisation at external events.

VICE CHAIRPERSON: In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall be expected to carry out the duties of the Chairperson. He/she shall be expected to be in attendance at all meetings of the Youth Forum and its Executive Committee.

HONORARY SECRETARY: The Honorary Secretary shall liaise with the employees to ensure that the general business of the Youth Forum and the Youth Forums office is being carried out properly. In addition, he/she is required to be in attendance at regular staff meetings to ensure the above.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be responsible for working with the staff to ensure that the Youth Forum has enough resources to fulfil its objectives. He/she shall produce a balance sheet to be presented at the AGM.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: The Public Relations Officer shall work with the nominated communications staff member in dealing with the local and national media outlets. He/she shall keep in close contact and meet with the local media, issue press releases and deal with other publicity articles.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER: The External Affairs Officer will be responsible for creating and maintaining links and contacts with organisations, groups and individuals outside of the Youth Forum. They should also support the role of the Chair and the Public Relations Officer in representing the Youth Forum on external bodies and to the media. They should also have priority responsibility for representing the Youth Forum outside of Northern Ireland, particularly in a cross-border, UK and European context.

Further posts will be reserved for other young people.

Where Executive members need additional support to enable them to carry out their duties, the Youth Forum shall, where possible, employ the professional expertise to give guidance and advice.

Three additional seats on the Executive Committee shall be reserved for independent expert representatives who will be co-opted to provide support to the Executive Committee. These individuals should have specific skills, as directed by the Executive. These members may be over 25 and will not have voting rights.

FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet no less than four times per year. The Chair will be responsible for setting the agenda of these meetings through direct engagement with the Director, staff and active members. The Executive Committee shall:

- meet a minimum of four times per year. To hold a meeting of the Executive Committee there needs to be half of the Executive Committee members in attendance.
- ensure the day to day running of the organisation and make any important decisions necessary.
- support the Director in responsibility for the employment of, supervision of and support for staff, advising the organisation on financial matters and monitoring the programme to ensure the Youth Forum is meeting its aims and objectives.
- actively support and promote the aims of the Youth Forum and the activities, work etc., of the organisation.
- if required, discuss any matter relating to an employee. If the Executive Committee is required to do this and a member of it has been in anyway involved in the incident, he/she shall withdraw from the discussion. The Executive Committee should also refer to the Contracts of Employment relating to each particular post.
- in relation to an individual's absence from two or more consecutive executive meetings without written apology co-opt an alternative into that post to carry out the duties that go with it for up to as long as is deemed necessary.
- Where necessary the Executive Committee shall seek advice from professional experts in relation to financial, legal or strategic matters.
- Each Executive Committee member is expected to serve the duties of their office for a period of two years.
- The Executive Committee may appoint such sub-committees, advisory groups or working parties of their own members and other persons from time to time, necessary for the carrying out of their work and may determine their terms of reference, duration and composition. All such sub-committees shall make regular reports to the Executive Committee. No sub-committee shall make any decisions without this going to the full Executive Committee. Where possible the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson shall chair these sub-committees.
- Members of the Executive committee are expected to act with integrity and within the ethos of the Youth Forum. It is expected that as such Youth Forum strategy and policy comes before any other interest outside of the work of the Youth Forum. Committee members are expected to ensure the organisation remains apolitical. Should any conflict of interest hamper an individual's role as an Executive Committee member they will be expected to reconsider their position.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The organisation had net expenditure for the year of £216,983 (2022: £111,881). When added to the reserves brought forward the total reserves at 31 March 2023 are £441,811 (2022: £658,794).

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted reserves of a minimum of six months running costs of resources expended on general activities. The organisation also has a policy to maintain further unrestricted reserves of the current redundancy costs of the organisation. At 31 March 2023 this would equate to £32,271 (2022: £32,271).

RELATED PARTIES

The Charity has no related parties.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Over the coming year the NIYF will work to consolidate as well as continue to develop our organisation. We will work to secure resources and essential core funding to support NIYF through as we move towards independence.

NIYF is equipped well to deal with a changing policy and funding landscape, and we will continue to sustain and develop collaborations and partnerships; create space for innovation and development; and continue to diversify funding streams.

Through a growth and development of innovative youth work programmes, increasing international networks and funding opportunities, as well as maintaining our profile enables the ongoing sustainability of the NI Youth Forum.

Up to date financial systems and planning, alongside strong governance are key properties as reflected in our strategic plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The main risk which faces NIYF is the uncertainty of funding. The Executive Committee continually monitor the financial position of the Youth Forum and have examined the major risks which the organisation faces and confirm that policies and procedures have been established so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson's Report

As the newly elected Chairperson of the NI Youth Forum Executive Committee, I am so proud of all that our organisation achieved over the 2022-23 financial year. Despite ongoing external challenges such as the rising cost of living and lack of a power sharing government at Stormont, the NI Youth Forum has continued to deliver high quality youth provision that meets the evolving needs of our membership.

Our membership are at the heart of everything we do. This year, our phenomenal housing and homelessness team supported 158 young people as they navigated the cost-of-living crisis. Moreover, as we have emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have supported 247 young people to access therapeutic support and counselling provision. It should be noted that any fund or subsidiary that was in deficit at the end of the last financial year has been received after year end, eliminating the deficit.

Young people across our organisation have had incredible impact in terms of participation and speaking truth to power. Young people from our Executive Committee and the 'Elephant coming out of the dark' programme travelled to Geneva, Switzerland to speak at the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. In addition, young people engaged with Local Councillors, MLAs, MPs, Lords, TDs and Senators from across the political spectrum. For us, participation takes place at local, regional, national and international levels and our broad political engagement reflects this.

The 2021-23 Executive Committee enacted several long-term strategic changes to our organisation with the publication of our youth-led Quality Assurance Framework, 'NI Youth Forum Defined', alongside our 'Youth Manifesto for Change'. In addition, the Committee led on a transformational rebrand with a new brand identity, a new logo and digital communications strategy which included the redesigning of our website. The membership also approved important changes to our Constitution in December 2022 to facilitate the implementation of new Standing Orders, delivery of new Election Documentation and the creation of the Policy Officer role within the Committee. In order to be able to do this all trustees must commit to a thorough induction and training programme in line with our governing documents, NIYF Constitution and Standing Orders.

Our staff team work tirelessly to meet the ever-evolving needs of our membership as best they can, and it is my privilege to work alongside them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our staff team for everything that they do to live out our vision and values. Pay and remuneration of all personnel is set by the Trustees in line with National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

This was a year of many achievements and so much joy across our organisation, however, it was also a year marked by profound sadness and loss for many young people and staff. Lucy Grainger, who served as Chairperson from 2018 until 2021, passed away in October 2022. Lucy had an immeasurable impact on our organisation and every individual she met. Lucy's inspirational leadership, care for others and deep kindness will be remembered and cherished by all of us at the NI Youth Forum and beyond. Her legacy will continue to live on in all that we do.

Cohen Taylor
Chairperson

Hon. Secretary's Report

The 2022/23 financial year has been hugely successful for NIYF, we are privileged to be working with so many young people throughout the region whilst promoting youth voice. The out workings of the Covid – 19 pandemic has offered many learning opportunities for staff who continued to implement positive change to creatively meet the needs of young people in all elements of our work.

Throughout this year NIYF have worked hard to diversify funding streams and are continuing to build upon positive relationships locally, nationally, and internationally. The youth service funding climate continues to be competitive, and we look forward to identifying new funding streams.

Some of our key highlights and achievements this year have been the launch of NIYF's Youth Manifesto for Change, presenting at the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, attending the global youth homelessness conference in New York City and the establishment of NI's first cross-party working group on youth participation. 500 individually young people have been supported through programmes and training with a wide network of young activists trained and supported demonstrating impact on skills, knowledge, and confidence.

One of NIYF's key priorities is the investment in our staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their passion, dedication, and hard work. Thank you to NIYF's executive committee for fulfilling their roles over and above as trustees.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Executive Committee is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs and of its income and expenditure for the year. In preparing the financial statement the executive committee are required to select suitable accounting policies, to apply them consistently and to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The executive committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity. To ensure that proper books and records are kept the charity has employed appropriately qualified personnel and has maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. It is 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.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO AUDITORS

So far as the members of the Executive Committee are aware there, is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware and they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the committee and signed on their behalf on by:

Name COHEN TAYLOR Date: 30/1/24

Title: Chairperson

Name EÓIN MILLAR Date: 30/1/24

Title: Treasurer

Northern Ireland Youth Forum

Northern Ireland - Charity number 102677

Annual return

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Northern Ireland Youth Forum (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charities Act Northern Ireland) 2013.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2013 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees', are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the charity.

Based on our understanding of the charity and its operating environment, we determined that the most significant frameworks which have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements are those related to the reporting framework, (FRS 102, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charity SORP and UK financial reporting standards as issues by the Financial Reporting Council). Additionally, we concluded that there are significant laws and regulations in relation to the entity's charitable status and activities of which non-compliance may have a material effect on the financial statements.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, including evaluating management's incentives and opportunities to manage earnings or influence the reported results. From the results of our assessment, we determined that the principal risks of fraud relate to posting inappropriate journal entries and use of charity funds for purposes outside of restrictions imposed by the donor. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

Audit response to risks identified

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- We obtained an understanding of the charity internal control systems in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations, including those as a result of its registration with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland by making enquiries of management and those charged with governance.
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims.

- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment through collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Moore (NI) LLP

30/1/2024

Moore (NI) LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

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