

Company registration number: NI624092
Charity registration number: 102727

Carrickfergus and Larne Child Contact Centre Ltd

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 May 2024

Community Accounting Plus
Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Carrickfergus and Larne Child Contact Centre Ltd

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Carrickfergus and Larne Child Contact Centre Ltd

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Anthony Barclay, Chair
	Donna Thompson, Deputy Chair
	John Stewart
	Catherine Mallon
	Casandra Downie
	Catherine Hunter
Secretary	Emma Barclay
Senior Management Team	Barclay Emma, Secretary
Charity Registration Number	102727
Company Registration Number	NI624092
Registered Office	13 West Street Carrickfergus BT38 7AR
Independent Examiner	John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus Units 1 & 2 North West 41 Talbot Street Nottingham NG1 5GL

Carrickfergus and Larne Child Contact Centre Ltd

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 May 2024.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

Anthony Barclay, Chair
Donna Thompson, Deputy Chair
John Stewart
Gillian Connolly (resigned 13 September 2024)
Lyn Cosley (resigned 6 July 2023)
Catherine Mallon (appointed 1 May 2024)
Casandra Downie (appointed 1 May 2024)
Catherine Hunter (appointed 3 July 2024)

Secretary:

Michelle McCord (resigned 6 July 2023)
Emma Barclay (appointed 1 July 2023)

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity. It is operated under the rules of its memorandum and articles of association dated 14/04/2014 and most recently amended 16/11/2022. It has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

By public advertisement or recommendation. Potential Trustees are appointed according to identified skill needs, interview and acceptance by the Boards.

Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration

Emma Barclay, interim manager,

Organisational structure

During the year, paid members of staff were Mrs. McCord (Coordinator) and Mrs. McCaffery, Mrs Karen Crawford, Mrs Lisa Lesley and Mrs Emma Barclay (Deputy Coordinators), who were ably supported by a number of greatly appreciated and valued volunteers.

The charity is a member of the Northern Ireland Network of Child Contact Centres (NINCCC), which is in turn recognised as a governing body by our primary funder, the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT). The charity complies with the policies and procedures of NINCCC. Our chairperson, Mr Barclay, is also a Director and Trustee of NINCCC.

Carrickfergus and Larne Child Contact Centre Ltd

Trustees' Report

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The company's objects are specifically restricted to the relief of hardship and distress of children, the promotion and protection of mental and physical health and for the benefit of families suffering as a result of marital and/or family breakdown living in Carrickfergus, Larne or other township in County Antrim and their environs, or other area within Northern Ireland as may benefit from the services provided, by associating statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure-time occupation.

With the object of improving the conditions of life for the said beneficiaries and in particular, to maintain and manage a centre which provides a safe, comfortable, and neutral environment where children of separated families can spend time with one or both parents and/or other family members.

Carrickfergus and Larne Child Contact Centre exists to provide a safe, neutral environment where quality, supported contact can occur between a child and their parent or significant others with whom they no longer reside. Potential service users are referred to the Charity via solicitors, the family court service, or social services; the charity does not accept self-referrals, as a safeguarding issue. The charity does not directly offer, nor provide, supervised contact sessions. Services to our referred families are provided free of charge.

The direct benefits that which flow from this purpose include: relief of the emotional impact of separation due to family breakdown; the re-establishment of trust between parents and between parents and children; increased regular contact between parent and child; safe, structured and neutral space allows child to feel more secure during contact; parents benefit from pre contact meeting to establish ground rules and boundaries surrounding contact.

The charity applies a standard yet attractive room hire fee to Social Services teams who wish to avail of the unique facilities, including our ground floor child contact rooms, as well as the first floor 'Beehive' contact room.

Carriekfergus and Larne Child Contact Centre Ltd

Trustees' Report

Objectives, strategies and activities

This year finally brought the world out of the direct challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, and a return to some form of normality. With it, demand for our core service increased, with more families seeking to avail of the contact centre.

Due to staff changes, an interim manager was appointed in July, and a full review of service provision implemented, resulting in improved service delivery and a refocus on our core purpose. In support of this, a volunteer recruitment drive was launched for both our Carriekfergus centre and our satellite centre at Larne. Our new co-ordinator for Larne, Shannen Murray, has proven to be an excellent appointment, and we are truly blessed to welcome her to our family. Shannen was herself blessed by the arrival of baby Jude in early 2024. Funding continues to be an issue, as with the majority of charitable organisations. We are very grateful to everyone who supports our charity through direct donations, no matter how small, as well as the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (our primary funder through an ongoing contract), the John Moores Foundation for funding towards Larne CC, and the Albert Hunt Trust for funding towards our running costs this year. Other fundraising activities continue, with new and diverse ideas coming to fruition, including the very popular and well attended Santa day, supported and hosted by our friends at NACS coffee shop, alongside Gary from Mount 10 Gallery who provided the photographs for everyone throughout the day - human and canine!

Funding from the John Moores Foundation helped us with rent of our Larne centre, and to provide a very popular soft play facility and other much needed new toys. We were also very grateful to welcome our new contact support worker, Naomi Marshal, who has extensive experience of neurodiversity and has proven to be very helpful supporting anxious, autistic or other neurodiversity children.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Financial review

SDAs we have come to expect, our financial planning identified a projected deficit for the year, which our Trustees, staff and volunteers rose to address throughout the year. The Trustees are mindful of the financial challenges facing the Charity as well as the Third Sector as a whole, and are cautious in our expenditure, whilst consistently seeking to maximise the quality and quantity of service provision at best value.

The Charity maintains a healthy reserve account, which has not required use during the period.

Policy on reserves

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain, as best as possible, at least three month's financial reserves, on the basis of 'shut down' costs in the event of closure of the Charity. Reserves are held in an interest attracting bank account for the specific purpose. As with all of our policies, this is reviewed on an annual basis to reflect increasing costs.

Due to the pressures on current income, it has not been possible to increase our reserve account balance this year, however Trustees remain hopeful of identifying other income sources and thereby being able to increase reserves.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Carrickfergus and Larne Child Contact Centre Ltd

Trustees' Report

Statement of Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Carrickfergus and Larne Child Contact Centre Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

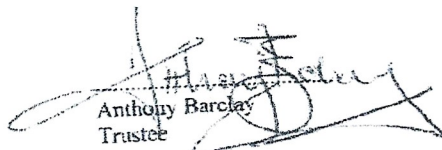
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 05/02/15 and signed on its behalf by:


Anthony Barclay
Trustee