

## Newtownabbey Mencap (102823) Trustee's Annual Report -

During the year 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 - 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024 there were 8 committee meetings, AGM was held at Drumross on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The officers were re-elected to their posts as follows; Chairman - Patrick Elliott, Vice Chairman - Gary Grattan, Secretary - Niqui Rainey, Treasurer - Jimmy Elliott & Minutes Secretary - Susan Byrne.

I confirm that all the trustees have complied with their duty under charity law to have regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Niqui Rainey, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

### Newtownabbey MENCAP: Chairman's Report 2024

Although we didn't engage in any fundraising activities in 2023-2024, we still have adequate funds in reserve. We made our Christmas gift donations to Hill Croft School, Drumross, New Way, The Martin Trust and individuals in the community.

We also continued to support the Shadows Discos. The cheque for £1000 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 was accidentally damaged and never lodged. This cheque has since been reissued, along with a further £1000 for this year.

We had a request from Jennifer Gilbert, a staff member from New Way Day Centre, to fund the purchase of a minibus. After we agreed to this, she sourced a vehicle and we paid the Vendor, Harry Todd £12,700 and the minibus was delivered. On the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Jimmy and I attended a meeting with senior management from the Northern Trust, Robyn Lennox and Gareth Farmer. They said that staff should have sought senior management approval before requesting funds for the minibus and that they had not considered the running costs and the need for a P.S.V. driver. Rob yn Lennox and Gareth Farmer expressed their gratitude for our generosity but said that they could not accept the minibus. I contacted Harry Todd and explained the situation. He found a new buyer for the minibus who then paid £13,00 directly into our bank account. The extra £300 was to cover any costs incurred by Harry Todd. He said that he wouldn't charge us and for us to accept the £300 as a donation.

Sadly, this year, our two remaining founder members, Stella Wilson and Dorothy Greer retired from our committee. They have been an integral part of Newtownabbey Mencap since its formation 50 years ago. They helped coordinate the campaigning and to have the original Hill Croft School and later Drumross Adult Centre. The Learning Disability community in Newtownabbey is indebted to them. As a small token of our appreciation Niqui, Susan, Marie, Margaret, Dorothy and myself took them to Jamison's tea room in Ballyclare. We treated them to a posh Afternoon Tea and presented them each with a bouquet of flowers.

I would like to finish by thanking our committee for another year of service; Dorothy & Brian, Marie, Margaret, Susan Byrne our Minutes Secretary Jimmy Elliott our Treasurer Gary Grattan our Vice Chairman and Niqui Rainey our Secretary whose energy, enthusiasm and awesome IT skills have kept us going. One final thank you to Tom Beck who audits our accounts free of charge.

The Newtownabbey Mencap committee for 2023 – 2024 now stand down.

Patrick Elliot, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024