

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Principal Activities and Future Development

The Principal activity of the company is to increase the capacity of senior citizens' groups in North Belfast to influence all types of public service which impact on the quality of life of older people, to encourage and empower local senior citizens' organizations to develop their own activities and function as self help groups.

Public benefit

The public benefits that flow from this purpose are

- decreased financial and social exclusion through our benefits outreach service.
- Increased access to educational services through provision of classes, especially IT, which lessens the digital divide.
- Reducing the risk of poverty through increasing older people's access to statutory and community anti-poverty programmes.
- Improving the health and well-being of older people through facilitation of healthy ageing programmes.
- Reducing social isolation through promotion of social activities for older people.

These benefits are evidenced through the numbers of older people accessing our services, feedback from clients and the amount of money claimed by our advice service users.

The beneficiaries of our purpose are elderly people within the North Belfast area. There is no harm or private benefit from our purpose.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The company had net incoming resources for the year of £5,752 (2023: net outgoing resources of £1,321) which reflected the completion of projects during the year. Unrestricted funds increased by £3,554, while restricted funds increased by £2,198. Fund balances at 31 March 2024 were: Restricted fund £12,176 and Unrestricted fund £28,154.

Reserves policy

The Charity is reliant on income from funding bodies. The charity raises unrestricted income from fundraising activities. The reserve policy is to have in place three months running costs.

FUTURE PLANS

The directors continue to explore other funding opportunities. The main focus of the charity continues to be to deliver on the needs of senior citizen's in North Belfast.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance of the Charity

During the period under review the directors met monthly. Trustees/directors are appointed by nominations made in writing by any existing director. At the General Meeting nominated directors are appointed by election.

Risk management

The directors have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that the systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to the major risks. The principles of good governance are embedded within all aspects of North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum operations with management and staff being keenly aware of the Board's responsibility of ensuring that the organisation protects itself from financial exposure and reputational damage. A close working relationship is maintained between the Board and management to ensure that operationally staff are aware of the standards required of them by the Board and the Board are always in a position to provide guidance and support to management in the discharge of their duties. This two way relationship is the key feature of North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum governance arrangements and is a key strength in the company.

A conscientious approach to ensuring that contractual project requirements are achieved has been maintained at all times both in the accounting period being reported on and since North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum establishment. Very tight financial controls on expenditure and all financial commitments are maintained at all times and project staff have been trained and have become experienced in budgetary controls. In both these areas ie Project delivery and financial controls management all staff have established close working relationships with funding organisations to ensure all mandatory standards are consistently achieved. Board representatives also actively engage with funding bodies.

The Board, management and staff are fully aware that the nature of the work in which North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum is involved can bring with it a high level of scrutiny to ensure that all activities are fully compliant with funding requirements and, therefore, beyond reproach. The Board of North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum is, therefore, greatly reassured of the company's compliance with the highest of standards of governance on the basis that all monitoring and evaluation of project delivery demonstrates achievement of all funders' objectives and that funders' audits and vouching of financial expenditure and the independent examiners' report confirm compliance with both probity and regularity in the use of monies received.

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 26 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Kelly', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mary Kelly - Trustee