

## **TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**Charity Name:** Walkway Community Association

**Charity Reg No:** 103713

**Public Address:** 1-9 Finvoy Street, Belfast, County Down, BT5 5DH

### **Trustees:**

The following served as charity Trustees during the year and up to the date of this report:

- Mr Stephen McDonald
- Mrs Tracey Moffett
- Mrs Violet Hudson
- Mrs Mandy Lee
- Mrs Jill McDermott
- Mrs Catriona McCabe
- Mr Andrew Steed
- Mrs Tracy Davidson
- Mrs Ann Grierson
- Ms Whilma Harvey
- Mrs Arlene Llewellyn
- Mrs Janice Cherry

### **Objectives and Activities:**

Walkway Community Association is founded to provide a range of activities and services to residents of the Ravenscroft/Bloomfield area.

Walkway Community Association provides local community development support through programmes and activities such as youth work, young mothers and toddlers, women's groups, senior women's group. We also work with local nurseries and creche providers to support local families.

- The advancement of education
- The advancement of health or the saving of lives
- The advancement of citizenship and community development

### **Who Walkway Community Association helps:**

- Adult training
- Carers
- Children (5-13 years)
- Community safety/crime prevention
- Ethnic minorities
- General public
- Interface communities
- Men
- Mental Health
- Older people
- Parents
- Preschool (0-5 years)
- Specific areas of deprivation
- Unemployed/low income
- Voluntary and community sector
- Volunteers
- Women
- Youth (14–25 years)

### **How we help:**

- Advice/advocacy/information
- Community development
- Cross border/cross community
- Education/training
- Playgroup/after schools
- Relief of poverty
- Volunteer development
- Youth Development

### **Achievements and Performance:**

In my opinion, as Chair of Walkway Community Association, the year from April 2022 to April 2023 has been the most difficult and challenging since the association was formed in 1992. This is even considering the circumstances and the pressures presented to the association due to the pandemic over the previous two years.

It is incumbent on me to recognise the sheer hard work, long hours and the determination of the staff and volunteers who continued to earn the respect of our community and government bodies throughout a difficult time of transition from the old to the new community centre.

The original centre closed in December 2019 and Walkway's Management Committee took ownership of the new centre in March 2023. By relocating resources to local churches and CrossSection, staff and volunteers were still able to deliver comprehensive programs for all age groups within our community.

Funding was applied for and received during 2022/23 from Belfast City Council, Education Authority, Urban Villages, DFC, TNLCF and CFNI to allow support for the needs of parents and tots, children and young people, men, and women's' groups, senior clubs, education programs, health and wellbeing, community safety and environmental projects. A "warm hub" was set up by Walkway staff in a local church to combat loneliness and fuel poverty over the course of winter.

Through funding from DFC, the association was able to recruit and train a new Community Support Officer and Youth Workers due to a staff member leaving for family reasons and another moving on to other employment. I am pleased to report our new staff members are now an integral part of the association. They are actively engaged in ongoing training relevant to their positions.

There is no doubt the Covid pandemic had a huge impact on our community. Despite our concerns, it is satisfying to see different groups reforming and returning to the centre after a long absence. Since March, we have welcomed back Trinity Theatre Arts, the Walkway Women's Group and Parents and Tots, to name a few.

Walkway Management Committee thanks our funders for their continued support without which it would be impossible to finance and deliver our full range of programs. Their continued financial support is acknowledgement by the funding agencies of the important contribution Walkway's programs make to improving the quality of life of those people living within our community. The organisation is represented on many networks, making connections within the community to share experiences and promote partnership working. We have been involved in supporting and delivering community capacity building programmes, cultural awareness, community safety and community engagement activities.

In conclusion, my hope is we continue to work together, with other community groups, local agencies, and our local churches to enhance the lives of those in our community. Together, we have much to look forward to in the coming year.

I trust the staff and volunteers will enjoy the new centre and the resources it offers to work together to make Walkway Community Centre a welcome space for everyone regardless of race, creed, or religion.

I am pleased to present this year's accounts for approval.

Stephen McDonald



Chair