

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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:

Stephen McDonald
Mandy Lee
Violet Hudson
Ann Grierson
Arlene Llewellyn
Andrew Steed
Janice Hill
Whilma Harvey
Catriona McCabe
Nuala Symmington

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
Promote good community relations, religious and racial harmony and equal and diversity

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

Achievement and Performance:

Walkway Community Association continues to serve the local community in the Bloomfield/Ravenscroft area and the wider community in East Belfast. The organisation has moved into our new building and held an official opening day on the 14th September 2023. The staff and volunteers ensured that there was a smooth transfer of groups and their resources into our new home.

The Department for Communities provides the funding for core staff enabling the organisation to continue to operate as a community facility offering services in the area of benefit. We are funded under Neighbourhood Renewal to assist in improving the lives of the residents in our area. Through funding from DFC, we have been able to sustain the staff who have been responsible for the management and daily operations of the organisation, the new building and the user groups. We continue to support and mentor our groups offering guidance on community development practice and principals. Staff continue to participate in training relating to their positions, two members are currently attending University.

Volunteers are the mainstay and the backbone of our organisation. Without their commitment and dedication to support the work of Walkway Community Association we would be unable to deliver services in the area. Their skills and abilities add to the rich mixture of professionalism shown by the staff and management committee. We remain eternally grateful for their service.

Walkway Community Association continues to deliver programmes and projects designed to meet the needs of our members and residents. Financial support from Belfast City Council, Education Authority, Urban Villages, DFC, Awards for All, Halifax and others have enabled the organisation to work in the local community on many identified projects.

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.

We continue to deliver programmes for youth in partnership with other voluntary and statutory organisations. The Education Authority continues to support the organisation by funding staff and programmes listed below:

Rugrats Junior Youth Club, Ravers Senior Youth Club, Football Programme, Detached work.

Our youth team has increased and has been able to deliver many educational programmes for all young people in our area as per their delivery plan for the year. The new building has attracted new members and our numbers continue to grow significantly.

Funding from Urban Villages has allowed us to continue with the Young Mum's programme. 30 young mums are enrolled in the programme and creche is provided for 31 children. This is a successful programme recognised by Government departments and held as a model of good practice.

Other groups continue to benefit from the projects delivered by the organisation, Parents & Tots, Trinity Theatre Arts, Walkway Women's Group, etc. Walkway Community Association also deliver many seasonal programmes and projects designed to meet the needs of the local community. A significant focus for this reporting period was the cost-of-living issues faced by many people in our community. Walkway Community Association were able to provide support with rising food and utility costs for individuals and families. Continued support from local churches has also allowed us to support families during crisis periods.

A strategic planning exercise was completed by the Management Committee to ensure the service delivery is tailored to meet the needs of the community. The strategic plan for the period 2023-2026 has been prepared and reflects the needs of the organisation, the community and the voluntary sector in East Belfast. It also highlights the future objectives for the organisation.

Stephen McDonald

Chair

