

CAUSE (NI) Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

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CAUSE (NI) Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name CAUSE (NI) Limited
Charity registration number NIC103733
Company registration number NI029469
Principal office and registered office Unit 2 Lesley Office Park
393 Holywood Road
Belfast, Antrim
BT4 2LS
Northern Ireland

The trustees

Dr M McCann
S Byrne (Chairperson) (Resigned 10 January 2025)
C Coulter (Appointed 10 January 2025)
Dr G Dickson
G Maguire
S Bowman

Auditor

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

CAUSE (NI) Limited

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

Cause (NI) Limited is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 7th December 2013. Cause (NI) Limited is a registered charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Cause (NI) Limited is a membership organisation with currently 69 members, each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Appointment of trustees

The Chairman and the Trustees recruit and select new Trustees as needed. New Trustees are recruited on the relevance of their professional skills, and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity. As part of the recruitment process they are made aware of a Trustees' legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity.

Once the potential new Trustee has agreed to be considered for appointment to the role, the Trustees meet to review and to vote on the candidates' suitability for appointment. If there is unanimous agreement, their names are then proposed for appointment, to the voting Members of the Company at the next Annual General Meeting.

Trustee induction and training

Trustee Induction and training is in line with the Code of Good Governance and follows an agreed protocol of Policy and Procedure, which is documented and recorded.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The directors consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All directors give of their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year.

The pay of the senior staff is reviewed annually in accordance with available benchmarking information through NI Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) and is aligned to the published NJC Scales. In view of the nature of the charity, the directors also benchmark against pay levels in other similar size charities run on a voluntary basis. The remuneration bench-mark is the mid-point of the range paid for similar roles.

Organisation structure and how charity makes decisions

The board of trustees, which can have up to 10 members, administers the charity. The board normally meets quarterly and there is a sub-committee covering finance which normally meets quarterly, and on an ad hoc basis where necessary. A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and direct charitable activities.

Relationships with related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity.

The organisation has a robust Conflict of Interest Policy, and a Register of Interests which is updated at least annually.

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Year ended 31 March 2025

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

" an annual review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces;" the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and " the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Objectives and activities

Established in 1995, CAUSE is a regional peer-led charity which provides practical and emotional support for carers of loved ones with serious mental illness.

Our team of Carer Advocates provides a wide range of support to carers who are caring for loved ones with serious mental illness such as severe depression, personality disorder, psychosis, bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

CAUSE's activities fall under two of the twelve charitable purposes outlined in public benefit statutory guidance for Northern Ireland namely:

- The relief of those in need
- The advancement of education

How we meet public benefit criteria is outlined in the Company's objects as quoted below:

'To provide relief, education and support to those caring for individuals with a serious mental illness....'

The strategies employed to achieve the charity's aims and objectives are to provide:

- Support group facilitation
- One-to-one advocacy support
- Telephone Helpline support
- Training for carers and professionals
- Co-ordination of social activity events
- Opportunities for carer involvement in policy and service development

The structure, governance and management of the organisation include CAUSE's team and Board currently comprising:

- 5 Trustees
- 14 Carer Advocates (full-time and part-time)
- Community Engagement Fundraiser
- Head of Operations
- Lead Finance
- Office Support
- Chief Executive

CAUSE is a membership organisation with 69 members registered. The peer-led ethos of CAUSE is translated into its recruitment and selection of the Board, management and its advocacy team. The Board of 69 Trustees meets once every quarter and the Finance Sub-committee also meets quarterly with additional meetings when required.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance

During the year of 2024-2025 Cause continued to work towards the delivery of our range of services, providing mental health carers with practical and emotional support by enhancing their knowledge, skills and resilience as carers, and thereby work towards the strategic goals agreed for the period. The organisation continues to raise awareness of the significant caring roles undertaken by mental health carers and the need for carer involvement in service development and planning.

These high level goals were monitored and managed through advocacy and support service delivery to carers Regionally across Northern Ireland, and through specific Service Level Agreements with the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

In addition to the core work activities of Carer Advocacy and support, CAUSE Carer Advocates and the wider staff team ensured that carers could avail of Short breaks activities and take a break with recreational and learning based activities co-ordinating social events for carers throughout the year. Psycho educational training continues to be delivered and the organisation

Cause NI continues to ensure the needs and views of those carers who are caring for loved ones with serious mental illness are represented at a wide range of appropriate policy, strategic partnerships and decision making fora.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Financial review

Financial review

At the end of the financial year to 31 March 2025 CAUSE is in a position with a deficit of £59,571 (2024: Surplus of £11,281)

Income during 2024/25 was £490,407 (2023/24: £518,756). The major income streams during the year comprised of £439,776 (2023/24: £460,510) from Charitable Activities; £16,721 (23/24: £26,742) from Donations and Legacies, £269 (2023/24: £1,226) from Trading Activities and £33,641 (2023/24: £30,278) from Other Income.

Charitable Activities main income streams are from Health Care Trusts, DHSS&PS(NI) & the Community Foundation NI for carers, Halifax and CLEAR. Trading activities comprise of money received from membership fees.

Other Income consists mainly of Short breaks funding, this is mainly funded from Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and the Western Health and Social Care Trust. Details of all income streams are detailed in the Statement of Financial Activities and notes 5-9 of the accounts.

Expenditure for the year amounted to £549,978 (2023/24: £507,475). Expenditure is used to deliver CAUSE's strategic objectives through Service Level agreements with Health Trusts and other project work undertaken.

Capital Investment

During the financial year £4,899 was spend on capital investment for Office Equipment.

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of the charity, have kept available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account.

Reserves policy and going concern

Reserves are needed to bridge the timing gap between spending and receiving income and to cover unplanned temporary shortfalls in income should they arise. Holding adequate reserves safeguards the provision of our services in the event of unexpected significant financial pressures. The trustees consider that the idea level of reserves are between three to six months of unrestricted expenditure which for the year ended 31 March 2025 is between £137,494 and £274,988.

Unrestricted reserves freely available to spend are £275,999. This level of reserves is in excess of the target level required as outlined above. The trustees believe this represents a sufficient level of reserve to ensure that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

Plans for future periods

The organisation continues to strategically plan taking into account the major developments in our wider sector. Objectives for the period are set to ensure that the organisation continues to maintain and develop a contemporary, relevant and sustainable service to our carers, particularly taking account the DOH 10Year Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors 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).

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

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 22 September 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



G Maguire
Trustee