

Company registration number: NI620052

Charity registration number :NIC104587

# Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

D T Carson & Co.  
51-53 Thomas Street  
Ballymena  
Co. Antrim  
BT43 6AZ

## **Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership**

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Chairman</b>	Mr W McCaughey
<b>Trustees</b>	Mr W McCaughey Mrs E R Booker Mrs M A Morrow Mr H Nicholl Mr S Gordon Ms J S McGuigan Mr S Slaine Mrs D Neill Mrs A Keenan Mr I Deboys Mrs K Brady Mrs Anne Bell
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr C Havelin
<b>Senior Management / Leadership Team</b>	Ms J Marshall, Executive Director of Community Programmes Ms S McLaughlin, Executive Director of Health Programmes
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	NIC104587
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	NI620052
<b>Registered Office</b>	The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland. Broughshane House 70 Main Street Broughshane BALLYMENA County Antrim BT42 4JW
<b>Auditor</b>	D T Carson & Co. 51-53 Thomas Street Ballymena Co. Antrim BT43 6AZ

## **Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership**

### **Trustees' Report**

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, are pleased to present the annual Trustees report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act 2006 purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2008, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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).

### **Chair's Report**

Our key projects during 2023/2024 have included:

#### **IMPACTAgewell®**

In 2023/2024 we entered Year Four of our funding through the SPPG/Department of Health. During this period, we have continued to scale the programme across Mid and East Antrim to include partnerships with 22 GP Practices. During this period, we worked with the IMPACT UK Centre for Review of Adult Social Care to complete a report on the 'Implementation of Asset-Based Approaches' such as IMPACTAgewell®. The programme aims to support Older People using an assets-based community development approach, focusing on the social determinants of health, to improve their health and wellbeing.

In 2023/2024 with the support of six Officers we received 468 referrals to support Older People through the IMPACTAgewell® programme.

In November 2023 Agewell were delighted to be awarded Best Population Health Management Approach at The UK Health Creation Awards in London for our IMPACTAgewell® model.

#### **Ageing Well Programme**

As an organisation, we have continued to provide our Handyperson service and Good Morning Telephone Befriending support in collaboration with Bryson Energy, Good Morning Ballymena, Good Morning Carrickfergus, and Good Morning Larne. This service was extended for another year to support Older People throughout 2023/2024. The Ageing Well Service is funded by Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Community Planning Partners, including The Health & Social Care Board, Public Health Agency, Northern Health & Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, MEA PSCP, and Mid & East Antrim Borough Council. Throughout the 2023/2024 year, the Ageing Well Service assisted 524 older people with the Handyperson Service and continued to support over 666 older people with a total of 82,518 Good Morning telephone calls and the distribution of 2,500 Ageing Well calendars.

In addition to this, with thanks an additional small pot of funding we have been able to provide 42 households with cost-of-living support including heating/food support.

#### **Connect North Service**

In April 2023 Agewell commenced a new contract with Age NI to deliver the Connect North Service on behalf of the Northern Health & Social Care Trust (NHSCT) in the Mid and East Antrim area. This new social prescribing model replaces the NHSCT Community Navigator Service which Agewell previously delivered from June 2017 to March 2023. The Connect North model takes in social factors such as work, money, housing problems, the challenges of managing long-term conditions, as well as isolation and loneliness and provides tailored support measured by the individual's needs.

In 2023/2024 Connect North supported 214 individuals in Mid and East Antrim through 1920 interventions.

## Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership

### Trustees' Report

#### Additional Projects

In addition to the key projects highlighted above, the organisation has also sourced and secured funding for several additional small projects to support and underpin the key services of the organisation. These have included:

##### *Creases for Carers*

Funded by The Department for Health, our Creases for Carers Service provides practical support for older carers with a door-to-door ironing collection and delivery service which supports older carers to prioritise time for self-care.

##### *Building Flourishing Friendships (BFF) Befriending*

BFF volunteers provide face to face befriending in older people's own homes, who may not be suitable for telephone befriending. These visits provide friendship and support for individuals who may be feeling isolated and require social connection.

##### *Larne Intergenerational Parliament*

In partnership with Larne Community Cluster, Agewell facilitated an Intergenerational Parliament in March 2024 with older representatives from the Larne community as well as St MacNissi's Primary School. A panel of statutory partners including, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, PSNI, Housing Executive and The Northern Health & Social Care Trust fielded questions from the floor on issues that span multiple generations.

##### *Building Community Pharmacy Partnerships*

In 2023/2024 with funding from PHA, facilitated by The Community Development and Health Network (CDHN) Agewell worked in partnership with Ballee Pharmacy to deliver a 14-week programme of support with 12 older people from Ballymena, looking at 'The Effects of the Cost-of-Living Crisis on Ageing'.

##### *Agewell Adventures*

Agewell Adventures is a volunteer led initiative which supports Older People living in Mid and East Antrim, to utilise their free Smart Travel Pass to visit new places across the province with the comfort of having a volunteer on hand to assist. In 2023/2024 Agewell facilitated three-day trips to Derry/Londonderry, Lisburn, Ballymoney and Newry.

##### *Bryson Energy Support Scheme*

From January - March 2024 with support provided by the Bryson Energy Support Scheme, the Agewell Team submitted applications on behalf of 42 Older People with the potential to collectively secure £8,400 in electricity costs to support their financial wellbeing.

#### Counselling Support

In 2023/2024 Agewell provided 264 counselling sessions in partnership with Lead Counselling to Older People struggling with their emotional/mental health. Timely access to counselling means that individuals can receive mental health support without significant delays, ensuring that they get the help they need when they need it most. Our thanks go to Bank of Ireland for part funding our counselling service this year, administered by The Community Foundation.

## **Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership**

### **Trustees' Report**

#### **Agewell Awards**

The Agewell Awards hosted on the 1 March 2024 provided an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the remarkable achievements and contributions of community members who go above and beyond to create a positive impact for local Older People. In total there were 12 categories with over 90 nominations for community groups and individuals across Mid and East Antrim. The awards attracted sponsorship from 16 local business businesses from across the Borough with Principal Sponsor being Pharmacy Plus.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. McCaughey', written over a dotted line.

Mr W McCaughey  
Chairman and trustee

31 October 2024

## Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership

### Trustees' Report

The Trustees, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present this annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### Background

Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership (MEAAP) was established in March 2011, with the aim of improving the lives of older people within the Mid & East Antrim area i.e. Ballymena, Larne & Carrickfergus. MEAAP became a Company Limited by Guarantee in August 2013 and has since registered with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland in January 2016.

#### Objectives and activities

##### *Objects and aims*

Vision, Mission and Values

##### Vision

Mid & East Antrim is a place where everyone can actively age well together, being involved, heard and valued.

##### Mission

Our mission is to support individuals and communities to actively age well through partnership working, as we believe everyone deserves a good quality of life.

##### Values

- Listening, Caring and Sharing
- Honesty and Openness
- Challenging and Influencing
- Connecting and Transforming

##### *Objectives, strategies and activities*

Specific objectives for the year 2023 -2024 were:

1. Relieve Poverty - The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include increased uptake of benefits, raising awareness of financial hardship; increased confidence in securing assistance; and increased opportunities to gaining support either directly by Agewell or signposted by Agewell i.e. the provision of items including keep warm packs, healthy food parcels, home security measures, nuisance call blocking devices, subsidised handyperson scheme, volunteer transport. These benefits are evidenced through the feedback from the local community, beneficiaries receiving the service, evaluation of projects by awarding bodies.
2. Advance Education - The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include improved employability or volunteering opportunities for older people, creation of new or enhanced skills, increased self-confidence, and increased access to training opportunities within the Mid & East Antrim Borough Council area, increased uptake of mainstream educational services and a reduction in isolation. These benefits are evidenced through feedback from the local community, beneficiaries attending courses, evaluation of projects by tutors and awarding bodies.
3. To Promote Health - The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include: reduced social isolation, improvement of the quality of life for those in need and reduced levels of stress and anxiety and increased mental health among those in need. These benefits are evidenced through attendance at activities such as our luncheon clubs, handyperson service users, home security service users, Good Morning service users, feedback from statutory organisations such as Police Service for Northern Ireland, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, Northern Health & Social Care Trust & Public Health Agency, beneficiaries, independent evaluations of our activities.

## **Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership**

### **Trustees' Report**

#### ***Public benefit***

The public benefits that Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership seek to achieve are:

1. The prevention or relief of poverty
2. The advancement of education
3. The advancement of health or the saving of lives

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of The Charities Act 2008 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

#### **Financial review**

The total unrestricted incoming resources for the year amounted to £25,726 (2023: £8,300), with expenditure of £46,518 (2023: £49,240) resulting in a net increase of funds, after transfers, of £9,659 (2023: decrease of £19,275).

This leaves unrestricted funds after transfers of £139,892 (2023: £130,233) at the year end.

#### **Policy on reserves**

The Task Force on Resourcing the Voluntary and Community Sector recommends that all Voluntary and Community Organisations should have a policy on reserves proportionate to their needs and funders should view reserves as a positive statement of prudent management and not a barrier to providing funding. It is further recommended that the Charity Commission Guidance on organisational reserves should be adopted.

In formulating an assessment on the level of reserves the following guidelines provided by the Charity Commission have been used:

- Current and anticipated income and expenditure levels;
- The organisation's lack of any other tangible assets (such as a building);
- Current and projected funding patterns;
- The notice and redundancy requirements associated with the employees; and
- The programmes/services that the organisation plan to deliver in the period covered by the strategic plan.

Based on the guidelines above Agewell should therefore aim to have an operating reserve equal to 3 months operating costs i.e. approximately £144,617.

The Board of Trustees note that the current level of unrestricted reserves is below £144,617 targeted for operational reserves (based on Q1 of operating cost for 24/25 financial year). In order to bring unrestricted reserves above £144,617, Agewell will aim to maximise annual income via multiple streams including, grants, social enterprise and fundraising. In addition to this an organisational exercise will be carried out to control expenditure in the 24/25 financial year to ensure operating costs are kept as minimal as possible.

The Board of Trustees will be responsible for monitoring the level of reserves on a quarterly basis. This policy should be reviewed every 3 years in line with the strategic planning cycle. At this time, if it is demonstrated that it is appropriate to do so, the level can either be reduced or increased..

## **Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership**

### **Trustees' Report**

#### **Future Plans**

Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership continue to work towards the achievement of the organisational aims by implementing a new organisational strategy with focus on the strategic pillars listed below.

#### ***2022-2025 Strategic Pillars***

1. Delivering innovative solutions for a healthier and more connected society
2. Ensuring the voice of Older People is heard in community and health policy development
3. Reconnecting Older People by strengthening and developing local community groups and partnerships
4. Supporting the wellbeing and skills development of our staff
5. Delivering strong governance and back-office services to all our stakeholders

As part of Agewells Income Generation Strategy, work has commenced on the development of a new Social Enterprise arm of the charity. The Social Enterprise will support the organisation to diversify its income through new income streams.

Expanding income sources through new initiatives will boost the organisation's overall revenue and foster greater financial stability for the future. In addition to the planned new Social Enterprise strand of income generation, Agewell have also invested in the future sustainability of the organisation by way of the employment of a part time Fundraising role. This role will support the organisation to generate income through Community Fundraising, Regular Giving and Corporate Partnerships.

#### **Going concern**

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing these financial statements.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### ***Nature of governing document***

The Charity's governing document is the Memorandum and Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up trustees are required to contribute £1.

##### ***Recruitment and appointment of trustees***

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the Trustees of the Charity are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

The Charity seeks to ensure that Trustees with a range of experience from within the business profession serve on the committee. In the event of particular skills and experience being lost due to retirement, individuals are approached to offer themselves for election to the Charity.

## **Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership**

### **Trustees' Report**

#### ***Induction and training of trustees***

On appointment, Trustees are invited to an induction and provided with a induction pack of resources detailing relevant organisational details, as well as information on their legal obligations and responsibilities. The Trustees are invited to attend governance training as provided by NICVA and C03 throughout their term of office.

#### ***Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration***

Key Management Personnel consist of two Executive Directors, whose remuneration is agreed by the Trustees with support and advice provided by an independent HR Company.

#### ***Organisational structure***

The organisation is managed and directed by its Trustees. The Trustees are elected annually and meet bi monthly throughout the year.

#### **Relationships with related parties**

##### **Trustees**

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity.

Trustee expenses incurred for the financial year totalled £318.71.

#### ***Major risks and management of those risks***

##### ***Risk management***

The organisation carries out a full risk audit exercise on an annual basis. This exercise is carried out by the Trustees and senior management team and seeks to identify the risks that the charity is exposed to, with particular interest in the operational and financial risks that may affect the charity's ability to carry out its objectives. As part of this exercise, alongside the identification of risks, mitigating factors are also discussed. The Trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks identified. This risk audit is then reviewed regularly at trustee meetings throughout the year. A key element of the management of financial risk is that of the organisational reserves policy and its regular review by Trustees.

#### **Financial instruments**

##### ***Objectives and policies***

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk.

##### ***Credit risk***

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and other receivables. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its other receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

## Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership

### Trustees' Report

#### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership 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), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed; and
- 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 that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

#### Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

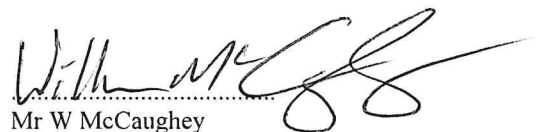
#### Reappointment of auditor

In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution for the re-appointment of D T Carson & Co. as auditors of the charity is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

#### Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 31 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr W McCaughey  
Chairman and trustee