

THE THOMAS DEVLIN FUND

ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO END 31 MARCH 2025

Registered Charity Northern Ireland No:104593

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Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees of the Thomas Devlin Fund are pleased to present the annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Achievements and Performance

In this document we are reporting on activities including grants awarded in the 2024/2025 round for the Thomas Devlin Fund Individual Bursaries.

Summary

In 2024-2025 the Fund was in its eighteenth year of operation, offering awards of up to £1750 to young people between the ages of 15 and 19 in order to pursue a career or study in fine and creative arts including moving images and literacy art, the performing arts or music.

Grant Analysis and Applications Supported

CFNI administer the arrangements for the Bursaries on behalf of the Thomas Devlin Fund. Following agreement at a meeting with CFNI on 18 February 2024, the application process was opened on 19 February 2024 and closed on 25 March 2024.

The Guidance notes had been reviewed and revised in discussion with CFNI. The Advisory Panel met on 23 May 2024 to review applications and allocate the bursaries.

A total of 22 applications were received and 8 were successful. The total amount awarded in this round was £8900 and the average award was £ 1112.50

The Advisory Panel were generally pleased with the number and quality of the applications in the 2024 round. However it was noted that a number of applications were rejected as they did not meet with the criteria.

Feedback has been received from the individual bursary winners. The individual award winners have sent feedback on their use of the bursaries to the Trustees via responses through CFNI together with information as to how the bursary has benefitted them as individuals.

Examples of bursaries awarded include:

- Support for attendance at the Dance World Cup Competition in Prague 2024
- Support for support for attendance at the Belfast TRADfest summer school for fiddle players
- Support for training to develop a circus skills routine to gain entry to a circus degree course in Europe in 2025.
- Support towards a film making course

The successful applicant who attended the Dance World Cup in Prague was in the top ten competitors and attended several masterclasses where she learnt new skills. The successful applicant to Belfast TradFest has been selected to be part of the N I Fiddle Association and was selected to perform at the TradFest concert.

The Trustees agreed at the AGM in October 2024 that the Fund would sponsor two individual bursaries to enable young people to attend the Belfast TradFest in summer 2025. The age and residence criteria for the Fund's bursaries would apply to TradFest bursaries.

Following discussion between the Trustees and CFNI it was agreed that the Fund would open for applications on 17 February 2025 and close on 28 March 2025 with a date of 8 May 2025 agreed for a meeting of the Advisory Panel to consider applications. The outcome of this process will be reported in the Annual Report ending on 31 March 2026.

3. Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees of the Thomas Devlin Fund confirm they have complied with their duty and have had regard to the Charity Commission Northern Ireland's Public Benefit Statutory Guidance in their activities throughout the year.

The benefits which flow from the activities outlined above include enhanced educational skills and qualifications and increased participation in the creative arts and music by young people in Northern Ireland.

These benefits have been demonstrated through feedback from bursary recipients.

No harm has been identified from this purpose.

The benefits of this purpose are provided to young people in Northern Ireland.

There is no private benefit from this purpose.

4. Financial Position at the end of the financial year 31 March 2025

The opening balance of the Danske Bank Account was £13,304. The closing balance of the Danske Bank Account at 31 March 2024 was £13,387. A signed independent full statement of accounts is registered with the Charity Commission NI. The Fund has no debts. These accounts were approved by the Treasurer and Chairperson and independently examined.

The Thomas Devlin Fund also holds a restricted endowment fund with the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. This fund is managed by the Community Foundation and invested for the long term to generate funds each year for bursaries. We work in partnership with the Community Foundation each year to deliver the bursary scheme which supports gifted young people offering exciting and unique opportunities to develop their skills and talent in music and the arts. The value of the endowment fund at 31 March 2024 was £234,977

Thomas Devlin Fund

Statement of Danske Bank Account for the year ending March 2024

Income		Expenditure	
Donations	£25	Bank Charges	£30.05
Interest	£13.40		
Total	£38.40	Total	£30.05

Funds on Account

Opening Balance at 1 st April 2024	£13,386.98
Deposits:	£38.40
Withdrawals:	£30.05
Closing Balance at 31 st March 2025	£13,395.33

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name

The Thomas Devlin Fund

Charity Number

Registered in Northern Ireland No. 104593

Address

99 Somerton Road

Belfast

BT15 4DH

Charity Trustees as of 31 March 2025

Ward Vaughan	Chair
Penny Holloway	Secretary
Felicity Jones	Treasurer
Jim Devlin	
James Devlin	
Megan Devlin	

Governance

The Fund is governed by a constitution which was agreed and signed on 6 February 2006. The Fund is managed by an Executive Committee comprised of all its Trustees. A number of the Trustees hold office, and these are listed above. The Trustees meet with CFNI to plan the bursary awards for the year. CFNI manage the bursary application and distribution process on behalf of the Fund. The accounts of the Thomas Devlin Fund managed by CFNI are received by the Trustees following a meeting with CFNI Fund representatives.

Purpose

The Association is established to advance education and promote awareness and understanding of the effects of gratuitous violence suffered by young people in Northern Ireland (hereinafter called the “area of benefit”) and in particular to promote the involvement of young people in the creative arts and also by providing bursaries to young people or other charitable organisations which will enhance their lives and enable them to participate more fully in society in memory of Thomas Devlin

Public benefit

Purpose one

The Fund provides financial support through bursaries to young people in Northern Ireland in order to enable the award winners to participate in enhancing their skills and knowledge in music and the creative arts through educational opportunities. The bursary awards are provided on an annual basis in three categories and the process is managed by CFNI. Applications are sought from young people annually mainly through schools and colleges and each application must be supported by an applicant's teacher.

The benefits which flow from this purpose include enhanced educational skills and qualifications and increased participation in the creative arts and music by young people in Northern Ireland.

These benefits will be demonstrated through feedback from bursary recipients.

No harm has been identified from this purpose.

The benefits of this purpose are provided to young people in Northern Ireland.

There is no private benefit from this purpose.

Purpose two

A further benefit is the increased awareness of the impact of gratuitous violence on young people.

The benefit will be demonstrated by feedback from those organisations with whom the Fund works with to highlight the effects of gratuitous violence on young people in Northern Ireland.

No harm has been identified from this purpose.

The benefits of this purpose are provided to young people in Northern Ireland.

There is no private benefit from this purpose.