

**Shankill Parish Caring Association**  
(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)  
**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Shankill Parish Caring Association present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 March 2024.

The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

#### **Chairman's Introduction**

On behalf of the members and Trustees of Shankill Parish Caring Association I am delighted to report on another 12-month period for the organisation. While financial performance has been disappointing compared to previous years, we have still delivered excellent results in the midst of a reduced funding environment.

A personal highlight has been the success of our Living Room initiative in partnership with Shankill Parish Church. A project giving social opportunities and wholesome meals to those in our community at risk of loneliness.

As in previous years, surging energy costs, funding cuts and increased wage liabilities have had significant impact on expenditure. This has left us unable to invest as planned in replacement assets such as a new minibus. The Trustees will also have to raise rental fees again for the 2nd time in 2 years.

As Chairperson, I would like to thank the members of the Board for their support and efforts during the calendar year. I would also like to record my appreciation to the staff and volunteers for their contribution and dedication throughout the year.

It is also important to thank a number of Organisations without whose support we could not operate. IncredABLE, NI Community Relations Council, Shankill Parish Church, Southern Health Trust, ABC Council, The Rank Foundation, The Executive Office and the Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade (ROI). Their support, both financial and operational, has been essential to our success.

BRIAN CRAIG (SPCA Chair)

#### **Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance**

##### **COMMUNITY PROVISION & FACILITIES**

While the 23/24 year for room hire was consistent it fell short of our initial forecasts. Funding cuts from Public Sector and declining numbers at private activity resulted in less slots occupied than in previous years. The Trustees note that there is still capacity to increase hire – especially during the summer months and have plans in place to assist with this. Over the year we continued to provide quality affordable accommodation to a range of local Charities, voluntary groups, Church organisations and more. Footfall on average has been about 1,900 individuals per week.

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*SPCA Good Relations Project "Rising Tide" on display in the Jethro Centre foyer*

A clean and fit for purpose facility is crucial to engaging the Community around us and meeting need long term. The Board have invested over £20,000 in the year and are still seeking funding for capital works including LED lights and a new minibus. We also continue to invest in our staff and volunteers with a range of mandatory and professional development opportunities. Staff have completed training in areas such as Diploma in Community Development, Risk Assessment, Child Protection and much more.



*Some of the SPCA Trustees, Staff and Volunteers*

The Board were also delighted to celebrate 30 years of SPCA with an Anniversary Event attended by over 500 people. Groups linked to the Centre gave displays and presentations throughout the day and a range of VIP guests also attended.

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*Mayor of ABC Council with Lurgan Musical Society at the SPCA 30th Anniversary Event*

We also delivered a range of new craft and wellbeing sessions during the year including candle making, glass painting, ceramics, walking netball and much more to diversify our portfolio of activities.



*New Craft Classes in the 23/24 year*



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*Walking Netball Taster Sessions For Ladies*

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROVISION**

In the last twelve months our Community Relations Officer (Carole Kane), has continued to provide a range of mentoring and support services.

Highlights include several "Long Table" events. An innovative partnership with Evangelical Alliance bringing Church leaders together to develop peacebuilding strategies in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Carole also delivered a range of knife crime workshops across the Council area to engage at risk youth.



*Young People taking part in the "Think Twice" knife crime project*

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Carole also continues her Lurgan Practitioners Forum, meeting in the Jethro Centre monthly, which brings community sector workers in the area together to share information and explore mutual working opportunities.

Our Community Outreach Group also delivered over 8 events with talks and discussions on shared history, faith and conflict. These include a challenging evening with local journalist Malachy O'Doherty and his thoughts on a United Ireland with over 50 attending.

#### ENGAGEMENT WITH ETHNIC MINORITIES

In the 23/24 year the project engaged with over 1,700 people through our Ethnic Minority support project. Our project worker Polina, assisted by volunteers, Trustees and other staff delivered over 209 hours of training and mentoring. Some highlights include:

- Bulgarian Christmas Event Celebration (130 attending)
- PSNI & Ethnic Minorities Engagement Event in March (30 attending)
- Ukrainian Community NI celebration in Jan (150 attending)
- Ukrainian Kids Club (30 attending)
- Bulgarian and Romanian Roma Youth Project (15 attending)

#### CEDARS PROJECT & SENIORS PROVISION

Our Seniors' Programme in 23/24 has been delivered by our team of volunteer group leaders, Seniors' Project Worker (Carmel McKenna) and Community Development Assistant (Elaine Livingstone). Over 350 individuals enrolled during the year and approx. 250 per week attended activities such as Walking, Stretch & Relax, Badminton, Bridge, Bible Study, Pickleball and various other activities.



*SPCA Seniors Worker and VERVE Health Trainer Carmel showcasing some of the courses available at the Jethro Centre.*

#### PALMS DAY CENTRE

Delivered under our service level agreement with The Southern Health and Social Care Trust (and supplemented each year by our own fundraising efforts), PALMs can support a maximum of 14 clients per day. Numbers were lower than hoped during the year as the service struggled to receive referrals due to staff shortages in the local Social Work Team. We were grateful for the Trust's support and patience as we introduced additional measures to try and boost client numbers.

Clients are at high risk of social isolation as they have a range of physical and/or mental impairment. Each day during the year clients were transported to the Centre and welcomed by the staff/volunteer team. Clients were engaged in conversation and a tailored plan of physical/mental stimulation. They were also provided with morning tea and a nutritious healthy lunch.



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*Staff at Palms Day Centre*

**KIDZ PATCH DAY CARE**

Delivered in partnership with Kings Park Primary School, Kidz Patch is a core part of our services, delivering quality care for an average of 35 children per day (primary school age) and 24 children per day (Playgroup). We are delighted to note the improved financial performance this year. This was due to investment by the Committee into a new vehicle (to facilitate pickup from new schools) and additional numbers coming from Kings Park.



*Staff and children at Kidz Patch Playgroup*

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**Financial Results**

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £1,791,243 (2023 - £1,874,298) and liabilities of £28,506 (2023 - £40,232). The net assets of the charity have decreased by £(71,329).

**Reserves Position and Policy**

The reserves position of the Charity at the end of the financial year is on note 12.2 to the accounts.

**Jethro Reserves:**

The trustees have confirmed £150,000 as the level of free reserves that the charity aims to have on an ongoing basis. The trustees believe this level of reserves is essential to cover running costs and redundancies should funding cease. This reserve policy is an integral part of the charity's planning, budget and forecasts.

**Kidz Patch Reserves:**

The trustees have confirmed £85,000 as the level of free reserves that Kidz Patch need to have on an ongoing basis. The trustees believe this level of reserves is essential to cover running costs and redundancies should trade fall. This reserve policy is an integral part of the charity's planning, budget and forecasts.

**Trustees**

The trustees who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Desmond John Gregg  
Brian Richard Craig  
Ian Gibson  
Mark Harvey  
Celine McCready  
Sheelin McKeagney  
Kevin O'Hara  
Avril Stevenson  
Chris Stevenson  
Daphne Jones  
Rodney Blair (Appointed 2 October 2023)  
Rodney Beaumont  
Vivien Hannah Abernethy  
Patricia Bassett (Appointed 2 October 2023)  
Olive Hobson (Appointed 2 October 2023)  
Andrew Williamson (Appointed 2 October 2023)  
James Dennis Johnston (Resigned 8 April 2023)  
Eva Mrazikova (Resigned 8 April 2023)  
Erin Kissick (Resigned 2 October 2023)  
Alison Martin (Resigned 8 April 2023)


In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

**Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards**

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Shankill Parish Caring Association subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

**Approved by the Board of Trustees on 16 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Richard Craig  
Trustee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Desmond John Gregg  
Trustee