

# Saphara Limited

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104977

## Details

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**Known as** Saphara

**Status** Received

**Company number** [69905](#)

**Registered** 2016-04-07

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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Holywood  
BT18 9nw  
BT18 9NW

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**Website** [www.saphara.org](http://www.saphara.org)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** I.To engage young people in Northern Ireland with issues of poverty, inclusion and justice through working in cross-community teams with disadvantaged children, including Newcomer children. II.To provide quality educational support for marginalised Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations. III.To equip marginalised Indian adolescent girls with the emotional resilience and menstrual health knowledge to resist abuse and exploitation. IV.To increase awareness within Northern Ireland of local and global justice issues. The aim of the charity is to inspire and equip young people to create flourishing communities of justice and compassion, locally and globally, empowering them to Be the Change in the world.

**What the charity does:** The prevention or relief of poverty,The advancement of education,The advancement of citizenship or community development,The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity,The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

**How the charity works:** Cross-border/cross-community,Education/training,Gender,Human rights/equality,Overseas aid/famine relief,Youth development

**Who the charity helps:** Children (5-13 year olds),Overseas/developing countries,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£256,013	£253,794	£-44,976	5
2024-09-30	£224,682	£203,220	£0	5

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Miller		
Dr Angus Beck		
Dr Christine Burnett		
Dr Linda Thompson		
Mr Dominic Breen		
Mr Paul Mcvey		
Mr Peter Gildea		
Mrs Hilary Mcvitty		
Mrs Jill Macdonald		

**Saphara Limited**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104977

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# Accounts

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**SAPHARA LIMITED  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Company Registration number: NI069905

Charity Registration number: NIC104977

**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

	Pages
Officers & advisors	1
Directors' report	2 - 6
Independent Examiner's report	7
Statement of financial activities	8
Balance sheet	9 - 10
Notes to the financial statements	11 - 12

**SAPHARA LIMITED**  
**OFFICERS AND ADVISORS**

**Directors**

Angus Spence Beck  
Dominic Gerard Breen  
Christine Ann Burnett  
Linda Jane Thompson  
Jill Elizabeth Macdonald  
Paul McVey  
Hilary Margaret McVitty  
Andrew Miller  
Peter Gildea

**Secretary**

David Neil Robinson

**Registered Office**

17 Gray's Hill  
Bangor  
Co Down  
BT20 3BB

**Independent Examiner**

David Neil Robinson  
Retired Chartered Accountant  
17 Gray's Hill  
Bangor  
BT20 3BB

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2025.

### **Purposes and Aims**

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are:

1. To engage young people in Northern Ireland with issues of poverty, inclusion and justice through working in cross-community teams with disadvantaged children, including Newcomer children.
2. To provide quality educational support for marginalised Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations.
3. To equip marginalised Indian adolescent girls with the emotional resilience and menstrual health knowledge to resist abuse and exploitation.
4. To increase awareness within Northern Ireland of local and global justice issues.

The aim of the charity is to inspire and equip young people to create flourishing communities of justice and compassion, locally and globally, empowering them to Be the Change in the world.

### **How our activities deliver public benefit**

#### **Within Northern Ireland**

**Be the Change Schools programme** for sixth-form students in NI secondary schools is flourishing and has gained an excellent reputation amongst post-primary schools. Reaching across traditional social and religious boundaries, it brings together pupils from schools on both sides of the community, facilitating their development as future leaders of an inclusive Northern Ireland.

**Fourteen schools** in cross-community teams took part in **Be the Change Schools 2024-25, with 157 sixth-form students** participating in the year-long programme.

The Be the Change programme is delivered as an Award to ensure that responsibility is taken by the students rather than their teachers. All aspects must be completed including participation in workshops, tasks and fundraising in order to achieve the Award with **89% of the students** successfully completing all aspects by the end of the school year.

The climax of the Award was the **Newcomer Welcome Days** held during Refugee Week in June when the students hosted 301 Primary 5 children from ten primary schools in socially deprived areas of Belfast at affirming educational fun days at Stranmillis University College. The majority of these children were from refugee and asylum seeker families.

The continuing importance of the Saphara Be the Change Award was starkly highlighted when racist violence targeting newcomer families broke out during this very week in Ballymena, in fact on the night before the Ballymena school students were coming to Stranmillis. Reporters from UTV who had planned to attend the Saphara Welcome Day, were pulled away to focus on the violence. One primary school teacher pointed out a P5 boy who had been involved in stone throwing the previous night and had received a warning from PSNI. How important that these children hear a difference message of love and acceptance for all.

Newcomer Welcome Days were rated as excellent or very good by 96% of the teachers with comments such as, "I sat back in awe at the progress the students had made throughout the programme which was evident in the Welcome Day. Our students really stepped up and each took on a leadership role throughout the day. They spoke with confidence, passion and patience."

While awareness of local issues is a key aspect of the Award, so too is global awareness with students fundraising for our Indian partner schools as well as for the newcomer days. The young people and their 14 schools raised an **impressive £52,936** exceeding their target by 35%.

Impact data is collected by surveying the 6th form students at the start and end of the programme including a Mental Wellbeing measure which showed a highly significant increase in student wellbeing and positive mental health.

Sixth form student comments:

"I am now more aware of the disadvantages many children face and have been given ability to be more insightful. I have really enjoyed the Award and definitely think it has opened my eyes to many global issues that I was not fully educated on before."

"I found myself learning so much... you also get to make new friends to help navigate and discuss all the new information that you learn. Taking part in the Be the Change award will always be a privilege and a memory I will cherish forever."

In the end of programme evaluation, one teacher stated:

"I would really encourage other teachers to take on the Saphara Award as a fantastic opportunity for their Year 13 pupils. The programme is fully planned and organised by the Saphara team with excellent resources and hands-on support from beginning to end. A great opportunity for the young people to contribute to the lives of others, while bringing huge benefits to the pupils themselves."

**Be the Change Colleges** was equally successful, with 18 teaching students from St Mary's and Stranmillis University Colleges hosting a two-day Newcomer Welcome event for 78 children from St Paul's, Falls Road and Fane Street Primary Schools, of whom 80% were from refugee families. We recognise the vital nature of this work in contributing to the professional development of future teachers, and the importance of inclusive classrooms to ensure a peaceful future for Northern Ireland.

We were pleased to once more bring to India the **College Team of 12 student teachers** and two lecturers from St Mary's and Stranmillis University Colleges, led by Paula Stronge and Janice Armstrong in April. Both Colleges recognise the value of this experience for their students in developing their professional skills in the affirming culture of SNEHA school in Dehradun.

One student teacher commented, *"hearing the stories of the Saphara Girl Champions Programme and how much adversity these girls have to overcome was incredibly moving. It highlighted the true power of education as a passport out of poverty and reinforced my belief in teaching as a force for change. I was humbled and inspired by their resilience and the transformative work of Saphara. This experience will stay with me both personally and professionally—reminding me on the tough days why I chose teaching as my vocation and the impact you can have on young people."*

### **Within India**

Saphara continues to work with grassroots NGOs to support the delivery of high-quality education to marginalised children. These partnerships enable us to give strategic help with maximum impact on local communities.

The Saphara **educational support programme** ensures that the poorest children can attend our NGO partner schools by providing fee support, school uniforms, midday meals and books for these children. A worthwhile use for the excellent fundraising of the students on the Be the Change Schools Award.

The **Girl Champions programme** continues to enable thousands of adolescent girls to flourish, expanding in the past few years into impoverished areas in the tribal state of Jharkhand. This health and resilience empowerment programme builds self-esteem, encourages girls to value themselves and gives them the skills and confidence to resist abuse, exploitation and child marriage (especially prevalent in tribal communities).

The crucial element in programme delivery is the **training of local tribal teachers as Master Trainers**. These women in spite of being trained teachers, often struggle with low self-esteem, due to the poverty and oppression they experience from the majority-Hindi society surrounding them. The Saphara training conference was held for 4 days in April and in September in Ranchi and led by Dr Christine Burnett. This special time of learning and affirmation equips the teachers to return to their schools to train other teachers as facilitators and to lead group sessions with the girls.

A key focus this year was a complete revision of the Girl Champions curriculum to better reflect tribal culture and the lives of the participating girls, thereby enhancing its impact. This has been undertaken by Christine Burnett and Gracy Andrew, with Vedika Sreehari from Eco Femme.

We continue our partnership with Eco Femme, which provides washable organic sanitary pads to adolescent girls, made by local women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This year Saphara funded pads for almost 1000 adolescent girls (providing 4,500 pads in total).

These pads are having a significant impact with St Anne's School principal reporting:

“Saphara girls and teachers have started using Eco Femme cloth pads, made of soft cotton fabric and reused for several years – they are comfortable to wear, cause fewer infections, and do not contain harmful chemicals which irritate the skin.

“Using Eco Femme pads, many girls and teachers have shown a positive change in their attitudes and awareness regarding menstrual hygiene, becoming more confident in managing their periods and proud to contribute to environmental protection. The girls expressed that they no longer feel shy or uncomfortable talking about menstruation, and are more open to learning and sharing with others.”

One of the girls said, “Earlier I used to feel nervous during my period, but now I feel comfortable and free to attend classes without worry.” [Note: up to 30% tribal girls drop out of school when they start their periods.]

Another student shared, “I am happy that by using cloth pads, I am not creating waste and I can wash and reuse it easily.”

Following the conference, Christine together with Ms Bernie Devlin, former Saphara Board member, visited schools run by PSS in rural areas of Jharkhand where they are seeking to bring transformation to impoverished communities, with **female literacy being shockingly low at under 25%** in some areas. Fr Xavier, coordinator of PSS, showed Christine and Bernie the poor state of toilets for the 250 girls living in the school hostel. This inspired the Door to Dignity Christmas campaign which raised £10,251 which enabled the building of a new toilet block comprising 20 toilets and washroom facilities.

### **Financial Review**

The total income for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 was £256,013 compared to £224,682 in the previous year. Fundraising by young people from schools and colleges taking part in the Be the Change programme decreased slightly with fewer numbers taking part, mainly as a result of the late launch of the college programme. Nevertheless, the students continued to engage enthusiastically with the opportunity to support the work of Saphara and the average amount raised by each participant increased.

This year there was no women's trip to India, but this was more than offset by the generous support from Ardbarron Trust, TBF Thompson Trust, Benefact Trust, Stansfield Trust, Halifax Foundation, 1<sup>st</sup> Ballymena Mission and House of Vicryn totalling £79,613, increased support from individual donors and a grant of £19,864 from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Reconciliation Fund.

As a result of this increased funding, Saphara was able to increase expenditure on programmes both in Northern Ireland and India and ended the year with a surplus of £2,219.

### **Principal source of funding**

The table below shows the source of funding in 2024/25

Fundraising schools	21%
Fundraising colleges	9%
Trusts	31%
Reconciliation fund	8%
Gift aid received	7%
Voluntary donations	18%
College funding	5%
Bank interest received	1%

### **Spend on charitable activities**

Our accounts show how we have spent our resources across our three main activities – Northern Ireland cross-community schools programme, holistic educational support for marginalised Indian children, especially adolescent girls, and local and global justice awareness programmes. Our combined governance costs and marketing spend continues to be less than 6% of our total spend. We remain thankful to volunteers who ensure that all overhead costs are kept to a minimum and ensure that a high proportion of our resources are spent directly on our charitable activities.

### **Reserves Policy**

The directors have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation.

The balance of our general reserves of £159,997 (2024 £154,778) is equivalent to approximately 7.5 months' running costs. This is in line with the Directors' policy to maintain reserves of between 6 and 9 months running costs.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

We will continue with plans to expand the work of Saphara both in India and N. Ireland, including

- Expanding the Be the Change School Award to more NI schools and sixth form students.
- Expanding Newcomer Welcome Week to more primary school children.
- Recruitment of an additional education staff member.
- Engaging more student teachers in both Newcomer and India programmes.
- Developing Girl Champions with NGO leaders to make more relevant to tribal communities, with a focus on period dignity approach.
- Continuing to support educational access for the most marginalised Indian children.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Governing Document**

Saphara is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 9 July 2008 and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 4 July 2008. The memorandum and articles were updated on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

### **Recruitment and Appointment of Directors**

New directors of the company are appointed by recommendation of the existing directors by ordinary resolution. The company may also by ordinary resolution determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution the number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than one.

### **Director Induction and Training**

New directors are given a briefing of the organisation as a whole. This includes an explanation as to their duties and responsibilities. They are encouraged to understand fully their role as directors.

### **Risk Management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Saphara's register of risks is updated regularly and is available for public distribution on request. Our risk assessments and safeguarding and child protection policies have been evaluated and our procedures and policies have been deemed to be of the highest standard.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Board of Directors administer the charity by way of quarterly meetings and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. During the year the Board had nine directors from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

Approved by the Board on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Beck', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Dr Angus Beck, Chair of Saphara Board**

## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Saphara Limited**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2025 on pages 7 to 12.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act  
Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act  
State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

*D. N. Robinson*

David Neil Robinson  
Retired Chartered Accountant  
17 Grays Hill, Bangor, Co Down

18 February 2026

**SAPHARA LIMITED****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

		<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	funds	funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	147,784	108,229	256,013	224,682
<b>Total income</b>		<u>147,784</u>	<u>108,229</u>	<u>256,013</u>	<u>224,682</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of generating funds		7,059	0	7,059	4,764
Charitable activities	3	135,506	111,229	246,735	198,456
Furlough costs		0	0	0	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>142,565</u>	<u>111,229</u>	<u>253,794</u>	<u>203,220</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year</b>		5,219	(3,000)	2,219	21,462
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		154,778	15,000	169,778	148,316
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>159,997</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>171,997</u>	<u>169,778</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All of the amounts above relate to continuing activities.

**SAPHARA LIMITED****BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors		1,220	12,531
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>215,753</u>	<u>202,481</u>
		216,973	215,012
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		<u>44,976</u>	<u>45,234</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>171,997</u>	<u>169,778</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>171,997</u>	<u>169,778</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>		159,997	154,778
<b>Restricted</b>		12,000	15,000
		<u>171,997</u>	<u>169,778</u>

The directors' statements required by Sections 475(2) and (3) are shown on the following page which forms part of this balance sheet.

**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**

**DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTIONS 475(2) AND (3) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025**

In approving these financial statement as directors of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to Section 476 requesting than an audit be conducted for the year ended 30 September 2025 and

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:


(1) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

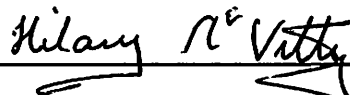
The financial statements on pages 8 to 12 were approved by the board on 18 February 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

**Director:**

Angus Beck

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hilary McVitty

  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SAPHARA LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

#### 1. Principal accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

#### Fund accounting

The company has various types of funds for which it is responsible and which require separate disclosure. A definition of the various types of funds is as follows:

##### Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meet these criteria is identified to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

##### Unrestricted funds - General

General funds are amounts received or generated and which are expendable at the discretion of the company in furtherance of its objectives.

#### 2. Donations and legacies

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Fundraising - schools	52,933	0	52,933	54,274
Fundraising - teaching colleges	23,384	0	23,384	28,087
Fundraising - women's team	0	0	0	27,168
Donations from Trusts & Legacies	5,000	74,613	79,613	41,333
Grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Reconciliation Fund	0	19,864	19,864	0
Gift Aid received from HMRC	16,417	0	16,417	24,174
Voluntary donations	46,452	0	46,452	31,667
Funding from teaching colleges	0	13,752	13,752	17,979
Bank interest	3,598	0	3,598	0
	<u>147,784</u>	<u>108,229</u>	<u>256,013</u>	<u>224,682</u>

### 3. Charitable activities

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Cross-community development - NI schools	46,263	50,642	96,905	72,515
Educational support for marginalised Indian Children	74,211	60,587	134,798	111,913
Justice awareness - NI & India	8,235	0	8,235	7,410
Governance costs	6,797	0	6,797	6,618
	<u>135,506</u>	<u>111,229</u>	<u>246,735</u>	<u>198,456</u>

### 4. Director remuneration and related party transactions

During the year, Dr Christine Burnett received a salary of £53,040(2024 - £50,561). Pension contributions of £8,216 (2024 - £7,826) were also paid on her behalf.

No travel costs were reimbursed to Dr Burnett, but she received a motor allowance of £1,000.

### 5. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### 6. Liability of members

Saphara Limited is a company limited by guarantee, and does not have a share capital. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

**Saphara Limited**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104977

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# Accounts

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**SAPHARA LIMITED  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Company Registration number: NI069905

Charity Registration number: NIC104977

**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

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**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**OFFICERS AND ADVISORS**

**Directors**

Angus Spence Beck

Dominic Gerard Breen

Christine Ann Burnett

Linda Jane Thompson

Jill Elizabeth Macdonald

Paul McVey

Hilary Margaret McVitty

Andrew Miller

Peter Gildea (appointed 29.1.25)

**Secretary**

David Neil Robinson

**Registered Office**

17 Gray's Hill

Bangor

Co Down

**Independent Examiner**

David Neil Robinson

Retired Chartered Accountant

17 Gray's Hill

Bangor

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024.

### **Purposes and Aims**

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are:

1. To engage young people in Northern Ireland with issues of poverty, inclusion and justice through working in cross-community teams with disadvantaged children, including Newcomer children.
2. To provide quality educational support for marginalised Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations.
3. To equip marginalised Indian adolescent girls with the emotional resilience and menstrual health knowledge to resist abuse and exploitation.
4. To increase awareness within Northern Ireland of local and global justice issues.

The aim of the charity is to inspire and equip young people to create flourishing communities of justice and compassion, locally and globally, empowering them to Be the Change in the world.

### **How our activities deliver public benefit**

#### **Within Northern Ireland**

**Be the Change Schools programme** for sixth-form students in NI secondary schools is flourishing and has gained an excellent reputation amongst post-primary schools. Reaching across traditional social and religious boundaries, it brings together pupils from schools on both sides of the community, facilitating their development as future leaders of an inclusive Northern Ireland.

**Sixteen schools** in cross-community teams took part in **Be the Change Schools 2023-24, with 172 sixth-form students** participating in the year-long programme. The expansion of this programme has necessitated the appointment of a part-time education officer and we have been delighted to recruit Janice Armstrong, an experienced primary school teacher.

The Be the Change programme is delivered as an Award to ensure that responsibility is taken by the students rather than their teachers. All aspects must be completed including participation in workshops, tasks and fundraising in order to achieve the Award with **over 89% of the students** successfully completed all aspects by the end of the school year.

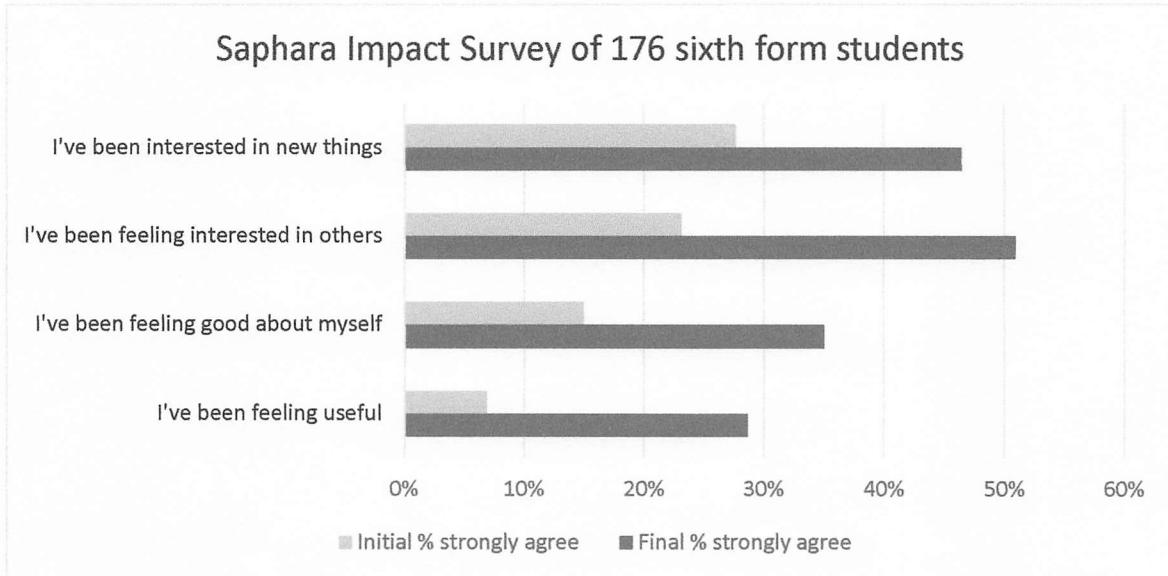
The climax of the Award was the **Newcomer Welcome Days** held during Refugee Week in June when the students hosted 302 Primary 5 children from ten primary schools in socially deprived areas of Belfast at affirming educational fun days at Stranmillis University College. The majority of these children were from refugee and asylum seeker families. We were delighted that **Robbie Meredith from BBC Newsline featured Saphara Newcomer Welcome Week** with interviews with both newcomer children and sixth form students.

The principal of St Bride's Primary School commented, *'The Saphara Team do incredible work! Engaging children in a Shared Education initiative enriches pupils' educational experience in a still divided Northern Ireland. My Primary 5s always come home filled with enthusiasm and confidence'*

A key aspect of the Award is fundraising for our Indian partner schools and for the Newcomer events. The young people and their 18 schools raised an **impressive £54,274** exceeding their target by 20%.

The impact of the Be the Change Award on the **positive mental health of young people** has been commented on by both teachers and participating students in past years. This year we have therefore extended the Saphara Impact Questionnaire to measure mental health and emotional resilience as well as attitudes towards diversity and inclusion. As before, a baseline measure was taken at the start of the programme and a final measure at the end. We are grateful to **Prof Siobhan O’Neill, Northern Ireland Mental Health Champion**, for her advice in creating this assessment tool.

The survey results showed that the Saphara Be the Change Award has a very significant positive impact on the mental wellbeing of the participating young people.



**Be the Change Colleges** was equally successful, with 23 teaching students from St Mary’s and Stranmillis University Colleges hosting a two-day Newcomer Welcome event for 81 children from St Paul’s, Falls Road and Fane Street Primary Schools, of whom 70% were from refugee families. We recognise the vital nature of this work in contributing to the professional development of future teachers, and the importance of inclusive classrooms to ensure a peaceful future for Northern Ireland.

We are delighted to once more be able to take teams to India after being suspended during Covid. A group of women who had been planning to visit India in March 2020 were finally able to embark on their Saphara journey in April 2024. Dr Christine Burnett and former Saphara financial controller, Flo Adair led the **team of 20 women, who used their professional expertise** to run workshops for women in Himalayan villages on the menopause together with an eye clinic to provide reading glasses. Equally well received were sessions for adolescent girls on menstrual health and on leadership.

We were also pleased to resume the **College India Team for 12 student teachers** and two lecturers from St Mary’s and Stranmillis University Colleges, led by Paula Stronge and Janice Armstong in April 2024. Both Colleges recognise the value of this experience for their students in developing their professional skills in the affirming culture of SNEHA school in Dehradun.

One student commented, *‘This trip has allowed me to see the positive impact that teachers can have on children’s lives in boosting children’s confidence and self-esteem. It has made me want to continue to travel to disadvantaged schools in the future.’*

## **Within India**

Saphara continues to work with grassroots NGOs to support the delivery of high-quality education to marginalised children. These partnerships enable us to give strategic help with maximum impact on local communities.

The Saphara Back to School programme introduced in the aftermath of the pandemic has evolved into an **educational support programme** to ensure that the poorest children can attend our NGO partner schools. This provides fee support, school uniforms, midday meals and books for these children and is a worthwhile use for the excellent fundraising of the students on the Be the Change Schools Award.

The **Girl Champions programme** continues to enable thousands of adolescent girls to flourish, expanding in the past few years into impoverished areas in the tribal state of Jharkhand. This health and resilience empowerment programme builds self-esteem, encourages girls to value themselves and gives them the skills and confidence to resist abuse, exploitation and child marriage (especially prevalent in tribal communities).

The crucial element in programme delivery is the **training of local tribal teachers as Master Trainers**, meeting twice yearly in Ranchi for a four-day training course led by Saphara CEO Dr Christine Burnett. These women then lead the programme in their schools, training other teachers as facilitators and leading group sessions with the girls.

A **strategy conference entitled 'Refreshing our Vision for Transforming Girls'** was held in Ranchi in September 2024 and attended by 18 senior leaders and teacher representatives from six partner NGOs together with Christine Burnett, Gracy Andrew, lead trainer, and Kathy Walkling from Eco Femme. Over three days, the delegates discussed how the curriculum could be adapted to better reflect tribal culture and the lives of the participating girls, thereby enhancing its impact. Curriculum revision is currently underway.

Following the conference, Christine visited schools run by PSS and Daughters of St Anne's in rural areas of Jharkhand where these NGOs are seeking to bring transformation to impoverished communities, with **female literacy being shockingly low at under 25%** in some areas.

We continue our partnership with Eco Femme, which provides washable organic sanitary pads to adolescent girls, made by local women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This year Saphara funded pads for almost 1000 adolescent girls (providing 4,500 pads in total). A senior Eco Femme trainer joined the Saphara Women's team in April to run menstrual health workshops for 135 girls in Himalayan village schools supported by MGVS.

## **Financial Review**

The total income for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 was £224,682 compared to £192,330 in the previous year. Fundraising by young people from schools and colleges taking part in the Be the Change programme continued to increase as the number of participating students increased, with the students engaging enthusiastically with the opportunity to support the work of Saphara. In addition, the women's team going to India raised a substantial contribution to funds.

We were delighted to be awarded generous grants from Ardbarron Trust, TBF Thompson Trust, Benefact Trust, Stansfield Trust and House of Vicryn totalling £41,333. As a result of this funding and continued and increased generosity of individual donors, Saphara ended the year with a surplus of £21,462.

### **Principle source of funding**

The table below shows the source of funding in 2023/24

Fundraising schools	24%
Fundraising colleges	13%
Fundraising women	12%
Trusts	18%
Gift aid received	11%
Voluntary donations	14%
College funding	8%

### **Spend on charitable activities**

Our accounts show how we have spent our resources across our three main activities – Northern Ireland cross-community schools programme, holistic educational support for marginalised Indian children, especially adolescent girls, and local and global justice awareness programmes. Our combined governance costs and marketing spend was less than 6% of our total spend. We remain thankful to volunteers who ensure that all overhead costs are kept to a minimum and ensure that a high proportion of our resources are spent directly on our charitable activities.

### **Reserves Policy**

The directors have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation.

The balance of our general reserves of £154,778 (2023 £130,316) is equivalent to approximately 9 months' running costs. The directors are planning to distribute some of the surplus generated in the later part of the year in the 24/25 year, with a view retaining reserves at around the level of the previous year.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

We have made significant progress with plans to expand the work of Saphara both in India and N. Ireland, including

- Expanding the Be the Change School Award to more NI schools and sixth form students.
- Expanding Newcomer Welcome Week to more primary school children.
- Recruited an additional part-time staff member.
- Engaged more student teachers in both Newcomer and India programmes.
- Developing Girl Champions with NGO leaders to make more relevant to tribal communities, with a focus on period dignity approach.
- Continuing to support educational access for the most marginalised Indian children.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Governing Document**

Saphara is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 9 July 2008 and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 4 July 2008. The memorandum and articles were updated on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

### **Recruitment and Appointment of Directors**

New directors of the company are appointed by recommendation of the existing directors by ordinary resolution. The company may also by ordinary resolution determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution the number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than one.

### **Director Induction and Training**

New directors are given a briefing of the organisation as a whole. This includes an explanation as to their duties and responsibilities. They are encouraged to understand fully their role as directors.

### **Risk Management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Saphara's register of risks is updated annually as part of its business plan review and is available for public distribution on request. Our risk assessments and safeguarding and child protection policies have been evaluated and our procedures and policies have been deemed to be of the highest standard.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Board of Directors administer the charity by way of quarterly meetings and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. During the year the Board had nine directors from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

Approved by the Board on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angus Beck', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Dr Angus Beck, Chair of Saphara Board**

## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Saphara Limited**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2024 on pages 7 to 12.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act  
Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act  
State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

*D. N. Robinson*

David Neil Robinson  
Retired Chartered Accountant  
17 Grays Hill, Bangor, Co Down

28 May 2025

**SAPHARA LIMITED****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

		<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	funds	funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	174,370	50,312	224,682	192,330
<b>Total income</b>		<u>174,370</u>	<u>50,312</u>	<u>224,682</u>	<u>192,330</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of generating funds		4,764	0	4,764	4,208
Charitable activities	3	145,144	53,312	198,456	192,353
Furlough costs		0	0	0	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>149,908</u>	<u>53,312</u>	<u>203,220</u>	<u>196,561</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year</b>		24,462	(3,000)	21,462	(4,231)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		130,316	18,000	148,316	152,547
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>154,778</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>169,778</u>	<u>148,316</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All of the amounts above relate to continuing activities.

**SAPHARA LIMITED****BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

	Notes	<b>2024</b> £	<b>2023</b> £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors		12,531	3,801
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>202,481</u>	<u>156,969</u>
		215,012	160,770
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		45,234	12,454
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>169,778</u>	<u>148,316</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>169,778</u>	<u>148,316</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>		154,778	130,316
<b>Restricted</b>		15,000	18,000
		<u>169,778</u>	<u>148,316</u>

The directors' statements required by Sections 475(2) and (3) are shown on the following page which forms part of this balance sheet.

**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**

**DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTIONS 475(2) AND (3) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024**

In approving these financial statement as directors of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to Section 476 requesting than an audit be conducted for the year ended 30 September 2024 and

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

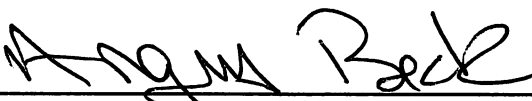
(1) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

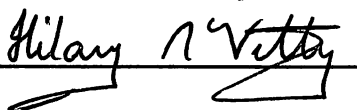
The financial statements on pages 8 to 12 were approved by the board on 28 May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

**Director:**

Angus Beck

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hilary McVitty

  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SAPHARA LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

#### 1. Principal accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

#### Fund accounting

The company has various types of funds for which it is responsible and which require separate disclosure. A definition of the various types of funds is as follows:

##### Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meet these criteria is identified to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

##### Unrestricted funds - General

General funds are amounts received or generated and which are expendable at the discretion of the company in furtherance of its objectives.

#### 2. Donations and legacies

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Fundraising - schools	54,274	0	54,274	43,228
Fundraising - teaching colleges	28,087	0	28,087	20,283
Fundraising - women's team	27,168	0	27,168	0
Donations from Trusts & Legacies	9,000	32,333	41,333	56,337
Gift Aid received from HMRC	24,174	0	24,174	7,013
Voluntary donations	31,667	0	31,667	46,312
Funding from teaching colleges	0	17,979	17,979	19,157
	<u>174,370</u>	<u>50,312</u>	<u>224,682</u>	<u>192,330</u>

### 3. Charitable activities

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Cross-community development - NI schools	39,203	33,312	72,515	65,298
Educational support for marginalised Indian Children	91,913	20,000	111,913	119,270
Justice awareness - NI & India	7,410	0	7,410	3,252
Governance costs	6,618	0	6,618	4,533
	<u>145,144</u>	<u>53,312</u>	<u>198,456</u>	<u>192,353</u>

### 4. Director remuneration and related party transactions

During the year, Dr Christine Burnett received a salary of £50,561 (2023 - £47,101). Pension contributions of £7,826 (2023 - £7,320) were also paid on her behalf.

No travel costs were reimbursed to Dr Burnett, but she received a motor allowance of £1,000.

### 5. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### 6. Liability of members

Saphara Limited is a company limited by guarantee, and does not have a share capital. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

**Saphara Limited**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104977

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# Accounts

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**SAPHARA LIMITED**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Company Registration number: NI069905

Charity Registration number: NIC104977

**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

	Pages
Officers & advisors	1
Directors' report	2 - 5
Independent Examiner's report	6
Statement of financial activities	7
Balance sheet	8 - 9
Notes to the financial statements	10 - 11

**SAPHARA LIMITED  
OFFICERS AND ADVISORS**

**Directors**

Angus Spence Beck  
Dominic Gerard Breen  
Linda Jane Thompson  
Jill Elizabeth Macdonald  
Christine Burnett  
Marie Bernadette Devlin  
Paul McVey  
Hilary Margaret McVitty

**Secretary**

David Neil Robinson

**Registered Office**

17 Grays Hill  
Bangor  
Co Down

**Independent Examiner**

David Neil Robinson  
Retired Chartered Accountant  
17 Grays Hill  
Bangor

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023.

### **Purposes and Aims**

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are:

1. To engage young people in Northern Ireland with issues of poverty, inclusion and justice through working in cross-community teams with disadvantaged children, including Newcomer children.
2. To provide quality educational support for marginalised Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations.
3. To equip marginalised Indian adolescent girls with the emotional resilience and menstrual health knowledge to resist abuse and exploitation.
4. To increase awareness within Northern Ireland of local and global justice issues.

The aim of the charity is to inspire and equip young people to create flourishing communities of justice and compassion, locally and globally, empowering them to Be the Change in the world.

### **How our activities deliver public benefit**

#### **Within Northern Ireland**

Be the Change Schools programme for sixth-form students in NI secondary schools is now in its third year and has gained an excellent reputation amongst post-primary schools. Reaching across traditional social and religious boundaries, it brings together pupils from schools on both sides of the community, facilitating their development as future leaders of an inclusive Northern Ireland.

Eleven schools in cross-community teams took part in Be the Change Schools 2022-23, with 113 sixth-form students participating in the year-long programme. The programme has been developed into an Award to ensure that responsibility is taken by the students rather than their teachers. All aspects must be completed including participation in workshops, tasks and fundraising in order to achieve the Award with 86% of the students successfully completed all aspects by the end of the school year.

The climax of the Award was the Newcomer Welcome Days held during Refugee Week when the students hosted 153 children from primary schools in socially deprived areas of Belfast at affirming educational fun days at Stranmillis University College. The majority of these children were from refugee and asylum seeker families.

Another key aspect of the Award was fundraising for our Indian partner schools as well as for the Newcomer events. The young people and their eleven schools raised an amazing £43,403, exceeding their target by an impressive 50%.

Programme impact was assessed using the Saphara Cultures Questionnaire which measure attitudes towards others and response to diversity. A baseline measure was taken at the start of the programme and a final measure at the end. This showed significant attitudinal change such as:

The response to *I tend to wait before forming an impression of people from other cultures* showed a 35% increase in those strongly agreed demonstrating the young people's growing confidence in taking the time to understand others.

This impact was reflected in the students' comments such:

"...being grateful and empathetic are two very key qualities that this Award has helped me grow."

“Be the Change Award gives you the ability to really embrace teamwork and increase your leadership skills.”

“it genuinely was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something good for the world around us and it made you feel like you had made a difference.”

Be the Change Colleges was equally successful, with 23 teaching students from St Mary’s and Stranmillis University Colleges hosting Newcomer Welcome Week for 68 children from St Paul’s, Falls Road and Fane Street Primary Schools, of whom 70% were from refugee families. We are grateful to the Colleges and lecturers for their support of the participating students. An excellent report on the programme was filmed by Robbie Meredith of BBC NI and Christine was interviewed by Frank Mitchell.

### **Within India**

In India, Saphara continues to work with grassroots NGOs to support the delivery of high-quality education to marginalised children. These partnerships enable us to give strategic help with maximum impact on local communities.

Sadly, the aftermath of the pandemic continues to have an impact on the poorest families and we have therefore continued the Saphara Back to School programme which, for £100, ensures that a child can attend school for a full year, including provision of books and uniform. We are delighted that the excellent fundraising of the students on Be the Change Schools was used for this worthwhile cause.

In October 2023, Saphara CEO Dr Christine Burnett, accompanied by Board Chair, Mr Dominic Breen, Board member, Dr Angus Beck and Education Director, Ms Paula Stronge, travelled to India to visit each of our main partners NGOs in Uttarakhand and in Jharkhand. A strategy day was held in Ranchi, Jharkhand, and attended by senior leaders from Saphara’s three tribal NGO partners. This was followed by visits to schools run by PSS and Daughters of St Anne’s in rural areas of Jharkhand giving the team insights into the challenges faced by the NGOs as they seek to bring transformation to these impoverished communities. During a visit to Uttarakhand, meetings were held with leaders of long-term partners, SNEHA and MGVS. All these discussions were of great value as together we created strategies for the future.

Subsequent to these visits, the Board took the decision to focus funding primarily on the Girl Champions programme which combines menstrual and sexual health education with personal skills and resilience development. This programme has been shown to be highly effective in equipping girls to challenge gender discrimination and to flourish in education, and in reducing vulnerability to child marriage and trafficking.

A key aspect of the Girl Champions programme is to train and equip teachers from each NGO-run school as Master trainers to deliver the curriculum. Two intensive training 4-day sessions were held in Ranchi for these women in Sep/Oct 2022 and in March 2023. The course leaders were senior trainers from CorStone India together with Dr Christine Burnett. 16 Master trainers took part in the self-reflective and transformative course, bringing their knowledge back to colleagues and girls in their schools. Online mentoring was provided monthly to support effective delivery of the programme.

The health and resilience empowerment programme was delivered to 1069 adolescent girls, and we have received reports that girls are growing in self-esteem, valuing themselves more and gaining the skills and confidence to flourish.

Our ongoing partnership with Eco Femme in Tamil Nadu enables us to provide washable sanitary pads to the adolescent girls. In total, 5456 pads were provided.

We continued to honour our commitment to make a contribution to the teaching and other costs in SNEHA and MGVS, but this funding is being gradually reduced in order to re-direct funds to other priorities.

In all our work, Saphara seeks to be sensitive to the changing priorities of our NGO partners and to direct funding to the most vulnerable.

### **Financial Review**

The total income for the year ended 30 September 2023 was £192,330 compared to £187,723 in the previous year. Fundraising by young people from schools and colleges taking part in the Be the Change programme continued to increase as the number of participating students increased, with the students engaging enthusiastically with the opportunity to support the work of Saphara.

We were delighted to be awarded generous grants from Ardbarron Trust, TBF Thompson Trust, Ulster Garden Villages, Halifax, Stanfield Trust and House of Vicryn totalling £56,337. As a result of this funding and continued and increased generosity of individual donors, Saphara ended the year with a small deficit of £4,231, after providing total direct funding of £82,969 to support the continued education and well-being of young people in India. The direct costs of running the Be the Change Programme in Northern Ireland were £65,298, but the Directors would like to acknowledge the contributions of the NI Teaching colleges in providing accommodation, meals and transport for the Newcomer Welcome weeks.

### **Principle source of funding**

The table below shows the source of funding in 2022/23

Fundraising by schools	22%
Fundraising by colleges	11%
Donations from trusts and legacies	29%
Gift aid received	4%
Voluntary donations	24%
College funding	10%

### **Spend on charitable activities**

Our accounts show how we have spent our resources across our three main activities – Northern Ireland cross-community schools programme, holistic educational support for marginalised Indian children, especially adolescent girls, and local and global justice awareness programmes. Our combined governance costs and marketing spend was approximately 4% of our total spend. We remain thankful to volunteers who ensure that all overhead costs are kept to a minimum and ensure that a high proportion of our resources are spent directly on our charitable activities.

### **Reserves Policy**

The directors have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation.

The balance of our general reserves of £130,316 (2022 £133,594) is equivalent to approximately 8 months' running costs.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

Facing the challenges of Covid with a positive and innovative approach, Saphara has created exciting new programmes both in India and N. Ireland. Taking this forward into the future we have plans to

- Expand the Be the Change school programme to more NI schools and sixth form students.
- Expand Newcomer Welcome Week to more primary school children.
- Recruit an additional part-time staff member.
- Engage more student teachers in both Newcomer and India programmes.
- Develop Girl Champions with NGO leaders to make more relevant to tribal communities, with a focus on period dignity approach.
- Continue to support educational access for the most marginalised Indian children.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Governing Document**

Saphara is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 9 July 2008 and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 4 July 2008. The memorandum and articles were updated on 4 October 2022.

In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of Directors**

New directors of the company are appointed by recommendation of the existing directors by ordinary resolution. The company may also by ordinary resolution determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution the number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than one.

#### **Director Induction and Training**

New directors are given a briefing of the organisation as a whole. This will include an explanation as to their duties and responsibilities. They are encouraged to understand fully their role as directors.

#### **Risk Management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Saphara's register of risks is updated annually as part of its business plan review and is available for public distribution on request. Our risk assessments and safeguarding and child protection policies have been evaluated and our procedures and policies have been deemed to be of the highest standard.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The Board of Directors administer the charity by way of quarterly meetings and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. During the year the Board had eight directors from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

Approved by the Board on 3 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Dr Angus Beck, Chair of Saphara Board

## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Saphara Limited**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2023 on pages 7 to 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act  
Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act  
State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



David Neil Robinson  
Retired Chartered Accountant  
17 Grays Hill, Bangor, Co Down

3 June 2024

**SAPHARA LIMITED****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

		<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	funds	funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	133,836	58,494	192,330	186,791
Other income - CJRS grants		0	0	0	932
<b>Total income</b>		<b>133,836</b>	<b>58,494</b>	<b>192,330</b>	<b>187,723</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of generating funds		4,208	0	4,208	4,604
Charitable activities	3	132,859	59,494	192,353	178,496
Furlough costs		0	0	0	932
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>137,067</b>	<b>59,494</b>	<b>196,561</b>	<b>184,032</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>(3,231)</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	<b>(4,231)</b>	<b>3,691</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		133,547	19,000	152,547	148,856
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>130,316</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>148,316</b>	<b>152,547</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All of the amounts above relate to continuing activities.

**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

	Notes	<b>2023</b> £	<b>2022</b> £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors		3,801	1,515
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>156,969</u>	<u>185,021</u>
		160,770	186,536
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		12,454	33,989
		<u>148,316</u>	<u>152,547</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>			
		<u>148,316</u>	<u>152,547</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>148,316</u>	<u>152,547</u>
 <b>Funds</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>		130,316	133,547
<b>Restricted</b>		18,000	19,000
		<u>148,316</u>	<u>152,547</u>

The directors' statements required by Sections 475(2) and (3) are shown on the following page which forms part of this balance sheet.

**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**

**DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTIONS 475(2) AND (3) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

In approving these financial statement as directors of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to Section 476 requesting than an audit be conducted for the year ended 30 September 2023 and

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

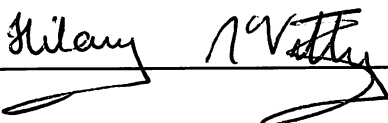
The financial statements on pages 7 to 11 were approved by the board on 3 June 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

**Director:**

Angus Beck

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hilary McVitty

  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SAPHARA LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### 1. Principal accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

#### Fund accounting

The company has various types of funds for which it is responsible and which require separate disclosure. A definition of the various types of funds is as follows:

##### Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meet these criteria is identified to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

##### Unrestricted funds - General

General funds are amounts received or generated and which are expendable at the discretion of the company in furtherance of its objectives.

#### 2. Donations and legacies

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Fundraising - schools	43,228	0	43,228	33,712
Fundraising - teaching colleges	20,283	0	20,283	5,160
Fundraising - women's teams	0	0	0	0
Donations from Trusts & Legacies	17,000	39,337	56,337	95,400
Grant awarded by Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Reconciliation/Anti-sectarianism funds	0	0	0	0
Gift Aid received from HMRC	7,013	0	7,013	4,654
Voluntary donations	46,312	0	46,312	43,086
Funding from teaching colleges	0	19,157	19,157	4,779
	<u>133,836</u>	<u>58,494</u>	<u>192,330</u>	<u>186,791</u>

### 3. Charitable activities

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Cross-community development - NI schools	46,141	19,157	65,298	51,918
Educational support for marginalised Indian Children	78,933	40,337	119,270	90,917
COVID relief	0	0	0	27,108
Justice awareness - NI & India	3,252	0	3,252	3,216
Governance costs	4,533	0	4,533	5,337
	<u>132,859</u>	<u>59,494</u>	<u>192,353</u>	<u>178,496</u>

### 4. Director remuneration and related party transactions

During the year, Dr Christine Burnett received a salary of £47,101 (2022 - £44,733). Pension contributions of £7,320 (2022 - £7,200) were also paid on her behalf.

### 5. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### 6. Liability of members

Saphara Limited is a company limited by guarantee, and does not have a share capital. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

**Saphara Limited**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104977

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# Annual report

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## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023.

### **Purposes and Aims**

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are:

1. To engage young people in Northern Ireland with issues of poverty, inclusion and justice through working in cross-community teams with disadvantaged children, including Newcomer children.
2. To provide quality educational support for marginalised Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations.
3. To equip marginalised Indian adolescent girls with the emotional resilience and menstrual health knowledge to resist abuse and exploitation.
4. To increase awareness within Northern Ireland of local and global justice issues.

The aim of the charity is to inspire and equip young people to create flourishing communities of justice and compassion, locally and globally, empowering them to Be the Change in the world.

### **How our activities deliver public benefit**

#### **Within Northern Ireland**

Be the Change Schools programme for sixth-form students in NI secondary schools is now in its third year and has gained an excellent reputation amongst post-primary schools. Reaching across traditional social and religious boundaries, it brings together pupils from schools on both sides of the community, facilitating their development as future leaders of an inclusive Northern Ireland.

Eleven schools in cross-community teams took part in Be the Change Schools 2022-23, with 113 sixth-form students participating in the year-long programme. The programme has been developed into an Award to ensure that responsibility is taken by the students rather than their teachers. All aspects must be completed including participation in workshops, tasks and fundraising in order to achieve the Award with 86% of the students successfully completed all aspects by the end of the school year.

The climax of the Award was the Newcomer Welcome Days held during Refugee Week when the students hosted 153 children from primary schools in socially deprived areas of Belfast at affirming educational fun days at Stranmillis University College. The majority of these children were from refugee and asylum seeker families.

Another key aspect of the Award was fundraising for our Indian partner schools as well as for the Newcomer events. The young people and their eleven schools raised an amazing £43,403, exceeding their target by an impressive 50%.

Programme impact was assessed using the Saphara Cultures Questionnaire which measure attitudes towards others and response to diversity. A baseline measure was taken at the start of the programme and a final measure at the end. This showed significant attitudinal change such as:

The response to *I tend to wait before forming an impression of people from other cultures* showed a 35% increase in those strongly agreed demonstrating the young people's growing confidence in taking the time to understand others.

This impact was reflected in the students' comments such:

"...being grateful and empathetic are two very key qualities that this Award has helped me grow."

“Be the Change Award gives you the ability to really embrace teamwork and increase your leadership skills.”

“it genuinely was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do something good for the world around us and it made you feel like you had made a difference.”

Be the Change Colleges was equally successful, with 23 teaching students from St Mary’s and Stranmillis University Colleges hosting Newcomer Welcome Week for 68 children from St Paul’s, Falls Road and Fane Street Primary Schools, of whom 70% were from refugee families. We are grateful to the Colleges and lecturers for their support of the participating students. An excellent report on the programme was filmed by Robbie Meredith of BBC NI and Christine was interviewed by Frank Mitchell.

### **Within India**

In India, Saphara continues to work with grassroots NGOs to support the delivery of high-quality education to marginalised children. These partnerships enable us to give strategic help with maximum impact on local communities.

Sadly, the aftermath of the pandemic continues to have an impact on the poorest families and we have therefore continued the Saphara Back to School programme which, for £100, ensures that a child can attend school for a full year, including provision of books and uniform. We are delighted that the excellent fundraising of the students on Be the Change Schools was used for this worthwhile cause.

In October 2023, Saphara CEO Dr Christine Burnett, accompanied by Board Chair, Mr Dominic Breen, Board member, Dr Angus Beck and Education Director, Ms Paula Stronge, travelled to India to visit each of our main partners NGOs in Uttarakhand and in Jharkhand. A strategy day was held in Ranchi, Jharkhand, and attended by senior leaders from Saphara’s three tribal NGO partners. This was followed by visits to schools run by PSS and Daughters of St Anne’s in rural areas of Jharkhand giving the team insights into the challenges faced by the NGOs as they seek to bring transformation to these impoverished communities. During a visit to Uttarakhand, meetings were held with leaders of long-term partners, SNEHA and MGVS. All these discussions were of great value as together we created strategies for the future.

Subsequent to these visits, the Board took the decision to focus funding primarily on the Girl Champions programme which combines menstrual and sexual health education with personal skills and resilience development. This programme has been shown to be highly effective in equipping girls to challenge gender discrimination and to flourish in education, and in reducing vulnerability to child marriage and trafficking.

A key aspect of the Girl Champions programme is to train and equip teachers from each NGO-run school as Master trainers to deliver the curriculum. Two intensive training 4-day sessions were held in Ranchi for these women in Sep/Oct 2022 and in March 2023. The course leaders were senior trainers from CorStone India together with Dr Christine Burnett. 16 Master trainers took part in the self-reflective and transformative course, bringing their knowledge back to colleagues and girls in their schools. Online mentoring was provided monthly to support effective delivery of the programme.

The health and resilience empowerment programme was delivered to 1069 adolescent girls, and we have received reports that girls are growing in self-esteem, valuing themselves more and gaining the skills and confidence to flourish.

Our ongoing partnership with Eco Femme in Tamil Nadu enables us to provide washable sanitary pads to the adolescent girls. In total, 5456 pads were provided.

We continued to honour our commitment to make a contribution to the teaching and other costs in SNEHA and MGVS, but this funding is being gradually reduced in order to re-direct funds to other priorities.

In all our work, Saphara seeks to be sensitive to the changing priorities of our NGO partners and to direct funding to the most vulnerable.

### **Financial Review**

The total income for the year ended 30 September 2023 was £192,330 compared to £187,723 in the previous year. Fundraising by young people from schools and colleges taking part in the Be the Change programme continued to increase as the number of participating students increased, with the students engaging enthusiastically with the opportunity to support the work of Saphara.

We were delighted to be awarded generous grants from Ardbarron Trust, TBF Thompson Trust, Ulster Garden Villages, Halifax, Stanfield Trust and House of Vicryn totalling £56,337. As a result of this funding and continued and increased generosity of individual donors, Saphara ended the year with a small deficit of £4,231, after providing total direct funding of £82,969 to support the continued education and well-being of young people in India. The direct costs of running the Be the Change Programme in Northern Ireland were £65,298, but the Directors would like to acknowledge the contributions of the NI Teaching colleges in providing accommodation, meals and transport for the Newcomer Welcome weeks.

### **Principle source of funding**

The table below shows the source of funding in 2022/23

Fundraising by schools	22%
Fundraising by colleges	11%
Donations from trusts and legacies	29%
Gift aid received	4%
Voluntary donations	24%
College funding	10%

### **Spend on charitable activities**

Our accounts show how we have spent our resources across our three main activities – Northern Ireland cross-community schools programme, holistic educational support for marginalised Indian children, especially adolescent girls, and local and global justice awareness programmes. Our combined governance costs and marketing spend was approximately 4% of our total spend. We remain thankful to volunteers who ensure that all overhead costs are kept to a minimum and ensure that a high proportion of our resources are spent directly on our charitable activities.

### **Reserves Policy**

The directors have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation.

The balance of our general reserves of £130,316 (2022 £133,594) is equivalent to approximately 8 months' running costs.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

Facing the challenges of Covid with a positive and innovative approach, Saphara has created exciting new programmes both in India and N. Ireland. Taking this forward into the future we have plans to

- Expand the Be the Change school programme to more NI schools and sixth form students.
- Expand Newcomer Welcome Week to more primary school children.
- Recruit an additional part-time staff member.
- Engage more student teachers in both Newcomer and India programmes.
- Develop Girl Champions with NGO leaders to make more relevant to tribal communities, with a focus on period dignity approach.
- Continue to support educational access for the most marginalised Indian children.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### **Governing Document**

Saphara is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 9 July 2008 and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 4 July 2008. The memorandum and articles were updated on 4 October 2022.

In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

#### **Recruitment and Appointment of Directors**

New directors of the company are appointed by recommendation of the existing directors by ordinary resolution. The company may also by ordinary resolution determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution the number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than one.

#### **Director Induction and Training**

New directors are given a briefing of the organisation as a whole. This will include an explanation as to their duties and responsibilities. They are encouraged to understand fully their role as directors.

#### **Risk Management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Saphara's register of risks is updated annually as part of its business plan review and is available for public distribution on request. Our risk assessments and safeguarding and child protection policies have been evaluated and our procedures and policies have been deemed to be of the highest standard.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The Board of Directors administer the charity by way of quarterly meetings and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. During the year the Board had eight directors from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

Approved by the Board on 3 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Dr Angus Beck, Chair of Saphara Board

**Saphara Limited**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104977

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# Annual return

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## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Saphara Limited**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2023 on pages 7 to 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act  
Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act  
State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



David Neil Robinson  
Retired Chartered Accountant  
17 Grays Hill, Bangor, Co Down

3 June 2024

**Saphara Limited**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104977

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# Accounts

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**SAPHARA LIMITED  
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Company Registration number: NI069905

Charity Registration number: NIC104977

**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

	<b>Pages</b>
Officers & advisors	1
Directors' report	2 - 6
Independent Examiner's report	7
Statement of financial activities	8
Balance sheet	9 - 10
Notes to the financial statements	11 - 12

**SAPHARA LIMITED  
OFFICERS AND ADVISORS**

**Directors**

Dominic Gerard Breen  
Linda Jane Thompson  
Jill Elizabeth Macdonald  
Christine Burnett  
Marie Bernadette Devlin  
Paul McVey  
Hilary Margaret McVitty

**Secretary**

David Neil Robinson

**Registered Office**

17 Grays Hill  
Bangor  
Co Down

**Independent Examiner**

David Neil Robinson  
Retired Chartered Accountant  
17 Grays Hill  
Bangor

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022.

### **Purposes and Aims**

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association were to:

1. Engage UK young people with issues of poverty through bringing cross-community teams to work with disadvantaged children in India
2. To provide educational support for disadvantaged Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations
3. To develop adolescent health and AIDs awareness programmes for Indian context.
4. To further raise awareness of justice issues within the UK by bringing adult teams to India.

The aim of the charity is to open the eyes of young people in Northern Ireland and India to their unique potential to change the world for better through working together.

As reported in the annual accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic a major change in the practical outworking of how the aims of the charity were delivered and, during the year, members agreed to update the memorandum and articles of association to reflect the changed focus of the charity. The new objects of the company, which were formally adopted on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 are:

1. To engage young people in Northern Ireland with issues of poverty, inclusion and justice through working in cross-community teams with disadvantaged children, including Newcomer children.
2. To provide quality educational support for marginalised Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations.
3. To equip marginalised Indian adolescent girls with the emotional resilience and menstrual health knowledge to resist abuse and exploitation.
4. To increase awareness within Northern Ireland of local and global justice issues.

The aim of the charity is to inspire and equip young people to create flourishing communities of justice and compassion, locally and globally, empowering them to Be the Change in the world.

### **How our activities deliver public benefit**

#### **Within Northern Ireland**

Since 2009, Saphara teams have brought together Northern Irish young people from diverse religious, social and political backgrounds to learn together through workshops, training days, weekends and overseas experience, giving time for deep and lasting relationships to be formed based on mutual understanding and shared purpose. Over 1000 students and teachers have taken part in the Saphara Transformational Leadership programme until 2019, travelling to India to engage with and learn from marginalised children. This journey has inspired many to choose careers in medicine, teaching, international development, human rights law etc., thereby making a significant contribution as local and global citizens.

In 2021, in the midst of the pandemic, we launched the innovative Be the Change Schools programme for sixth-form students in NI secondary schools. As in previous programmes, Be the Change reaches across traditional social, economic, political, ethnic and religious boundaries to facilitate the growth,

development and inclusion of young people. We do this by creating shared spaces where they can engage in self-discovery, address fears, confront stereotypes and grow in understanding of others. Rather than travelling to India, as in the past, Be the Change focuses on those who have journeyed to N. Ireland as refugees and asylum seekers. These newcomer families are often housed in socially deprived areas and local primary schools face significant challenges in welcoming these children who do not have English as their first language and have often suffered from serious trauma.

Saphara has therefore reached out to primary schools with high percentage of newcomer children in areas of social deprivation who have been keen to let their children engage with Saphara sixth-form students. This led to the inaugural Newcomer Welcome Week in June 2022.

This year, 121 young people from 12 schools engaged in the year-long cross-community programme, meeting for workshops in each other's schools to identify the Change they want to see in the World. They explored the impact of poverty and social marginalisation, challenges faced by children arriving in NI as refugees and asylum seekers, and identified the value of curiosity, education and discovery in overcoming stereo-types and fear. This learning culminated in Newcomer Welcome Week, when the students welcomed 142 primary school children to Stranmillis College delivering craft and games to help the newcomers explore identity, community and self-worth.

Programme impact was assessed using the Saphara Cultures Questionnaire which measure attitudes towards others and response to diversity. A baseline measure was taken at the start of the programme and a final measure at the end. This showed a significant attitudinal change with 19 of the 20 questions demonstrating an increase in those strongly agreeing with a positive statement compared to start of programme.

For example:

*If I meet someone of a different culture, I make a special effort to be friendly* showed 77% increase in those who strongly agreed.

*The presence of other cultural groups in Northern Ireland enriches our culture* showed 29% increase in those who strongly agreed.

Teachers affirmed this impact with comments such as:

*My students have realised that these issues are not only across the world, but on their own doorstep so have increased awareness to challenge bias within their own community and seek ways to support others both near home and globally. I was surprised at how much of an impact this programme had on students despite no trip to India.*

*The Newcomer event was excellent - really great to see our pupils engaging with primary school children and working together with the partner schools. It opened their eyes to challenges currently being experienced by our increasingly diverse society.*

One primary teacher commented:

*It is wonderful to see our children, especially the boys, connecting with the Saphara young people - having role models who can inspire them to stay engaged in school and to aspire to a better future. I hope this will just be the start of a great collaboration with Saphara.*

Students also made highly positive comments such as:

*Be the Change Award has helped me to appreciate how difficult it can be for children who come from different backgrounds to integrate with those who do not share their culture. It has also opened my eyes to how many children there are from different countries in my local area. I have discovered that*

*human connection is important to every young person regardless of their ethnicity and that friendships can extend beyond language barriers.*

Much of the success of Be the Change Schools was built on experience of Be the Change Colleges when twenty students from St Mary's and Stranmillis University Colleges piloted the Newcomer Welcome Week in April 2022. We are grateful to the Colleges for their support of the programme and to Dr Sharon Jones and Dr Maria Stewart for their expertise in programme design and student facilitation.

### **Within India**

The impact of the pandemic on the work of Saphara in India continued to be significant, with Indian schools remaining closed until January 2022. In fact, in tribal areas of Jharkhand, primary schools were closed for almost two full years leaving children, especially girls, vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage as young as 12 years old.

Saphara's close partnership with grassroots NGOs has enabled us to give strategic help with maximum impact in the midst of the crisis, with funding being allocated in response to the needs of local communities. Tuition centres continued to remain open until end of January 2022, keeping thousands of vulnerable children, especially girls, safe.

The long-term impact of the pandemic was the significant debt into which many families had gone resulting in many children being unable to return to school. We have therefore continued the **Saphara Back to School programme** which, for £100, ensures that a child can attend school for a full year, including provision of books and uniform. We are delighted that the Be the Change Schools and Colleges programmes have raised over £37,000 for this worthwhile cause.

In May 2022, Saphara CEO Dr Christine Burnett made her first visit to India for over 2 years, visiting each of our seven main partners NGOs in Uttarakhand and in Jharkhand. This visit enabled her to meet with NGO leaders to discuss their priorities in the current challenging situation and to together create strategies for the future.

At SNEHA School in Dehradun, Saphara continues to fund the salaries of 8 teachers and 6 teaching assistants. We pay for books, uniforms and school fees for 110 children from homes that are below the poverty line to enable them to attend school. The Girl Champions Programme continues to be delivered in the school and skills training is provided to girls who have dropped out of education. Online refresher training for this was provided in July 2022 was delivered to SNEHA and MGVS staff by CorStone India Foundation, funded by Saphara.

Saphara has continued to fund MGVS' tuition centres in order to bring education to these marginalised rural children until schools reopened. The Girl Champions programme was delivered by facilitators going to many villages to run the programme, funded totally by Saphara. We continued to give scholarships to Indian young people so they can continue their education by attending sixth-form college and university.

The Saphara Girl Champions programme in tribal areas of Jharkhand was suspended for most of the year with funds being reallocated to village programmes and tuition centres with the same focus of:

- Working with the most vulnerable girls helping them build their self-esteem and resilience.
- Keeping girls safe from child marriage and trafficking.

Meetings held between Christine and the NGO leaders in May 2022 resulted in the resumption of the Girl Champions programme, beginning with the training of 16 teachers in Ranchi, Jharkhand in September 2022. This was delivered by CorStone India Foundation, led by Gracy Andrew and Christine.

We continue our partnership with Eco Femme, in Auroville, Tamil Nadu, which works with girls and women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in the area of menstrual health. This year we

continued funding the Pad for Pad programme and menstrual hygiene workshops for adolescent girls, with washable pads being provided along with relief food and supplies.

In summary, while many challenges were faced during the year, Saphara believes that its work has been very significant both in India and Northern Ireland, highlighting our creativity, innovation and flexibility in responding to the actual needs of young people.

### **Financial Review**

The total income for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was £187,723 compared to £152,533 in the previous year. Fundraising by young people taking part in the Be the Change programme increased as the number of participating students increased, with the students engaging enthusiastically with the opportunity to support the work of Saphara.

We were delighted to be awarded generous grants from Ardbarron Trust, TBF Thompson Trust, Ulster Garden Villages and Summerhill Trust totalling £45,400 and a grant from the Department of Communities of £50,000. As a result of this funding and continued and increased generosity of individual donors, Saphara ended the year with a surplus of £3,738, after providing total direct funding of £82,198 to support the continued education and well-being of young people in India during and in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. The direct costs of running the Be the Change Programme in Northern Ireland were £51,918, but the Directors would like to acknowledge the contributions of the NI Teaching colleges in providing accommodation, meals and transport for the Newcomer Welcome weeks.

### **Principle source of funding**

The table below shows the source of funding in 2021-22

Fundraising by schools	18%
Fundraising by colleges	3%
Donations from trusts and legacies	24%
Grant awarded by Dept of Communities	27%
Gift aid received	2%
Voluntary donations	23%
College funding	3%

### **Spend on charitable activities**

Our accounts show how we have spent our resources across our four main activities – Northern Ireland cross-community and justice awareness programmes, and education and Adolescent Girls Resilience and Health programmes in India. During the year ended 30 September 2022, funding was also raised to provide Back to School funding to enable Indian children to return to school after the pandemic. We worked with our NGO partners in India to support children who would not otherwise have been able to attend school and to restart the Girl Champions programme. Our combined governance costs and marketing spend was approximately 5% of our total spend. This is higher than in previous years due to one-off expenditure to redesign the website to reflect the changed focus of the company. We are thankful to volunteers who ensure that all overhead costs are kept to a minimum and ensure that a high proportion of our resources are spent directly on our charitable activities.

## **Reserves Policy**

The directors have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation.

The balance of our general reserves of £133,594 (2021 £128,856) is equivalent to approximately 7 months' running costs in more normal times. Expenditure is expected to increase in 22/23 as programmes are fully re-started.

## **Plans for Future Periods**

Saphara has engaged a consultant to work with the CEO and Board to create the Saphara Strategy Document 2022-24. This major endeavour will serve as a significant focus for Saphara's future work. We have also begun the process of rebranding and working on a new website.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

### **Governing Document**

Saphara is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 9 July 2008 and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 4 July 2008. The memorandum and articles were updated on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

### **Recruitment and Appointment of Directors**

New directors of the company are appointed by recommendation of the existing directors by ordinary resolution. The company may also by ordinary resolution determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution the number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall not be less than one.

### **Director Induction and Training**

New directors are given a briefing of the organisation as a whole. This will include an explanation as to their duties and responsibilities. They are encouraged to understand fully their role as directors.

### **Risk Management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Saphara's register of risks is updated annually as part of its business plan review and is available for public distribution on request. Our risk assessments and child protection policies have been evaluated and our procedures and policies have been deemed to be of the highest standard.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Board of Directors administer the charity by way of quarterly meetings and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. During the year the Board had seven directors from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

Approved by the Board on 26 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**Mr Dominic Breen, Chair of Saphara Board**

## **Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Saphara Limited**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 September 2022 on pages 8 to 12.

### **Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner**

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act  
Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act  
State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
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4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



David Neil Robinson  
Retired Chartered Accountant  
17 Grays Hill, Bangor, Co Down

26 April 2023

**SAPHARA LIMITED****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

		<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	funds	funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	142,822	43,969	186,791	134,440
Other income - CJRS grants		0	932	932	18,093
<b>Total income</b>		<b>142,822</b>	<b>44,901</b>	<b>187,723</b>	<b>152,533</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of generating funds		4,604	0	4,604	1,830
Charitable activities	3	133,527	44,969	178,496	131,239
Furlough costs		0	932	932	18,093
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>138,131</b>	<b>45,901</b>	<b>184,032</b>	<b>151,162</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>4,691</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	<b>3,691</b>	<b>1,371</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		128,856	20,000	148,856	147,485
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>133,547</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>152,547</b>	<b>148,856</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.

All of the amounts above relate to continuing activities.

**SAPHARA LIMITED****BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors		1,515	0
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>185,021</u>	<u>168,147</u>
		186,536	168,147
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		<u>33,989</u>	<u>19,291</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>152,547</u>	<u>148,856</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>152,547</u>	<u>148,856</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>		133,547	128,856
<b>Restricted</b>		19,000	20,000
		<u>152,547</u>	<u>148,856</u>

The directors' statements required by Sections 475(2) and (3) are shown on the following page which forms part of this balance sheet.

**SAPHARA LIMITED**

**BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**

**DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTIONS 475(2) AND (3) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

In approving these financial statement as directors of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to Section 476 requesting than an audit be conducted for the year ended 30 September 2022 and

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

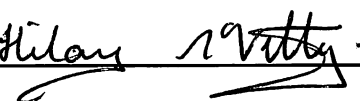
The financial statements on pages 8 to 12 were approved by the board on 26 April 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

**Director:**

Dominic Breen

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hilary McVitty

  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SAPHARA LIMITED

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

#### 1. Principal accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

#### Fund accounting

The company has various types of funds for which it is responsible and which require separate disclosure. A definition of the various types of funds is as follows:

##### Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meet these criteria is identified to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

##### Unrestricted funds - General

General funds are amounts received or generated and which are expendable at the discretion of the company in furtherance of its objectives.

#### 2. Donations and legacies

	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Fundraising - schools	33,712	0	33,712	18,716
Fundraising - teaching colleges	5,160	0	5,160	0
Fundraising - women's teams	0	0	0	0
Donations from Trusts & Legacies	65,000	30,400	95,400	42,500
Grant awarded by Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Reconciliation/Anti-sectarianism funds	0	0	0	15,380
Gift Aid received from HMRC	4,654	0	4,654	10,733
Voluntary donations	34,296	8,790	43,086	47,111
Funding from teaching colleges	0	4,779	4,779	0
	<u>142,822</u>	<u>43,969</u>	<u>186,791</u>	<u>134,440</u>

### 3. Charitable activities

	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Cross-community development - NI	32,139	19,779	51,918	34,696
Cross-community development - India	0	0	0	0
Educational support - India	20,980	11,400	32,380	39,809
Adolescent health programmes - India	53,537	5,000	58,537	39,126
COVID relief	18,318	8,790	27,108	13,384
Justice awareness - NI & India	3,216	0	3,216	1,614
Governance costs	5,337	0	5,337	2,610
	<u>133,527</u>	<u>44,969</u>	<u>178,496</u>	<u>131,239</u>

### 4. Director remuneration and related party transactions

During the year, Dr Christine Burnett received a salary of £44,733 (2021 - £37,359). Pension contributions of £7,200 (2021 - £6,276) were also paid on her behalf.

Travel costs of £Nil (2021 - £Nil) were reimbursed to Dr Burnett.

### 5. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### 6. Liability of members

Saphara Limited is a company limited by guarantee, and does not have a share capital. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

**Saphara Limited**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104977

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# Annual report

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## **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022.

### **Purposes and Aims**

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association were to:

1. Engage UK young people with issues of poverty through bringing cross-community teams to work with disadvantaged children in India
2. To provide educational support for disadvantaged Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations
3. To develop adolescent health and AIDs awareness programmes for Indian context.
4. To further raise awareness of justice issues within the UK by bringing adult teams to India.

The aim of the charity is to open the eyes of young people in Northern Ireland and India to their unique potential to change the world for better through working together.

As reported in the annual accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic a major change in the practical outworking of how the aims of the charity were delivered and, during the year, members agreed to update the memorandum and articles of association to reflect the changed focus of the charity. The new objects of the company, which were formally adopted on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 are:

1. To engage young people in Northern Ireland with issues of poverty, inclusion and justice through working in cross-community teams with disadvantaged children, including Newcomer children.
2. To provide quality educational support for marginalised Indian children through working with Non-Governmental Organisations.
3. To equip marginalised Indian adolescent girls with the emotional resilience and menstrual health knowledge to resist abuse and exploitation.
4. To increase awareness within Northern Ireland of local and global justice issues.

The aim of the charity is to inspire and equip young people to create flourishing communities of justice and compassion, locally and globally, empowering them to Be the Change in the world.

### **How our activities deliver public benefit**

#### **Within Northern Ireland**

Since 2009, Saphara teams have brought together Northern Irish young people from diverse religious, social and political backgrounds to learn together through workshops, training days, weekends and overseas experience, giving time for deep and lasting relationships to be formed based on mutual understanding and shared purpose. Over 1000 students and teachers have taken part in the Saphara Transformational Leadership programme until 2019, travelling to India to engage with and learn from marginalised children. This journey has inspired many to choose careers in medicine, teaching, international development, human rights law etc., thereby making a significant contribution as local and global citizens.

In 2021, in the midst of the pandemic, we launched the innovative Be the Change Schools programme for sixth-form students in NI secondary schools. As in previous programmes, Be the Change reaches across traditional social, economic, political, ethnic and religious boundaries to facilitate the growth,

development and inclusion of young people. We do this by creating shared spaces where they can engage in self-discovery, address fears, confront stereotypes and grow in understanding of others. Rather than travelling to India, as in the past, Be the Change focuses on those who have journeyed to N. Ireland as refugees and asylum seekers. These newcomer families are often housed in socially deprived areas and local primary schools face significant challenges in welcoming these children who do not have English as their first language and have often suffered from serious trauma.

Saphara has therefore reached out to primary schools with high percentage of newcomer children in areas of social deprivation who have been keen to let their children engage with Saphara sixth-form students. This led to the inaugural Newcomer Welcome Week in June 2022.

This year, 121 young people from 12 schools engaged in the year-long cross-community programme, meeting for workshops in each other's schools to identify the Change they want to see in the World. They explored the impact of poverty and social marginalisation, challenges faced by children arriving in NI as refugees and asylum seekers, and identified the value of curiosity, education and discovery in overcoming stereo-types and fear. This learning culminated in Newcomer Welcome Week, when the students welcomed 142 primary school children to Stranmillis College delivering craft and games to help the newcomers explore identity, community and self-worth.

Programme impact was assessed using the Saphara Cultures Questionnaire which measure attitudes towards others and response to diversity. A baseline measure was taken at the start of the programme and a final measure at the end. This showed a significant attitudinal change with 19 of the 20 questions demonstrating an increase in those strongly agreeing with a positive statement compared to start of programme.

For example:

*If I meet someone of a different culture, I make a special effort to be friendly* showed 77% increase in those who strongly agreed.

*The presence of other cultural groups in Northern Ireland enriches our culture* showed 29% increase in those who strongly agreed.

Teachers affirmed this impact with comments such as:

*My students have realised that these issues are not only across the world, but on their own doorstep so have increased awareness to challenge bias within their own community and seek ways to support others both near home and globally. I was surprised at how much of an impact this programme had on students despite no trip to India.*

*The Newcomer event was excellent - really great to see our pupils engaging with primary school children and working together with the partner schools. It opened their eyes to challenges currently being experienced by our increasingly diverse society.*

One primary teacher commented:

*It is wonderful to see our children, especially the boys, connecting with the Saphara young people - having role models who can inspire them to stay engaged in school and to aspire to a better future. I hope this will just be the start of a great collaboration with Saphara.*

Students also made highly positive comments such as:

*Be the Change Award has helped me to appreciate how difficult it can be for children who come from different backgrounds to integrate with those who do not share their culture. It has also opened my eyes to how many children there are from different countries in my local area. I have discovered that*

*human connection is important to every young person regardless of their ethnicity and that friendships can extend beyond language barriers.*

Much of the success of Be the Change Schools was built on experience of Be the Change Colleges when twenty students from St Mary's and Stranmillis University Colleges piloted the Newcomer Welcome Week in April 2022. We are grateful to the Colleges for their support of the programme and to Dr Sharon Jones and Dr Maria Stewart for their expertise in programme design and student facilitation.

### **Within India**

The impact of the pandemic on the work of Saphara in India continued to be significant, with Indian schools remaining closed until January 2022. In fact, in tribal areas of Jharkhand, primary schools were closed for almost two full years leaving children, especially girls, vulnerable to trafficking and child marriage as young as 12 years old.

Saphara's close partnership with grassroots NGOs has enabled us to give strategic help with maximum impact in the midst of the crisis, with funding being allocated in response to the needs of local communities. Tuition centres continued to remain open until end of January 2022, keeping thousands of vulnerable children, especially girls, safe.

The long-term impact of the pandemic was the significant debt into which many families had gone resulting in many children being unable to return to school. We have therefore continued the **Saphara Back to School programme** which, for £100, ensures that a child can attend school for a full year, including provision of books and uniform. We are delighted that the Be the Change Schools and Colleges programmes have raised over £37,000 for this worthwhile cause.

In May 2022, Saphara CEO Dr Christine Burnett made her first visit to India for over 2 years, visiting each of our seven main partners NGOs in Uttarakhand and in Jharkhand. This visit enabled her to meet with NGO leaders to discuss their priorities in the current challenging situation and to together create strategies for the future.

At SNEHA School in Dehradun, Saphara continues to fund the salaries of 8 teachers and 6 teaching assistants. We pay for books, uniforms and school fees for 110 children from homes that are below the poverty line to enable them to attend school. The Girl Champions Programme continues to be delivered in the school and skills training is provided to girls who have dropped out of education. Online refresher training for this was provided in July 2022 was delivered to SNEHA and MGVS staff by CorStone India Foundation, funded by Saphara.

Saphara has continued to fund MGVS' tuition centres in order to bring education to these marginalised rural children until schools reopened. The Girl Champions programme was delivered by facilitators going to many villages to run the programme, funded totally by Saphara. We continued to give scholarships to Indian young people so they can continue their education by attending sixth-form college and university.

The Saphara Girl Champions programme in tribal areas of Jharkhand was suspended for most of the year with funds being reallocated to village programmes and tuition centres with the same focus of:

- Working with the most vulnerable girls helping them build their self-esteem and resilience.
- Keeping girls safe from child marriage and trafficking.

Meetings held between Christine and the NGO leaders in May 2022 resulted in the resumption of the Girl Champions programme, beginning with the training of 16 teachers in Ranchi, Jharkhand in September 2022. This was delivered by CorStone India Foundation, led by Gracy Andrew and Christine.

We continue our partnership with Eco Femme, in Auroville, Tamil Nadu, which works with girls and women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in the area of menstrual health. This year we

continued funding the Pad for Pad programme and menstrual hygiene workshops for adolescent girls, with washable pads being provided along with relief food and supplies.

In summary, while many challenges were faced during the year, Saphara believes that its work has been very significant both in India and Northern Ireland, highlighting our creativity, innovation and flexibility in responding to the actual needs of young people.

### **Financial Review**

The total income for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was £187,723 compared to £152,533 in the previous year. Fundraising by young people taking part in the Be the Change programme increased as the number of participating students increased, with the students engaging enthusiastically with the opportunity to support the work of Saphara.

We were delighted to be awarded generous grants from Ardbarron Trust, TBF Thompson Trust, Ulster Garden Villages and Summerhill Trust totalling £45,400 and a grant from the Department of Communities of £50,000. As a result of this funding and continued and increased generosity of individual donors, Saphara ended the year with a surplus of £3,738, after providing total direct funding of £82,198 to support the continued education and well-being of young people in India during and in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. The direct costs of running the Be the Change Programme in Northern Ireland were £51,918, but the Directors would like to acknowledge the contributions of the NI Teaching colleges in providing accommodation, meals and transport for the Newcomer Welcome weeks.

### **Principle source of funding**

The table below shows the source of funding in 2021-22

Fundraising by schools	18%
Fundraising by colleges	3%
Donations from trusts and legacies	24%
Grant awarded by Dept of Communities	27%
Gift aid received	2%
Voluntary donations	23%
College funding	3%

### **Spend on charitable activities**

Our accounts show how we have spent our resources across our four main activities – Northern Ireland cross-community and justice awareness programmes, and education and Adolescent Girls Resilience and Health programmes in India. During the year ended 30 September 2022, funding was also raised to provide Back to School funding to enable Indian children to return to school after the pandemic. We worked with our NGO partners in India to support children who would not otherwise have been able to attend school and to restart the Girl Champions programme. Our combined governance costs and marketing spend was approximately 5% of our total spend. This is higher than in previous years due to one-off expenditure to redesign the website to reflect the changed focus of the company. We are thankful to volunteers who ensure that all overhead costs are kept to a minimum and ensure that a high proportion of our resources are spent directly on our charitable activities.

## **Reserves Policy**

The directors have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation.

The balance of our general reserves of £133,594 (2021 £128,856) is equivalent to approximately 7 months' running costs in more normal times. Expenditure is expected to increase in 22/23 as programmes are fully re-started.

## **Plans for Future Periods**

Saphara has engaged a consultant to work with the CEO and Board to create the Saphara Strategy Document 2022-24. This major endeavour will serve as a significant focus for Saphara's future work. We have also begun the process of rebranding and working on a new website.

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### **Risk Management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Saphara's register of risks is updated annually as part of its business plan review and is available for public distribution on request. Our risk assessments and child protection policies have been evaluated and our procedures and policies have been deemed to be of the highest standard.

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Approved by the Board on 26 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**Mr Dominic Breen, Chair of Saphara Board**

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Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act  
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4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



David Neil Robinson  
Retired Chartered Accountant  
17 Grays Hill, Bangor, Co Down

26 April 2023

**Saphara Limited**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104977

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# Annual return

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26 April 2023