

Charity registration number NIC 105019

Company registration number NI030526 (Northern Ireland)

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Directors	Mr P McClenaghan - Chair Mr C Nicol - Treasurer Mrs M McCallin Ms M Kennedy - Vice Chair Ms E Doherty Dr P McCafferty Ms S Campbell Dr R McCooey Mr H Robinson Ms E Ibrahim - Young Peoples' representative Ms J Dowell - Young Peoples' representative	(Appointed 3 January 2024) (Appointed 5 January 2024) (Appointed 3 January 2024) (Appointed 16 May 2024) (Appointed 1 June 2024)
Secretary	Miss A Toal	
Charity number	NIC 105019	
Company number	NI030526	
Registered office	100 Great Patrick Street Belfast BT1 2LU	
Auditor	GMcG Lisburn Century House 40 Crescent Business Park Lisburn BT28 2GN	
Bankers	Danske Bank Forestside Shopping Centre Upper Galwally Belfast BT8 6FX	
Solicitors	Scullion & Green 50 St Patricks Avenue Downpatrick Co Down BT30 6DW	

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

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VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the company's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) was established for exclusively charitable purposes; namely to ensure that the general welfare and interests of care experienced children and young people are advanced.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Created in 1993 by a group of young people in care and professionals, VOYPIC is the charity for children and young people with a lived-in experience of care in Northern Ireland. We promote the rights and voice of children in care and care leavers.

The current strategic plan focuses on four key strategic aims:

1. Empowering children and young people
2. Innovating practice through participation and co-production
3. Creating change
4. Organisational growth and stability

Our Mission: Working together with children and young adults for a better care experience and life after care.

Our Vision: Every child in care in Northern Ireland feels safe, valued and loved. Every young person leaving care does so with dignity and respect, and thrives into adulthood.

OUR WORK:

Advocacy and Awareness-raising

We raise awareness of the rights of children and young people, their views and experiences living in and leaving care, and their priorities for change.

Making Connections and Capacity Building

We connect young people with a lived experience of care with their peers. We host regular groups, participation forums and activities that build self-confidence, personal, social and life skills, whilst making new connections and friends.

Independent Advocacy and Advice Service

We support young people to exercise their rights by providing assistance to; participate in decision making processes, express their views and concerns, access information, resolve issues or to identify available support options.

Youth Participation and Co-production

We help children and young people to find their voice and set their own agenda for change. We create a culture of listening that enables children and young people to influence the world around them. Our programmes equip and prepare young people to take part in co-production activities.

Influencing Change through Policy Advocacy

We use our specialist knowledge and insight into the views and experiences of children and young people; we work in partnership with them to influence the development of legislation, policy and practice.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OUR VALUES:

VOYPIC's work is underpinned by five core values which not only inform what we do but also how we do it.

Relationship Based: We are driven by the needs and aspirations of children and young people. We listen, learn, and work in partnership with them to ensure their voice is heard. We are dedicated to empowering young people so that they reach their potential in whatever they choose to do.

Commitment: We are committed, passionate and enthusiastic champions for change. We are persistent and determined in promoting the voice and defending the rights of children and young people in leaving care and into adulthood.

Social Justice: We work to a strong moral code rooted in ideals of social justice. We challenge the oppression and discrimination faced by children and young people in care and seek to reduce the stigma they face in their daily lives.

Respect for Rights: We respect the rights of children and young people and are prepared to challenge others to do the same.

Solution Focused: We are positive about the future. We are proud of what we do and what we have achieved. We face problems with a solution-oriented mentality, and we encourage our staff, stakeholders and young people themselves to be problem solvers.

The directors have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the company should undertake.

Achievements and performance

2023-2024 Organisational Overview

From 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 our staff team consisted of 23 members.

During the year we supported 621 children and young people; 554 were supported directly through our services with 67 children and young people attending VOYPIC events and activities.

416 Children and young people received support through our regional independent advocacy service for children in care and care leavers.

14 Children and young people received advocacy support through Speak Up programme.

19 Young adults received individual advocacy support through the See Me Hear Me programme.

21 Children and young people received one to one support and coaching.

88 Children and young people took part in social action programmes.

120 Children and young people took part in participation forums.

63 Children and young people participated in policy consultations.

17 Young people undertook a leadership role.

58 Young people were supported through our independent advocacy service at Beechcroft.

159 Children and young people attended activity days.

139 Members of MyVOYPIC scheme.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRATEGIC AIM 1. EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SUPPORT:

Regional independent advocacy service for children in care and care leavers

- **416** children and young people received advocacy support
- **335** advocacy cases were closed during the year
- **82%** of closed advocacy cases were fully resolved, an increase of **4%** from previous year
- **13.5%** of closed cases were partially resolved
- **2.5%** of casework closed unresolved, a decrease of **3.5%** from previous year.

Impact of Advocacy Support

- **94%** of young people felt listened to because of the advocacy support they receive
- **91%** of young people stated they would use the advocacy service again
- **68%** of young people whose cases had been resolved reported that their rights were protected through our advocacy support
- **60%** of young people felt they were able to influence decision making with the help of their advocate.

Advocacy in Secure Care

In 2023-2024 VOYPIC supported **46** young people at **65** presentations to the Regional Multi Agency Panel for Admission to Secure Care. Advocates support young people to share their wishes and feelings to the panel about any safety concerns, and how they can keep themselves safe. **90%** of all young people offered advocacy support for panel accepted help. Young people continued to avail of advocacy support for care and exit planning whilst placed in secure care.

Advocacy Workshops

26 advocacy workshops were delivered to **284** young people living in foster families and young people leaving care across Northern Ireland. These workshops are designed to educate children and young people about their rights and entitlements whilst in care. The workshops explore a range of issues; support for leaving care, review meetings, accommodation, play, and identity.

Advocacy in Beechcroft Child & Adolescent Mental Health Unit

Beechcroft Child & Adolescent Mental Health Unit provides specialist care to young people from across Northern Ireland. VOYPIC provides a dedicated advocate located in the hospital on behalf of the BHSCT.

We supported **58** individuals through **62** pieces of advocacy case work. We helped young people share their views, participate in Patient Forums, and take part in consultations on issues such as administering IV nutrition and mealtimes.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Speak up Pilot

This year we piloted advocacy support for young people in Northern Health & Social Care Trust area to participate in child protection case conferences. The pilot is assessing the effectiveness of advocacy to support young people's meaningful involvement in child protection processes. During the year we supported **14** young people in case conferences.

Advocacy for Young Adults

Often, the need for help and support does not end when a young person moves on from leaving and aftercare services. With support from The National Lottery Community Fund, we have been able to support **19** young adults, aged 21+, who no longer have access to statutory support services, to resolve **30** different issues.

PARTICIPATION SERVICES:

SEE ME HEAR ME programme

Through this programme VOYPIC facilitated the development of three peer support groups for young care leavers. Thirty-three young people took part in the groups throughout the year. Peer support groups provide a space and environment for care leavers to meet with their peers and create and sustain social networks within their communities.

88 young people took part in social action projects. These projects give young people an opportunity to use their lived experience to affect change in their community. Examples of social action projects undertaken this year include:

- Guerilla chalk street art and urban gardening, in partnership with Ulster University, Belfast
- Production and distribution of health and hygiene packs
- Creation and publication of a storybook about coming into care
- Development of a 'Pizza Advice' - a pizza box advice centre
- Delivery of second 'Care 2 Swap' – a social clothes swap event
- Organising and running a Halloween Haunted House for young people in care.

Participation Forums

We facilitated weekly participation forums in each of the five HSCTs, involving **120** children and young people. Our participation forums help young people to find their voice and set their own agenda for change. They provide a safe space for young people to have their say and engage directly with decision makers on matters important to them.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRATEGIC AIM 2. INNOVATING THROUGH PARTICIPATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

Young Reps

Young Reps are the youth leaders of VOYPIC. They represent and advocate on behalf of young people in and leaving care and advise the VOYPIC Board of Directors and the VOYPIC Leadership Team on how to deliver the Strategic Plan. There are currently 17 VOYPIC Young Reps, including two *ex-officio* members of the VOYPIC Board of Directors.

During the year the Young Reps took part in a team-building residential and undertook training for their new role. For example, they received Media Training with Bespoke Communications, to develop their skills and confidence to use traditional and social media to communicate their key messages on life in care.

Young Reps coordinated and helped deliver VOYPIC's 30th birthday activities in October 2023 and contributed to the annual Care Day working group and the Care Day Awards Ceremony in February 2024.

Ulster University Partnership

We worked with young leaders to co-design a series of workshops for students in Ulster University, focused on improving student's understanding of care and issues impacting children and young people. Workshops were delivered in both the Belfast and Magee campus.

UNICEF Partnership

We continued to work in partnership with the Derry & Strabane District Council, the Western Health and Social Care Trust, and other voluntary and community organisations to promote Derry as a 'Child Friendly City'. We supported young people to take part in several workshops and online training sessions throughout the year, to promote young people's rights across the DSDC area.

STRATEGIC AIM 3. CREATING CHANGE

Care Day 24 'Celebrating and Connecting the Care Experienced Community'

Care Day 24 was held on Friday 16th February 2024. In the lead up to the big day the Young Reps hosted a coffee morning for 'VOYPIC Alumni', that is young people who participated in VOYPIC's programmes in the past. This reunion was attended by over 30 former service users, who took the opportunity to reconnect and have a tour of the new building at 100 Great Patrick Street.

During Care Day 24, everyone was encouraged to put their 'Hands Up for Care Day'. Once again, many individuals and organisations across Northern Ireland, around the UK and Ireland, and further afield, got involved in the activity, by writing on their hand and sharing a selfie on social media. This provided a great opportunity to 'celebrate and connect the care experienced community' globally on Care Day.

On the morning of Care Day, VOYPIC hosted a 'Family Fun Day' in New Life City Church, Belfast. This event was attended by more than 50 care experienced families, all enjoying games, craft activities, a petting farm, and giant inflatables.

The flagship event for Care Day 24 was the first annual Care Day Awards. Between Christmas and the start of February, anyone could nominate a care experienced young person for a Care Day Award, in a range of categories. Sixty-five nominations were received across the categories, and the judges met in early February to select the winners.

The awards were presented at a special ceremony on the event of Care Day, in the Great Hall of Queen's University, Belfast. The event was hosted by BBC reporter, Mark Simpson. The event was a resounding success, with many commenting on the celebratory, positive nature of the ceremony, and praising the stories of those recognised with an award.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Independent Review of Children's Social Care Services

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care Services was published on Wednesday 21 June 2023.

Throughout the period of the review, VOYPIC supported a group of young people with experience of the services covered by the review to act as the Experts by Experience (EBE) Reference Group to the Review. Young people were involved in the launch event, including speaking about the experiences of the EBE Reference Group, and taking part in media interviews.

VOYPIC supported young people to participate in the public consultation on the recommendations of the Review, and the Department of Health's proposals for delivery on the recommendations. In March, a group of young people from the EBE Reference Group and VOYPIC Young Reps attended a meeting of the Health Committee at Stormont where the Review was being considered.

PSNI-NICCY Project

VOYPIC supported three young people to take part in a programme of activities coordinated by NICCY and the PSNI. This included young people being part of the launch of the PSNI Youth Engagement Strategy, as well as participating in a steering group to develop a new structure for youth engagement with policing in Northern Ireland.

UNCRC Reporting

In spring 2023, VOYPIC supported four young people to travel to Geneva, to present to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, as part of the UK delegation to the Committee. On return, the young people worked with peers from partner organisations to plan and host a briefing session for a larger group of young people, informing them of the engagement. They also helped deliver a session for professionals, including duty bearers, in the autumn.

All-Party Group on Youth Participation

VOYPIC has taken up membership of the All-Party Working Group on Youth Participation, chaired by Colin McGrath MLA and facilitated by the Northern Ireland Youth Forum (NIYF). A member of the VOYPIC staff team, alongside at least one young person from the organisation, has attended each meeting since the APG was established in October 2023.

Five Nations, One Voice network: (5N1V)

The Network continues to meet to develop relationships and shared learning across the five charities. During the year staff from across the network came together for Knowledge Exchange session based on shared interests and priority areas of work.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRATEGIC AIM 4. GROWTH AND STABILITY

Grand Opening of 100GPS

Following years of planning and development VOYPIC was delighted to move into their new premises at 100 Great Patrick Street in November 2022, alongside Include Youth and Viable Corporate Services.

To mark this achievement a planning group, made up of young people and staff from VOYPIC and Include Youth, came together to develop plans for a grand opening. Young people took a leading role in coordinating the activities, including agreeing the theme for the day, decorations, catering, and the activities on offer.

The Grand Opening took place on Thursday 22 June. The building was officially opened by six young people- three from each charity - representing the themes of HISTORY, TOGETHERNESS, HOME and FUTURE.

The event was attended by over **150** children and young people, sector professionals, decision makers, and supporters.

VOYPIC30 – 30th Birthday Celebrations

In October 2023, VOYPIC celebrated its 30th birthday. An online campaign shared stories from those currently involved with the organisation, alongside those who have been involved over the past 30 years.

On 20 October we hosted the VOYPIC30 Conference at Ulster University, showcasing some of the key milestones for the organisation over the past 30 years, telling the story of care experience in Northern Ireland from the early 90s to the present day. The conference was co-designed with a group of VOYPIC Young Reps, and all presentations and activities were co-delivered by them.

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

To improve VOYPIC's long term sustainability, resilience and capacity we secured funding through the Dormant Accounts Fund NI to develop the leadership team's capacity, increase and diversify our income, and strengthen governance arrangements.

A governance health check was completed with Board members in May and June 2023, using the Code of Good Governance self-assessment framework. Following the self-assessment an action plan was developed highlighting key actions for the year.

The leadership team undertook development training to ensure team effectiveness. The training focused communication, efficient utilisation of resources, building long term relationships, social and psychological safety to ensure space for crucial conversations, roles and responsibilities, accountability, and change awareness and readiness.

During the year we implemented a new management information system and developed impact data measurements and collection processes. This will improve our reporting to funders, potential supporters and donors, and generate better public awareness of our work with children and young people with a lived experience of care.

Financial review

VOYPIC strives to meet all targets and objectives agreed with its funders, with all expenditure being monitored and benchmarked against budgets.

The Board of Directors consider that the unrestricted funds of the charity have sufficient resources and assets available which are adequate to fulfill their obligations.

At 31 March 2024 the balance of unrestricted reserves was £407,218 (2023 - £428,612), of which £19,296 (2023 - £113,858) has been designated by the Board at the year end.

Restricted funds are restricted for the purpose specified in letters of offer provided by the funding bodies. At 31 March 2024 the balance of restricted funds totaled £1,044,751 (2023 - £1,082,200).

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Reserves policy:

The Board aims to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. Currently we hold the equivalent of 3.5 months expenditure. The Board of Directors monitor and review the reserves policy on an annual basis.

The Board considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, VOYPIC will be able to continue its activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The VOYPIC Board of Directors has decided that VOYPIC should hold financial reserves because:

1. VOYPIC has no long-term funding sources and is entirely dependent for income from year to year on short term grants and donor funding, which is inevitably subject to fluctuation.
2. VOYPIC requires protection against, and the ability to continue operating, despite fluctuation in income or events threatening to the organisation.
3. VOYPIC requires the ability to continue to employ workers and continue our projects in between periods of grant funding.

The VOYPIC Board of Directors considers it prudent that unrestricted reserves should be sufficient to:

- avoid the necessity of realising fixed assets held for the charity's use and
- cover three months of direct and indirect expenditure.

Going Concern: The charity's funding streams have remained constant during the year 2023-2024. With a projected shortfall for the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 of £56,036. The Board recognises the low level of risk. However, they take an active approach in seeking to mitigate any risk to the charity's future. A fundraising plan is in place to address any potential shortfalls, and scenario planning continues.

The Board has considered the secured funding in place for the next few years, which enables the board to forward plan and be proactive about their funding in the future.

The directors are satisfied that the charity's financial sustainability of services to care experienced children and young people in the financial year 2024-2025.

The directors aim to increase fundraising activities and to generate additional income by ways of increased training and consultancy work.

After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

At 31 March 2024, the charity had cash in bank of £417,484, with unrestricted funds of £407,218 at the year end, £19,296 of which have been designated for use in the year ending 31 March 2025.

In summary, based on the funding in place for 2024/2025 the directors have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue its operational activity. Along with written representations from the Board and the reserves of the charity. We do not believe there to be a concern over the operation of VOYPIC in the foreseeable future.

Risk review

The Board has a risk management strategy which comprises:

- An annual review of principle risks;
- The establishment of policies, systems & procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available funds and cash flow.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Structure, governance and management

The company is a company limited by guarantee, registered with Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and a registered charity for taxation purposes. It is run by a Board of Directors, no more than twelve and no less than five in total.

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr P McClenaghan - Chair	
Ms F Nicol	(Resigned 13 December 2023)
Mr C Nicol - Treasurer	
Mrs M McCallin	
Ms M Kennedy - Vice Chair	
Ms E Doherty	
Dr P McCafferty	
Ms S Campbell	(Appointed 3 January 2024)
Dr R McCooey	(Appointed 5 January 2024)
Mr H Robinson	(Appointed 3 January 2024)
Ms E Ibrahim - Young Peoples' representative	(Appointed 16 May 2024)
Ms J Dowell - Young Peoples' representative	(Appointed 1 June 2024)

The Board of Directors has the power at any time to fill any vacancy on the board by co-option. At the Annual General Meeting directors are appointed by election. The Board of Directors meet on a monthly basis. New board members may be sought through open advertising. The interview panel is made up of young people and current board members. When appointed, board members complete a full induction into the charity and receive a welcome pack which includes a brief history of the charity, a copy of the last three years annual accounts, annual reports and a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance 'The Essential Trustee; 'What you need to know and Public Benefit running a charity.'

None of the directors has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the directors are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The Board of Directors and the Chief Executive comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All Board members give of their time freely and no remuneration was paid in the year. Board members are required to disclose all relevant conflict of interests and register them at each monthly board meeting and in accordance with the Trust's policy withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Employee involvement

The charity's policy is to consult and discuss with employees any matters likely to affect their interests. Information of matters of concern is given through staff briefings which seek to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting charity's performance.

Disabled persons

Applications for employment are fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment within the company continues and that the appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the company that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors, who also act as trustees for the charitable activities of Voice of Young People in Care, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

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

Auditor

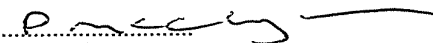
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that GMcG Lisburn be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.


Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the directors has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

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

The directors' report was authorised and approved by the Board of Directors.


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Mr P McClenaghan - Chair
Director

Date: 10/12/2024 

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Voice of Young People In Care (the 'company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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Alfred House
19 Alfred Street
BELFAST BT2 8EQ
DX3910 NR Belfast 50

Tel: +44 (0)28 9031 1113
Fax: +44 (0)28 9031 0777

Century House
40 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN
BT28 2GN

Tel: +44 (0)28 9260 7355
Fax: +44 (0)28 9260 1656

17 Mandeville Street
PORTADOWN
Craigavon
BT62 3PB

Tel: +44 (0)28 3833 2801
Fax: +44 (0)28 3835 0293



VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

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Alfred House
19 Alfred Street
BELFAST BT2 8EQ
DX3910 NR Belfast 50

Tel: +44 (0)28 9031 1113
Fax: +44 (0)28 9031 0777

Century House
40 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN
BT28 2GN

Tel: +44 (0)28 9260 7355
Fax: +44 (0)28 9260 1656

17 Mandeville Street
PORTADOWN
Craigavon
BT62 3PB

Tel: +44 (0)28 3833 2801
Fax: +44 (0)28 3835 0293



VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the statement of directors' responsibilities, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliances with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- . The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance, including the charitable company's remuneration policies for directors, bonus levels and performance targets, if any;
- . Results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- . Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instance of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- . The matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in income recognition. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, and local tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with tax authorities; and
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as they may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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Alfred House
19 Alfred Street
BELFAST BT2 8EQ
DX3910 NR Belfast 50

Tel: +44 (0)28 9031 1113
Fax: +44 (0)28 9031 0777

Century House
40 Crescent Business Park
LISBURN
BT28 2GN

Tel: +44 (0)28 9260 7355
Fax: +44 (0)28 9260 1656

17 Mandeville Street
PORTADOWN
Craigavon
BT62 3PB

Tel: +44 (0)28 3833 2801
Fax: +44 (0)28 3835 0293



Chartered Accountants | Registered Auditors | Chartered Tax Advisors | Forensic Accountants | Corporate Finance Advisors

GMcG is a trading name of GMcG Group Limited. Reg No: NI059660. List of Directors available at registered office

Registered to conduct audit work by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland
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www.gmcgca.com

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mrs Susan Dunlop FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of GMcG Lisburn

10 December 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Century House
40 Crescent Business Park
Lisburn
BT28 2GN

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	36,486	-	36,486	18,809	-	18,809
Charitable activities	4	-	1,149,361	1,149,361	-	2,096,421	2,096,421
Investments	5	15,879	-	15,879	1,405	-	1,405
Total income		52,365	1,149,361	1,201,726	20,214	2,096,421	2,116,635
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	73,759	1,186,810	1,260,569	7,096	1,424,295	1,431,391
Total resources expended		73,759	1,186,810	1,260,569	7,096	1,424,295	1,431,391
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(21,394)	(37,449)	(58,843)	13,118	672,126	685,244
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/							
Net movement in funds		(21,394)	(37,449)	(58,843)	13,118	672,126	685,244
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		428,612	1,082,200	1,510,812	415,494	410,074	825,568
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		407,218	1,044,751	1,451,969	428,612	1,082,200	1,510,812

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

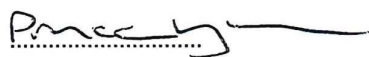
VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		1,053,422		1,141,950
Investments	15		1		1
			<u>1,053,423</u>		<u>1,141,951</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	16	191,623		192,809	
Cash at bank and in hand		417,484		442,828	
		<u>609,107</u>		<u>635,637</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(100,168)</u>		<u>(185,908)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>508,939</u>		<u>449,729</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>1,562,362</u>		<u>1,591,680</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	18		<u>(110,393)</u>		<u>(80,868)</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability			<u>1,451,969</u>		<u>1,510,812</u>
Net assets			<u><u>1,451,969</u></u>		<u><u>1,510,812</u></u>
The funds of the company					
Restricted income funds	21		1,044,751		1,082,200
Unrestricted funds			407,218		428,612
			<u>1,451,969</u>		<u>1,510,812</u>

The financial statements were approved by the directors on 10/04/24 and signed on their behalf by:


Mr P McClenaghan - Chair
Director


Ms M Kennedy - Vice Chair
Director

Company registration number NI030526 (Northern Ireland)

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	29		3,402		(142,492)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(70,710)		(327,917)	
Investment income received		15,879		1,405	
Net cash used in investing activities			(54,831)		(326,512)
Financing activities					
Proceeds from borrowings		35,000		-	
Repayment of borrowings		(4,393)		(5,093)	
Net cash generated from/(used in) financing activities			30,607		(5,093)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(20,822)		(474,097)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			434,076		908,173
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			413,254		434,076
Relating to:					
Cash at bank and in hand			417,484		442,828
Bank overdrafts included in creditors payable within one year			(4,230)		(8,752)

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Voice of Young People In Care is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office and principal place of business is 100 Great Patrick Street, Belfast, BT1 2LU.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the directors for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

The charity receives grants in respect of the provision of specified services, projects and activities. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under one of the following headings: Costs of raising funds, Expenditure on charitable activities and Other expenditure.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, depreciation costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at the office. Office costs, depreciation costs, governance costs and payroll costs are allocated to charitable activities based on usage. The allocation of the support costs is analysed in note 9.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Land & buildings	2% Straight line
Leasehold improvements	25% Straight line
Fixtures and fittings	25% Straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements (Continued)

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Fixed assets

The annual depreciation charge on fixed assets depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset and estimates of residual values. The directors regularly review these assets lives and change them as necessary to reflect current thinking on remaining lives in light of prospective economic utilisation and physical condition of the assets concerned. Changes in assets lives can have a significant impact on depreciation charges for the period. Detail of the useful lives is included in the accounting policies.

Restricted and unrestricted funds

Judgements are made in relation to allocation of income and expenditure to restricted and unrestricted funds. The directors consider it appropriate to allocate these funds based on interpretation of donations received.

Support costs

Judgements are made in relation to the allocation of support costs of the charity to its charitable activities. The directors consider it appropriate to allocate these costs based on the allocation of grant funding to the charitable activities in the year.

Deferred and accrued income

Income is deferred or accrued based on when the directors believe the company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations and gifts	36,486	13,206
Unrestricted grants	-	5,603
	<u>36,486</u>	<u>18,809</u>
Donations and gifts		
Other income	27,586	8,786
Training	8,900	4,420
	<u>36,486</u>	<u>13,206</u>

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4 Income from charitable activities

	AdvocacyParticipation Policy Voice			Building Project	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants receivable for charitable activities (see note 6)	657,101	345,652	142,640	3,968	1,149,361	2,096,421
Analysis by fund						
Restricted funds	657,101	345,652	142,640	3,968	1,149,361	2,096,421

Previous year:

	AdvocacyParticipation Policy Voice			Building Project	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants receivable for charitable activities (see note 6)	636,715	347,990	141,705	970,011	2,096,421
Analysis by fund					
Restricted funds	636,715	347,990	141,705	970,011	2,096,421

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023
	£	£
Rental income	4,556	-
Interest receivable	11,323	1,405
	15,879	1,405

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6 Grants receivable for charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Atlantic Philanthropies	-	150,000
Belfast City Council	1,500	3,377
BHSCT	58,999	56,999
Building grant received (DFC, DOH, DFE)	-	472,611
Children in Need	-	24,197
Community Foundation	-	11,332
Department for Communities	-	5,256
DOH	-	53,114
DOH Care Day	5,000	5,000
DOH Core Funding	20,590	41,179
Erasmus+	-	8,375
Esmee Fairbairn	82,000	12,000
Everun	-	10,000
Garfield Weston	-	140,000
Include Youth	8,103	8,520
Include Youth - Building	3,967	-
National Lottery Community Fund	130,555	170,436
Dormant Accounts Fund NI	85,800	-
NHSCT	-	14,374
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	5,940	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	8,750	-
Secure Care Project	4,300	-
Strategic Planning and Performance Group Lot 1	562,502	562,502
Strategic Planning and Performance Group Lot 3	171,355	149,749
The Clothworkers Foundation	-	37,400
Tudor Trust	-	110,000
Ulster Garden Villiage	-	50,000
	<u>1,149,361</u>	<u>2,096,421</u>

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7 Description of charitable activities

The charity continues to remain focused on its main charitable objectives of; Advocacy, participation, policy voice, training and education. These charitable objectives are described in more detail below:

Advocacy and Awareness-raising

We raise awareness of the rights of children and young people, their views and experiences living in and leaving care, and their priorities for change.

Making Connections and Capacity Building

We connect young people with a lived experience of care with their peers. We host regular groups, participation forums and activities that build self-confidence, personal, social and life skills, whilst making new connections and friends.

Independent Advocacy and Advice Service

We support young people to exercise their rights by providing assistance to; participate in decision making processes, express their views and concerns, access information, resolve issues or to identify available support options.

Youth Participation and Coproduction

We help children and young people to find their voice and set their own agenda for change. We create a culture of listening that enables children and young people to influence the world around them. Our programmes equip and prepare young people to take part in co-production activities.

Influencing Change through Policy Advocacy

We use our specialist knowledge and insight into the views and experiences of children, young people, we work in partnership with them to influence the development of legislation, policy and practice.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Charitable activities	Advocacy Participation		Policy Voice		Training & Education		Building Project		Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	2024	2023
Staff costs	571,750	252,237	84,561	-	-	-	-	908,548	834,640	
Depreciation and impairment	2,150	1,301	12,505	280	280	25,483	41,719	31,156	31,156	
Staff subsistence and travel	19,471	10,107	1,737	-	-	-	31,315	29,799	29,799	
Project activities	7,655	42,812	1,596	672	672	-	52,735	59,656	59,656	
Designated expenditure	8,480	8,479	8,479	8,479	8,479	-	33,917	12,048	12,048	
Building project costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,900	20,900	
	609,506	314,936	108,878	9,431	9,431	25,483	1,068,234	988,199	988,199	
Grant funding for building project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	226,301	226,301	
Share of support costs (see note 9)	96,693	67,828	20,914	-	-	-	185,435	210,291	210,291	
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	3,738	3,162	-	-	-	-	6,900	6,600	6,600	
	709,937	385,926	129,792	9,431	9,431	25,483	1,260,569	1,431,391	1,431,391	

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Charitable activities (Continued)	Advocacy Participation		Policy Voice		Training & Education		Building Project		Total 2024		Total 2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis by fund												
	10,089	44,153	10,086	9,431	-	73,759						
	699,848	341,773	119,706	-	25,483	1,186,810						
Restricted funds												
	709,937	385,926	129,792	9,431	25,483	1,260,569						
For the year ended 31 March 2023												
	1,154	1,152	1,653	3,137	-	7,096						
	630,844	367,136	154,234	-	272,081	1,424,295						
Restricted funds												
	631,998	368,288	155,887	3,137	272,081	1,431,391						

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	2023	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Rent and rates	17,686	-	17,686	39,462	Useage
Insurance	11,484	-	11,484	9,540	Useage
Heat and light	10,949	-	10,949	12,370	Useage
Maintenance	17,346	-	17,346	16,833	Useage
Recruitment	7,273	-	7,273	3,058	Useage
Staff training	20,421	-	20,421	14,016	Useage
Other staff costs	14,950	-	14,950	11,464	Useage
Print, post & stationery	9,295	-	9,295	14,959	Useage
Telephone	9,847	-	9,847	9,353	Useage
IT support	10,038	-	10,038	12,657	Useage
Bank charges	154	-	154	143	Useage
Subscriptions	1,410	-	1,410	1,049	Useage
Hosting and PR	10,611	-	10,611	23,800	Useage
Corporate services	26,608	-	26,608	29,304	Useage
Sundry office expenses	17,363	-	17,363	12,283	Useage
Audit and accountancy fees	-	6,900	6,900	6,600	Governance
	<u>185,435</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>192,335</u>	<u>216,891</u>	
Analysed between Charitable activities	<u>185,435</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>192,335</u>	<u>216,891</u>	

10 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	6,900	6,600
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	41,515	31,156
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	204	-
	<u>48,619</u>	<u>37,756</u>

11 Directors

None of the directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the company during the year.

During the year a company, of which Ms E Doherty is a director, made a donation to the charitable company of £10,000 (2023 - £nil).

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	23	23
	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>
Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	795,931	717,990
Social security costs	67,146	74,787
Other pension costs	45,471	41,863
	<u>908,548</u>	<u>834,640</u>
	<u>908,548</u>	<u>834,640</u>

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise of the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive, the Children's Services Manager, Resource Manager and the Engagement Manager. The total employment benefits including employer pension contributions of the key management personnel were £178,543 (2023 - £188,300).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land & buildings	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2023	1,175,126	23,780	32,069	1,230,975
Additions	(94,340)	-	47,531	(46,809)
Disposals	-	-	(2,435)	(2,435)
At 31 March 2024	1,080,786	23,780	77,165	1,181,731
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 April 2023	52,606	23,780	12,639	89,025
Depreciation charged in the year	21,616	-	19,899	41,515
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(2,231)	(2,231)
At 31 March 2024	74,222	23,780	30,307	128,309
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2024	1,006,564	-	46,858	1,053,422
At 31 March 2023	1,122,520	-	19,430	1,141,950

Freehold land and buildings represents the charity's share of the purchase and redevelopment costs of a property that is owned jointly with another charity.

15 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2023 & 31 March 2024	1
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	1
At 31 March 2023	1

The charity holds 50% of the issued share capital in a joint venture company Vi-able Corporate Services Limited (Vi-able).

16 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	182,155	183,115
Prepayments	9,468	9,694
	191,623	192,809

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Bank overdrafts	19	4,230	8,752
Other borrowings	19	6,174	5,092
Trade creditors		51,681	-
Other creditors		1,536	3,824
Accruals		36,547	168,240
		<u>100,168</u>	<u>185,908</u>

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

		2024 £	2023 £
Borrowings	19	<u>110,393</u>	<u>80,868</u>

19 Loans and overdrafts

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank overdrafts	4,230	8,752
Other borrowings	116,567	85,960
	<u>120,797</u>	<u>94,712</u>
Payable within one year	10,404	13,844
Payable after one year	<u>110,393</u>	<u>80,868</u>
Amounts included above which fall due after five years:		
Payable by instalments	<u>82,372</u>	<u>60,499</u>

20 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2024 £	2023 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>45,471</u>	<u>41,863</u>

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	Movement in funds			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building project (miscellaneous funders)	216,074	970,011	(271,703)	914,382	3,967	(25,483)	892,866
Belfast City Council	-	3,377	(3,377)	-	1,500	(1,500)	-
BHSCT	4,724	56,999	(56,994)	4,729	58,999	(58,337)	5,391
Children in Need - Next Steps	881	24,197	(25,078)	-	-	-	-
Community Foundation	3,893	7,832	(9,685)	2,040	-	(2,040)	-
DOH Core Funding	2,615	41,179	(41,179)	2,615	20,590	(23,205)	-
DOH TSP training	450	-	-	450	-	(450)	-
Erasmus+	2,449	8,375	(7,885)	2,939	-	(1,688)	1,251
Esmee Fairbairn	1,123	12,000	(950)	12,173	82,000	(68,596)	25,577
Secure Research Care Project	5,431	-	(875)	4,556	4,300	(2,668)	6,188
Strategic Planning and Performance Group Lot 1	94,014	562,502	(575,109)	81,407	562,502	(629,743)	14,166
Strategic Planning and Performance Group Lot 3	9,567	202,863	(195,223)	17,207	171,356	(180,420)	8,143
National Lottery Community Fund	22,979	170,436	(182,679)	10,736	130,555	(140,920)	371
Dormant Accounts Fund NI	-	-	-	-	85,800	(23,061)	62,739
NIGALA	1,519	-	-	1,519	-	-	1,519
NIGALA Forums	-	-	-	-	5,940	-	5,940
Paul Hamlyn	133	-	(133)	-	8,750	(1,290)	7,460
Act For Change	42,368	-	(34,657)	7,711	-	(7,711)	-
NHSCT Pilot	-	14,374	-	14,374	-	(2,809)	11,565
Other Restricted Funds	1,854	22,276	(18,768)	5,362	13,102	(16,889)	1,575
	<u>410,074</u>	<u>2,096,421</u>	<u>(1,424,295)</u>	<u>1,082,200</u>	<u>1,149,361</u>	<u>(1,186,810)</u>	<u>1,044,751</u>

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21 Restricted funds (Continued)

BUILDING PROJECT

To enable the purchase of new premises at 100 Great Patrick Street and to support the ongoing renovation project of same.

This includes funding received from Everun for solar panels and The Clothworkers Foundation for equipment and fittings for sensory room.

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

This was a summer community grant which provided funding for young people's summer activities.

BHSCT

A direct advocacy service to children and young people accommodated in Beechcroft.

CHILDREN IN NEED - NEXT STEPS

To work in partnership with young people and engage with children in care on the impact of Covid and design standards for participation.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

To deliver a coaching, mentoring support and a bursary to support young people aged 16-25 who are in or have left care.

DOH

Contributions toward the cost of Care Day.

DOH CORE FUNDING

To enhance our policy advocacy work and ensure children and young people are central to the development of legislation, policy and practice.

DOH TSP Training

Training support programme for voluntary and community sector.

ERASMUS+

The project aims to support young children's participation in child welfare/protection services by strengthening professional collaboration with children aged 12 years and under.

ESMEE FAIRBAIRN

To deliver and develop a corporate parenting training programme, co-designed with and delivered by care experienced young people to agencies supporting them, to reduce barriers and inequalities faced by children in care and care leavers.

SECURE RESEARCH CARE PROJECT

To facilitate a study to investigate good practice in secure care.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE GROUP (SPPG)

The provision of advocacy services for looked after children, aged 10 – 17 and care experienced young people aged 18-21 years across Northern Ireland. Support for education, training and employment needs of looked after and care experienced young people across Northern Ireland. Recruitment and ongoing support of a young people's reference group for the review of children's social service.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21 Restricted funds (Continued)

NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

'See me, Hear me' project will provide advocacy, coaching and community mentors for vulnerable young people who have left care. The programme also provides opportunities for children and young people to take part in lead on social action projects.

DORMANT ACCOUNTS FUND NI

To fund Ready Steady Resilient, to improve VOYPIC's long term sustainability, resilience, and capacity.

NIGALA

To support annual conference.

NIGALA FORUMS

To provide a participation forum programme.

PAUL HAMLYN - 5 NATIONS ONE VOICE (5NIV)

Funding to support 5 nations CEO meetings.

ACT FOR CHANGE

Paul Hamlyn & Esmee Fairbairn matched by # iwill fund to support 'Shake it Off' programme which tackles stigma in care and social justice.

NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST (NHSCT) PILOT

To provide independent advocacy support to young people who were involved in child protection case conferences.

OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS

Included in Other Restricted Funds are the following:

Include Youth

Reimbursement of expenses related to share premises in Ballymena & Derry.

Care Day

DFC Job Start

Job Start scheme which provides jobs for young people at risk of long-term unemployment.

Community Foundation Young Reps

Funding awards towards training costs for Young Reps Forum.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

22 Designated funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Movement in funds			Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Movement in funds			Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £		
Activities - Booted and Suited	789	-	-	-	789	-	(150)	(639)	-	-
Youth Activities	9,477	5,000	(4,016)	6,507	16,968	-	(2,470)	(14,498)	-	-
Youth Activities Southern Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
Workplace Co-ordinator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,796	14,796	14,796
MIS	47,782	-	-	(47,782)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Activities Western Area	310	-	-	-	310	-	-	(310)	-	-
Moving and dilapidation costs	12,120	-	(7,960)	20,615	24,775	-	(24,775)	-	-	-
Regional dilapidation costs	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	(8,000)	2,000	2,000
Mortgage 100 GPS (12 months)	-	-	-	11,016	11,016	-	-	(11,016)	-	-
100 GPS Project Build	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	-	(50,000)	-	-	-
	120,478	5,000	(11,976)	356	113,858	-	(77,395)	(17,167)	19,296	19,296

The VOYPIC Board of Directors at the end of the financial year 2024 agreed to designate £19,296 from unrestricted reserves to cover the following.

- £2,500 donations designated to youth activities in the Southern Area.
- £14,796 to cover 100 GPS workplace coordinator.
- £2,000 regional dilapidation costs increased for regional offices.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

23 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	25,167	1,028,255	1,053,422	26,286	1,115,664	1,141,950
Investments	1	-	1	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	382,050	126,889	508,939	483,193	(33,464)	449,729
Long term liabilities	-	(110,393)	(110,393)	(80,868)	-	(80,868)
	<u>407,218</u>	<u>1,044,751</u>	<u>1,451,969</u>	<u>428,612</u>	<u>1,082,200</u>	<u>1,510,812</u>

24 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

A contingent liability exists to repay grants received in relation to capital building costs should certain conditions not be fulfilled by the charity. In this regard charges have been registered by The Department for Communities who partly financed the building works.

A legal charge dated 15 December 2022 in favour of The Department of Communities is held over the property at 100 Great Patrick Street, Belfast, BT1 2LH. This charge is in respect of funding received for the development of the property.

25 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	1,766	41,671
Between two and five years	3,091	21,175
	<u>4,857</u>	<u>62,846</u>

26 Share capital

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of the members is limited to £1 per member.

27 Contingent Liability

A legal charge dated 15 December 2022 in favour of The Department of Communities is held over the property at 100 Great Patrick Street, Belfast, BT1 2LH.

This charge is in respect of funding received for the development of the property.

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

28 Related party transactions

(i) Control

The charity was under the control of the Board of Directors throughout the year.

(ii) Vi-able Corporate Services Limited

The charity holds 50% of the issued share capital in a joint venture company Vi-able Corporate Services Limited (Vi-able).

During the year Vi-able charged the charity £41,673 (2023 - £32,351) for the provision of corporate services. During the year Vi-able occupied offices at 100 Great Patrick Street, Belfast a property jointly owned by the charity and Include Youth, with rent and service charges receivable by the charity of £4,556 (2023 - £nil).

At the year end there was a debtor balance owing from Vi-able Corporate Services Limited of £13,933 (2023-£10,517).

29 Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(58,843)	685,244
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(15,879)	(1,405)
Donated assets	-	(472,611)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	204	-
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	41,515	31,156
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	1,186	(90,350)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	35,219	(4,526)
(Decrease) in deferred income	-	(290,000)
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	3,402	(142,492)

30 Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	Acquisitions and disposals £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	442,828	(25,344)	-	417,484
Bank overdrafts	(8,752)	4,522	-	(4,230)
	434,076	(20,822)	-	413,254
Loans falling due within one year	(5,092)	33,918	(35,000)	(6,174)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(80,868)	(29,525)	-	(110,393)
	348,116	(16,429)	(35,000)	296,687