

**Charity number: NIC105248/ XT1867**

**Company number: NI064504**

**BOGSIDE AND BRANDYWELL HEALTH FORUM**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Directors' report and financial statements**

**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**BOGSIDE AND BRANDYWELL HEALTH FORUM**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**BOGSIDE AND BRANDYWELL HEALTH FORUM**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Legal and Administrative Information**

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| <b>Charity Name</b>                              | Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum                            |
| <b>Charity Number</b>                            | NIC105248 / XT1867   |
| <b>Company Registration Number</b>               | NI064504   |
| <b>Registered Office and Operational Address</b> | Foyle Valley Railway Museum<br>Foyle Road<br>Derry<br>BT48 6SQ |

**Directors of Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum**

Ann McDuff  
Maureen Collins  
Liam Quigley  
John Mullan  
Caomhan Logue  
Craig Johnston  
Dermot O'Hara  
Laura Webb  
William Hegarty

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| <b>Secretary</b> | Brid Coyle |
|------------------|------------|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Auditors</b> | McGroarty McCafferty & Company<br>Accountants and Registered Auditors<br>2 Carlisle Terrace<br>Derry<br>BT48 6JX |
|-----------------|--|

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Bankers</b> | AIB (NI)<br>Meadowbank<br>Derry<br>BT48 7TN |
|----------------|---|

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Solicitors</b> | MacDermott, McGurk & Partners<br>12 Clarendon Street<br>Derry<br>BT48 7ET |
|-------------------|---|

**BOGSIDE AND BRANDYWELL HEALTH FORUM**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

The Board of Directors present their report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Principal activity**

The principal activity of the company in the year under review is to improve the health & well being of the Bogside and Brandywell community.

**Company Number** NI064504

**Charity Number** XT1867

**Charity Commission Number** NIC105248

**Directors and their interests**

The directors of the charity for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the directors.

The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Ann McDuff  
Maureen Collins  
Caomhan Logue  
Liam Quigley  
John Mullan  
Craig Johnston  
Dermot O'Hara  
Laura Webb  
William Hegarty

**Company Secretary**

Brid Coyle

**Management Team**

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Mary Breslin   | General Manager          |
| Aisling Hutton | Health Programme Manager |

**BOGSIDE AND BRANDYWELL HEALTH FORUM**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**HOW OUR ACTIVITIES DELIVER PUBLIC BENEFIT**

**Purposes and Aims**

The Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum exists to advance education, relieve sickness, support vulnerable individuals-such as those with disabilities or the elderly-and promote the preservation and protection of health among the residents of the Bogside and Brandywell areas of Derry, their surrounding communities, and the wider Western Health & Social Care Trust area (hereinafter referred to as "the area of benefit").

Our work is inclusive, without distinction based on age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political belief, or religious opinion. We achieve our aims by collaborating with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, and local residents. Our main objectives include:

- a) Promoting Healthy Living - Encouraging the local population to adopt healthier lifestyles for their long-term benefit.
- b) Improving Educational Facilities - Providing or supporting access to facilities that enhance educational opportunities and improve quality of life for local residents.

**Our Activities**

All our charitable activities are designed to promote education and preventative approaches to healthy living. They are delivered solely to advance our charitable purposes and ensure public benefit. The following outlines our main programmes and target groups:

**Health Forum Programmes**

We deliver a wide range of healthy living services to residents in the Bogside and Brandywell area, the Triax Neighbourhood Renewal area, and more broadly across Northern Ireland. In partnership with schools, businesses, and local communities, we offer health checks, Open College Network (OCN) qualifications, and health fairs. These initiatives address health inequalities and empower individuals through health literacy and informed decision-making. Key health issues we tackle include:

- \* Sedentary lifestyles
- \* Nutrition and diet
- \* Mental health
- \* Smoking

**Older People and Adult Services**

We coordinate a variety of activities to support older people and adults, including:

- Loving Life Living Longer (50+ project) in partnership with the Old Library Trust
- Neighbourhood Health Improvement Project
- Active Citizenship programmes
- Older people's clubs and other social groups
- Nutrition programmes and initiatives.

These initiatives are designed to build resilience, reduce social isolation, and mitigate health risks among older adults.

## **BOGSIDE AND BRANDYWELL HEALTH FORUM**

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### **Mental Health Initiatives**

We provide frontline community mental health support for individuals of all ages. This includes:

- One-to-one therapeutic interventions
- Small group emotional wellbeing programmes
- Mental health awareness events
- Training and educational sessions

Our Communities in Transition project, delivered with the Old Library Trust, specifically supports individuals affected by alcohol-related issues. Funded by the Executive Office, it has been extended for another two years.

Health Forum Services (HFS) plays a key role in supporting the sustainability of our work. HFS delivers a range of training programmes and health checks to both businesses and the wider community, helping us remain aligned with our ethos and core values.

This area of work has grown significantly, and in 2024/25, the income generated through HFS has successfully funded two full-time positions and one part-time role within the organisation. As traditional funding becomes increasingly difficult to secure, we are committed to further developing this model as a best practice approach to sustainability. It not only reduces our reliance on external funding but also strengthens our capacity to deliver meaningful, community-based health initiatives.

### **Our Achievements**

In 2024-2025, we are proud to be collaborating with the Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) to support the integration of newly arrived and emerging communities from Syria, Sudan, and other conflict-affected regions. As part of this initiative, we are delivering a range of health and wellbeing projects tailored to the specific needs of these communities.

This work represents a significant achievement for the Health Forum, as it reflects our commitment to inclusivity, equality, and community cohesion. Many individuals from these backgrounds face complex challenges, including trauma, cultural and language barriers, and limited access to healthcare. By offering culturally sensitive health education, emotional support, and accessible services, we are helping to build trust, improve health outcomes, and promote a sense of belonging within our wider community.

This partnership not only strengthens our ties with statutory bodies like the WHSCT but also demonstrates the adaptability and reach of our services. Supporting the integration of displaced and vulnerable populations reinforces our ethos of promoting health for all, regardless of background or circumstance.

Our programmes play a vital role in reducing pressure on the NHS and statutory services by promoting early intervention, preventative care, and healthier lifestyle choices within the community. By addressing health and wellbeing at a grassroots level, we help individuals take greater ownership of their health, which in turn eases the burden on overstretched public services.

In addition to improving individual health outcomes, our initiatives also work to strengthen community connections, reduce social isolation, and foster a greater sense of resilience and belonging.

## **BOGSIDE AND BRANDYWELL HEALTH FORUM**

### **(A company limited by guarantee)**

To ensure we are delivering meaningful impact, we use validated monitoring and evaluation tools to measure the effectiveness of our programmes. These tools allow us to track measurable improvements in participants' physical and mental wellbeing, as well as their overall quality of life. This evidence-based approach not only informs our ongoing work but also reinforces our accountability to funders, partners, and the wider community.

#### **Beneficiaries**

We provide health improvement services to all members of the community, delivered in multiple venues to maximize accessibility. We also work in collaboration with:

- Primary and post-primary schools
- Local businesses
- Community and voluntary organisations
- GP practices and statutory agencies

While most of our services are provided free of charge, a nominal fee may apply to some programmes, this is part of the social enterprise element of Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum.

#### **Ensuring Our Purpose is Beneficial and Not Harmful**

Bogside Brandywell Health Forum work closely with statutory partners and funders to ensure that the benefits of our programmes clearly outweigh any potential risks. All our activities are evidence-based and evaluated using validated tools to measure the impact on participants' health and wellbeing.

#### **Monitoring and Reviewing Our Impact**

We conduct an annual review of our aims, objectives, and activities to assess their effectiveness and relevance. This includes evaluating the outcomes and impacts of each health initiative, ensuring alignment with our charitable purposes. In planning and reviewing our activities, we adhere to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Our directors consider how each planned activity will contribute to our overarching aims.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Our Finance and Employment Sub-Group continues to monitor and strengthen our financial management processes. In the past year, we updated key policies-including those on redundancy and financial reserves-to better safeguard the organisation. The Health Forum remains proactive in identifying and securing new funding opportunities to ensure the sustainability of our programmes and services.

#### **Principal Funding Sources**

The principal funding sources for the Health Forum are currently by way of grant aid and contracts with a range of external bodies. The principal funders are Public Health Agency, National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF), Western Health & Social Care Trust, Department for Communities, Urban Villages (TEO) and a variety of other small funders and income generation.

#### **Reserves Status**

Overall reserves for the financial year amounted to £274,154. Reserves for the year are split £258,806 unrestricted and £15,348 restricted reserves.

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The Board of Directors have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should represent up to six months of the expenditure and provide for redundancy for all staff in the event of a gap or withdrawal of funding, this would total £125,000 (see note 12). The remainder of unrestricted reserves would be used for other programmes and salaries that may be a risk in future financial periods.

The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirement of the charity and the Board are confident that at this level they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding for three months.

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

Following a series of strategic discussions between representatives of both charities, the Boards of the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum and the Old Library Trust have agreed that the preferred course of action is to merge the two organisations. The newly formed entity will be a charitable company limited by guarantee.

The first Board of the merged organisation will comprise equal representation from both the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum and the Old Library Trust. For a minimum period of two years from the date of completion, two Co-Chairs will jointly lead the Board- one from each of the original organisations. The proposed date for the merger to be complete is November 2025. Up until that date, either organisation reserves the right to withdraw from the process if significant concerns arise.

Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum remains committed to strengthening its capacity to deliver and innovate health improvement within its immediate target area. This may involve securing additional funding through grants or contracts with external bodies to support continued development and impact.

Bogside Brandywell Health Forum will continue to work with funders and grant makers to promote health improvement through partnerships in the area of benefit.

Neighbourhood Health Improvement Project - The Neighbourhood Health Improvement Project (NHIP) provides support to 6 locations: Limavady, Strabane, four areas within Derry: Outer West, Outer North, Triax, Waterside with the overall aim to improve community health and wellbeing.

Loving Life, Living Longer Project - The aim of this cross-community partner health project is to adopt the five steps to wellbeing approach to provide a range of support and inclusion interventions and services to older residents' post COVID and during the increasing cost of living crisis. The project will address the complexities and impact of health inequalities for older residents living in the target TRIAX Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The provision will enhance community capacity and co-create a local steering/working group to ensure we are achieving an informed and impactful project.



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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 4 May 2007 and registered as a charity on 26 July 2007. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

**Recruitment and appointment of management committee (Board of Directors)**

The Directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

All members of the Management Committee give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the Charity.

A number of Directors will retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

**Directors Induction and Training**

Directors are already familiar with the practical work of the Charity having been involved in a range of activities and events over several years. New directors receive a full induction. There is also a Staff Induction pack which is useful in terms of providing a good grounding in the management structure and working parts of the organisation.

**Risk Assessment and Management**

The Board of Directors are duty-bound to review the major risks to which the charity is exposed.

Internal Financial Risks are already minimised by the authorisation of all transactions for project expenditure. All financial matters are scrutinised by the Finance and Employment Sub Group on a regular basis, minutes are taken of the proceedings and relayed to the Board of Directors. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers and service users.

**Organisational Structure**

The organisation has a Board of nine Directors who meet at least six times a year to receive Progress Reports from the General Manager relative to the various projects. The Board alternated its meetings between Project Progress meetings and Corporate meeting to ensure a healthy balance between progress on operational matters and building the corporate strength of the organisation.

The Board are responsible for ensuring the strategic direction and policies of the Charity. At present there are nine Directors on the Board from a range of backgrounds.

In an effort to maintain a good skills mix, directors are requested to provide a list of their skills and update it each year. Membership of the Board is reviewed on an ongoing basis by an ad-hoc Membership Committee.

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A system of delegation is in place whereby day to day responsibility for the strategic and full operational development of the charity rests with the General Manager who in turn provides line management to all project managers employed by the Health Forum. The General Manager is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the projects and services specified and that key performance indicators are met through a continuous system of personal action plans, line management, managers meetings, staff meetings and annual appraisal.

### **Employment and Finance Sub Group**

The Charity has established an Employment and Finance Sub Group in order to deal with and provide focus to the charity's corporate responsibility in relation to all financial and relevant employment matters on a timely basis. The Sub Group meets around 6 times per year and one member of the Sub Group reports to each meeting of the Board of Directors. The General Manager and Office Manager also attend all meetings as requested.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)**

The trustees (who are also directors of Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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 Board of Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis
4. Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102)
5. State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy of any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Members of the Management Committee (Board of Directors)**

Members of the Board, who are Directors for the purpose of company law, and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

**BOGSIDE AND BRANDYWELL HEALTH FORUM**  
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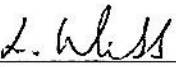
- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware;  
and
- As the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

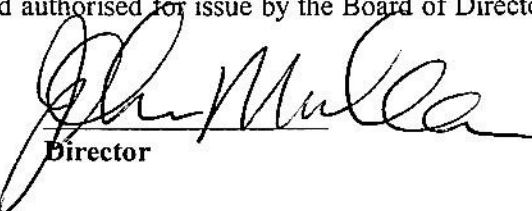
The auditor is deemed to have been re-appointed in accordance with section 487 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Small Company Provisions**

The report has been prepared in accordance with special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements are approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 8 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Director**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Director**