

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited

Northern Ireland · Charity number 105780

Details

Known as	DHC
Status	Received
Company number	640806
Registered	2017-04-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

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Website www.dhcni.com

Activities

Purposes: The Charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following: The protection, preservation and promotion of good health amongst the inhabitants residing principally in the Derry and Strabane areas and throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland ("hereinafter called the "area of benefit") by associating the statutory authorities, relevant agencies, community and voluntary organisations, businesses, academic institutions and the inhabitants in a common effort to work towards alleviating health inequalities and in particular, but not exclusively, to: (a) promote a more positive and inclusive attitude to health from policy and planning by initiating and encouraging inter-agency and inter-sector working and supporting and developing practical initiatives; (b) advance education relating to the benefits of good health and to the implications of poor health through the provision of advice information, guidance, support and training; (c) promote and encourage public participation in healthy exercise and physical activity; (d) promote, develop and support those organisations offering health care services and support in the area of benefit.

What the charity does: The advancement of health or the saving of lives

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information,Community development,Disability,Education/training,Environment/sustainable development/conservation,General charitable purposes,Grant making,Human rights/equality,Medical/health/sickness,Relief of poverty,Research/evaluation,Rural development,Sport/recreation,Welfare/benevolent

Who the charity helps: Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse),Adult training,Children (5-13 year olds),General public,Mental health,Older people,Physical disabilities,Specific areas of deprivation,Voluntary and community sector,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,428,207	£2,403,998	£-376,714	14

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Clare Mulrone		
David Kelly		
Mary Macintyre		
Michele Murphy		
Mrs Diane Marshall		
Mrs Emma Kevitt		
Sharon Williams		
Will Ennett		

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105780

Accounts

Charity number: NIC105780
Company number: NI640806

**DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
(DHC) LIMITED**
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2025

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Contents

	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the directors report and strategic report)	2 - 13
Independent Auditors' report to the trustees	14 - 17
Statement of financial activities	18
Statement of financial position	19
Statement of cash flows	20
Notes to the financial statements	21 - 32

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Legal and administrative information

Charity number	NIC105780	
Company registration number	NI640806	
Business address	83 Ledwidge Avenue Derry BT47 6GZ	
Registered office	83 Ledwidge Avenue Derry BT47 6GZ	
Trustees	Emma Kevitt Diane Marshall Mary Mac Intrye Sharon Williams Will Ennett David Kelly Michele Murphy Claire Mulrone Leona McNicholl	Appointed 27/04/2024 Resigned 28/11/2024
Secretary	Edel O'Doherty	
Auditors	McDaid McCullough Moore 28/32 Clarendon Street Derry BT48 7HD	
Bankers	Allied Irish Bank Meadowbank Strand Road Derry	

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out below. This report is prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recognised 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).

Introduction

The Trustees of Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) are pleased to present our Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025. This report outlines the achievements and contributions of DHC during the period 1st April 2024–30th March 2025 and is testament to the organisation's ongoing commitment to improving population health, in partnership with funders, statutory bodies, and the wider community and voluntary sector.

As a strategic organisation within the Derry and Strabane district, DHC is dedicated to fostering cross-sector partnerships aimed at tackling health inequalities and improving health outcomes.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

DHC is a charitable company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital (company registration number NI640806). It is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs and is registered with the NI Charities Commission (registration number NIC105780). The organisation operates under its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

The company is governed by a Board of Directors who also serve as the charity's trustees. Trustees are selected based on their professional backgrounds and skills to ensure diverse and experienced representation. The names of those who served during the year are listed on page 1, alongside details of the registered office and professional advisors.

The Board meets quarterly to oversee performance and make decisions related to financial and operational matters. Additional meetings are held as required to address urgent governance issues. The Board operates in accordance with the charity's constitutional objectives.

Appointment and training of trustees

DHC is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and therefore openly advertises vacancies on the Board in order to attract a range of people with diverse skills and experience which will benefit the people and communities we serve. The Board is committed to providing support and training for Board members to help them to fulfil their role, including for people who have not served on a board before. New trustees are nominated by current trustees.

Induction and training of new trustees is provided the Chief Executive and Chairperson who provide new members with information on the role and function of DHC, Terms of Reference for Board members, Annual Reports and Minutes of previous meetings. Most trustees, due to their experience and backgrounds, are already familiar with the work of the charitable company.

Principle risks and uncertainties

Management have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The trustees continually monitor their exposure to financial risk. Given the size of the charitable company, the trustees have not delegated the responsibility of monitoring financial risk to a sub committee.

Risks identified, such as the financial viability and sustainability of the charitable company, have been reviewed to ensure that a level of funding is maintained that is necessary for the charitable company to continue to meet its objectives. The trustees continually strive to source additional or new funding sources.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Business, cyber and financial risk are managed by ensuring the company have appropriately qualified staff equipped with the necessary skills and experience and that effective and secure ICT systems are in place. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of controls and procedures for the authorisation of all transactions.

Organisational Management and Staffing

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is managed by the Chief Executive Edel O'Doherty. She is responsible for overseeing the activities carried out by the charitable company. Her responsibilities include the management of all staff and their duties, the provision of a full range of administrative and clerical duties and for the preparation of financial reports to the Board of Directors and Funding Bodies.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is an equal opportunities employer committed to positive policies on recruitment, training and career development for staff members regardless of religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation.

Key management remuneration policy

The key management personnel of the charitable company are the directors (trustees) and senior management. The trustees are not remunerated for their services and did not receive and were not reimbursed for expenses during the year. The remuneration of senior management is set by the trustees and reviewed annually and is normally increased in line with inflation. The benchmark used in setting remuneration is based on the remuneration of other key management personnel in similar comparable organisations.

Directors

The directors (also the trustees) who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Emma Kevitt	Claire Mulrone
Diane Marshall	Sharon Williams
David Kelly	Will Ennett
Michele Murphy	
Mary MacIntyre (appointed 27th June 2024)	
Leona McNicholl (resigned 28th November 2024)	

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities

The principal objectives and activities of the charity during the year continued to be the promotion of health improvement and reduction of health inequality throughout Northern Ireland by the provision of training, support and awareness projects carried out on a multi-sectoral partnership basis.

Public Benefit-

In setting these objectives the trustees' have considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that its activities have helped to achieve its principal objective of public benefit for its beneficiaries.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a charitable organisation registered with Northern Ireland Charities Commission.

The company commenced activities on 1 April 2018 on which date all assets and liabilities of 'The Derry Healthy Cities Project' were transferred to the company.

The company is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. DHC continued to lead Derry City and Strabane's designation to the World Health Organisation's European Healthy Cities Network.
2. DHC's CLEAR Project administered small grants on behalf of the PHA to build health and wellbeing capacity within small community organisations, in support of the NI Mental Health Strategy and the NI Suicide Prevention Strategy 'Protect Life'. The Clear project also delivered training to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing and prevent suicide. Through this project DHC also continued to oversee the PHA's quality standards for the delivery of services in this field.
3. DHC's Health@WorkNI 'Work Well, Live Well' programme delivered a diverse range of health interventions including training, health promotion campaigns, health checks, etc to workplaces across the Western Trust area, aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of the adult workforce. This work reflects best practice as set out by the World Health Organisations 'healthy settings' approach.
4. DHC facilitated the Families Voices Forum through our regional Bereaved by Suicide project, which enables family members bereaved by suicide to contribute effectively to discussion and decision making in relation to suicide prevention.
5. DHC coordinated and administered the Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme (NHIP) grants on behalf of the PHA to six local community groups.
6. DHC worked in partnership with the NW Community Network and Ulster University as part of the UK wide 'Ideas Fund' to support a range of mental health and wellbeing projects in local communities within the Derry and Strabane Council area.
7. DHC contributes to the DCSDC and Community Foundation for Northern Ireland's Acorn Farm project by delivering on the 'I Can Cook' strand of the project.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

DHC'S Vision and key objectives

DHC is a strategic organisation committed to fostering intersectoral partnerships for health and harnessing our collective assets to tackle health inequalities and improve the quality of life of the population. Our work is set firmly within the WHO Healthy Cities and Regions Framework, and we play our part in the implementation of several NI Regional Government Strategies such as Health and Wellbeing 2026: 'Delivering Together' (DOH), the NI Public Health Strategy 'Making Life Better' and the DCSDC's Community Plan and Strategic Growth Plan.

In 2023 DHC launched our new three-year strategy setting out our vision until 2026 ie "We want people to achieve a healthy and happy life, so that they can thrive in the place they call home".

To achieve that vision we focus on five guiding principles:-

- Place based working
- Collaboration and partnership
- Building community capacity
- Demonstrating impact
- Research and innovation

As part of this process, Developing Healthy Communities works to; -

- Advocate and build capacity for health and wellbeing by facilitating events and sharing knowledge and administration of small grants.
- Lead on the delivery of innovative projects including training, community development for health and sustainability.
- Foster strategic intersectoral alliances within the Derry and Strabane district to address the wider social and economic determinants of health, adopting a holistic approach based upon the WHO Phase VII framework.
- Facilitate consultations with local people on health, wellbeing and sustainability which shape policy, practice investment and delivery.
- Monitor and evaluate our progress and impact in delivery of programme.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)

This report highlights a transformative year for Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) in 2024-2025, a period marked by intensive activity across our diverse project portfolio. We built capacity and momentum through focused programmes delivered in partnership with leaders from multiple sectors. DHC operated at both strategic and grassroots levels, influencing statutory policy and practice while also delivering practical, community-based health interventions with measurable outcomes.

Through innovative collaborations with international, regional, and local stakeholders, we continued to share best practice to promote healthier lifestyles and confront deep-rooted health inequalities. Guided by a clear vision and a steadfast commitment to health equity, the DHC team not only met all Key Performance Indicators but also broadened our influence, strengthened partnerships, and cemented our role as a catalyst for positive change in the region.

The following represents the work of DHC during the period from 1st April 2024-25.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Events and Conferences

- **Derry and Strabane Healthy City & District Annual Conference - 'Reimagining Systems: Mobilising the Creative Arts for Healthier Lives' (Sept 2024)**

Held on 4th September, the annual Derry and Strabane Healthy City & District Conference brought together over 110 delegates for a dynamic and inspiring event that explored the transformative role of the creative arts in promoting health and wellbeing. Titled 'Reimagining Systems: Mobilising the Creative Arts for Healthier Lives', the conference showcased a robust evidence base for creative health and featured best practice examples from across the UK and Ireland.

The programme included powerful video presentations that celebrated the vibrant creative talent within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. These visual stories highlighted how creative arts are being effectively harnessed to support the health and wellbeing of local communities demonstrating both innovation and impact in this growing field.

- **Workplace Health Champions Celebration Event (Feb 2025)**

As part of DHC's ongoing commitment to promoting health and wellbeing in the workplace, a special Workplace Health Champions Celebration Event was held to recognise the dedication and impact of local workplace champions. The event, attended by 35 Health Champions from a range of organisations, celebrated efforts in advancing health promotion within their respective workplaces.

These champions were acknowledged for their role in supporting colleagues to make healthier lifestyle choices, fostering positive workplace environments, and embedding the principles of wellbeing into daily working life. Each participant received an award in recognition of their contribution to the Workplace Health Programme.

The event was supported by the Public Health Agency (PHA), whose representatives commended the champions and the wider programme for its role in supporting the regional public health agenda. The celebration also provided an opportunity to share success stories, network across sectors, and reaffirm the importance of peer-led health promotion in the workplace.

- **Clear Project - Building Hope in the West**

As part of Developing Healthy Communities' commitment to raising community awareness around mental health, well-being, and available support services within the Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHST) area, a dedicated event was held at the Strabane Enterprise Agency in December 2024. The forum was attended by 35 participants and featured presentations from a diverse range of statutory, voluntary, and community-based organisations, all of whom deliver vital mental health and suicide prevention services in the region.

DHC Programmes and Projects

WHO Healthy Cities - Derry and Strabane Healthy City and District

DHC continues to lead on the intersectoral approach to improving health and wellbeing through its coordination of the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities Programme in the Derry and Strabane District. Through strategic leadership within the Healthy Cities Leadership Group, DHC brings together representatives from business, community, and public sectors to elevate health as a core priority on the local agenda.

Our work is guided by the WHO Healthy Cities Phase VII Framework, which adopts a place-based, equity-focused approach to addressing health inequalities through six interconnected themes: People, Place, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Participation.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

In 2024-25, the Healthy City and District initiative made significant progress in embedding these principles into local policy, planning, and service delivery. The Healthy Cities Leadership Group, chaired by the Public Health Agency, provided strategic oversight and strengthened multi-sector collaboration to drive sustainable improvements in population health.

As the WHO Healthy Cities Programme is a politically led global movement, DHC reinforced local leadership by engaging Mayor Seenoi Barr in October 2024. This engagement culminated in a formal presentation to the Council's Community and Health Committee in November, securing strong political endorsement for Derry and Strabane's application to WHO Phase VIII, due to open in June 2025. The upcoming phase will expand to include an additional theme 'Preparation' in response to the global challenges and instability of geo-political, environmental, economic and health systems bringing the total to seven.

DHC also completed the formal Phase VII Evaluation, highlighting key strategic developments, outcomes from 2020 to 2025, and examples of good practice to inform future planning.

Additional milestones included:

- Advancing the Whole Systems Approach to Obesity
- Establishing a Creative Healthy Cities Taskforce
- Participating in the WHO Wellbeing Economy pilot, aligning health with sustainability and economic policy
- Contributing to the Western Area Integrated Partnership Board, focused on integrated, preventative models of health and social care

Community-based initiatives progressed across the following priority areas:

- **Whole Systems Approach to Obesity:**
Launched in partnership with local stakeholders. DHC has joined the Leadership Group, with funding proposals underway for a dedicated Project Manager.
- **NI Protect Life (2) Implementation Group:**
DHC played a central role in suicide prevention activities, reporting on bereavement support, training, grants administration, and adherence to Public Health Agency (PHA) quality standards.
- **Western Diabetes Group:**
Monthly diabetes awareness sessions were introduced, with plans for a formal Diabetes Education Programme commencing in 2025.
- **Skeoge Health Inequalities Group:**
In collaboration with Ulster University, a Community Health Needs Assessment will be conducted in early 2025 to guide targeted interventions in one of the region's most deprived areas.
- **Creative Healthy City & District Initiative:**
A dedicated Taskforce was established following DHC's Annual Conference. The initiative has secured mayoral endorsement and will align cultural engagement with local health strategies.
- **Cross Border Mental Health Group - (VEEP) Voice, Equality, Experience, and Power (VEEP):**
DHC are part of the VEEP project which aims to understand the structural root causes of inequality and its ties to mental health and social wellbeing, beyond the scope of traditional medical care. The project seeks to build community development approaches to Mental Health, Poverty and Inequality on an all-island basis.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

With increasing political support, enhanced partnerships, and strong community engagement, the Healthy Cities Programme continues to serve as a leading model for inclusive, sustainable, and system-wide health leadership across the Derry and Strabane District.

DHC Clear Project

Small Grants Funds

In 2024-25, the Small Grants Fund continued to grow, with DHC administering the programme on behalf of the Northern Ireland Public Health Agency (PHA) in support of the region's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategies. The fund aims to empower local community organisations to deliver initiatives that promote mental health and wellbeing, aligned with the PHA's Five Ways to Wellbeing framework.

During this period, the Clear Project distributed a total of £1,504,138.49 through short-term funding programmes across the five Health and Social Care Trust areas. This funding supported 475 community groups, with Level 1 grants of up to £1,000 and Level 2 grants of up to £5,000.

As a result, 38,868 individuals participated in PHA/Clear-funded programmes, while 2,177 volunteers contributed over 31,268 hours to support the delivery of grassroots services, demonstrating a significant community-led effort to improve mental health and wellbeing across Northern Ireland.

Clear Sports Grants

Through the CLEAR project, a total of £25,936.60 was distributed in small grants ranging from £300 to £500 to local sports clubs to support the purchase of sports equipment. As part of the funding conditions and in alignment with the Northern Ireland Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Regional Strategies, 179 sports coaches took part in Suicide Awareness and Mental Health training. The objective of this training was to equip coaches with the knowledge and skills to recognise signs of poor mental health and intervene appropriately when individuals may be at risk. The training delivered included six safeTALK sessions and Sport NI's Mental Health and Wellbeing programme.

Clear Project - Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Training

Through DHC's CLEAR Project, 14 training programmes focused on mental health, emotional wellbeing, and suicide prevention were delivered to 192 individuals working within the community and voluntary sector. The training aimed to build capacity and confidence among frontline staff and volunteers in responding to mental health challenges.

Courses delivered included:

- Mental Health First Aid (2 sessions, 77 participants)
- Self-Harm and Autism (2 sessions, 34 participants)
- The Person Behind the Behaviour (2 sessions, 32 participants)
- Alcohol Management and Relapse Prevention (9 participants)
- Motivational Interviewing (15 participants)
- Self-Care (13 participants)
- Anger Management (12 participants)

Participants reported positive outcomes across all courses, including increased skills, enhanced knowledge, deeper understanding, and greater confidence in managing mental health and suicide-related issues within their communities.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Clear Project - PHA Quality Standards

DHC provides a leadership and assessment role for the PHA Quality Standards for community-based services promoting mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention.

As part of this work during 2024-25, the DHC Clear Project undertook 2 independent assessments of the Quality Standards within organisations chosen by the PHA and produced detailed reports with recommendations for service improvement for each agency. Between March 2024 -2025, 138 community organisations had registered onto the QS portal for self-assessment against the PHA Quality Standards.

Health at Work - Work Well, Live Well Programme

"Health@Work NI" is a Public Health Agency's regional initiative to target workplaces where health inequalities are likely to be most prevalent, including those with a high proportion of low paid, manual, male, sedentary and migrant workers. DHC delivers the "Work Well, Live Well" (WWLW) on behalf of the PHA within the WHSCT area.

In 2024-2025, forty-one new workplaces signed up to the Workplace Health Support Service, accessing information, and support to develop a healthier workplace. This included thirty two new Workplace Health Champions trained online through the Work Well Live Well Programme. The DHC WWLW programme provided consultancy and mentoring to fifteen workplaces to complete health and wellbeing needs assessments and action plans.

DHC's 'Work Well, Live Well' programme worked in partnership with WHSCT, AWARE, HSENI, Menopause NI, Diabetes UK, Money Advice Service and many others to deliver training and health promotion campaigns to workplaces at all levels of the programme. In 2024-25, thirty employees completed Mental Health First Aid Training online, approximately 25 participants attended Menopause Awareness Workshops/Events. 21 Organisations attended line manager workshops on Managing Mental Health. 17 Organisations attended Diabetes Awareness Sessions and Financial Wellbeing Workshops.

15 Workplaces were supported and mentored to deliver on the organisations wellbeing plans and supported to plan and deliver a range of health promotion activities within there own organisations to include Health Checks, Cancer Awareness, Healthy Eating, Physical Activity, Stress Management.

Health Champions were given support and access to a range of wellbeing training opportunities and programmes.

Health Champions were celebrated at a Celebration Event attended by 35 Health Champions attended to received awards at an event attended by PHA.

Since April 2024 a total of 668 employees have participated in Health Checks across 22 workplaces in the Western Trust region. These interventions are in line with the World Health Organisation's focus on workplace 'settings' to improve health by providing workers with personalised information on their health status and changes to lifestyle.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Bereaved by Suicide - Families Voices Forum (FVF)

Families Voices Forum (FVF) Northern Ireland | April 2024 - March 2025

The Families Voices Forum continued to strengthen its work supporting those bereaved by suicide over the last year. The Forum held a successful engagement event at the Everglades Hotel, Derry, in March 2025, showcasing local services and placing a spotlight on the importance of the voice of young people in suicide prevention and mental health discussions.

The Forum has grown to 88 members, supported by approximately 15 core volunteers who contributed an estimated 700 hours this year. Weekly 1:1 sessions and subgroup meetings provided continued support, with four full Forum meetings held.

New promotional materials were developed and accessibility was improved through hybrid meeting formats and a newly developed Families Voices Forum website hosted on the DHC platform.

Work continued with Ulster University to evaluate the Forum's impact, with findings due in Summer 2025. The Forum also provided feedback on bereavement protocols within the NI Prison Service and continued to engage in high-level strategic work, including the Towards Zero Suicide Advisory Board and local Protect Life Implementation Groups across all Trust areas.

The Forum has made efforts to increase representation from underrepresented groups including youth, LGBTQIA+, and the Travelling community. These groups were specifically targeted through social media outreach, community networking and events. A youth-focused event was held to elevate young voices in the suicide prevention landscape and work is underway to formalise their involvement within the Forum.

Families Voices Forum remains actively involved in regional suicide prevention strategy and policy shaping, including representation on the Regional Protect Life Steering Group, SD1/CRP meetings and partnership work with other organisations.

Work has also begun on continuing an on-hiatus campaign to work toward publishing "If Only I Could Tell You: Letters of Hope and Compassion". Meanwhile, development of a revised induction process and training plan is underway, with a commitment to quarterly training sessions going forward, ensuring appropriate engagement, accessibility and purpose from the beginning.

Ideas Fund - Community Research Collective

In 2024-25, DHC continued its active participation in the Community Research Collective, a collaborative initiative that evolved from the Ideas Fund project. Led by the NW Community Network and Ulster University, and supported by representatives from the community sector, the Collective aims to consolidate learning and extend the impact of the Ideas Fund. Its core focus is on dismantling barriers to public health research and strengthening meaningful, equitable partnerships between Ulster University and community organisations. This phase of work was supported by £91,286 in funding from the Ideas Fund, enabling the Collective to build on the valuable insights gained through individual community-led projects.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Ideas Fund, delivered by the British Science Association and funded by Wellcome, has supported the development and implementation of innovative community-led research projects across the Derry and Strabane District Council area since 2021. In its first round, the scheme awarded £343,000 to eight community groups, followed by £429,000 to seven groups in the second round. These projects primarily focused on engaging under-represented communities, including people with disabilities, young people, and residents of rural areas.

Building on this success, the Ideas Fund has selected three projects from the DCSDC area to receive an Evidence Building Grant of up to £150,000 each. These grants are designed to support the generation of robust evidence and to share the broader impacts of community-researcher collaboration-particularly its influence on public health research and on the communities involved.

Acorn Farm

DHC remains a key delivery partner in the Acorn Farm project, a flagship initiative led by Derry City and Strabane District Council in partnership with the Community Foundation. As part of this collaboration, DHC is responsible for delivering the 'I Can Cook' strand, which aims to engage up to 1,000 families across the district in growing and cooking healthy, sustainable food.

Activity under this programme increased significantly during 2024-25, building on pilot sessions delivered in the previous year. Highlights included participation in major community events and expanded outreach through targeted community engagement.

As part of Open Farm Weekend, DHC delivered educational food activities to 128 participants over two days, including 87 schoolchildren. These sessions focused on exploring taste, food preferences, and the journey from seed to plate. Similar activities were also delivered at FestHiveal at the Gasyard Centre, reaching 49 participants, including 24 children.

Community-based sessions were held in collaboration with Currynierin Community Association and The Conservation Volunteers at Brooke Park. In addition, the inaugural Acorn Farm Stew Fest was delivered across ten community venues, where facilitators prepared traditional stews and led discussions on the relationship between traditional foods, health, and seasonality. This event reached over 100 participants.

Feedback from Stew Fest was overwhelmingly positive: 96.5% of the 92 respondents reported gaining new skills or knowledge related to growing food, cooking, and healthy eating. More than 85% rated the venues, activities, and delivery as 'very good.'

Neighbourhood Renewal Health Improvement Project (NHIP)

DHC administered the NHIP funding (£36,358) on behalf of the PHA to 6 community groups in areas of deprivation. This funding is designed to support grassroots capacity building for health and wellbeing and is used for a broad variety of local programmes to engage local people in health and wellbeing events. This funding is matched by the Department for Communities to sustain local community development within the DCSDC area.

In response to DHC's work on Pre-Diabetes/Diabetes Prevention (Western Diabetes Group), agreement was secured during 2024-25 from representatives of the Neighbourhood Health Improvement Project to test out community-based education for those at risk of diabetes. Sessions were held across several locations and feedback was positive. Work is ongoing to develop a community-based education programme to be rolled out across the WHSCT in the coming months.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Challenge and Solutions

Despite a year marked by both achievement and challenge, DHC has continued to demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and impact. While funding constraints and staffing capacity posed ongoing pressures, the organisation remained financially and operationally stable throughout 2024-25. We are actively addressing these challenges through sustained engagement with funders and a strategic focus on securing additional investment to strengthen our core capacity and enable future growth.

The dedication of our team has been central to our success. In 2024-25, DHC not only met all key performance indicators across our funded projects but also made significant contributions to collaborative efforts with a range of partner organisations. Through our events, publications, and active participation in cross-sectoral initiatives, we have extended our reach and influence locally and beyond.

Looking ahead to 2025-26, we do so with optimism and a renewed commitment to our mission.

Benefits to the end users and wider society

- The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year as detailed in the foregoing paragraphs, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

Financial review (including reserves policy)

The net income for the year was £24,209 (31 March 2024 - net expenditure £50,611). The net income for the year will be added to the funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £376,526.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 6 months core running costs and all winding up liabilities.

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short-term deposit accounts) of £707,805. Total expenditure for the year was £2,391,032 (excluding depreciation). Expenditure included ring fenced funds of £1,556,218 which were distributed in small grants. The charity, therefore, has adequate funds in line with its reserves policy. The directors are satisfied with this outcome and will continue to prudently review the level of reserves held by the charity in line with current levels of funding and operating costs.

Plans for future periods

Looking ahead to the forthcoming financial year the directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution to achieve DHC's objectives. The directors will continue to focus on diversifying income sources to support the long-term sustainability and consolidation of the organisation. We will also strengthen our partnerships with local agencies and expand our reach to more rural and underserved areas.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees 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 accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

- 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 business.

The trustees 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.

Statement of disclosure of information to auditors

We, the trustees of the charitable company, who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements, each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all steps that we ought to have taken as trustees in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.
- we have taken all steps that we ought to have taken as trustees in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.-

Auditors

A resolution proposing that McDaid McCullough Moore be reappointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

On behalf of the Board



Emma Kevitt (Chair)

Trustee

6 November 2025

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent auditor's report to the members of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and 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) (ISA's (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 charitable 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the presentation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

- the trustees' report (including the strategic report) has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and 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; or
- 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 trustees 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 trustees 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:

Based on our understanding of the company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to those standard to small charitable companies, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, income tax and payroll tax.

Audit procedures performed included the following:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Identifying and testing journals and the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities as these 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

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.



Gerard Murray
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
McDaid McCullough Moore
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditor
28/32 Clarendon Street
Derry
BT48 7HD

6 November 2025

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Restricted funds/capital funds	2025 Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income								
Generated Funds	2	127,717	-	-	127,717	97,089	-	97,089
Investment income	3	11,857	-	-	11,857	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	4	-	2,273,633	15,000	2,288,633	-	2,317,147	2,317,147
Total income		<u>139,574</u>	<u>2,273,633</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>2,428,207</u>	<u>97,089</u>	<u>2,317,147</u>	<u>2,414,236</u>
Resources expended								
Charitable activities	5	127,365	2,273,633	3,000	2,403,998	147,700	2,317,147	2,464,847
Total resources expended		<u>127,365</u>	<u>2,273,633</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,403,998</u>	<u>147,700</u>	<u>2,317,147</u>	<u>2,464,847</u>
Net (expenditure)/income for the year		12,209	-	12,000	24,209	(50,611)	-	(50,611)
Total funds brought forward		352,317	-	-	352,317	402,928	-	402,928
Total funds carried forward		<u>364,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>376,526</u>	<u>352,317</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>352,317</u>

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 21 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial position
as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		36,290		49,256
Current assets					
Debtors	13	9,145		79,587	
Cash at bank and in hand	14	707,805		757,476	
		<u>716,950</u>		<u>837,063</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(376,714)</u>		<u>(534,002)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>340,236</u>		<u>303,061</u>
Net assets			<u>376,526</u>		<u>352,317</u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	18		-		-
Unrestricted income funds	17		<u>376,526</u>		<u>352,317</u>
Total charity funds			<u>376,526</u>		<u>352,317</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the board on 6 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Emma Kevitt
 Director


 Company Registration Number : NI640806

Diane Marshall
 Director



The notes on pages 21 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year		24,208	(50,611)
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Interest receivable		(11,857)	-
Depreciation and impairment		12,966	8,201
<i>Changes in:</i>			
Trade and other debtors		70,443	39,074
Trade and other creditors		(157,288)	(79,019)
Cash used in operating activities		(61,528)	(82,355)
Interest Received		11,857	-
Net cash used in operating activities		49,671	82,355
Cash flows from investing activities			
Net purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(24,938)
Net Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(49,671)	(107,293)
Net Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(49,671)	(107,293)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024	14	757,476	864,769
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025	14	707,805	757,476

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Accounting convention and basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is 83 Ledwidge Avenue, Derry, BT47 6GZ. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- the promotion of health improvement throughout Northern Ireland
- the provision of training, support and awareness projects carried out on a multi-sectoral partnership basis

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Fund accounting

The funds of the charitable company consist of restricted funds and unrestricted funds.

Income of the charity which is provided for a specific purpose, together with the resources expended to which they relate, form part of the restricted funds of the charity. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income which is generated by the charity's own efforts or provided with no specific preconditions, together with the resources expended to which they relate, are disclosed as part of the unrestricted funds of the charity. Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1.3. Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is included in the financial statements inclusive of value added taxation.

Income from generated funds consists of management fees generated by the core element of the charity. Such income is usually received with no preconditions attached and is recognised in the SOFA when received.

Income from charitable activities consists of grants and funding received from various funding bodies (mainly from PHA 'Public Health Agency') to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants and funding of this nature are recognised in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt have been met.

Capital funds are restricted funds retained for the benefit of the charity as a capital fund.

1.4. Incoming resources

Incoming resources from charitable activities consists of grants received from various funding bodies to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants of this nature are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt of the funds have been met.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.5. Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs have been allocated on the basis of time spent on each of the main activities of the charity, which are:

- Generating funds (those activities involved with raising funds and funding applications)
- Charitable activities (those activities associated with the charity's objects)
- Governance costs (management and administration of the charity)

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

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1.6. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated initially at cost and subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment	-	20% straight line
Furniture	-	20% straight line

1.7 Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss.

1.8. Defined contribution pension schemes

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the charitable company.

The amounts charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. There were no contributions due or prepaid at the year end.

1.9. Employee Benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

1.10. Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and prepayments are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount.

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will result in a payment to a third party and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.11. Financial Instruments

A financial asset or liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the arrangement.

1.12. Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainty exists. They have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the twelve months from the date of authorising these financial statements and have a reasonable expectation that there are adequate resources in place to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The main factors underlying this judgement are maintaining the current level of support from funders and expected revenues from other sources.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1.13. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In applying the company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts 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 if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Useful economic life and carrying value of tangible fixed assets

The depreciation charge in respect of tangible fixed assets is based on an estimate of the useful economic life of each asset. Revision of useful economic life will affect the estimates charged in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. Income from generated funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Management Fees	127,717	-	127,717	97,089
	<u>127,717</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,717</u>	<u>97,089</u>

3. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Bank interest receivable	11,857	11,857	-
	<u>11,857</u>	<u>11,857</u>	<u>-</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

4. Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Capital funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<u>Public Health Agency:</u>				
CLEAR Core Funding	123,878		123,878	164,719
CLEAR Small Grants	1,718,498		1,718,498	1,687,181
CLEAR Small grants capital funds		15,000	15,000	-
Regional Standards Toolkit	69,061		69,061	96,263
Bereaved by Suicide	74,911		74,911	68,092
Health@WorkNI	66,950		66,950	67,662
Strengthening Families	-		-	-
N.H.I.P	42,095		42,095	41,911
DHC Core & WHO Healthy Cities	80,268		80,268	55,019
Ideas Fund Income	11,693		11,693	15,830
Dormant accounts	-		-	37,100
DCSDC Funding	15,000		15,000	15,000
Community Foundation	23,367		23,367	16,125
Rank Foundation	30,222		30,222	29,615
Miscellaneous Funding	17,690		17,690	22,631
	<u>2,273,633</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>2,288,633</u>	<u>2,317,148</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Capital funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Wages and Salaries	15,480	454,914	-	470,394	515,697
Pension Costs	-	10,182	-	10,182	10,495
Recruitment Costs	768	-	-	768	-
Training Development and Conferences	4,902	14,865	-	19,767	26,283
CLEAR Small Grants Projects	-	1,556,218	-	1,556,218	1,574,370
General Programme Costs	28	58,109	-	58,137	24,203
Service Development Costs	-	21,001	-	21,001	113,826
Management Charges	-	127,717	-	127,717	96,324
Rent and Room Hire	15,061	14,150	-	29,211	33,258
Heat, Light and Power	-	-	-	-	150
Insurance	2,146	-	-	2,146	2,169
Computer Maintenance and Website Costs	44,733	4,724	-	49,457	15,550
Repairs and Maintenance	2,674	-	-	2,674	6,054
Telephone and Internet	2,493	679	-	3,172	4,636
Postage, Stationery and Subscriptions	2,023	4,391	-	6,414	5,484
Travel and Subsistence	1,208	1,926	-	3,134	7,819
Membership Fees	2,565	125	-	2,690	1,444
Accountancy Fees	3,495	-	-	3,495	2,152
Auditor's Remuneration	6,192	-	-	6,192	5,352
Bookkeeping Costs	2,377	-	-	2,377	2,327
Consultancy and Professional Fees	7,974	2,770	-	10,744	6,048
Bank Charges	920	15	-	935	1,008
Depreciation Charge	9,966	-	3,000	12,966	8,201
Other costs	2,360	1,847	-	4,207	2,295
	<u>127,365</u>	<u>2,273,633</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>2,403,998</u>	<u>2,464,845</u>

6. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year

	2025 £	2024 £
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	12,966	8,201
Auditors' remuneration (Note 7)	6,192	5,352
	<u>19,158</u>	<u>13,553</u>

**7. Auditors' remuneration
(Governance Costs)**

	2025 £	2024 £
Auditors' remuneration - audit of the financial statements	6,192	5,352
	<u>6,192</u>	<u>5,352</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

8. Employees

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	432,742	474,281
Social security costs	37,652	41,416
Pension costs	10,182	10,495
	<u>480,576</u>	<u>526,192</u>

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Charitable activities	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>

9. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration or expenses during the year (2024 - £NIL).

Key management remuneration for the year ended 31 March 2025 was £65,123 (including employer NIC and pension contributions).

10. Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of its staff. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and was as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Pension charge	<u>10,182</u>	<u>10,495</u>

11. Taxation

No charge to corporation tax arising in the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024 : £nil). Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a registered charity and is recognised as such by HM Revenue and Customs for taxation purposes. As a result no liability to corporation tax arises.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

12. Tangible fixed assets	Computer equipment	Furniture	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024 and At 31 March 2025	53,652	14,870	68,522
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	11,597	7,669	19,266
Charge for the year	9,992	2,974	12,966
At 31 March 2025	21,589	10,643	32,232
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025	32,063	4,227	36,290
At 31 March 2024	42,055	7,201	49,256

13. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Funding Debtors and management fees receivable	-	58,767
Other debtors	9,145	20,820
	<u>9,145</u>	<u>79,587</u>

14. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	707,805	757,476
	<u>707,805</u>	<u>757,476</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors and accruals	31,037	60,689
Other taxes and social security	11,004	11,460
Accrued programme costs and project underspends	334,673	460,747
	<u>376,714</u>	<u>534,002</u>

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Restricted capital funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 as represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	24,290	-	12,000	36,290
Current assets	716,950	345,674	-	1,062,624
Current liabilities	(376,714)	(345,674)	-	(722,388)
	<u>364,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>376,526</u>

17. Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Funds brought forward	<u>352,318</u>	<u>139,574</u>	<u>(127,366)</u>	<u>364,526</u>

Purposes of unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are funds that are utilised at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Included in unrestricted funds are investment income, income from management and sundry one off unrestricted grants.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

18. Restricted funds	At			At
	1 April	Incoming	Outgoing	31 March
	2024	resources	resources	2025
	£	£	£	£
CLEAR Core Funding	-	123,878	123,878	-
CLEAR Small Grants	-	1,718,498	1,718,498	-
Regional Standards Toolkit	-	69,061	69,061	-
Bereaved By Suicide	-	74,911	74,911	-
Health@WorkNI	-	66,950	66,950	-
N.H.I.P	-	42,095	42,095	-
DHC Core & WHO Cities	-	80,268	80,268	-
Ideas Fund	-	11,693	11,693	-
Dormant Accounts	-	-	-	-
DCSDC Funding	-	15,000	15,000	-
Community Foundation	-	23,367	23,367	-
Rank Foundation	-	30,222	30,222	-
Miscellaneous Funding	-	17,690	17,690	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,273,633</u>	<u>2,273,633</u>	<u>-</u>

Purposes of restricted funds

The CLEAR Core Programme provides funding to assist with the core costs of co-ordinating and managing the administration of small grants and training provision to organisations working in the field of mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention.

CLEAR Small Grants Programme provides funding to various organisations across Northern Ireland to promote activities relating to health and wellbeing, suicide prevention and mental and emotional wellbeing.

Regional Standards Toolkit provides funding to assist with improving governance arrangements within organisations to provide safe and effective practice for service users.

The Bereaved by Suicide Programme provides funding for the facilitation of the voices of people with lived experience in the development of suicide prevention policy and practice and the provision of local Bereaved by Suicide groups.

Health@WorkNI provides support to employees to create a working environment which promotes positive wellbeing. This is carried out through information sessions, health clinics, tailored wellbeing programmes and training courses.

The N.H.I.P Programme provides funding to six NHIP Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. DHC provided support to groups to adapt to COVID guidelines.

The DHC Core & WHO Healthy Cities Programme provides funding to assist with the core costs of co-ordinating and managing DHC health improvement projects and Derry and Strabane's WHO European Healthy Cities Network designation.

The Ideas Fund was launched in January 2021, since then DHC have continued in their role of local development co-ordinator in Derry and Strabane, in partnership with the Northwest Community Network which aims to develop and test ideas to improve mental wellbeing.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

DHC secured funding from The National Lottery Communities Fund's Dormant Accounts Fund, which has enabled the organisation to employ new members of staff who have enhanced the capacity and the capability of the staff team.

The Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) funding supports the delivery of priorities identified as part of the Healthy Cities initiative.

The rank foundation funding supports employment opportunities within Developing Healthy Communities.

19. Restricted Capital Funds	At			At
	1 April	Incoming	Outgoing	31 March
	2024	resources	resources	2025
	£	£	£	£
CLEAR Small grants capital funds	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>

Purposes of capital funds

CLEAR small grants capital funds represent income from funder that has been used for the purchase of capital items to facilitate the operations of the CLEAR small grant programme.

20. Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability exists in respect of grants received which may become reclaimable by funders should certain conditions under which they were awarded fail to be met.

21. Controlling interest

The trustees collectively are considered to be the controlling party of the charitable company.

22. Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainty exists. The trustees have considered the level of funds and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these financial statements.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025

23. Company limited by guarantee

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up during a period in which they are still a member of the company, including a period of one year from the date that they ceased to be a member, providing the debts were incurred during their period as a member of the company or the debt relates to costs and expenses of a winding up.

The liability of each member in such circumstances is limited to £1.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105780

Accounts

Charity number: NIC105780
Company number: NI640806

**DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
(DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)**

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2024

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Contents

	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the directors report and strategic report)	2 - 11
Independent Auditors' report to the trustees	12 - 15
Statement of financial activities	16
Statement of financial position	17
Statement of cash flows	18
Notes to the financial statements	19 - 28

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Legal and administrative information

Charity number	NIC105780	
Company registration number	NI640806	
Business address	83 Ledwidge Avenue Derry BT47 6GZ	
Registered office	83 Ledwidge Avenue Derry BT47 6GZ	
Trustees	Emma Kevitt Gerard Deane Diane Marshall Charlene Marie Shongo Sharon Williams Will Ennett David Kelly Michele Murphy Claire Mulrone Leona McNicholl Mary Mac Intyre	Resigned 07/12/2023 Resigned 07/12/2023 Appointed 12/05/2023 Appointed 12/05/2023 Appointed 12/05/2023 Appointed 27/06/2024
Secretary	Edel O'Doherty	
Auditors	McDaid McCullough Moore 28/32 Clarendon Street Derry BT48 7HD	
Bankers	Allied Irish Bank Meadowbank Strand Road Derry	

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out below. This report is prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recognised 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).

Introduction

The Trustees of Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) are delighted to present our Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024. This report captures the achievements and positive contributions which DHC has made during the period 1st April 2023-30th March 2024 and is testament to the organisation's dedication to improving the health of our population, in partnership with our funders and the wider community and voluntary sector.

DHC as a strategic organisation within the Derry and Strabane district is committed to fostering intersectoral partnerships to tackle health inequalities and improve health outcomes.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee not having a share capital (company registration number NI640806). It is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs and is registered with the NI Charities Commission (registration number NIC105780). The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

The charitable company is governed and managed by the board of directors, who are also the charity trustees. The Trustees are chosen based on their skills and professional backgrounds so as to ensure a wide range of experience is represented on the Board. The trustees who served the company throughout the year are shown on page 1, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The board of directors (trustees) carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a quarterly basis to review the performance of the charity and to make decisions regarding the charity's financial and operational matters. The trustees also meet from time to time between quarterly meetings in order to perform their role on essential governance matters. The directors govern the activities of the charitable company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

Appointment and training of trustees

DHC is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and therefore openly advertises vacancies on the Board in order to attract a range of people with diverse skills and experience which will benefit the people and communities we serve. The Board is committed to providing support and training for Board members to help them to fulfil their role, including for people who have not served on a board before. New trustees are nominated by current trustees.

Induction and training of new trustees is provided by existing trustees and employees. Most trustees, due to their experience and backgrounds, are already familiar with the work of the charitable company.

Principle risks and uncertainties

Management have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The trustees continually monitor their exposure to financial risk. Given the size of the charitable company, the trustees have not delegated the responsibility of monitoring financial risk to a sub committee.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Risks identified, such as the financial viability and sustainability of the charitable company, have been reviewed to ensure that a level of funding is maintained that is necessary for the charitable company to continue to meet its objectives. The trustees continually strive to source additional or new funding sources.

Business, cyber and financial risk are managed by ensuring the company have appropriately qualified staff equipped with the necessary skills and experience and that effective and secure ICT systems are in place.

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of controls and procedures for the authorisation of all transactions.

Organisational Management and Staffing

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is managed by the Chief Executive Edel O'Doherty. She is responsible for overseeing the activities carried out by the charitable company. Her responsibilities include the management of all staff and their duties, the provision of a full range of administrative and clerical duties and for the preparation of financial reports to the Board of Directors and Funding Bodies.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is an equal opportunities employer committed to positive policies on recruitment, training and career development for staff members regardless of religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation.

Key management remuneration policy

The key management personnel of the charitable company are the directors (trustees) and senior management. The trustees are not remunerated for their services and did not receive and were not reimbursed for expenses during the year. The remuneration of senior management is set by the trustees and reviewed annually and is normally increased in line with inflation. The benchmark used in setting remuneration is based on the remuneration of other key management personnel in similar comparable organisations.

Directors

The directors (also the trustees) who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Emma Kevitt	Gerard Deane (resigned Decemeber 2023)
Diane Marshall	Sharon Williams
David Kelly	Will Ennett (appointed April 2023)
Charlene Shongo (resigned July 2023)	Leona McNicholl
Michele Murphy (appointed April 2023)	Claire Mulrone (appointed April 2023)
Mary MacIntyre (appointed April 2024)	

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

The principal objectives and activities of the charity during the year continued to be the promotion of health improvement and reduction of health inequality throughout Northern Ireland by the provision of training, support and awareness projects carried out on a multi-sectoral partnership basis.

Public Benefit-

In setting these objectives the trustees' have considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that its activities have helped to achieve its principal objective of public benefit for its beneficiaries.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a charitable organisation registered with Northern Ireland Charities Commission.

The company commenced activities on 1 April 2018 on which date all assets and liabilities of 'The Derry Healthy Cities Project' were transferred to the company.

The company is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. DHC continued to lead Derry City and Strabane's designation to the World Health Organisation's European Healthy Cities Network.
2. DHC's CLEAR Project administered small grants on behalf of the PHA to build health and wellbeing capacity within small community organisations, in support of the NI Mental Health Strategy and the NI Suicide Prevention Strategy 'Protect Life'. The Clear project also delivered training to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing and prevent suicide. Through this project DHC also continued to oversee the PHA's quality standards for the delivery of services in this field.
3. DHC's Health@WorkNI 'Work Well, Live Well' programme delivered a diverse range of health interventions including training, health promotion campaigns, health checks, etc to workplaces across the Western Trust area, aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of the adult workforce. This work reflects best practice as set out by the World Health Organisations 'healthy settings' approach.
4. DHC facilitated the Families Voices Forum through our regional Bereaved by Suicide project, which enables family members bereaved by suicide to contribute effectively to discussion and decision making in relation to suicide prevention.
5. DHC coordinated and administered the Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme (NHIP) grants on behalf of the PHA to six local community groups.
6. DHC worked in partnership with the NW Community Network and Ulster University as part of the UK wide 'Ideas Fund' to support a range of mental health and wellbeing projects in local communities within the Derry and Strabane Council area.
7. DHC contributes to the DCSDC and Community Foundation for Northern Ireland's Acorn Farm project by delivering on the 'I Can Cook' strand of the project.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

DHC'S Vision and key objectives

DHC is a strategic organisation committed to fostering intersectoral partnerships for health and harnessing our collective assets to tackle health inequalities and improve the quality of life of the population. Our work is set firmly within the WHO Healthy Cities and Regions Framework, and we play our part in the implementation of several NI Regional Government Strategies such as Health and Wellbeing 2026: 'Delivering Together' (DOH), the NI Public Health Strategy 'Making Life Better' and the DCSDC's Community Plan and Strategic Growth Plan.

During 2023 DHC launched our new three-year strategy setting out our vision until 2026 ie "We want people to achieve a healthy and happy life, so that they can thrive in the place they call home".

To achieve that vision we focus on five guiding principles:-

- Place based working
- Collaboration and partnership
- Building community capacity
- Demonstrating impact
- Research and innovation

As part of this process, Developing Healthy Communities works to; -

- Advocate and build capacity for health and wellbeing by facilitating events and sharing knowledge and administration of small grants.
- Lead on the delivery of innovative projects including training, community development for health and sustainability.
- Foster strategic intersectoral alliances within the Derry and Strabane district to address the wider social and economic determinants of health, adopting a holistic approach based upon the WHO Phase VII framework.
- Facilitate consultations with local people on health, wellbeing and sustainability which shape policy, practice investment and delivery.
- Monitor and evaluate our progress and impact in delivery of programme.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)

This report highlights the accomplishments of Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) for the 2023-2024 period, marked by a phase of vigorous activity. The DHC team has worked diligently to meet all Key Performance Indicators, broaden our influence, and consolidate our status as a strategic organisation, dedicated to health development in the region. As part of our mission to promote healthier lifestyles and address health disparities within our population, we have collaborated with a diverse range of statutory, community and voluntary agencies at an international and local level.

Achievements

Events and Conferences

During 2023-24 DHC held a number of Conferences and events including the following:-

- DHC Annual Conference - 'Health Innovation and Sustainable Futures' (September 2023). This highly successful conference attracted over one hundred delegates and was held in partnership with Ulster University. Dr Kira Fortune, WHO Head of Healthy Cities was the keynote speaker.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2024

- Families Voices Forum event 'If I could only tell you - Stories of Compassion and Hope' held in the Guildhall (8th February). Eighty people attended from across a range of sectors. Up to nine people from the locality have signed up as new members of the FVF.
- Work Well, Live Well 'Workplace Champions Celebration Breakfast', Everglades Hotel (29th Feb) to acknowledge workplaces that have completed the Health at Work programme.
- Clear Project - 'Reach, Remit and Refer Event', Omagh Enterprise Agency (5th of March) Designed to raise awareness local organisations who support people experiencing mental health conditions or suicidal ideation. The NI Public Health Agency inputted into the event which was attended by fifty three people from across the voluntary and community sectors.
- DHC & Diabetes UK 'Community Engagement Event' (19th March) - DHC hosted a seminar in partnership with Diabetes UK in the Waterfoot Hotel. Thirty people attended, including representatives from the WHSCT, GP Federation, Ulster University, and the Community sector. A series of actions has emerged from this meeting and DHC will continue to support this valuable work going forward.
- Ideas Fund (27th March) - DHC in partnership with the North-West Community Network and UU hosted the Communities Research Collective event in associate with the Ideas Fund. Attendance 45 people.

DHC Programmes and Projects

WHO Healthy Cities

DHC leads on the intersectoral approach to improving health and wellbeing as part of the Derry and Strabane Healthy Cities region. This involves working strategically as part of the Healthy Cities Leadership Group to adopt a place-based approach to addressing health inequalities and improving health outcomes of the local population, as per the WHO Healthy Cities Phase VII Framework which encompasses the themes of; People, Place, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Participation.

The priorities outlined by the HC's Leadership Group are linked to a detailed Health and Wellbeing Situational Analysis undertaken via a detailed scoping and consultation exercise conducted during 2021, as part of the submission to the WHO Phase VII Application. Six key themes were identified for action, as part of this process and DHC have been working on these in recent years (1. Warm Homes/Clean Air, 2. A Clear Head on Alcohol, 3. Healthy Food for All, 4. Active Lives Made Easy (Emerging Themes - 5. A Welcoming Society 6. Nature on our doorstep).

During 2023-24 the Healthy Cities Leadership Group met on 3 occasions to hear updates on progress across the partnership in tackling the wider determinants of health. Key items discussed include, Obesity, the Acorn Farm, Health Inequalities, Air Quality, Homelessness and Addiction. DHC have engaged with the Mayor and public representatives throughout the year to garner support for the Healthy Cities initiative.

DHC achieved a 300% growth in our social media channels during 2023-24 supporting key PHA and WHO campaigns and highlighting relevant topic areas in health. Regular mailouts to our Health Communities list have featured content on topics ranging from Air Quality in Schools to Female Participation in Sport, to name but a few.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

DHC Clear Project - Small Grant Programme

2023-2024 saw the continued growth in the Small Grants Fund, which DHC administers on behalf of the NI Public Health Agency, in support of the NI Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategies. The purpose of the grants is to support local community organisations to engage in programmes which promote mental health and wellbeing in line with the PHA's 'Five Ways to Wellbeing'.

During this period the DHC Clear Project administered £1.4m supporting 438 projects throughout Northern Ireland which positively impacted upon 29,891 people. In addition, 2448 volunteers were supported to deliver over 32,500 volunteer hours delivering services at grassroots community level.

In addition, the Clear Project administered small allocations of funding (£300-£500) to 70 Sports Clubs to enable them to purchase sports equipment. This funding totaled £34,814.96. A condition of the funding was participation in Suicide Awareness Training to support mental health awareness within each Club.

Clear Project - Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Training

Through DHC's CLEAR Project, 38 training programmes related to mental health, emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention were delivered to 610 people working in community and voluntary sector organisations. Courses included SafeTALK, ASIST, Mental Health First Aid; Hope Matters; Motivational Interviewing L1 & L2, Impact of Alcohol on Self-Harm and Crisis Intervention, Impact of Alcohol on Self-Harm and the Family, Self-Harm and Autism, Anger Management and The Person behind the Behaviour.

Positive outcomes were recorded for these courses which included increased skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence dealing with mental health and suicide related incidents.

Clear Project - PHA Quality Standards

DHC provides a leadership and assessment role for the PHA Quality Standards for community based services promoting mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention. As part of this work during 2023-24, four workshops were delivered on 'Understanding Bereavement by Suicide' where participants were introduced to the Quality Standards.

The DHC Clear Project undertook 3 independent assessments of the Quality Standards within organisations chosen by the PHA and produced detailed reports with recommendations for service improvement for each agency. By March 2024, 340 community organisations had registered onto the QS portal to learn more about governance in provision of mental health and suicide prevention services.

Health at Work - Work Well, Live Well Programme

"Health@Work NI" is a Public Health Agency's regional initiative to target workplaces where health inequalities are likely to be most prevalent, including those with a high proportion of low paid, manual, male, sedentary and migrant workers. DHC delivers the "Work Well, Live Well" (WWLW) on behalf of the PHA within the WHSCT area. In 2023/24, forty-five new workplaces signed up to the Workplace Health Support Service, accessing information, and support to develop a healthier workplace. This included thirty new Workplace Health Champions trained online through the Work Well Live Well Programme. The DHC WWLW programme provided consultancy and mentoring to fifteen workplaces to complete health and wellbeing needs assessments and action plans.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED **(A company limited by guarantee)**

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2024

DHC's 'Work Well, Live Well' programme worked in partnership with WHSCT, AWARE, HSENI and many others to deliver training and health promotion campaigns to workplaces at all levels of the programme. In 2023-24, thirty employees completed Mental Health First Aid Training online, approximately 200 participants attended sessions on Managing Mental Health, Grief in the workplace, Cancer Awareness, Physical Activity and Stress Awareness training. Other courses delivered via network learning events focused on Menopause Awareness, Financial Wellbeing, Burn Out and Fatigue and Stress Management Standards.

Since February 2023, a total of five hundred workers have participated in Health Checks across eighteen workplaces in the Western Trust region. These interventions are in line with the World Health Organisation's focus on workplace 'settings' to improve health by providing workers with personalised information on their health status and changes to lifestyle.

Bereaved by Suicide - Families Voices Forum (FVF)

DHC Family Voices Forum project launched their campaign "If only I could tell you" Letters of Hope and Compassion in February 2024. The highly successful event was held in the Guildhall, Derry/ L'Derry with a presentation by the NI Mental Health Champion, Prof Siobhan O'Neill, a number of speakers with lived experience of being bereaved by suicide and a video of support from the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride, the purpose of the campaign is to enable members bereaved by suicide to offer words of hope and compassion to those more recently bereaved.

Ten new members have joined the FVF with the total number of members now reaching 81 with an additional 9 added to the mailing list. Family members held 12 meetings during 2023-24 and 15 one-to-one sessions were held in support of individual members to build their confidence and skills to contribute to the group.

Families Voices Forum were involved in the public consultation on the Protect Life 2 strategy and had an consultation workshop with the PHA and the external facilitators at the end of the process
The Family Voices Forum has participated in each of the Protect Life Implementation Groups in all Trust areas and the regional steering group for the Protect life 2 strategy.

Families Voices Forum has been involved in an advisory role in research with several partners such as University of Ulster, Queens University and the PHA.

Ideas Fund

Since 2021 DHC have been working with the NW Community Network (lead partner) and Ulster University as part of the Ideas Fund. The Ideas Fund | Home, which is run by the British Science Association and funded by Wellcome. This innovative and highly successful scheme involves a partnership between communities and researchers within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area and has supported 8 groups under Round 1 to the tune of £343,000, and 7 groups under Round 2 to the value of £429,000.

The communities designed and continue to deliver an array of projects, which target under-represented groups, such as those with disabilities, young people, and rural communities. During 2023 a further £91,286 has been secured from the Ideas Fund to establish a joint Community Research and Innovation Collective which aims to build upon the extensive learning from the individual community projects.

The Ideas Fund have chosen three projects from DCSDC area to receive funding for an Evidence Building Grant of up to £150k each. The aim of these grants is to capture evidence and share the impact of community-led collaboration with research on researchers and communities, with a particular interest in the impact on health research.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Acorn Farm

DHC continue to be closely involved with the DCSDC/Community Foundation Acorn Farm project, as delivery partner on the 'I Can Cook' strand of this flagship project which will engage up to one thousand families within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area in growing and cooking healthy and sustainable food. During 2023 intensive planning and testing of the cooking sessions took place with three pilot sessions delivered in partnership with the Conservation Volunteers. A recipe book was produced capturing ideas for healthy meals, containing locally produced ingredients. Face to face cooking sessions were supplemented by online content to coincide with calendar events such as Halloween which generated nearly 3000 views.

Neighbourhood Renewal Health Improvement Project (NHIP)

DHC administered the NHIP funding (£36,912.70) on behalf of the PHA to 6 community groups in areas of deprivation. This funding is designed to support grassroots capacity building for health and wellbeing and is used for a broad variety of local programmes from yoga to men's sheds. This funding is matched by the Department for Communities to sustain local community development and health within the DCSDC area.

Collaborative Projects and Programmes

- WHO Healthy Cities Networks - During 2023-2024 DHC continued to participate in a range of civic, strategic and policy making forums to promote inclusive and equitable approaches to health. We work with a range of partners to support best practice initiatives on improving public health. These included the WHO Wellbeing Economy project and the UK and Irish Healthy Cities Networks which are valuable forums for knowledge transfer.
- DCSDC- More locally DHC inputted into several Derry City and Strabane District Council programmes including the WHO Age Friendly City, UNICEF Child Friendly programme, Council Civic Forum, Homelessness project as well reporting directly into the City and District's Strategic Growth Plan.
- Creative Health Network - DHC facilitated the establishment of a local Creative Health Network in partnership with a range of agencies working together to plan the 2024 Annual Conference and develop a Creative Health Plan for the DCSDC area.
- Health Inequalities initiative - DHC is part of a Health Inequalities Group within Derry City focusing on the Skeoge area to improve the health outcomes of children and young people in what is recognized as an area of high deprivation within the City.
- Whole Systems Approach to Obesity - DHC is supporting the adoption of the Whole Systems Approach to Obesity within the DCSDC area.
- Western Diabetes Group - DHC convened and provided administrative support to the multi-agency group who have come together to reduce the prevalence of diabetes within the WHSCT area.
- NI Protect Life (Suicide Prevention) Implementation Group - DHC plays an important role within the local Protect Life (2) Strategy Group, reporting on training, support to families bereaved by suicide, the small grants programme, PHA Quality Standards and the Clear Forum events.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Challenge and Solutions

While we have achieved much this year, we faced several challenges, including funding constraints and capacity of staff to meet the level of demands from partner organisations. To address these issues, we will continue to lobby our funders for additional investment for core costs and intensify our efforts to identify external sources of funding to stabilise our current complement of staff, as well as identify new opportunities to expand the scope of our work.

Despite these challenges, DHC remained financially and operationally stable during 2023-2024, although it is impossible to predict the risks to longer term funding in the future.

Benefits to the end users and wider society

- The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year as detailed in the foregoing paragraphs, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

Financial review (including reserves policy)

The net expenditure for the year was £50,611 (31 March 2023 - net income £59,523). The net expenditure for the year will be added to the funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £352,317.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 6 months core running costs and all winding up liabilities.

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short-term deposit accounts) of £757,476. Total expenditure for the year was £2,456,646 (excluding depreciation). Expenditure included ring fenced funds of £1,574,370 which were distributed in small grants. The charity, therefore, has adequate funds in line with its reserves policy. The directors are satisfied with this outcome and will continue to prudently review the level of reserves held by the charity in line with current levels of funding and operating costs.

Plans for future periods

Looking ahead to the forthcoming financial year the directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution to achieve DHC's objectives. The directors will continue to focus on diversifying income sources to support the long-term sustainability and consolidation of the organisation. We will also strengthen our partnerships with local agencies and expand our reach to more rural and underserved areas.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees 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 accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

- 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 business.

The trustees 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.

Statement of disclosure of information to auditors

We, the trustees of the charitable company, who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements, each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all steps that we ought to have taken as trustees in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that McDaid McCullough Moore be reappointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

On behalf of the Board



Emma Kevitt (Chair)

Trustee

26 September 2024

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent auditor's report to the members of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED (the charitable 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 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) (ISA's (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 charitable 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the presentation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

- the trustees' report (including the strategic report) has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and 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; or
- 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 trustees 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 trustees 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:

Based on our understanding of the company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to those standard to small charitable companies, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, income tax and payroll tax.

Audit procedures performed included the following:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Identifying and testing journals and the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities as these 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

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.



Gerard Murray
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
McDaid McCullough Moore
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditor
28/32 Clarendon Street
Derry
BT48 7HD

26 September 2024

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total
Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Generated Funds	2	97,089	-	97,089	146,883	-	146,883
Charitable Activities	3	-	2,317,147	2,317,147	-	2,330,626	2,330,626
Total income		<u>97,089</u>	<u>2,317,147</u>	<u>2,414,236</u>	<u>146,883</u>	<u>2,330,626</u>	<u>2,477,509</u>
Resources expended							
Charitable activities	4	147,700	2,317,147	2,464,847	87,360	2,330,626	2,417,986
Total resources expended		<u>147,700</u>	<u>2,317,147</u>	<u>2,464,847</u>	<u>87,360</u>	<u>2,330,626</u>	<u>2,417,986</u>
Net (expenditure)/income for the year		(50,611)	-	(50,611)	59,523	-	59,523
Total funds brought forward		402,928	-	402,928	343,405	-	343,405
Total funds carried forward		<u>352,317</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>352,317</u>	<u>402,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>402,928</u>

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 19 to 28 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial position
as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	£	2024	£	£	2023	£
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets	11		49,256			32,519	
Current assets							
Debtors	12	79,587			118,661		
Cash at bank and in hand	13	757,476			864,769		
			837,063		983,430		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(534,002)			(613,021)		
Net current assets			303,061			370,409	
Net assets			352,317			402,928	
Funds							
Restricted income funds	17		-			-	
Unrestricted income funds	16		352,317			402,928	
Total charity funds			352,317			402,928	



The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the board on 26 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Emma Kevitt
Director


 Company Registration Number : NI640806

Diane Marshall
Director

The notes on pages 19 to 28 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year		(50,611)	59,523
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Depreciation and impairment		8,201	4,346
<i>Changes in:</i>			
Trade and other debtors		39,074	(100,848)
Trade and other creditors		(79,019)	267,236
Cash used in operating activities		<u>(82,355)</u>	<u>230,257</u>
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>82,355</u>	<u>230,257</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Net purchase of tangible fixed assets		(24,938)	(24,765)
Net (Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>(107,293)</u>	<u>205,492</u>
Net (Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents		(107,293)	205,492
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2023	13	<u>864,769</u>	<u>659,277</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024	13	<u><u>757,476</u></u>	<u><u>864,769</u></u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Accounting convention and basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is 83 Ledwidge Avenue, Derry, BT47 6GZ. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- the promotion of health improvement throughout Northern Ireland
- the provision of training, support and awareness projects carried out on a multi-sectoral partnership basis

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Fund accounting

The funds of the charitable company consist of restricted funds and unrestricted funds.

Income of the charity which is provided for a specific purpose, together with the resources expended to which they relate, form part of the restricted funds of the charity. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income which is generated by the charity's own efforts or provided with no specific preconditions, together with the resources expended to which they relate, are disclosed as part of the unrestricted funds of the charity. Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements **for the year ended 31 March 2024**

1.3. Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is included in the financial statements inclusive of value added taxation.

Income from generated funds consists of management fees generated by the core element of the charity. Such income is usually received with no preconditions attached and is recognised in the SOFA when received.

Income from charitable activities consists of grants and funding received from various funding bodies (mainly from PHA 'Public Health Agency') to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants and funding of this nature are recognised in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt have been met.

1.4. Incoming resources

Incoming resources from charitable activities consists of grants received from various funding bodies to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants of this nature are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt of the funds have been met.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

1.5. Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs have been allocated on the basis of time spent on each of the main activities of the charity, which are:

- Generating funds (those activities involved with raising funds and funding applications)
- Charitable activities (those activities associated with the charity's objects)
- Governance costs (management and administration of the charity)

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

1.6. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated initially at cost and subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment	-	20% straight line
Furniture	-	20% straight line

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1.7 Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss.

1.8. Defined contribution pension schemes

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the charitable company.

The amounts charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. There were no contributions due or prepaid at the year end.

1.9. Employee Benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

1.10. Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and prepayments are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount.

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will result in a payment to a third party and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.11. Financial Instruments

A financial asset or liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the arrangement.

1.12. Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainty exists. They have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the twelve months from the date of authorising these financial statements and have a reasonable expectation that there are adequate resources in place to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The main factors underlying this judgement are maintaining the current level of support from funders and expected revenues from other sources.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1.13. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In applying the company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts 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 if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Useful economic life and carrying value of tangible fixed assets

The depreciation charge in respect of tangible fixed assets is based on an estimate of the useful economic life of each asset. Revision of useful economic life will affect the estimates charged in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. Income from generated funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Management Fees	97,089	-	97,089	146,883
	97,089	-	97,089	146,883

3. Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<u>Public Health Agency:</u>			
CLEAR Core Funding	164,719	164,719	124,766
CLEAR Small Grants	1,687,181	1,687,181	1,841,486
Regional Standards Toolkit	96,263	96,263	54,919
Bereaved by Suicide	68,092	68,092	46,605
Health@WorkNI	67,662	67,662	62,480
Strengthening Families	-	-	-
N.H.I.P	41,911	41,911	34,007
DHC Core & WHO Healthy Cities	55,019	55,019	46,151
Ideas Fund Income	15,830	15,830	9,636
Dormant accounts	37,100	37,100	47,798
DCSDC Funding	15,000	15,000	22,500
Community Foundation	16,125	16,125	5,283
Rank Foundation	29,615	29,615	34,000
Miscellaneous Funding	22,630	22,630	995
	2,317,147	2,317,147	2,330,626

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Wages and Salaries	43,030	472,667	515,697	404,103
Pension Costs	-	10,495	10,495	8,300
Recruitment Costs	-	-	-	4,060
Training Development and Conferences	23,310	2,973	26,283	15,439
Redundancy costs	-	-	-	-
CLEAR Small Grants Projects	-	1,574,370	1,574,370	1,677,627
General Programme Costs	-	24,203	24,203	17,533
Service Development Costs	1,605	112,221	113,826	45,416
Management Charges	-	96,324	96,324	146,883
Hospitality and Meetings	-	-	-	-
Rent and Room Hire	18,617	14,641	33,258	28,409
Heat, Light and Power	-	(150)	(150)	3,573
Insurance	2,169	-	2,169	2,583
Computer Maintenance and Website Costs	14,835	715	15,550	11,631
Repairs and Maintenance	5,964	90	6,054	3,467
Telephone and Internet	2,906	1,730	4,636	6,585
Postage, Stationery and Subscriptions	3,858	1,624	5,482	6,941
Travel and Subsistence	3,180	4,639	7,819	6,046
Membership Fees	1,444	-	1,444	1,895
General Expenses	-	-	-	-
Accountancy Fees	2,152	-	2,152	3,121
Auditor's Remuneration	5,352	-	5,352	5,772
Bookkeeping Costs	2,327	-	2,327	1,573
Consultancy and Professional Fees	6,048	-	6,048	6,766
Bank Charges	963	45	1,008	778
Depreciation Charge	8,201	-	8,201	4,346
Other costs	1,739	560	2,299	5,134
	<u>147,700</u>	<u>2,317,147</u>	<u>2,464,847</u>	<u>2,417,981</u>

5. Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year

	2024 £	2023 £
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	8,201	4,346
Auditors' remuneration (Note 6)	5,352	5,772
	<u>13,553</u>	<u>10,118</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

6. Auditors' remuneration
(Governance Costs)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration - audit of the financial statements	<u>5,352</u>	<u>5,772</u>

7. Employees

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	474,281	368,241
Social security costs	41,416	35,862
Pension costs	10,495	8,300
	<u>526,192</u>	<u>412,403</u>

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Charitable activities	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>

8. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration or expenses during the year (2023 - £NIL).

Key management remuneration for the year ended 31 March 2024 was £64,331 (including employer NIC and pension contributions).

9. Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of its staff. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and was as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Pension charge	<u>10,495</u>	<u>8,300</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

10. Taxation

No charge to corporation tax arising in the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023 : £nil). Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a registered charity and is recognised as such by HM Revenue and Customs for taxation purposes. As a result no liability to corporation tax arises.

11. Tangible fixed assets	Computer equipment	Furniture	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	28,714	14,870	43,584
Additions	24,938	-	24,938
At 31 March 2024	<u>53,652</u>	<u>14,870</u>	<u>68,522</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	6,370	4,695	11,065
Charge for the year	5,227	2,974	8,201
At 31 March 2024	<u>11,597</u>	<u>7,669</u>	<u>19,266</u>
Net book values			
At 31 March 2024	<u>42,055</u>	<u>7,201</u>	<u>49,256</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>22,344</u>	<u>10,175</u>	<u>32,519</u>

12. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Funding Debtors and management fees receivable	58,767	104,332
Other debtors	20,820	14,329
	<u>79,587</u>	<u>118,661</u>

13. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	757,476	864,769
	<u>757,476</u>	<u>864,769</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors and accruals	60,689	10,470
Credit Cards	1,106	520
Other taxes and social security	11,460	10,278
Accrued programme costs and project underspends	460,747	591,753
	<u>534,002</u>	<u>613,021</u>

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	49,256	-	49,256
Current assets	837,063	472,207	1,309,270
Current liabilities	(534,002)	(472,207)	(1,006,209)
	<u>352,317</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>352,317</u>

16. Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Funds brought forward	<u>402,928</u>	<u>97,089</u>	<u>(147,700)</u>	<u>352,317</u>

Purposes of unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are funds that are utilised at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Included in unrestricted funds are investment income, income from management and sundry one off unrestricted grants.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

17. Restricted funds	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 March 2024 £
CLEAR Core Funding	-	164,719	164,719	-
CLEAR Small Grants	-	1,687,181	1,687,181	-
Regional Standards Toolkit	-	96,263	96,263	-
Bereaved By Suicide	-	68,092	68,092	-
Health@WorkNI	-	67,662	67,662	-
N.H.I.P	-	41,911	41,911	-
DHC Core & WHO Cities	-	55,019	55,019	-
Ideas Fund	-	15,830	15,830	-
Dormant Accounts	-	37,100	37,100	-
DCSDC Funding	-	15,000	15,000	-
Community Foundation	-	16,125	16,125	-
Rank Foundation	-	29,615	29,615	-
Miscellaneous Funding	-	22,630	22,630	-
	-	<u>2,317,147</u>	<u>2,317,147</u>	-

Purposes of restricted funds

The CLEAR Core Programme provides funding to assist with the core costs of co-ordinating and managing the administration of small grants and training provision to organisations working in the field of mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention.

CLEAR Small Grants Programme provides funding to various organisations across Northern Ireland to promote activities relating to health and wellbeing, suicide prevention and mental and emotional wellbeing.

Regional Standards Toolkit provides funding to assist with improving governance arrangements within organisations to provide safe and effective practice for service users.

The Bereaved by Suicide Programme provides funding for the facilitation of the voices of people with lived experience in the development of suicide prevention policy and practice and the provision of local Bereaved by Suicide groups.

Health@WorkNI provides support to employees to create a working environment which promotes positive wellbeing. This is carried out through information sessions, health clinics, tailored wellbeing programmes and training courses.

The N.H.I.P Programme provides funding to six NHIP Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. DHC provided support to groups to adapt to COVID guidelines.

The DHC Core & WHO Healthy Cities Programme provides funding to assist with the core costs of co-ordinating and managing DHC health improvement projects and Derry and Strabane's WHO European Healthy Cities Network designation.

The Ideas Fund was launched in January 2021, since then DHC have continued in their role of local development co-ordinator in Derry and Strabane, in partnership with the Northwest Community Network which aims to develop and test ideas to improve mental wellbeing.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

DHC secured funding from The National Lottery Communities Fund's Dormant Accounts Fund, which has enabled the organisation to employ new members of staff who have enhanced the capacity and the capability of the staff team.

The Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) funding supports the delivery of priorities identified as part of the Healthy Cities initiative.

The rank foundation funding supports employment opportunities within Developing Healthy Communities.

18. Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability exists in respect of grants received which may become reclaimable by funders should certain conditions under which they were awarded fail to be met.

19. Controlling interest

The trustees collectively are considered to be the controlling party of the charitable company.

20. Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainty exists. The trustees have considered the level of funds and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these financial statements.

21. Company limited by guarantee

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up during a period in which they are still a member of the company, including a period of one year from the date that they ceased to be a member, providing the debts were incurred during their period as a member of the company or the debt relates to costs and expenses of a winding up.

The liability of each member in such circumstances is limited to £1.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105780

Annual report

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out below. This report is prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recognised 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).

Introduction

The Trustees of Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) are delighted to present our Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024. This report captures the achievements and positive contributions which DHC has made during the period 1st April 2023-30th March 2024 and is testament to the organisation's dedication to improving the health of our population, in partnership with our funders and the wider community and voluntary sector.

DHC as a strategic organisation within the Derry and Strabane district is committed to fostering intersectoral partnerships to tackle health inequalities and improve health outcomes.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee not having a share capital (company registration number NI640806). It is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs and is registered with the NI Charities Commission (registration number NIC105780). The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

The charitable company is governed and managed by the board of directors, who are also the charity trustees. The Trustees are chosen based on their skills and professional backgrounds so as to ensure a wide range of experience is represented on the Board. The trustees who served the company throughout the year are shown on page 1, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The board of directors (trustees) carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a quarterly basis to review the performance of the charity and to make decisions regarding the charity's financial and operational matters. The trustees also meet from time to time between quarterly meetings in order to perform their role on essential governance matters. The directors govern the activities of the charitable company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

Appointment and training of trustees

DHC is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and therefore openly advertises vacancies on the Board in order to attract a range of people with diverse skills and experience which will benefit the people and communities we serve. The Board is committed to providing support and training for Board members to help them to fulfil their role, including for people who have not served on a board before. New trustees are nominated by current trustees.

Induction and training of new trustees is provided by existing trustees and employees. Most trustees, due to their experience and backgrounds, are already familiar with the work of the charitable company.

Principle risks and uncertainties

Management have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The trustees continually monitor their exposure to financial risk. Given the size of the charitable company, the trustees have not delegated the responsibility of monitoring financial risk to a sub committee.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Risks identified, such as the financial viability and sustainability of the charitable company, have been reviewed to ensure that a level of funding is maintained that is necessary for the charitable company to continue to meet its objectives. The trustees continually strive to source additional or new funding sources.

Business, cyber and financial risk are managed by ensuring the company have appropriately qualified staff equipped with the necessary skills and experience and that effective and secure ICT systems are in place.

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of controls and procedures for the authorisation of all transactions.

Organisational Management and Staffing

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is managed by the Chief Executive Edel O'Doherty. She is responsible for overseeing the activities carried out by the charitable company. Her responsibilities include the management of all staff and their duties, the provision of a full range of administrative and clerical duties and for the preparation of financial reports to the Board of Directors and Funding Bodies.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is an equal opportunities employer committed to positive policies on recruitment, training and career development for staff members regardless of religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation.

Key management remuneration policy

The key management personnel of the charitable company are the directors (trustees) and senior management. The trustees are not remunerated for their services and did not receive and were not reimbursed for expenses during the year. The remuneration of senior management is set by the trustees and reviewed annually and is normally increased in line with inflation. The benchmark used in setting remuneration is based on the remuneration of other key management personnel in similar comparable organisations.

Directors

The directors (also the trustees) who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Emma Kevitt	Gerard Deane (resigned Decemeber 2023)
Diane Marshall	Sharon Williams
David Kelly	Will Ennett (appointed April 2023)
Charlene Shongo (resigned July 2023)	Leona McNicholl
Michele Murphy (appointed April 2023)	Claire Mulrone (appointed April 2023)
Mary MacIntyre (appointed April 2024)	

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

The principal objectives and activities of the charity during the year continued to be the promotion of health improvement and reduction of health inequality throughout Northern Ireland by the provision of training, support and awareness projects carried out on a multi-sectoral partnership basis.

Public Benefit-

In setting these objectives the trustees' have considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that its activities have helped to achieve its principal objective of public benefit for its beneficiaries.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a charitable organisation registered with Northern Ireland Charities Commission.

The company commenced activities on 1 April 2018 on which date all assets and liabilities of 'The Derry Healthy Cities Project' were transferred to the company.

The company is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. DHC continued to lead Derry City and Strabane's designation to the World Health Organisation's European Healthy Cities Network.
2. DHC's CLEAR Project administered small grants on behalf of the PHA to build health and wellbeing capacity within small community organisations, in support of the NI Mental Health Strategy and the NI Suicide Prevention Strategy 'Protect Life'. The Clear project also delivered training to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing and prevent suicide. Through this project DHC also continued to oversee the PHA's quality standards for the delivery of services in this field.
3. DHC's Health@WorkNI 'Work Well, Live Well' programme delivered a diverse range of health interventions including training, health promotion campaigns, health checks, etc to workplaces across the Western Trust area, aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of the adult workforce. This work reflects best practice as set out by the World Health Organisations 'healthy settings' approach.
4. DHC facilitated the Families Voices Forum through our regional Bereaved by Suicide project, which enables family members bereaved by suicide to contribute effectively to discussion and decision making in relation to suicide prevention.
5. DHC coordinated and administered the Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme (NHIP) grants on behalf of the PHA to six local community groups.
6. DHC worked in partnership with the NW Community Network and Ulster University as part of the UK wide Ideas Fund' to support a range of mental health and wellbeing projects in local communities within the Derry and Strabane Council area.
7. DHC contributes to the DCSDC and Community Foundation for Northern Ireland's Acorn Farm project by delivering on the 'I Can Cook' strand of the project.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2024

DHC'S Vision and key objectives

DHC is a strategic organisation committed to fostering intersectoral partnerships for health and harnessing our collective assets to tackle health inequalities and improve the quality of life of the population. Our work is set firmly within the WHO Healthy Cities and Regions Framework, and we play our part in the implementation of several NI Regional Government Strategies such as Health and Wellbeing 2026: 'Delivering Together' (DOH), the NI Public Health Strategy 'Making Life Better' and the DCSDC's Community Plan and Strategic Growth Plan.

During 2023 DHC launched our new three-year strategy setting out our vision until 2026 ie "We want people to achieve a healthy and happy life, so that they can thrive in the place they call home".

To achieve that vision we focus on five guiding principles:-

- Place based working
- Collaboration and partnership
- Building community capacity
- Demonstrating impact
- Research and innovation

As part of this process, Developing Healthy Communities works to; -

- Advocate and build capacity for health and wellbeing by facilitating events and sharing knowledge and administration of small grants.
- Lead on the delivery of innovative projects including training, community development for health and sustainability.
- Foster strategic intersectoral alliances within the Derry and Strabane district to address the wider social and economic determinants of health, adopting a holistic approach based upon the WHO Phase VII framework.
- Facilitate consultations with local people on health, wellbeing and sustainability which shape policy, practice investment and delivery.
- Monitor and evaluate our progress and impact in delivery of programme.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)

This report highlights the accomplishments of Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) for the 2023-2024 period, marked by a phase of vigorous activity. The DHC team has worked diligently to meet all Key Performance Indicators, broaden our influence, and consolidate our status as a strategic organisation, dedicated to health development in the region. As part of our mission to promote healthier lifestyles and address health disparities within our population, we have collaborated with a diverse range of statutory, community and voluntary agencies at an international and local level.

Achievements

Events and Conferences

During 2023-24 DHC held a number of Conferences and events including the following:-

- DHC Annual Conference - 'Health Innovation and Sustainable Futures' (September 2023). This highly successful conference attracted over one hundred delegates and was held in partnership with Ulster University. Dr Kira Fortune, WHO Head of Healthy Cities was the keynote speaker.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

- Families Voices Forum event 'If I could only tell you - Stories of Compassion and Hope' held in the Guildhall (8th February). Eighty people attended from across a range of sectors. Up to nine people from the locality have signed up as new members of the FVF.
- Work Well, Live Well 'Workplace Champions Celebration Breakfast', Everglades Hotel (29th Feb) to acknowledge workplaces that have completed the Health at Work programme.
- Clear Project - 'Reach, Remit and Refer Event', Omagh Enterprise Agency (5th of March) Designed to raise awareness local organisations who support people experiencing mental health conditions or suicidal ideation. The NI Public Health Agency inputted into the event which was attended by fifty three people from across the voluntary and community sectors.
- DHC & Diabetes UK 'Community Engagement Event' (19th March) - DHC hosted a seminar in partnership with Diabetes UK in the Waterfoot Hotel. Thirty people attended, including representatives from the WHSCT, GP Federation, Ulster University, and the Community sector. A series of actions has emerged from this meeting and DHC will continue to support this valuable work going forward.
- Ideas Fund (27th March) - DHC in partnership with the North-West Community Network and UU hosted the Communities Research Collective event in associate with the Ideas Fund. Attendance 45 people.

DHC Programmes and Projects

WHO Healthy Cities

DHC leads on the intersectoral approach to improving health and wellbeing as part of the Derry and Strabane Healthy Cities region. This involves working strategically as part of the Healthy Cities Leadership Group to adopt a place-based approach to addressing health inequalities and improving health outcomes of the local population, as per the WHO Healthy Cities Phase VII Framework which encompasses the themes of; People, Place, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Participation.

The priorities outlined by the HC's Leadership Group are linked to a detailed Health and Wellbeing Situational Analysis undertaken via a detailed scoping and consultation exercise conducted during 2021, as part of the submission to the WHO Phase VII Application. Six key themes were identified for action, as part of this process and DHC have been working on these in recent years (1. Warm Homes/Clean Air, 2. A Clear Head on Alcohol, 3. Healthy Food for All, 4. Active Lives Made Easy (Emerging Themes - 5. A Welcoming Society 6. Nature on our doorstep).

During 2023-24 the Healthy Cities Leadership Group met on 3 occasions to hear updates on progress across the partnership in tackling the wider determinants of health. Key items discussed include, Obesity, the Acorn Farm, Health Inequalities, Air Quality, Homelessness and Addiction. DHC have engaged with the Mayor and public representatives throughout the year to garner support for the Healthy Cities initiative.

DHC achieved a 300% growth in our social media channels during 2023-24 supporting key PHA and WHO campaigns and highlighting relevant topic areas in health. Regular mailouts to our Health Communities list have featured content on topics ranging from Air Quality in Schools to Female Participation in Sport, to name but a few.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

DHC Clear Project - Small Grant Programme

2023-2024 saw the continued growth in the Small Grants Fund, which DHC administers on behalf of the NI Public Health Agency, in support of the NI Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategies. The purpose of the grants is to support local community organisations to engage in programmes which promote mental health and wellbeing in line with the PHA's 'Five Ways to Wellbeing'.

During this period the DHC Clear Project administered £1.4m supporting 438 projects throughout Northern Ireland which positively impacted upon 29,891 people. In addition, 2448 volunteers were supported to deliver over 32,500 volunteer hours delivering services at grassroots community level.

In addition, the Clear Project administered small allocations of funding (£300-£500) to 70 Sports Clubs to enable them to purchase sports equipment. This funding totaled £34,814.96. A condition of the funding was participation in Suicide Awareness Training to support mental health awareness within each Club.

Clear Project - Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Training

Through DHC's CLEAR Project, 38 training programmes related to mental health, emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention were delivered to 610 people working in community and voluntary sector organisations. Courses included SafeTALK, ASIST, Mental Health First Aid; Hope Matters; Motivational Interviewing L1 & L2, Impact of Alcohol on Self-Harm and Crisis Intervention, Impact of Alcohol on Self-Harm and the Family, Self-Harm and Autism, Anger Management and The Person behind the Behaviour.

Positive outcomes were recorded for these courses which included increased skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence dealing with mental health and suicide related incidents.

Clear Project - PHA Quality Standards

DHC provides a leadership and assessment role for the PHA Quality Standards for community based services promoting mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention. As part of this work during 2023-24, four workshops were delivered on 'Understanding Bereavement by Suicide' where participants were introduced to the Quality Standards.

The DHC Clear Project undertook 3 independent assessments of the Quality Standards within organisations chosen by the PHA and produced detailed reports with recommendations for service improvement for each agency. By March 2024, 340 community organisations had registered onto the QS portal to learn more about governance in provision of mental health and suicide prevention services.

Health at Work - Work Well, Live Well Programme

"Health@Work NI" is a Public Health Agency's regional initiative to target workplaces where health inequalities are likely to be most prevalent, including those with a high proportion of low paid, manual, male, sedentary and migrant workers. DHC delivers the "Work Well, Live Well" (WWLW) on behalf of the PHA within the WHSCT area. In 2023/24, forty-five new workplaces signed up to the Workplace Health Support Service, accessing information, and support to develop a healthier workplace. This included thirty new Workplace Health Champions trained online through the Work Well Live Well Programme. The DHC WWLW programme provided consultancy and mentoring to fifteen workplaces to complete health and wellbeing needs assessments and action plans.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2024

DHC's 'Work Well, Live Well' programme worked in partnership with WHSCT, AWARE, HSENI and many others to deliver training and health promotion campaigns to workplaces at all levels of the programme. In 2023-24, thirty employees completed Mental Health First Aid Training online, approximately 200 participants attended sessions on Managing Mental Health, Grief in the workplace, Cancer Awareness, Physical Activity and Stress Awareness training. Other courses delivered via network learning events focused on Menopause Awareness, Financial Wellbeing, Burn Out and Fatigue and Stress Management Standards.

Since February 2023, a total of five hundred workers have participated in Health Checks across eighteen workplaces in the Western Trust region. These interventions are in line with the World Health Organisation's focus on workplace 'settings' to improve health by providing workers with personalised information on their health status and changes to lifestyle.

Bereaved by Suicide - Families Voices Forum (FVF)

DHC Family Voices Forum project launched their campaign "If only I could tell you" Letters of Hope and Compassion in February 2024. The highly successful event was held in the Guildhall, Derry/ L'Derry with a presentation by the NI Mental Health Champion, Prof Siobhan O'Neill, a number of speakers with lived experience of being bereaved by suicide and a video of support from the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride, the purpose of the campaign is to enable members bereaved by suicide to offer words of hope and compassion to those more recently bereaved.

Ten new members have joined the FVF with the total number of members now reaching 81 with an additional 9 added to the mailing list. Family members held 12 meetings during 2023-24 and 15 one-to-one sessions were held in support of individual members to build their confidence and skills to contribute to the group.

Families Voices Forum were involved in the public consultation on the Protect Life 2 strategy and had an consultation workshop with the PHA and the external facilitators at the end of the process
The Family Voices Forum has participated in each of the Protect Life Implementation Groups in all Trust areas and the regional steering group for the Protect life 2 strategy.

Families Voices Forum has been involved in an advisory role in research with several partners such as University of Ulster, Queens University and the PHA.

Ideas Fund

Since 2021 DHC have been working with the NW Community Network (lead partner) and Ulster University as part of the Ideas Fund. The Ideas Fund | Home, which is run by the British Science Association and funded by Wellcome. This innovative and highly successful scheme involves a partnership between communities and researchers within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area and has supported 8 groups under Round 1 to the tune of £343,000, and 7 groups under Round 2 to the value of £429,000.

The communities designed and continue to deliver an array of projects, which target under-represented groups, such as those with disabilities, young people, and rural communities. During 2023 a further £91,286 has been secured from the Ideas Fund to establish a joint Community Research and Innovation Collective which aims to build upon the extensive learning from the individual community projects.

The Ideas Fund have chosen three projects from DCSDC area to receive funding for an Evidence Building Grant of up to £150k each. The aim of these grants is to capture evidence and share the impact of community-led collaboration with research on researchers and communities, with a particular interest in the impact on health research.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Acorn Farm

DHC continue to be closely involved with the DCSDC/Community Foundation Acorn Farm project, as delivery partner on the 'I Can Cook' strand of this flagship project which will engage up to one thousand families within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area in growing and cooking healthy and sustainable food. During 2023 intensive planning and testing of the cooking sessions took place with three pilot sessions delivered in partnership with the Conservation Volunteers. A recipe book was produced capturing ideas for healthy meals, containing locally produced ingredients. Face to face cooking sessions were supplemented by online content to coincide with calendar events such as Halloween which generated nearly 3000 views.

Neighbourhood Renewal Health Improvement Project (NHIP)

DHC administered the NHIP funding (£36,912.70) on behalf of the PHA to 6 community groups in areas of deprivation. This funding is designed to support grassroots capacity building for health and wellbeing and is used for a broad variety of local programmes from yoga to men's sheds. This funding is matched by the Department for Communities to sustain local community development and health within the DCSDC area.

Collaborative Projects and Programmes

- WHO Healthy Cities Networks - During 2023-2024 DHC continued to participate in a range of civic, strategic and policy making forums to promote inclusive and equitable approaches to health. We work with a range of partners to support best practice initiatives on improving public health. These included the WHO Wellbeing Economy project and the UK and Irish Healthy Cities Networks which are valuable forums for knowledge transfer.
- DCSDC- More locally DHC inputted into several Derry City and Strabane District Council programmes including the WHO Age Friendly City, UNICEF Child Friendly programme, Council Civic Forum, Homelessness project as well reporting directly into the City and District's Strategic Growth Plan.
- Creative Health Network - DHC facilitated the establishment of a local Creative Health Network in partnership with a range of agencies working together to plan the 2024 Annual Conference and develop a Creative Health Plan for the DCSDC area.
- Health Inequalities initiative - DHC is part of a Health Inequalities Group within Derry City focusing on the Skeoge area to improve the health outcomes of children and young people in what is recognized as an area of high deprivation within the City.
- Whole Systems Approach to Obesity - DHC is supporting the adoption of the Whole Systems Approach to Obesity within the DCSDC area.
- Western Diabetes Group - DHC convened and provided administrative support to the multi-agency group who have come together to reduce the prevalence of diabetes within the WHSCT area.
- NI Protect Life (Suicide Prevention) Implementation Group - DHC plays an important role within the local Protect Life (2) Strategy Group, reporting on training, support to families bereaved by suicide, the small grants programme, PHA Quality Standards and the Clear Forum events.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Challenge and Solutions

While we have achieved much this year, we faced several challenges, including funding constraints and capacity of staff to meet the level of demands from partner organisations. To address these issues, we will continue to lobby our funders for additional investment for core costs and intensify our efforts to identify external sources of funding to stabilise our current complement of staff, as well as identify new opportunities to expand the scope of our work.

Despite these challenges, DHC remained financially and operationally stable during 2023-2024, although it is impossible to predict the risks to longer term funding in the future.

Benefits to the end users and wider society

- The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year as detailed in the foregoing paragraphs, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

Financial review (including reserves policy)

The net expenditure for the year was £50,611 (31 March 2023 - net income £59,523). The net expenditure for the year will be added to the funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £352,317.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 6 months core running costs and all winding up liabilities.

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short-term deposit accounts) of £757,476. Total expenditure for the year was £2,456,646 (excluding depreciation). Expenditure included ring fenced funds of £1,574,370 which were distributed in small grants. The charity, therefore, has adequate funds in line with its reserves policy. The directors are satisfied with this outcome and will continue to prudently review the level of reserves held by the charity in line with current levels of funding and operating costs.

Plans for future periods

Looking ahead to the forthcoming financial year the directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution to achieve DHC's objectives. The directors will continue to focus on diversifying income sources to support the long-term sustainability and consolidation of the organisation. We will also strengthen our partnerships with local agencies and expand our reach to more rural and underserved areas.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees 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 accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2024

- 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 business.

The trustees 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.

Statement of disclosure of information to auditors

We, the trustees of the charitable company, who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements, each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all steps that we ought to have taken as trustees in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that McDaid McCullough Moore be reappointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

On behalf of the Board



Emma Kevitt (Chair)

Trustee

26 September 2024

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105780

Annual return

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent auditor's report to the members of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED (the charitable 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 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 charitable 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the presentation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

- the trustees' report (including the strategic report) has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and 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; or
- 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 trustees 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 trustees 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:

Based on our understanding of the company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to those standard to small charitable companies, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, income tax and payroll tax.

Audit procedures performed included the following:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Identifying and testing journals and the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities as these 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

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.



Gerard Murray
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
McDaid McCullough Moore
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditor
28/32 Clarendon Street
Derry
BT48 7HD

26 September 2024

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105780

Accounts

Charity number: NIC105780
Company number: NI640806

**DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
(DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)**

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Contents

	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the directors report and strategic report)	2 - 11
Independent Auditors' report to the trustees	12 - 15
Statement of financial activities	16
Statement of financial position	17
Statement of cash flows	18
Notes to the financial statements	19 - 29

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Legal and administrative information

Charity number	NIC105780
Company registration number	NI640806
Business address	83 Ledwidge Avenue Derry BT47 6GZ
Registered office	83 Ledwidge Avenue Derry BT47 6GZ
Trustees	Emma Kevitt Gerard Deane Diane Marshall Charlene Marie Shongo Sharon Williams David Kelly Amanda Doherty Leona McNicholl
	Resigned 13/12/2022
Secretary	Edel O'Doherty
Auditors	McDaid McCullough Moore 28/32 Clarendon Street Derry BT48 7HD
Bankers	Allied Irish Bank Meadowbank Strand Road Derry

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out below. This report is prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recognised 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).

Introduction

The Trustees of Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) are delighted to present our Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2023. This report captures the achievements and positive contributions which DHC has made during the period 1st April 2022-30th March 2023 and is testament to the organisation's dedication to improving the health of our population, in partnership with our funders and the wider community and voluntary sector.

DHC as a strategic organisation within the Derry and Strabane district is committed to fostering genuine intersectoral partnerships for health and harnessing our collective assets to tackle health inequalities and improve the quality of life of our local population. Within this report we present evidence of the extent and impact of our work in striving towards making a positive difference to the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee not having a share capital (company registration number NI640806). It is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs and is registered with the NI Charities Commission (registration number NIC105780). The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

The charitable company is governed and managed by the board of directors, who are also the charity trustees. The Trustees are chosen based on their skills and professional backgrounds so as to ensure a wide range of experience is represented on the Board. The trustees who served the company throughout the year are shown on page 1, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The board of directors (trustees) carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a quarterly basis to review the performance of the charity and to make decisions regarding the charity's financial and operational matters. The trustees also meet from time to time between quarterly meetings in order to perform their role on essential governance matters. The directors govern the activities of the charitable company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is managed by the Chief Executive Edel O'Doherty. She is responsible for overseeing the activities carried out by the charitable company. Her responsibilities include the management of all staff and their duties, the provision of a full range of administrative and clerical duties and for the preparation of financial reports to the Board of Directors and Funding Bodies.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is an equal opportunities employer committed to positive policies on recruitment, training and career development for staff members regardless of marital status, religion, colour, race, ethnic origin or disability.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED **(A company limited by guarantee)**

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Appointment and training of trustees

DHC is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and therefore openly advertises vacancies on the Board in order to attract a range of people with diverse skills and experience which will benefit the people and communities we serve. The Board is committed to providing support and training for Board members to help them to fulfil their role, including for people who have not served on a board before. New trustees are nominated by current trustees.

Induction and training of new trustees is provided by existing trustees and employees. Most trustees, due to their experience and backgrounds, are already familiar with the work of the charitable company.

Principle risks and uncertainties

Management have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The trustees continually monitor their exposure to financial risk. Given the size of the charitable company, the trustees have not delegated the responsibility of monitoring financial risk to a sub committee.

Risks identified, such as the financial viability and sustainability of the charitable company, have been reviewed to ensure that a level of funding is maintained that is necessary for the charitable company to continue to meet its objectives. The trustees continually strive to source additional or new funding sources.

Business, cyber and financial risk are managed by ensuring the company have appropriately qualified staff equipped with the necessary skills and experience and that effective and secure ICT systems are in place.

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of controls and procedures for the authorisation of all transactions.

Key management remuneration policy

The key management personnel of the charitable company are the directors (trustees) and senior management. The trustees are not remunerated for their services and did not receive and were not reimbursed for expenses during the year. The remuneration of senior management is set by the trustees and reviewed annually and is normally increased in line with inflation. The benchmark used in setting remuneration is based on the remuneration of other key management personnel in similar comparable organisations.

Directors

The directors (also the trustees) who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Emma Kevitt	Gerard Deane
Diane Marshall	David Kelly
Amanda Doherty (resigned 13/12/22)	Leona McNicholl
Sharon Williams	
Charlene Shongo	

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

The principal objectives and activities of the charity during the year continued to be the promotion of health improvement and reduction of health inequality throughout Northern Ireland by the provision of training, support and awareness projects carried out on a multi-sectoral partnership basis.

Public Benefit-

In setting these objectives the trustees' have considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that its activities have helped to achieve its principal objective of public benefit for its beneficiaries.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a charitable organisation registered with Northern Ireland Charities Commission.

The company commenced activities on 1 April 2018 on which date all assets and liabilities of 'The Derry Healthy Cities Project' were transferred to the company.

The company is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. DHC continued to lead Derry City and Strabane's designation to the World Health Organisation's European Healthy Cities Network.
2. DHC's CLEAR Project administered small grants on behalf of the PHA to build health and wellbeing capacity within small community organisations, in support of the NI Mental Health Strategy and the NI Suicide Prevention Strategy 'Protect Life'. The Clear project also delivered training to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing and prevent suicide. Through this project DHC also continued to oversee the PHA's quality standards for the delivery of services in this field.
3. Through DHC's Health@WorkNI 'Work Well, Live Well' programme we delivered support, training and awareness raising to improve health and well being in workplaces, adhering to the World Health Organisation's Workplace Health Model.
4. DHC initiated the 'Team Health' Social Enterprise providing a range of simple diagnostic health checks for a wide range of workplaces.
5. DHC continued to facilitate the Families Voices Forum through our regional Bereaved by Suicide project, which enabled family members bereaved by suicide to contribute effectively to discussion and decision making in relation to suicide prevention.
6. DHC continued to co-ordinate and administer Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme (NHIP) grants on behalf of the PHA to six Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships.
7. DHC worked in partnership with the NW Community Network and Ulster University the UK wide 'Ideas Fund' to support a range of mental health and wellbeing projects in local communities.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)

Strategic Developments

Transformation - Staffing and Systems

The year 2022-23 was one of transformation for DHC with the departure of our highly respected Chief Executive, Erin McFeely at the end of September 2022. Erin presided over DHC for 4 years, working to build and consolidate relationships with funders and partners across the community, voluntary and private sectors. She brought to DHC her own innovative and highly participative style of management and was very successful in raising the profile and impact of the organisation within the North West. Edel O'Doherty commenced the role of CE in early November 2022, after an extensive career working as a senior manager within health and social care and a primary focus on health improvement and community development.

In addition, the Clear Team moved from Strabane to the new Ebrington Offices, which consolidated the team in one location.

DHC invested heavily in a new Grant Management System (Salesforce) during the year in support of the administration of the PHA's Small Grants programme.

DHC have worked intensively during the Spring to enhance our ICT cyber-security to reduce the risk of cyber-crime.

DHC conducted a HR restructuring of the Clear Project team in January 2023 culminating in the appointment of a Deputy Project Manager, a Project Coordinator, and a full-time Administrative Assistant. In March 2023, in alignment with the Bereaved by Suicide Contract, DHC recruited an Information and Communications Officer.

30th Anniversary Celebrations

There were many causes for celebration during the year and the Autumn period featured a number highly successful events which included:

As part of the Derry and Strabane Healthy City and District initiative, DHC held a very successful joint conference with Ulster University Centering health. Building for better outcomes' on the 30th of September. The event celebrated Derry City & Strabane becoming a designated WHO Healthy City for the third time and brought together an inspiring array of speakers to explore how the council, community and enterprise can put healthy lives at the core of decision making across the sectors.

The DHC's Clear Forum hosted a major event 'Turning ambition into reality: Focusing on early intervention and prevention within mental health in the Western Area'. The conference was presented by journalist and mental health advocate Lynda Bryans and focused on early intervention and looking beyond crisis response. The event brought together statutory and community voices to seek opportunities to join the dots between mental health community and statutory provision of services.

DHC celebrated its 30th anniversary by hosting a gathering of invited guests, including current and former Board members and staff and a wide range of supporters of DHC over the years. This very successful event provided an opportunity to reflect on the growth, development and impact of DHC since its inception.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Objectives

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) continued to work in line with the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan for 2019-2022, reflecting its charitable objects and to further the aims of providing public benefit.

The strategic objectives for 2020-2023 were to provide:

1. Leadership and Influence
We are a valued agency that identifies and articulates the health and well being needs of our communities.
2. Capacity building and Training
We deliver capacity building and training opportunities, empowering people and communities to make positive choices about health and wellbeing.
3. Health Innovation
We are a catalyst for the development and delivery of evidence based, community led, health and wellbeing initiatives.

During 2022/23 Developing Healthy Communities continued to support people and communities including listening and responding to the changing needs of people during the year. We identified and articulated these needs, and brought leaders in health, community, business, and academia together to highlight both challenges and opportunities to tackle issues associated with entrenched health inequalities. Through our charitable activities, we delivered health and wellbeing programmes, provided training, support and advocacy for the promotion of health and wellbeing and the furtherance of the WHO Healthy Cities agenda in Derry and Strabane.

DHC continued to administer short term funding on behalf of the PHA and support community and voluntary sector organisations to make necessary adaptations to successfully deliver on funded projects.

The organisation continued to invest in our relationships with key funders including the PHA, DCSDC, the Ideas Fund, The Community Fund and the Rank Foundation and a number of new partnerships in order to increase its impact and sustainability. Most notably, DHC was successful in its joint application with the North West Community Network, to the British Science Association to act as the local Development Co-ordinator for delivery of the 'Ideas Fund' in Derry and Strabane.

Key Performance Indicators

Through our principal funder, the Public Health Agency, DHC has continued to deliver a range of strategic and inter agency initiatives which support the achievement of our charitable objectives which are to:

- (a) Promote a more positive and inclusive attitude to health from policy and planning by initiating and encouraging inter-agency and inter-sector working and supporting and developing practical initiatives;
- (b) Advance education relating to benefits of good health and to the implications of poor health through the provision of advice, information, guidance, support and training;
- (c) Promote and encourage public participation in healthy exercise and physical activity;
- (d) Promote, develop and support those organisations offering health care services and support in the area of benefit.

The main achievements of the charity during the year were as follows:

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Support for Community and Voluntary Sectors

- In 2022/23 DHC's CLEAR Project administered over £1.6 million worth of small grants between £500 and £13,426 to community and voluntary organisations across Northern Ireland, on behalf of the Public Health Agency. This supported 364 projects which delivered a range of activities linked to supporting emotional health and wellbeing, to over 31,000 individuals.
- 10,000 participants completed pre and post questionnaires and 89% reported a positive change to their health and wellbeing.
- We also held a Clear Forum event themed 'Turning ambition into reality: Focusing on early intervention and prevention within mental health in the Western Area' which was attended by 46 participants.
- The CLEAR Project continued to work closely with Sports Clubs, this year supporting 23 groups. Over £7,000 being distributed for purchasing of sports equipment. A total of 58 sports club members attended SafeTALK and 15 attended either Sports NI Mental Health Awareness or Zero Suicide online training.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training

- Through DHC's CLEAR Project, the organisation delivered training opportunities related to mental health, emotional well being and suicide prevention, principally to people working in community and voluntary sector organisations.
- 401 participants accessed training from a range of 32 courses.
- Courses included; SafeTALK, ASIST, Mental Health First Aid, Self Care, Hope Matters, Motivational Interviewing, Impact of Alcohol on Self Harm and Crisis Intervention, Impact of Alcohol on Self-Harm and the Family, Self-Harm and Autism and Anger Management.
- Evaluation evidenced outcomes which included increased skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence in the range of issues covered.
- Feedback from participants included;
"Really good training course which made me feel more confident in dealing with suicide."
"This course is unreal and I am happy to be part of it."

Quality Standards

- Through the CLEAR Project, DHC continued to provide a vital leadership role in overseeing the PHA's quality and governance standards for community and voluntary sector organisations.
- The Standards online portal was used for the first time for the independent assessment against the Standards.
- Five organisations underwent independent assessment and 227 organisations registered for self-assessment.
- The 13-minute standards awareness raising video was viewed over 140 times.
- Held 2 Referral Procedures workshops with 19 participants from 19 different organisations.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED **(A company limited by guarantee)**

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Support for Workplaces

"Health@Work NI" continued to target workplaces where health inequalities are likely to be most prevalent, including those with a high proportion of; low paid, manual, male, sedentary and migrant workers.

- In 2022/23, through DHC's "Work Well Live Well" Programme (funded by the Public Health Agency), 40 new workplaces were signed up to our Workplace Health Support Service, accessing information, and support to develop a healthier workplace.
- 30 new Workplace Health Champions were trained online through the Work Well Live Well Programme.
- 15 organisations were supported to complete workplace health and wellbeing surveys. These 15 organisations accessed intensive consultancy and mentoring support to develop and complete health and wellbeing action plans based on the findings of their survey.
- 28 employees completed Mental Health First Aid Training online.
- Health@WorkNI also delivered network learning events including Financial Wellbeing, Burn Out and Fatigue and Stress Management Standards. We continue to mentor the champions to deliver on wellbeing plans.
- Health@Work NI works in partnership with WHSCT, AWARE, Recovery Colleges, HSENI and many others to deliver and promote training, health promotion initiatives and campaigns to workplaces at all levels of the programme.
- An Annual Celebration event took place to recognize and reward those workplaces that have completed all levels of the programme and that have shown commitment to wellbeing at work.

Team Health

Additionally, DHC's Team Health social enterprise delivers interventions to promote employee well-being within workplaces. This initiative seeks to generate income to support sustainability and extension of workplace health programmes in the wider community. As 2022-2023 was the first year of this initiative, and after investment in equipment and payment of nursing staff, £3,589 income was generated.

- Since February 2022, a total of 300 workers have participated in Health Checks across 25 workplaces in the Western Trust region. These interventions are in line with the World Health Organisation's focus on workplace 'settings' to improve health by providing workers with personalised information on their health status ie cholesterol, blood pressure, etc and advising them on proactive steps to take to improve their health and wellbeing.
- Team Health have invested significant time into branding, promotion and networking to build awareness of the programme and secure further contracts. Pilot programmes and workshops were held to consult with workplaces the Team Health webpage.

WHO European Healthy Cities Network

- DHC has continued to work with local partners including Derry City and Strabane District Council, the PHA and the Western Health and Social Care Trust to promote the Healthy Cities Phase VII Framework and themes of; People, Place, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Participation.
- DHC has continued to represent Derry and Strabane at regional, national and international Healthy Cities Forums, including at the European Healthy Cities Annual Business and Technical Conference where we secured a place on the agenda for a presentation by ARC Fitness's. DHC has established Derry City & Strabane as a founding member of the network's working group on alcohol.
- DHC has worked to establish or partner on the delivery of programmes under the six themes and priorities identified by the cross-sector healthy cities leadership group, notably partnering with DCSDC and the Community Foundation on the development of a healthy and sustainable cooking programme for the Acorn Farm project.
- DHC has grown a healthy cities digital community achieving 300% growth in its email list and supporting key PHA and WHO campaigns across email and social media.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Health Leadership

- DHC continued to participate in a range of civic, strategic and policy making forums to promote inclusive and equitable approaches to health.
- This includes taking part in the DCSDC Strategic Growth Partnership meetings and facilitated a Consultation Coffee event in April 2022 including 33 participants in support of the work of the Partnership.
- DHC inputs into the Protect Life Strategy's Implementation Group. As part of this work a consultation event on the Department of Health's Postvention Support for Families Bereaved By Suicide was hosted in March 2023 (13 attendees).
- DHC links closely with the DCSDC Mayor and local politicians to ensure that health and wellbeing are profiled within the City Council Area.
- DHC's social media channels are used extensively to highlight relevant topic areas in health. Regular mailouts to our Health Communities list have featured content on topics ranging from Air Quality in Schools to Female Participation in Sport, to name but a few.

Family Voices Forum (FVF)

- DHC Family Voices Forum project launched their Manifesto 'Turning Grief into Hope' in January 2023. The highly successful event was held in Belfast City Hall and attended by the NI Mental Health Champion, Prof Siobhan O'Neill, Prof Rory O'Connor (Health Psychology/Suicide Behavioural Research Lab) and the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride, as well as families bereaved by suicide. The purpose of the Manifesto is to ensure that the voices of people bereaved by suicide are heard in policy and decision making forums.
- Six new members have joined the FVF with the total number of members now reaching 71.
- Family members held 11 meetings during 2022-23 and 14 one-to-one sessions were held in support of individual members to build their confidence and skills to contribute to the group.
- Four Consultation workstreams were facilitated with the FVF on a range of themes to inform the development of the Manifesto and nine panel and conference engagements were held to plan and prepare for the Manifesto Launch.
- The Family Voices Forum has participated in each of the Trusts as a Protect Life Implementation Groups.
- Families Voices Forum regularly engaged with the Chief Medical Officer and the Mental Health Champion for NI on the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and emotional well being of people and communities.

The Ideas Fund

- The Ideas Fund' was launched in January 2021. Since then Developing Healthy Communities have continued in their role as local Development Coordinator, in partnership with the Northwest Community Network. Sixteen community-researcher partnerships were funded over two rounds, including some extension grants to allow projects to expand or share and embed learning, over £1m has been awarded in Derry and Strabane from 2021-2023. Developing Health Communities, Northwest Community Network and Ulster University secured £90k in March 2023 to run a pilot that will seek to address systemic challenges faced by community groups and researchers, taking a more strategic approach to creating systems which support community partners and university-based researchers' collaboration more effectively.

Benefits to the end users and wider society

- The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year as detailed in the foregoing paragraphs, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Financial review (including reserves policy)

The net income for the year was £59,523 (31 March 2022 - net income £47,375). The net income for the year will be added to the funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £402,928.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 6 months core running costs and all winding up liabilities.

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short-term deposit accounts) of £864,769. Total expenditure for the year was £2,413,640 (excluding depreciation). Expenditure included ring fenced funds of £1,677,627 which were distributed in small grants. The charity, therefore, has adequate funds in line with its reserves policy. The directors are satisfied with this outcome and will continue to prudently review the level of reserves held by the charity in line with current levels of funding and operating costs.

Plans for future periods

In the forthcoming financial year the directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution in order to achieve the objectives noted above. In particular the directors will focus on diversifying income sources to support the long term sustainability of the organisation. They plan to complete the designation process to achieve WHO European Healthy City status for Derry and Strabane. They plan to continue to strengthen online systems and operations to ensure the organisation is future proofed. This includes the launch of the PHA Quality Standards and Training online portal and the development of an online booking system for training and events.

Post Balance Sheet Events

The impact of COVID, the political instability in Northern Ireland combined with the cost-of-living crisis continues to create instability and uncertainty across all of the sectors within Northern Ireland with potential ramifications to the climate for funding. These societal pressures have simultaneously driven demand for health and wellbeing support within our communities.

In spite of these challenges, DHC remained financially and operationally stable during 2022-23, although it is impossible to predict the risks to longer term funding in the future.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees 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 accounting 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 business.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees 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.

Statement of disclosure of information to auditors

We, the trustees of the charitable company, who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements, each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all steps that we ought to have taken as trustees in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that McDaid McCullough Moore be reappointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

On behalf of the Board

Emma Kevitt (Chair)
Trustee

12 October 2023



DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent auditor's report to the members of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and 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 2023, 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) (ISA's (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 charitable 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the presentation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

- the trustees' report (including the strategic report) has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and 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; or
- 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 trustees 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 trustees 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:

Based on our understanding of the company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to those standard to small charitable companies, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, income tax and payroll tax.

Audit procedures performed included the following:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Identifying and testing journals and the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities as these 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

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.



Gerard Murray
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
McDaid McCullough Moore
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditor
28/32 Clarendon Street
Derry
BT48 7HD

12 October 2023

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £
Income							
Generated Funds	2	146,883	-	146,883	119,472	-	119,472
Investment income	3	-	-	-	17	-	17
Charitable Activities	4	-	2,330,626	2,330,626	-	1,421,732	1,421,732
Total income		<u>146,883</u>	<u>2,330,626</u>	<u>2,477,509</u>	<u>119,489</u>	<u>1,421,732</u>	<u>1,541,221</u>
Charitable activities	5	87,360	2,330,626	2,417,986	72,114	1,421,732	1,493,846
Total resources expended		<u>87,360</u>	<u>2,330,626</u>	<u>2,417,986</u>	<u>72,114</u>	<u>1,421,732</u>	<u>1,493,846</u>
Net income for the year		59,523	-	59,523	47,375	-	47,375
Total funds brought forward		343,405	-	343,405	296,030	-	296,030
Total funds carried forward		<u>402,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>402,928</u>	<u>343,405</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>343,405</u>

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

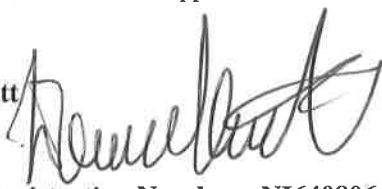
Statement of financial position
as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		32,519		12,100
Current assets					
Debtors	13	118,661		17,813	
Cash at bank and in hand	14	864,769		659,277	
		<u>983,430</u>		<u>677,090</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(613,021)</u>		<u>(345,785)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>370,409</u>		<u>331,305</u>
Net assets			<u>402,928</u>		<u>343,405</u>
Funds					
Restricted income funds	18		-		-
Unrestricted income funds	17		402,928		343,405
Total charity funds			<u>402,928</u>		<u>343,405</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The financial statements were approved and authorised by the board on 12 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Emma Kevitt
Director



Company Registration Number : NI640806

Diane Marshall
Director



The notes on pages 19 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net incoming resources for the year		59,523	47,375
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Interest receivable		-	(17)
Depreciation and impairment		4,346	3,024
<i>Changes in:</i>			
Trade and other debtors		(100,848)	7,959
Trade and other creditors		267,236	111,211
Cash used in operating activities		<u>230,257</u>	<u>169,552</u>
Interest Received		-	17
Net cash used in operating activities		<u>230,257</u>	<u>169,569</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Net purchase of tangible fixed assets		(24,765)	(15,124)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>205,492</u>	<u>154,445</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		205,492	154,445
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2022	14	<u>659,277</u>	<u>504,832</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2023	14	<u><u>864,769</u></u>	<u><u>659,277</u></u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Accounting convention and basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is 83 Ledwidge Avenue, Derry, BT47 6GZ. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- the promotion of health improvement throughout Northern Ireland
- the provision of training, support and awareness projects carried out on a multi-sectoral partnership basis

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Fund accounting

The funds of the charitable company consist of restricted funds and unrestricted funds.

Income of the charity which is provided for a specific purpose, together with the resources expended to which they relate, form part of the restricted funds of the charity. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income which is generated by the charity's own efforts or provided with no specific preconditions, together with the resources expended to which they relate, are disclosed as part of the unrestricted funds of the charity. Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

1.3. Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is included in the financial statements inclusive of value added taxation.

Income from generated funds consists of management fees generated by the core element of the charity. Such income is usually received with no preconditions attached and is recognised in the SOFA when received.

Income from charitable activities consists of grants and funding received from various funding bodies (mainly from PHA 'Public Health Agency') to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants and funding of this nature are recognised in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt have been met.

1.4. Incoming resources

Incoming resources from charitable activities consists of grants received from various funding bodies to assist the charity in achieving its objectives. Grants of this nature are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and all preconditions for receipt of the funds have been met.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.5. Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs have been allocated on the basis of time spent on each of the main activities of the charity, which are:

- Generating funds (those activities involved with raising funds and funding applications)
- Charitable activities (those activities associated with the charity's objects)
- Governance costs (management and administration of the charity)

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

1.6. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated initially at cost and subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment	-	20% straight line
Furniture	-	20% straight line

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

1.7 Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss.

1.8. Defined contribution pension schemes

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the charitable company.

The amounts charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable by the charity during the year. There were no contributions due or prepaid at the year end.

1.9. Employee Benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

1.10. Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and prepayments are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount.

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will result in a payment to a third party and the amount can be reliably estimated.

1.11. Financial Instruments

A financial asset or liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the arrangement.

1.12. Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainty exists. They have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the twelve months from the date of authorising these financial statements and have a reasonable expectation that there are adequate resources in place to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The main factors underlying this judgement are maintaining the current level of support from funders and expected revenues from other sources.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

1.13. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In applying the company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts 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 if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Useful economic life and carrying value of tangible fixed assets

The depreciation charge in respect of tangible fixed assets is based on an estimate of the useful economic life of each asset. Revision of useful economic life will affect the estimates charged in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2. Income from generated funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Management Fees	146,883	-	146,883	119,472
	<u>146,883</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146,883</u>	<u>119,472</u>

3. Investment income

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Bank interest receivable	-	17
	<u>-</u>	<u>17</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

4. Incoming resources from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<u>Public Health Agency:</u>			
CLEAR Core Funding	124,767	124,767	139,108
CLEAR Small Grants	1,841,486	1,841,486	1,006,759
Regional Standards Toolkit	54,919	54,919	54,237
Bereaved by Suicide	46,605	46,605	42,318
Health@WorkNI	62,480	62,480	55,606
Strengthening Families	-	-	-
N.H.I.P	34,007	34,007	35,558
DHC Core & WHO Healthy Cities	46,151	46,151	52,186
Ideas Fund Income	9,636	9,636	9,321
Dormant accounts	47,798	47,798	10,699
DCSDC Funding	22,500	22,500	15,500
Community Foundation	5,283	5,283	-
Rank Foundation	34,000	34,000	-
Miscellaneous Funding	994	994	440
	<u>2,330,626</u>	<u>2,330,626</u>	<u>1,421,732</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Wages and Salaries	7,480	396,623	404,103	291,209
Pension Costs	-	8,300	8,300	6,190
Recruitment Costs	4,060	-	4,060	672
Training Development and Conferences	2,664	12,775	15,439	11,879
Redundancy costs	-	-	-	-
CLEAR Small Grants Projects	-	1,677,627	1,677,627	954,104
General Programme Costs	-	17,533	17,533	13,476
Service Development Costs	5,235	40,181	45,416	46,970
Management Charges	-	146,883	146,883	110,413
Hospitality and Meetings	-	-	-	-
Rent and Room Hire	16,551	11,858	28,409	16,216
Heat, Light and Power	-	3,574	3,574	2,399
Insurance	2,583	-	2,583	2,332
Computer Maintenance and Website Costs	9,679	1,952	11,631	9,236
Repairs and Maintenance	3,303	164	3,467	243
Telephone and Internet	4,405	2,180	6,585	3,591
Postage, Stationery and Subscriptions	5,381	1,560	6,941	2,081
Travel and Subsistence	1,696	4,350	6,046	2,618
Membership Fees	1,895	-	1,895	1,243
General Expenses	-	-	-	-
Accountancy Fees	3,121	-	3,121	1,979
Auditor's Remuneration	5,772	-	5,772	5,772
Bookkeeping Costs	1,573	-	1,573	1,339
Consultancy and Professional Fees	3,585	3,181	6,766	5,343
Bank Charges	736	42	778	708
Depreciation Charge	4,346	-	4,346	3,024
Other costs	3,295	1,843	5,138	807
	<u>87,360</u>	<u>2,330,626</u>	<u>2,417,986</u>	<u>1,493,844</u>

6. Net incoming resources for the year

	2023 £	2022 £
Net incoming resources are stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	4,346	3,024
Auditors' remuneration (Note 7)	5,772	5,772
	<u>4,346</u>	<u>3,024</u>
	<u>5,772</u>	<u>5,772</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

7. Auditors' remuneration
(Governance Costs)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration - audit of the financial statements	<u>5,772</u>	<u>5,772</u>

8. Employees

Employment costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	368,241	266,310
Social security costs	35,862	24,899
Pension costs	8,300	6,190
	<u>412,403</u>	<u>297,399</u>

No employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2022 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Charitable activities	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>

9. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration or expenses during the year (2022 - £NIL).

Key management remuneration for the year ended 31 March 2023 was £54,748.

10. Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme in respect of its staff. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Pension charge	<u>8,300</u>	<u>6,190</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

11. Taxation

No charge to corporation tax arising in the year ended 31 March 2023 (2022 : £nil). Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a registered charity and is recognised as such by HM Revenue and Customs for taxation purposes. As a result no liability to corporation tax arises.

12. Tangible fixed assets	Computer equipment	Furniture	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	8,057	10,762	18,819
Additions	20,657	4,108	24,765
At 31 March 2023	<u>28,714</u>	<u>14,870</u>	<u>43,584</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	4,567	2,152	6,719
Charge for the year	1,803	2,543	4,346
At 31 March 2023	<u>6,370</u>	<u>4,695</u>	<u>11,065</u>
Net book values			
At 31 March 2023	<u>22,344</u>	<u>10,175</u>	<u>32,519</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>3,490</u>	<u>8,610</u>	<u>12,100</u>

13. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Funding Debtors and management fees receivable	104,332	1,567
Other debtors	14,329	16,246
	<u>118,661</u>	<u>17,813</u>

14. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	864,769	659,277
	<u>864,769</u>	<u>659,277</u>

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors and accruals	10,470	20,400
Credit Cards	520	1,575
Other taxes and social security	10,278	7,143
Accrued programme costs and project underspends	591,753	316,667
	<u>613,021</u>	<u>345,785</u>

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	32,519	-	32,519
Current assets	983,430	602,032	1,585,462
Current liabilities	(613,021)	(602,032)	(1,215,053)
	<u>402,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>402,928</u>

17. Unrestricted funds

	At			At
	1 April	Incoming	Outgoing	31 March
	2022	resources	resources	2023
	£	£	£	£
Funds brought forward	<u>343,405</u>	<u>146,883</u>	<u>(87,360)</u>	<u>402,928</u>

Purposes of unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are funds that are utilised at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Included in unrestricted funds are investment income, income from management and sundry one off unrestricted grants.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

18. Restricted funds	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 March 2023 £
CLEAR Core Funding	-	124,767	124,767	-
CLEAR Small Grants	-	1,841,486	1,841,486	-
Regional Standards Toolkit	-	54,919	54,919	-
Bereaved By Suicide	-	46,605	46,605	-
Health@WorkNI	-	62,480	62,480	-
N.H.I.P	-	34,007	34,007	-
DHC Core & WHO Cities	-	46,151	46,151	-
Ideas Fund	-	9,636	9,636	-
Dormant Accounts	-	47,798	47,798	-
DCSDC Funding	-	22,500	22,500	-
Community Foundation	-	5,283	5,283	-
Rank Foundation	-	34,000	34,000	-
Miscellaneous Funding	-	994	994	-
	-	<u>2,330,626</u>	<u>2,330,626</u>	-

Purposes of restricted funds

The CLEAR Core Programme provides funding to assist with the core costs of co-ordinating and managing the administration of small grants and training provision to organisations working in the field of mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention.

CLEAR Small Grants Programme provides funding to various organisations across Northern Ireland to promote activities relating to health and wellbeing, suicide prevention and mental and emotional wellbeing.

Regional Standards Toolkit provides funding to assist with improving governance arrangements within organisations to provide safe and effective practice for service users.

The Bereaved by Suicide Programme provides funding for the facilitation of the voices of people with lived experience in the development of suicide prevention policy and practice and the provision of local Bereaved by Suicide groups.

Health@WorkNI provides support to employees to create a working environment which promotes positive wellbeing. This is carried out through information sessions, health clinics, tailored wellbeing programmes and training courses.

The N.H.I.P Programme provides funding to six NHIP Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. DHC provided support to groups to adapt to COVID guidelines.

The DHC Core & WHO Healthy Cities Programme provides funding to assist with the core costs of co-ordinating and managing DHC health improvement projects and Derry and Strabane's WHO European Healthy Cities Network designation.

The Ideas Fund was launched in January 2021, since then DHC have continued in their role of local development co-ordinator in Derry and Strabane, in partnership with the Northwest Community Network which aims to develop and test ideas to improve mental wellbeing.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2023

DHC secured funding from The National Lottery Communities Fund's Dormant Accounts Fund, which has enabled the organisation to employ new members of staff who have enhanced the capacity and the capability of the staff team.

The Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) funding supports the delivery of priorities identified as part of the Healthy Cities initiative.

The rank foundation funding supports employment opportunities within Developing Healthy Communities.

19. Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability exists in respect of grants received which may become reclaimable by funders should certain conditions under which they were awarded fail to be met.

20. Controlling interest

The trustees collectively are considered to be the controlling party of the charitable company.

21. Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainty exists. The trustees have considered the level of funds and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these financial statements.

22. Company limited by guarantee

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up during a period in which they are still a member of the company, including a period of one year from the date that they ceased to be a member, providing the debts were incurred during their period as a member of the company or the debt relates to costs and expenses of a winding up.

The liability of each member in such circumstances is limited to £1.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105780

Annual report

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out below. This report is prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recognised 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).

Introduction

The Trustees of Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) are delighted to present our Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2023. This report captures the achievements and positive contributions which DHC has made during the period 1st April 2022-30th March 2023 and is testament to the organisation's dedication to improving the health of our population, in partnership with our funders and the wider community and voluntary sector.

DHC as a strategic organisation within the Derry and Strabane district is committed to fostering genuine intersectoral partnerships for health and harnessing our collective assets to tackle health inequalities and improve the quality of life of our local population. Within this report we present evidence of the extent and impact of our work in striving towards making a positive difference to the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee not having a share capital (company registration number NI640806). It is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs and is registered with the NI Charities Commission (registration number NIC105780). The charity's governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

The charitable company is governed and managed by the board of directors, who are also the charity trustees. The Trustees are chosen based on their skills and professional backgrounds so as to ensure a wide range of experience is represented on the Board. The trustees who served the company throughout the year are shown on page 1, together with details of the registered office and other professional advisors.

The board of directors (trustees) carry out their governance role throughout the year by way of meetings on a quarterly basis to review the performance of the charity and to make decisions regarding the charity's financial and operational matters. The trustees also meet from time to time between quarterly meetings in order to perform their role on essential governance matters. The directors govern the activities of the charitable company in line with the objectives set out in the governing documents of the charity, namely the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the charity's constitution.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is managed by the Chief Executive Edel O'Doherty. She is responsible for overseeing the activities carried out by the charitable company. Her responsibilities include the management of all staff and their duties, the provision of a full range of administrative and clerical duties and for the preparation of financial reports to the Board of Directors and Funding Bodies.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is an equal opportunities employer committed to positive policies on recruitment, training and career development for staff members regardless of marital status, religion, colour, race, ethnic origin or disability.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Appointment and training of trustees

DHC is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and therefore openly advertises vacancies on the Board in order to attract a range of people with diverse skills and experience which will benefit the people and communities we serve. The Board is committed to providing support and training for Board members to help them to fulfil their role, including for people who have not served on a board before. New trustees are nominated by current trustees.

Induction and training of new trustees is provided by existing trustees and employees. Most trustees, due to their experience and backgrounds, are already familiar with the work of the charitable company.

Principle risks and uncertainties

Management have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The trustees continually monitor their exposure to financial risk. Given the size of the charitable company, the trustees have not delegated the responsibility of monitoring financial risk to a sub committee.

Risks identified, such as the financial viability and sustainability of the charitable company, have been reviewed to ensure that a level of funding is maintained that is necessary for the charitable company to continue to meet its objectives. The trustees continually strive to source additional or new funding sources.

Business, cyber and financial risk are managed by ensuring the company have appropriately qualified staff equipped with the necessary skills and experience and that effective and secure ICT systems are in place.

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of controls and procedures for the authorisation of all transactions.

Key management remuneration policy

The key management personnel of the charitable company are the directors (trustees) and senior management. The trustees are not remunerated for their services and did not receive and were not reimbursed for expenses during the year. The remuneration of senior management is set by the trustees and reviewed annually and is normally increased in line with inflation. The benchmark used in setting remuneration is based on the remuneration of other key management personnel in similar comparable organisations.

Directors

The directors (also the trustees) who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Emma Kevitt	Gerard Deane
Diane Marshall	David Kelly
Amanda Doherty (resigned 13/12/22)	Leona McNicholl
Sharon Williams	
Charlene Shongo	

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

The principal objectives and activities of the charity during the year continued to be the promotion of health improvement and reduction of health inequality throughout Northern Ireland by the provision of training, support and awareness projects carried out on a multi-sectoral partnership basis.

Public Benefit-

In setting these objectives the trustees' have considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that its activities have helped to achieve its principal objective of public benefit for its beneficiaries.

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited is a charitable organisation registered with Northern Ireland Charities Commission.

The company commenced activities on 1 April 2018 on which date all assets and liabilities of 'The Derry Healthy Cities Project' were transferred to the company.

The company is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

During the year, the charity carried out a number of activities and projects in the furtherance of its objectives:

1. DHC continued to lead Derry City and Strabane's designation to the World Health Organisation's European Healthy Cities Network.
2. DHC's CLEAR Project administered small grants on behalf of the PHA to build health and wellbeing capacity within small community organisations, in support of the NI Mental Health Strategy and the NI Suicide Prevention Strategy 'Protect Life'. The Clear project also delivered training to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing and prevent suicide. Through this project DHC also continued to oversee the PHA's quality standards for the delivery of services in this field.
3. Through DHC's Health@WorkNI 'Work Well, Live Well' programme we delivered support, training and awareness raising to improve health and well being in workplaces, adhering to the World Health Organisation's Workplace Health Model.
4. DHC initiated the 'Team Health' Social Enterprise providing a range of simple diagnostic health checks for a wide range of workplaces.
5. DHC continued to facilitate the Families Voices Forum through our regional Bereaved by Suicide project, which enabled family members bereaved by suicide to contribute effectively to discussion and decision making in relation to suicide prevention.
6. DHC continued to co-ordinate and administer Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme (NHIP) grants on behalf of the PHA to six Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships.
7. DHC worked in partnership with the NW Community Network and Ulster University the UK wide 'Ideas Fund' to support a range of mental health and wellbeing projects in local communities.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED **(A company limited by guarantee)**

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance (including principal risks and uncertainties, development and performance and key performance indicators)

Strategic Developments

Transformation - Staffing and Systems

The year 2022-23 was one of transformation for DHC with the departure of our highly respected Chief Executive, Erin McFeely at the end of September 2022. Erin presided over DHC for 4 years, working to build and consolidate relationships with funders and partners across the community, voluntary and private sectors. She brought to DHC her own innovative and highly participative style of management and was very successful in raising the profile and impact of the organisation within the North West. Edel O'Doherty commenced the role of CE in early November 2022, after an extensive career working as a senior manager within health and social care and a primary focus on health improvement and community development.

In addition, the Clear Team moved from Strabane to the new Ebrington Offices, which consolidated the team in one location.

DHC invested heavily in a new Grant Management System (Salesforce) during the year in support of the administration of the PHA's Small Grants programme.

DHC have worked intensively during the Spring to enhance our ICT cyber-security to reduce the risk of cyber-crime.

DHC conducted a HR restructuring of the Clear Project team in January 2023 culminating in the appointment of a Deputy Project Manager, a Project Coordinator, and a full-time Administrative Assistant. In March 2023, in alignment with the Bereaved by Suicide Contract, DHC recruited an Information and Communications Officer.

30th Anniversary Celebrations

There were many causes for celebration during the year and the Autumn period featured a number highly successful events which included:

As part of the Derry and Strabane Healthy City and District initiative, DHC held a very successful joint conference with Ulster University Centering health. Building for better outcomes' on the 30th of September. The event celebrated Derry City & Strabane becoming a designated WHO Healthy City for the third time and brought together an inspiring array of speakers to explore how the council, community and enterprise can put healthy lives at the core of decision making across the sectors.

The DHC's Clear Forum hosted a major event 'Turning ambition into reality: Focusing on early intervention and prevention within mental health in the Western Area'. The conference was presented by journalist and mental health advocate Lynda Bryans and focused on early intervention and looking beyond crisis response. The event brought together statutory and community voices to seek opportunities to join the dots between mental health community and statutory provision of services.

DHC celebrated its 30th anniversary by hosting a gathering of invited guests, including current and former Board members and staff and a wide range of supporters of DHC over the years. This very successful event provided an opportunity to reflect on the growth, development and impact of DHC since its inception.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic Objectives

Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) continued to work in line with the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan for 2019-2022, reflecting its charitable objects and to further the aims of providing public benefit.

The strategic objectives for 2020-2023 were to provide:

1. Leadership and Influence
We are a valued agency that identifies and articulates the health and well being needs of our communities.
2. Capacity building and Training
We deliver capacity building and training opportunities, empowering people and communities to make positive choices about health and wellbeing.
3. Health Innovation
We are a catalyst for the development and delivery of evidence based, community led, health and wellbeing initiatives.

During 2022/23 Developing Healthy Communities continued to support people and communities including listening and responding to the changing needs of people during the year. We identified and articulated these needs, and brought leaders in health, community, business, and academia together to highlight both challenges and opportunities to tackle issues associated with entrenched health inequalities. Through our charitable activities, we delivered health and wellbeing programmes, provided training, support and advocacy for the promotion of health and wellbeing and the furtherance of the WHO Healthy Cities agenda in Derry and Strabane.

DHC continued to administer short term funding on behalf of the PHA and support community and voluntary sector organisations to make necessary adaptations to successfully deliver on funded projects.

The organisation continued to invest in our relationships with key funders including the PHA, DCSDC, the Ideas Fund, The Community Fund and the Rank Foundation and a number of new partnerships in order to increase its impact and sustainability. Most notably, DHC was successful in its joint application with the North West Community Network, to the British Science Association to act as the local Development Co-ordinator for delivery of the 'Ideas Fund' in Derry and Strabane.

Key Performance Indicators

Through our principal funder, the Public Health Agency, DHC has continued to deliver a range of strategic and inter agency initiatives which support the achievement of our charitable objectives which are to:

- (a) Promote a more positive and inclusive attitude to health from policy and planning by initiating and encouraging inter-agency and inter-sector working and supporting and developing practical initiatives;
- (b) Advance education relating to benefits of good health and to the implications of poor health through the provision of advice, information, guidance, support and training;
- (c) Promote and encourage public participation in healthy exercise and physical activity;
- (d) Promote, develop and support those organisations offering health care services and support in the area of benefit.

The main achievements of the charity during the year were as follows:

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Support for Community and Voluntary Sectors

- In 2022/23 DHC's CLEAR Project administered over £1.6 million worth of small grants between £500 and £13,426 to community and voluntary organisations across Northern Ireland, on behalf of the Public Health Agency. This supported 364 projects which delivered a range of activities linked to supporting emotional health and wellbeing, to over 31,000 individuals.
- 10,000 participants completed pre and post questionnaires and 89% reported a positive change to their health and wellbeing.
- We also held a Clear Forum event themed 'Turning ambition into reality: Focusing on early intervention and prevention within mental health in the Western Area' which was attended by 46 participants.
- The CLEAR Project continued to work closely with Sports Clubs, this year supporting 23 groups. Over £7,000 being distributed for purchasing of sports equipment. A total of 58 sports club members attended SafeTALK and 15 attended either Sports NI Mental Health Awareness or Zero Suicide online training.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training

- Through DHC's CLEAR Project, the organisation delivered training opportunities related to mental health, emotional well being and suicide prevention, principally to people working in community and voluntary sector organisations.
- 401 participants accessed training from a range of 32 courses.
- Courses included; SafeTALK, ASIST, Mental Health First Aid, Self Care, Hope Matters, Motivational Interviewing, Impact of Alcohol on Self Harm and Crisis Intervention, Impact of Alcohol on Self-Harm and the Family, Self-Harm and Autism and Anger Management.
- Evaluation evidenced outcomes which included increased skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence in the range of issues covered.
- Feedback from participants included;
"Really good training course which made me feel more confident in dealing with suicide."
"This course is unreal and I am happy to be part of it."

Quality Standards

- Through the CLEAR Project, DHC continued to provide a vital leadership role in overseeing the PHA's quality and governance standards for community and voluntary sector organisations.
- The Standards online portal was used for the first time for the independent assessment against the Standards.
- Five organisations underwent independent assessment and 227 organisations registered for self-assessment.
- The 13-minute standards awareness raising video was viewed over 140 times.
- Held 2 Referral Procedures workshops with 19 participants from 19 different organisations.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED **(A company limited by guarantee)**

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Support for Workplaces

"Health@Work NI" continued to target workplaces where health inequalities are likely to be most prevalent, including those with a high proportion of; low paid, manual, male, sedentary and migrant workers.

- In 2022/23, through DHC's "Work Well Live Well" Programme (funded by the Public Health Agency), 40 new workplaces were signed up to our Workplace Health Support Service, accessing information, and support to develop a healthier workplace.
- 30 new Workplace Health Champions were trained online through the Work Well Live Well Programme.
- 15 organisations were supported to complete workplace health and wellbeing surveys. These 15 organisations accessed intensive consultancy and mentoring support to develop and complete health and wellbeing action plans based on the findings of their survey.
- 28 employees completed Mental Health First Aid Training online.
- Health@WorkNI also delivered network learning events including Financial Wellbeing, Burn Out and Fatigue and Stress Management Standards. We continue to mentor the champions to deliver on wellbeing plans.
- Health@Work NI works in partnership with WHSCT, AWARE, Recovery Colleges, HSENI and many others to deliver and promote training, health promotion initiatives and campaigns to workplaces at all levels of the programme.
- An Annual Celebration event took place to recognize and reward those workplaces that have completed all levels of the programme and that have shown commitment to wellbeing at work.

Team Health

Additionally, DHC's Team Health social enterprise delivers interventions to promote employee well-being within workplaces. This initiative seeks to generate income to support sustainability and extension of workplace health programmes in the wider community. As 2022-2023 was the first year of this initiative, and after investment in equipment and payment of nursing staff, £3,589 income was generated.

- Since February 2022, a total of 300 workers have participated in Health Checks across 25 workplaces in the Western Trust region. These interventions are in line with the World Health Organisation's focus on workplace 'settings' to improve health by providing workers with personalised information on their health status ie cholesterol, blood pressure, etc and advising them on proactive steps to take to improve their health and wellbeing.
- Team Health have invested significant time into branding, promotion and networking to build awareness of the programme and secure further contracts. Pilot programmes and workshops were held to consult with workplaces the Team Health webpage.

WHO European Healthy Cities Network

- DHC has continued to work with local partners including Derry City and Strabane District Council, the PHA and the Western Health and Social Care Trust to promote the Healthy Cities Phase VII Framework and themes of; People, Place, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Participation.
- DHC has continued to represent Derry and Strabane at regional, national and international Healthy Cities Forums, including at the European Healthy Cities Annual Business and Technical Conference where we secured a place on the agenda for a presentation by ARC Fitness's. DHC has established Derry City & Strabane as a founding member of the network's working group on alcohol.
- DHC has worked to establish or partner on the delivery of programmes under the six themes and priorities identified by the cross-sector healthy cities leadership group, notably partnering with DCSDC and the Community Foundation on the development of a healthy and sustainable cooking programme for the Acorn Farm project.
- DHC has grown a healthy cities digital community achieving 300% growth in its email list and supporting key PHA and WHO campaigns across email and social media.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Health Leadership

- DHC continued to participate in a range of civic, strategic and policy making forums to promote inclusive and equitable approaches to health.
- This includes taking part in the DCSDC Strategic Growth Partnership meetings and facilitated a Consultation Coffee event in April 2022 including 33 participants in support of the work of the Partnership.
- DHC inputs into the Protect Life Strategy's Implementation Group. As part of this work a consultation event on the Department of Health's Postvention Support for Families Bereaved By Suicide was hosted in March 2023 (13 attendees).
- DHC links closely with the DCSDC Mayor and local politicians to ensure that health and wellbeing are profiled within the City Council Area.
- DHC's social media channels are used extensively to highlight relevant topic areas in health. Regular mailouts to our Health Communities list have featured content on topics ranging from Air Quality in Schools to Female Participation in Sport, to name but a few.

Family Voices Forum (FVF)

- DHC Family Voices Forum project launched their Manifesto 'Turning Grief into Hope' in January 2023. The highly successful event was held in Belfast City Hall and attended by the NI Mental Health Champion, Prof Siobhan O'Neill, Prof Rory O'Connor (Health Psychology/Suicide Behavioural Research Lab) and the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael McBride, as well as families bereaved by suicide. The purpose of the Manifesto is to ensure that the voices of people bereaved by suicide are heard in policy and decision making forums.
- Six new members have joined the FVF with the total number of members now reaching 71.
- Family members held 11 meetings during 2022-23 and 14 one-to-one sessions were held in support of individual members to build their confidence and skills to contribute to the group.
- Four Consultation workstreams were facilitated with the FVF on a range of themes to inform the development of the Manifesto and nine panel and conference engagements were held to plan and prepare for the Manifesto Launch.
- The Family Voices Forum has participated in each of the Trusts as a Protect Life Implementation Groups.
- Families Voices Forum regularly engaged with the Chief Medical Officer and the Mental Health Champion for NI on the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and emotional well being of people and communities.

The Ideas Fund

- The Ideas Fund' was launched in January 2021. Since then Developing Healthy Communities have continued in their role as local Development Coordinator, in partnership with the Northwest Community Network. Sixteen community-researcher partnerships were funded over two rounds, including some extension grants to allow projects to expand or share and embed learning, over £1m has been awarded in Derry and Strabane from 2021-2023. Developing Health Communities, Northwest Community Network and Ulster University secured £90k in March 2023 to run a pilot that will seek to address systemic challenges faced by community groups and researchers, taking a more strategic approach to creating systems which support community partners and university-based researchers' collaboration more effectively.

Benefits to the end users and wider society

- The directors are satisfied that the performance of the company during the year as detailed in the foregoing paragraphs, in terms of both financial and operational results, is in line with the charity's constitution and key objectives.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Financial review (including reserves policy)

The net income for the year was £59,523 (31 March 2022 - net income £47,375). The net income for the year will be added to the funds brought forward. Total funds and reserves at the end of the financial year were £402,928.

The charity aims to ensure that liquid funds held at any point in time are sufficient to cover expenditure equivalent to 6 months core running costs and all winding up liabilities.

At the year-end date, the charity held cash at bank (on current or short-term deposit accounts) of £864,769. Total expenditure for the year was £2,413,640 (excluding depreciation). Expenditure included ring fenced funds of £1,677,627 which were distributed in small grants. The charity, therefore, has adequate funds in line with its reserves policy. The directors are satisfied with this outcome and will continue to prudently review the level of reserves held by the charity in line with current levels of funding and operating costs.

Plans for future periods

In the forthcoming financial year the directors will continue to govern the company in line with the constitution in order to achieve the objectives noted above. In particular the directors will focus on diversifying income sources to support the long term sustainability of the organisation. They plan to complete the designation process to achieve WHO European Healthy City status for Derry and Strabane. They plan to continue to strengthen online systems and operations to ensure the organisation is future proofed. This includes the launch of the PHA Quality Standards and Training online portal and the development of an online booking system for training and events.

Post Balance Sheet Events

The impact of COVID, the political instability in Northern Ireland combined with the cost-of-living crisis continues to create instability and uncertainty across all of the sectors within Northern Ireland with potential ramifications to the climate for funding. These societal pressures have simultaneously driven demand for health and wellbeing support within our communities.

In spite of these challenges, DHC remained financially and operationally stable during 2022-23, although it is impossible to predict the risks to longer term funding in the future.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the 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 trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees 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 accounting 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 business.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' Annual Report (including Directors' Report & Strategic Report)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees 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.

Statement of disclosure of information to auditors

We, the trustees of the charitable company, who held office at the date of approval of these financial statements, each confirm, so far as we are aware, that:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- we have taken all steps that we ought to have taken as trustees in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that McDaid McCullough Moore be reappointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption of section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

On behalf of the Board

Emma Kevitt (Chair)
Trustee

12 October 2023



Developing Healthy Communities (DHC) Limited

Northern Ireland - Charity number 105780

Annual return

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent auditor's report to the members of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and 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 2023, 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) (ISA's (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 charitable 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the presentation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

- the trustees' report (including the strategic report) has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and 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; or
- 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 trustees 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 trustees 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:

Based on our understanding of the company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to those standard to small charitable companies, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, income tax and payroll tax.

Audit procedures performed included the following:

- Inspecting correspondence with regulators and tax authorities;

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED

(A company limited by guarantee)

- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Identifying and testing journals and the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates.

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. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities as these 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DEVELOPING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (DHC) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

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.



Gerard Murray
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
McDaid McCullough Moore
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditor
28/32 Clarendon Street
Derry
BT48 7HD

12 October 2023