

County Down Rural Community Network

Northern Ireland · Charity number 106024

Details

Status Received

Company number [42835](#)

Registered 2016-11-24

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

Contact

Address Ballymote Centre For Community & Bu
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
BT30 6py
BT30 6PY

Phone 028 44612311

Email info@countydownrcn.com

Website www.countydownruralcommunitynetwork.com

Activities

Purposes: To promote the benefit of people living in the rural areas of County Down and its hinterland an in particular to support and develop the work of the community based in charitable activity which seek to relieve poverty, advance education and improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of the area of benefit

What the charity does: The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Community development, Relief of poverty, Rural development, Urban development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), Community safety/crime prevention, Men, Mental health, Older people, Parents, Specific areas of deprivation, Tenants, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,026,480	£1,024,458	£-115,319	17

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Helen Coulter		
Mr Alan Poots		
Mr Bill Megraw		
Mr David Cole Baker		
Mr Liam Devine		
Mr Nick Moore		
Mrs Deborah Boden		
Mrs Loretta Gribben		
Ms Kathy Graham		
Ms Nicola Fitzsimons		

County Down Rural Community Network

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106024

Accounts

Company registration number: NI042835

Charity registration number: 106024

County Down Rural Community Network

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

KPS Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Strategic Report	2 to 4
Trustees' Report	5 to 7
Independent Auditors' Report	8 to 11
Statement of Financial Activities	12
Balance Sheet	13
Statement of Cash Flows	14
Notes to the Financial Statements	15 to 24

County Down Rural Community Network

Reference and Administrative Details

Secretary	Nicholas McCrickard
Charity Registration Number	106024
Company Registration Number	NI042835
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland. Office Unit 2 Ballymote Centre 40 Killough Road Downpatrick Co Down BT30 6PY
Auditor	KPS Chartered Accountants Chartered Tax Advisers Registered Auditors 35 Irish Street Downpatrick Co. Down BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2025, in compliance with s414C of the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102), in preparing their annual report and financial statements.

2025 marks a significant milestone for County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN) as we celebrate 30 years of service to rural communities.

Formed in 1995 by five local community groups, our organisation has grown into a trusted and influential voice for rural life - now representing and supporting over 400 voluntary and community organisations across County Down, Ards and North Down, and beyond.

Over three decades, CDRCN has helped rural communities to thrive through practical support, advocacy, and partnerships that empower local people to improve health, wellbeing, and opportunity.

This report reflects both our strategic achievements and trustee oversight during the financial year April 2024 - March 2025, marking a year of continued impact, renewal, and resilience.

Our Mission and Purpose

CDRCN exists to promote the wellbeing and sustainability of rural communities. Our charitable objectives are to:

- Advance education, health, and community development for the benefit of rural inhabitants.
- Support voluntary and community organisations through information, training, and capacity building.
- Encourage participation, partnership, and innovation in rural development.

People at the Heart of Our Work

In 2024-2025, our reach and engagement continued to expand:

- 406 member organisations directly supported
- 12 voluntary directors providing strategic leadership
- 16 staff delivering on-the-ground services
- 2 council areas served - Newry, Mourne & Down and Ards and North Down
- From the original five founding groups to today's 406 members, our journey reflects the strength of collective effort and the enduring value of community spirit in rural County Down.

How We Make a Difference

Our approach combines partnership, empowerment, and measurable outcomes:

- 27 training courses delivered, reaching 532 participants
- 60 events held, attracting 5,500 attendees
- 120 agencies worked in partnership
- £900,000 in grant aid secured for 55 voluntary organisations
- 12 e-zines and 260 social media posts keeping communities informed
- 300+ Micro Grants distributed, averaging £1,400 each - with 20% of recipients being first-time applicants, showing that we continue to engage new and emerging groups.

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and Performance 2024-2025

1. Rural Community Development Support (DAERA)

Our Rural Development Team continued to deliver the Rural Community Development Support Service funded by DAERA, working across rural North Down, the Ards Peninsula, South and East Down, and South Armagh. Over 300 micro grants were managed, totalling more than £400,000 in support for small organisations. CDRCN also contributed to strategic discussions at Stormont to ensure rural needs are represented in any new joint DAERA/DfC funding model expected from 2026.

2. Health and Community Development Programme (PHA)

Funded by the Public Health Agency (PHA), our Health Team continued to support hundreds of small community groups promoting physical activity, mental wellbeing, and social connection. With funding secured until March 2027, this programme remains central to our mission - empowering people to take control of their own health outcomes and reducing rural isolation.

3. Neighbourhood Renewal (Downpatrick)

Now entering its twentieth and likely final phase, this 20 year initiative continues to transform seven estates in Downpatrick. CDRCN's contribution - £20,000 in training, events, and direct community investment - has strengthened local capacity, including support for Downpatrick Community Allotments, enhancing food security and wellbeing.

4. Social Supermarket Programme

In partnership with Clanrye Group, SERC, and local partners, we provided a wrap-around support service to families in crisis. This model offers food access, financial advice, and wellbeing support, helping residents move from crisis towards stability and self-reliance.

5. Asylum Seekers Fund

With support from DfC and Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, CDRCN managed the Asylum Seekers Fund, welcoming new residents and ensuring access to essentials - including food, schooling, healthcare, and community integration - especially in the Newcastle area.

6. Hardship and Cost-of-Living Support

Through NMDDC, DfC, and Ards and North Down Council, we distributed over £100,000 to families in financial hardship. This immediate relief has been critical in supporting households affected by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

7. PeacePlus and Major Projects

A defining highlight of this year was the successful €15 million PeacePlus award from SEUPB in partnership with the GAA County Board for the Ballykinlar Centre of Participation, Wellbeing and Shared Learning. CDRCN will lead community engagement and outreach, ensuring the facility serves as a shared space that connects people across traditions and backgrounds throughout County Down.

8. National Lottery Community Fund

Our Health Team secured a new £500,000 grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to support very small community groups across Ards and Down over the next three years - ensuring that even the smallest voices have access to support and growth.

9. Research and Community Insight

Our 2024 Member Survey received 160 responses, with an overwhelming majority expressing satisfaction with CDRCN's support. The survey also revealed the top two challenges facing rural communities: mental health and poverty - priorities which will shape our work in the coming years.

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Financial review

CDRCN's income for the year remained stable across multi-annual funding streams. Funds were applied wholly to charitable purposes, and reserves were maintained at responsible levels to safeguard future operations and respond to funding fluctuations.

At the end of the financial year the Charity has assets of £490,931 (2024:£429,545) and liabilities of £115,319 (2023: £55,955) The assets of the Charity have increased by £2,022.

Policy on reserves

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 4 months of annual budgeted expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2025/26 is approximately £1m and therefore the target is £333,333 of general unrestricted funds. The reserves are required to meet not only the working capital requirements of the charity enabling the charity to continue with future investments and also ensure that the charity would be able to cover the costs of winding up should the worst happen and the charity need to close.

The actual reserves at 31 March 2025 amounted to £375,612 of which unrestricted reserves totalled £342,970 which is slightly more than the target figure of £333,333 for unrestricted funds. In calculating reserves the net book value of fixed assets held (£180) have been excluded.

The Directors are aware of the events occurring within the financial year and will continue to keep under constant review. It remains the strategy of continuing to build reserves and apply resources to the charity's objectives and mission.

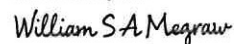
The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 5 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

D L C Baker



.....
David Lawrence Cole Baker (Treasurer)
Trustee

W S A Megraw



.....
William Samuel Alexander Megraw (Vice Chair)
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that CDRCN's activities deliver clear public benefit, in line with the Charity Commission's requirements. Our services are open to all and contribute to:

- Strengthening local voluntary groups and civic participation
- Improving health, wellbeing, and social inclusion
- Building resilience and leadership in rural communities

In 2024-2025, our work directly benefited thousands of residents and hundreds of organisations, ensuring that the impact of charitable investment reached those most in need.

Partnerships and Funders

Our work is made possible through collaboration with an extensive network of funders and partners, including:

- DAERA;
- Public Health Agency;
- CFNI - ARN Foundation;
- The National Lottery Community Fund;
- Dormant Assets NI;
- Newry Mourne and Down District Council;
- Ards and North Down Borough Council;
- PeacePlus; and
- The Healthy Living Centre Alliance.

We also thank the 120 partner agencies and hundreds of community volunteers who make our success possible every day.

Future Plans

As we look beyond our 30th anniversary, CDRCN's focus for 2025-2026 will include:

- Continuing delivery under DAERA and PHA programmes
- Launching engagement for the Ballykinlar PeacePlus shared-space project
- Expanding wellbeing initiatives and small-group support
- Supporting communities through the ongoing cost-of-living challenge
- Strengthening advocacy for rural voices at regional level

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

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

Trustees:	Nicholas John Moore
	Loretta Gribben
	Helen Margaret Coulter (Assistant Treasurer)
	Alan David Poots (Chair)
	Brian John Graham (resigned 23 October 2024)
	Robin Eldred Holliday (resigned 23 October 2024)
	Kathy Graham
	Liam Devine
	Nicola Fitzsimons
	Patrick Killen
	Deborah Boden
	David Lawrence Cole Baker (Treasurer)
	William Samuel Alexander Megraw (Vice Chair)
Secretary:	Nicholas McCrickard

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

County Down Rural Community Network is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and is also registered as a company limited by guarantee.

Organisational structure

CDRCN is governed by a Board of 11 voluntary Trustees, representing the diversity of the rural voluntary and community sector. The Board meets quarterly to review performance, finances, and governance, supported by subcommittees covering finance, programmes, and compliance.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of County Down Rural Community Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

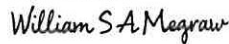
The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 5 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

D L C Baker



.....
David Lawrence Cole Baker (Treasurer)
Trustee

W S A Megraw



.....
William Samuel Alexander Megraw (Vice Chair)
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of County Down Rural Community Network (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 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 responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion on other matter 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 Strategic Report and Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report have 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 charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities (set out on page 6 and 7), the trustees 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 charity'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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.

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

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance
- the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification of the risk of irregularities
- any matters we identified have obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures; and

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any indicators of fraud. We also discussed the potential for non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a potential material misstatement in the financial statements.

Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- In response to the risk of management override of controls, identifying and testing journal entries and other adjustments, in particular any unusual account combinations and journals posted by unexpected users;
- Evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business;
- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged frauds;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates and judgements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulations. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission and misrepresentation.

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 on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees 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 charity'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 charity 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, 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 charity's trustees 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 its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

K Smyth

Kyran Smyth

.....
Kyran Smyth (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of KPS Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

5 November 2025

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	924,367	924,367
Investment income	4	3,661	-	3,661
Other income		<u>93,842</u>	<u>4,610</u>	<u>98,452</u>
Total income		<u>97,503</u>	<u>928,977</u>	<u>1,026,480</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(94,870)</u>	<u>(929,588)</u>	<u>(1,024,458)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(94,870)</u>	<u>(929,588)</u>	<u>(1,024,458)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		2,633	(611)	2,022
Transfers between funds	14	<u>7,988</u>	<u>(7,988)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		10,621	(8,599)	2,022
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>332,349</u>	<u>41,241</u>	<u>373,590</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>342,970</u></u>	<u><u>32,642</u></u>	<u><u>375,612</u></u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,124,966	1,124,966
Investment income	4	3,055	-	3,055
Other income		<u>81,367</u>	<u>1,280</u>	<u>82,647</u>
Total income		<u>84,422</u>	<u>1,126,246</u>	<u>1,210,668</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(165,321)</u>	<u>(1,194,386)</u>	<u>(1,359,707)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(165,321)</u>	<u>(1,194,386)</u>	<u>(1,359,707)</u>
Net expenditure		(80,899)	(68,140)	(149,039)
Transfers between funds		<u>37,247</u>	<u>(37,247)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(43,652)	(105,387)	(149,039)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>376,001</u>	<u>146,628</u>	<u>522,629</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>332,349</u></u>	<u><u>41,241</u></u>	<u><u>373,590</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 15 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

(Registration number: NI042835) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	180	449
Current assets			
Debtors	11	98,724	181,412
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>392,027</u>	<u>247,684</u>
		490,751	429,096
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(115,319)</u>	<u>(55,955)</u>
Net current assets		<u>375,432</u>	<u>373,141</u>
Net assets		<u>375,612</u>	<u>373,590</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted Funds		32,642	41,241
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted Funds		<u>342,970</u>	<u>332,349</u>
Total funds	14	<u>375,612</u>	<u>373,590</u>

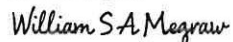
The financial statements on pages 12 to 24 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 5 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

D L C Baker



.....
David Lawrence Cole Baker (Treasurer)
Trustee

W S A Megraw



.....
William Samuel Alexander Megraw (Vice Chair)
Trustee

The notes on pages 15 to 24 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network
Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income/(expenditure)		2,022	(149,039)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		269	269
Investment income	4	<u>(3,661)</u>	<u>(3,055)</u>
		(1,370)	(151,825)
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	11	82,688	(81,914)
Increase in creditors	13	<u>59,364</u>	<u>37,209</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		140,682	(196,530)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	4	<u>3,661</u>	<u>3,055</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		144,343	(193,475)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		<u>247,684</u>	<u>441,159</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		<u><u>392,027</u></u>	<u><u>247,684</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Office Unit 2
Ballymote Centre
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6PY

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 5 November 2025.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

Statement of compliance

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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

County Down Rural Community Network meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Judgements

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical judgements made in applying these charity accounting policies or that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Income and endowments

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Plant and machinery	15% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	15% straight line

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
DAERA - Newry, Mourne & Down	168,516	168,516
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	65,059	65,059
Public Health Agency (DFC Neighbourhood Renewal)	26,250	26,250
Public Health Agency (Community Health Development)	275,299	275,299
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	51,209	51,209
Ards & North Down District Council	12,645	12,645
SEHSCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	6,200	6,200
Community Development Health Network	8,650	8,650
Community Foundation NI	59,017	59,017
Big Lottery - People & Communities	113,025	113,025
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	53,359	53,359
Health Living Centre Alliance	2,800	2,800
Confederation of Community Groups	21,666	21,666
Choice Housing Association	3,559	3,559
Clanmil Housing Association	2,000	2,000
DFC Capital Grants	25,953	25,953
The Heart Project - Better Days Pain Management	2,000	2,000
Clanrye Group	7,950	7,950
SEHSCT MDT	4,880	4,880
Other funds	14,330	14,330
	924,367	924,367
	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
DAERA - Newry, Mourne & Down	168,515	168,515
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	65,058	65,058
Public Health Agency (DFC Neighbourhood Renewal)	25,000	25,000
Public Health Agency (Community Health Development)	263,041	263,041
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	194,474	194,474
Ards & North Down District Council	10,000	10,000
DAERA - Social Prescribing	8,644	8,644
SEHSCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	2,850	2,850
Community Development Health Network	16,600	16,600
Community Foundation NI	202,259	202,259
Health Living Centre Alliance	2,000	2,000
Confederation of Community Groups	24,854	24,854
Choice Housing Association	4,000	4,000
Clanmil Housing Association	7,540	7,540
PHA - Clear Project	5,000	5,000
ANDBC Hardship Fund	19,531	19,531
DFC Capital Grants	20,903	20,903
The Heart Project - Better Days Pain Management	3,900	3,900

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Restricted funds	Total		
	£	2024		
	£	£		
Clanrye Group	17,424	17,424		
SEHSCT MDT	17,880	17,880		
Department of Foreign Affairs: Shared Island Civic Society Fund	22,542	22,542		
Other funds	22,951	22,951		
	<u>1,124,966</u>	<u>1,124,966</u>		
	<u>1,124,966</u>	<u>1,124,966</u>		
4 Investment income				
	Unrestricted funds	Total		
	General	2025		
	£	£		
Deposit account interest	3,661	3,661		
	<u>3,661</u>	<u>3,661</u>		
	<u>3,661</u>	<u>3,661</u>		
	Unrestricted funds	Total		
	General	2024		
	£	£		
Deposit account interest	3,055	3,055		
	<u>3,055</u>	<u>3,055</u>		
	<u>3,055</u>	<u>3,055</u>		
5 Expenditure on charitable activities				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	General	£	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Allocated support costs	949	93,154	94,103	88,137
Direct costs	93,921	836,434	930,355	1,271,570
	<u>94,870</u>	<u>929,588</u>	<u>1,024,458</u>	<u>1,359,707</u>
	<u>94,870</u>	<u>929,588</u>	<u>1,024,458</u>	<u>1,359,707</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

6 Analysis of support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Management	-	89,007	89,007	78,746
Finance	21	483	504	662
Other	238	-	238	269
Governance	690	3,664	4,354	8,460
	<u>949</u>	<u>93,154</u>	<u>94,103</u>	<u>88,137</u>

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year include:

	2025 £	2024 £
Audit fees	4,354	8,460
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>269</u>	<u>269</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	485,969	493,478
Social security costs	42,366	46,504
Pension costs	<u>59,332</u>	<u>55,501</u>
	<u>587,667</u>	<u>595,483</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Total number of staff	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2025 No	2024 No
£60,001 - £70,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	<u>78,034</u>	<u>1,794</u>	<u>79,828</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>78,034</u>	<u>1,794</u>	<u>79,828</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	78,034	1,345	79,379
Charge for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>269</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>78,034</u>	<u>1,614</u>	<u>79,648</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>180</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>449</u>	<u>449</u>

11 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	98,688	167,517
Accrued income	-	13,475
Other debtors	<u>36</u>	<u>420</u>
	<u>98,724</u>	<u>181,412</u>

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank	<u>392,027</u>	<u>247,684</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	19,638	48,882
Other creditors	8,996	4,073
Accruals	86,685	3,000
	115,319	55,955

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General	332,349	97,503	(94,870)	7,988	342,970
Restricted funds					
ANDBC Hardship Fund	341	-	(175)	(166)	-
Ards & North Down Borough Council	787	12,645	(12,645)	(787)	-
The Heart Project - Better Days Pain Management	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Big Lottery	-	113,025	(113,025)	-	-
Community Development Health Network	9,600	2,400	(12,609)	609	-
Community Foundation NI - Sheds for Life	-	19,996	(13,036)	-	6,960
Choice Housing Association	450	-	-	-	450
Clanmill Housing Association	3,508	2,000	(3,292)	(1,216)	1,000
Clanrye Group	-	7,950	(7,650)	-	300
Dundrum Action Plan	-	3,559	(3,559)	-	-
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	348	65,059	(61,251)	-	4,156
DAERA Micro Capital Grant Scheme	-	53,359	(53,359)	-	-
DAERA Newry, Mourne & Down	11,072	168,515	(172,915)	-	6,672
DFC Capital Grants	-	25,953	(25,953)	-	-
Healthy Living Centre Alliance	2,000	2,800	(4,800)	-	-
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	1,002	51,209	(49,023)	(2,028)	1,160
Public Health Agency (Community Health Development)	-	275,299	(275,208)	-	91
SEHSCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	(132)	11,080	(4,317)	(500)	6,131

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
National Lottery Community Fund	-	21,666	(21,666)	-	-
Other funds	9,543	18,940	(23,583)	(3,900)	1,000
Public Health Agency (DFC Neighbourhood Renewal)	2,722	26,250	(26,250)	-	2,722
Community Foundation NI - The Mental Health Fund	-	39,022	(39,022)	-	-
Community Development Health Network - Elevate Programme	-	6,250	(6,250)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>41,241</u>	<u>928,977</u>	<u>(929,588)</u>	<u>(7,988)</u>	<u>32,642</u>
Total funds	<u>373,590</u>	<u>1,026,480</u>	<u>(1,024,458)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>375,612</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	180	-	180
Current assets	345,790	144,961	490,751
Current liabilities	(3,000)	(112,319)	(115,319)
Total net assets	<u>342,970</u>	<u>32,642</u>	<u>375,612</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	449	-	449
Current assets	334,900	94,196	429,096
Current liabilities	(3,000)	(52,955)	(55,955)
Total net assets	<u>332,349</u>	<u>41,241</u>	<u>373,590</u>

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	247,684	144,343	392,027
Net debt	<u>247,684</u>	<u>144,343</u>	<u>392,027</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	At 1 April 2023	Financing cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	441,159	(193,474)	247,685
Net debt	<u>441,159</u>	<u>(193,474)</u>	<u>247,685</u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

County Down Rural Community Network

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106024

Accounts

Company registration number: NI042835

Charity registration number: 106024

County Down Rural Community Network

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

KPS Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Strategic Report	2 to 3
Trustees' Report	4 to 6
Independent Auditors' Report	7 to 10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 23

County Down Rural Community Network

Reference and Administrative Details

Secretary	Nicholas McCrickard
Charity Registration Number	106024
Company Registration Number	NI042835
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland. Office Unit 2 Ballymote Centre 40 Killough Road Downpatrick Co Down BT30 6PY
Auditor	KPS Chartered Accountants Chartered Tax Advisers Registered Auditors 35 Irish Street Downpatrick Co. Down BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024, in compliance with s414C of the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102), in preparing their annual report and financial statements.

Achievements and performance

The trustees of County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN) are pleased to report another extremely busy year across our area of benefit. Membership of the network reached an all time high with close to 400 groups choosing to join the network. This is a reflection of the dedicated work of the staff team under the guidance of our manager and board of Trustees.

As society in Northern Ireland acclimatised to the effects of BREXIT, the COVID Pandemic, collapse of Stormont and the cost of living crisis, civic society and the community and voluntary sector in general, continued to deliver a steady if cash-strapped suite of services and activities. CDRCN played its part in these efforts and distributed a variety of hardship funds to the most vulnerable local people and facilitated a series of projects to welcome and support hundreds of asylum seekers who sought refuge in our area from many troubled places around the world.

CDRCN was delighted with the return of the Stormont Executive in February 2024 and looks forward to a stabilisation of funding and clear leadership in a new Programme for Government which is expected by mid year.

Despite the extra workload and increased annual turnover, largely due to the Government funds channelled through CDRCN, the network faced its biggest annual deficit since its formation. The Trustees backed a plan to maintain as many of the staff team as possible in this leanest of years and use that capacity to invest in developing new income streams. This approach appears to be paying off as post year end, the signs are positive for a recovery plan that is reducing the deficit.

The network continued to deliver programmes of support to over 400 community groups under the generous and consistent support of DAERA and the Public Health Agency. These main funders were supplemented by service level agreements with Newry, Mourne & Down and Ards & North Down Councils and many other smaller funds and contracts. Our South East Mind Matters programme drew towards a close in this period with funds from Dept of Health via the Community Foundation for NI and over 700 people received quick access therapies and social prescribing interventions which in many cases were vital in their individual mental health journeys. Micro Grants, which had been delivered annually for 8 years were not available in this year but DAERA are taking steps to ensure these much needed small capital grants are available in 2024/2025.

The Trustees look forward to an improving financial position, but they acknowledge that the financial outlook for NI is directly affecting the fortunes of the network.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year the Charity has assets of £429,096 (2023: £540,657) and liabilities of £55,955 (2023: £18,746). The net assets of the Charity have decreased by £149,039.

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Policy on reserves

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 4 months of annual budgeted expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2024/25 is approximately £1.1m and therefore the target is £366,666 of general unrestricted funds. The reserves are required to meet not only the working capital requirements of the charity enabling the charity to continue with future investments and also ensure that the charity would be able to cover the costs of winding up should the worst happen and the charity need to close.

The actual reserves at 31 March 2024 amounted to £373,590 of which unrestricted reserves totalled £332,349 which is slightly less than the target figure of £366,666 for unrestricted funds. In calculating reserves the net book value of fixed assets held (£718) have been excluded. This met the target policy target of 4 months.

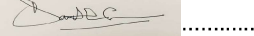
The Directors are aware of the events occurring within the financial year and will continue to keep under constant review. It remains the strategy of continuing to build reserves and apply resources to the charity's objectives and mission.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A D Poots
25/Oct/2024 14:07:19


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D L C Baker
25/Oct/2024 14:22:31


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Vision

The vision of the Charity is of confident, connected communities throughout County Down and South Armagh.

Mission

The Charity's mission is to enable and motivate people to help themselves to enhance and improve lives.

Strategic themes

To achieve our vision and mission we have focused our work under four strategic themes:

1. Empowering, connecting and strengthening communities
2. Supporting and enabling a strong community voice
3. Providing services to our members
4. Developing an adaptive and sustainable organisation

Public benefit

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose includes increased levels of community engagement; increased access to services, support, guidance, information and signposting; enhanced ability to participate in decision making on policies which affect rural life; improved governance in community organisations; improved access to funding; improved quality of life for all inhabitants through directly tackling issues that cause disadvantage and poverty within rural communities. These benefits are demonstrated through the number of community organisations seeking support to implement a wide range of community activities and services; the extent of dialogue and co-operation between different interest groups; the number of activities taking place within communities, the number of participants taking part in the activities, and regular and ongoing evaluation of programmes and activities. The purposes of our charity will not lead to any harm. The beneficiaries of the charity are the rural inhabitants living in the rural areas of County Down and its hinterland. A private benefit to trustees may arise from participating in activities. Trustees may gain skills and experience which are transferable to other settings. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

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

Trustees:	Nicholas John Moore
	Loretta Gribben
	Helen Margaret Coulter
	Alan David Poots
	Brian John Graham
	Robin Eldred Holliday
	Kathy Graham
	Liam Devine
	Nicola Fitzsimons
	Patrick Killen
	Deborah Boden
	David Lawrence Cole Baker
	William Samuel Alexander Megraw

Secretary:	Nicholas McCrickard
------------	---------------------

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

County Down Rural Community Network is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and is also registered as a company limited by guarantee.

Organisational structure

The Charity is governed by a Board of 13 Trustees who administer the Network and meet bi-monthly. Mr Nicholas McCrickard is the manager and manages the charity on a day-to-day basis.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of County Down Rural Community Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 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 charitable company will continue in business.

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor

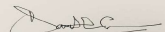
Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A D Poots
25/Oct/2024 14:07:19


.....
Alan David Poots
Trustee

D L C Baker
25/Oct/2024 14:22:31


.....
David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of County Down Rural Community Network (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity'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 responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion on other matter 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 Strategic Report and Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report have 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 charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities (set out on page 5 and 6), the trustees 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 charity'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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.

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

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance
- the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification of the risk of irregularities
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures; and

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. We also discussed the potential for non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a potential material misstatement in the financial statements.

Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation
- In response to the risk of management override of controls, identifying and testing journal entries and other adjustments, in particular any unusual account combinations and journals posted by unexpected users;
- Evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business;
- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged frauds;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates and judgements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulations. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission and misrepresentation.

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 on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees 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 charity'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 charity 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, 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 charity's trustees 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 its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

K Smyth
31/Oct/2024 08:46:17

Kyran Smyth.....

Kyran Smyth (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of KPS Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

23 October 2024

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,124,966	1,124,966
Investment income	4	3,055	-	3,055
Other income		81,367	1,280	82,647
Total income		<u>84,422</u>	<u>1,126,246</u>	<u>1,210,668</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(165,321)	(1,194,386)	(1,359,707)
Total expenditure		<u>(165,321)</u>	<u>(1,194,386)</u>	<u>(1,359,707)</u>
Net expenditure		(80,899)	(68,140)	(149,039)
Transfers between funds	14	37,247	(37,247)	-
Net movement in funds		(43,652)	(105,387)	(149,039)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>376,001</u>	<u>146,628</u>	<u>522,629</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>332,349</u>	<u>41,241</u>	<u>373,590</u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,049,861	1,049,861
Investment income	4	1,358	-	1,358
Other income		58,618	-	58,618
Total income		<u>59,976</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(88,126)	(1,052,266)	(1,140,392)
Total expenditure		<u>(88,126)</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>
Net expenditure		(28,150)	(2,405)	(30,555)
Net movement in funds		(28,150)	(2,405)	(30,555)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>404,151</u>	<u>149,033</u>	<u>553,184</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>376,001</u>	<u>146,628</u>	<u>522,629</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

(Registration number: NI042835) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

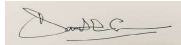
	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	449	718
Current assets			
Debtors	11	181,412	99,498
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>247,684</u>	<u>441,159</u>
		429,096	540,657
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(55,955)</u>	<u>(18,746)</u>
Net current assets		<u>373,141</u>	<u>521,911</u>
Net assets		<u>373,590</u>	<u>522,629</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted Funds		41,241	146,628
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted Funds		<u>332,349</u>	<u>376,001</u>
Total funds	14	<u>373,590</u>	<u>522,629</u>

The financial statements on pages 11 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 23 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

A D Poots
25/Oct/2024 14:07:19


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D L C Baker
25/Oct/2024 14:22:31


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash expenditure		(149,039)	(30,555)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		269	269
Investment income	4	<u>(3,055)</u>	<u>(1,358)</u>
		(151,825)	(31,644)
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	11	(81,914)	71,182
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	13	<u>37,209</u>	<u>(102,039)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		(196,530)	(62,501)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	4	<u>3,055</u>	<u>1,358</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(193,475)	(61,143)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		<u>441,159</u>	<u>502,302</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		<u><u>247,684</u></u>	<u><u>441,159</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Office Unit 2
Ballymote Centre
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6PY

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 23 October 2024.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

Statement of compliance

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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

County Down Rural Community Network meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Judgements

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical judgements made in applying these charity accounting policies or that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Income and endowments

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Plant and machinery	15% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	15% straight line

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
DAERA - Newry, Mourne & Down	168,515	168,515
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	65,058	65,058
Public Health Agency (DFC Neighbourhood Renewal)	25,000	25,000
Public Health Agency (Community Health Development)	263,041	263,041
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	194,474	194,474
Ards & North Down District Council	10,000	10,000
DAERA - Social Prescribing	8,644	8,644
SEHSCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	2,850	2,850
Community Development Health Network	16,600	16,600
Community Foundation NI	202,259	202,259
Health Living Centre Alliance	2,000	2,000
Confederation of Community Groups	24,854	24,854
Choice Housing Association	4,000	4,000
Clanmil Housing Association	7,540	7,540
PHA - Clear Project	5,000	5,000
DFC Capital Grants	20,903	20,903
ANDBC Hardship Fund	19,531	19,531
The Heart Project - Better Days Pain Management	3,900	3,900
Clanrye Group	17,424	17,424
SEHSCT MDT	17,880	17,880
Department of Foreign Affairs: Shared Island Civic Society Fund	22,542	22,542
Other funds	22,951	22,951
	1,124,966	1,124,966
	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
DAERA - Newry, Mourne & Down	168,515	168,515
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	65,059	65,059
Public Health Agency (DFC Neighbourhood Renewal)	28,999	28,999
Public Health Agency (Community Health Development)	255,789	255,789
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	137,337	137,337
Ards & North Down District Council	12,933	12,933
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	23,567	23,567
DAERA - Social Prescribing	20,383	20,383
SEHSCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	60,135	60,135
Community Development Health Network	8,400	8,400
Community Foundation NI	133,849	133,849
Big Lottery - People & Communities	86,379	86,379
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	14,424	14,424
Health Living Centre Alliance	5,500	5,500
Confederation of Community Groups	7,500	7,500
Choice Housing Association	2,000	2,000

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £		
Clanmil Housing Association	8,092	8,092		
PHA - Clear Project	4,999	4,999		
DFC Capital Grants	6,001	6,001		
	1,049,861	1,049,861		
 4 Investment income				
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £		
Deposit account interest	3,055	3,055		
	3,055	3,055		
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £		
Deposit account interest	1,358	1,358		
	1,358	1,358		
 5 Expenditure on charitable activities				
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Allocated support costs	5,365	82,772	88,137	59,222
Direct costs	159,956	1,111,614	1,271,570	1,081,170
	165,321	1,194,386	1,359,707	1,140,392

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

6 Analysis of support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Management	-	78,746	78,746	54,309
Finance	92	570	662	570
Other	269	-	269	269
Governance	5,004	3,456	8,460	4,074
	<u>5,365</u>	<u>82,772</u>	<u>88,137</u>	<u>59,222</u>

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net outgoing resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit fees	8,460	4,073
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>269</u>	<u>269</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	493,478	497,009
Social security costs	46,504	44,403
Pension costs	<u>55,501</u>	<u>54,333</u>
	<u>595,483</u>	<u>595,745</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Total number of staff	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2024 No	2023 No
£60,001 - £70,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	<u>78,034</u>	<u>1,794</u>	<u>79,828</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>78,034</u>	<u>1,794</u>	<u>79,828</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	78,034	1,076	79,110
Charge for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>269</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>78,034</u>	<u>1,345</u>	<u>79,379</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>449</u>	<u>449</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>718</u>	<u>718</u>

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	167,517	99,316
Accrued income	13,475	-
Other debtors	<u>420</u>	<u>182</u>
	<u>181,412</u>	<u>99,498</u>

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	<u>247,684</u>	<u>441,159</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	48,882	15,089
Other creditors	4,073	657
Accruals	3,000	3,000
	55,955	18,746

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General	376,001	84,422	(165,321)	37,247	332,349
Restricted funds					
ANDBC Hardship Fund	-	19,531	(19,190)	-	341
Ards & North Down Borough Council	2,699	10,000	(11,913)	-	786
The Heart Project - Better Days Pain Management	-	3,900	(3,900)	-	-
Big Lottery	2,666	-	(2,366)	(300)	-
Confederation of Community Groups	-	24,854	(24,854)	-	-
Community Development Health Network	-	16,600	(7,000)	-	9,600
Community Foundation NI	37,466	202,259	(239,725)	-	-
Choice Housing Association	-	4,000	(3,550)	-	450
Clanmill Housing Association	4,458	7,540	(8,490)	-	3,508
Clanrye Group	-	17,424	(17,424)	-	-
PHA - Clear Project	-	5,000	(4,993)	(7)	-
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	3,328	65,058	(68,038)	-	348
DAERA Newry, Mourne & Down	(1,994)	168,515	(155,449)	-	11,072
DAERA Social Prescribing	(160)	8,644	(7,857)	(627)	-
DFC Capital Grants	-	20,903	(14,934)	(5,970)	(1)
Healthy Living Centre Alliance	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
SEHSCT MDT	17,897	17,880	(8,875)	(26,902)	-
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	9,456	194,474	(195,928)	(7,000)	1,002
People & Communities	68,089	-	(67,374)	(715)	-
SEHSCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	-	2,850	(2,982)	-	(132)

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Other funds	-	23,651	(14,107)	-	9,544
Public Health Agency (DFC Neighbourhood Renewal)	2,723	25,000	(25,000)	-	2,723
Department of Foreign Affairs: Shared Island Civic Society Fund	-	23,122	(27,396)	4,274	-
Public Health Agency (Community Health Development)	-	263,041	(263,041)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>146,628</u>	<u>1,126,246</u>	<u>(1,194,386)</u>	<u>(37,247)</u>	<u>41,241</u>
Total funds	<u>522,629</u>	<u>1,210,668</u>	<u>(1,359,707)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>373,590</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	449	-	449
Current assets	334,900	94,196	429,096
Current liabilities	(3,000)	(52,955)	(55,955)
Total net assets	<u>332,349</u>	<u>41,241</u>	<u>373,590</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	718	-	718
Current assets	391,874	148,783	540,657
Current liabilities	(16,590)	(2,156)	(18,746)
Total net assets	<u>376,002</u>	<u>146,627</u>	<u>522,629</u>

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	441,159	(193,474)	247,685
Net debt	<u>441,159</u>	<u>(193,474)</u>	<u>247,685</u>
	At 1 April 2022 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	502,302	(61,143)	441,159
Net debt	<u>502,302</u>	<u>(61,143)</u>	<u>441,159</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

County Down Rural Community Network

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106024

Annual return

Company registration number: NI042835

Charity registration number: 106024

County Down Rural Community Network

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

KPS Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Strategic Report	2 to 3
Trustees' Report	4 to 6
Independent Auditors' Report	7 to 10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 23

County Down Rural Community Network

Reference and Administrative Details

Secretary	Nicholas McCrickard
Charity Registration Number	106024
Company Registration Number	NI042835
Registered Office	The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland. Office Unit 2 Ballymote Centre 40 Killough Road Downpatrick Co Down BT30 6PY
Auditor	KPS Chartered Accountants Chartered Tax Advisers Registered Auditors 35 Irish Street Downpatrick Co. Down BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2024, in compliance with s414C of the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102), in preparing their annual report and financial statements.

Achievements and performance

The trustees of County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN) are pleased to report another extremely busy year across our area of benefit. Membership of the network reached an all time high with close to 400 groups choosing to join the network. This is a reflection of the dedicated work of the staff team under the guidance of our manager and board of Trustees.

As society in Northern Ireland acclimatised to the effects of BREXIT, the COVID Pandemic, collapse of Stormont and the cost of living crisis, civic society and the community and voluntary sector in general, continued to deliver a steady if cash-strapped suite of services and activities. CDRCN played its part in these efforts and distributed a variety of hardship funds to the most vulnerable local people and facilitated a series of projects to welcome and support hundreds of asylum seekers who sought refuge in our area from many troubled places around the world.

CDRCN was delighted with the return of the Stormont Executive in February 2024 and looks forward to a stabilisation of funding and clear leadership in a new Programme for Government which is expected by mid year.

Despite the extra workload and increased annual turnover, largely due to the Government funds channelled through CDRCN, the network faced its biggest annual deficit since its formation. The Trustees backed a plan to maintain as many of the staff team as possible in this leanest of years and use that capacity to invest in developing new income streams. This approach appears to be paying off as post year end, the signs are positive for a recovery plan that is reducing the deficit.

The network continued to deliver programmes of support to over 400 community groups under the generous and consistent support of DAERA and the Public Health Agency. These main funders were supplemented by service level agreements with Newry, Mourne & Down and Ards & North Down Councils and many other smaller funds and contracts. Our South East Mind Matters programme drew towards a close in this period with funds from Dept of Health via the Community Foundation for NI and over 700 people received quick access therapies and social prescribing interventions which in many cases were vital in their individual mental health journeys. Micro Grants, which had been delivered annually for 8 years were not available in this year but DAERA are taking steps to ensure these much needed small capital grants are available in 2024/2025.

The Trustees look forward to an improving financial position, but they acknowledge that the financial outlook for NI is directly affecting the fortunes of the network.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year the Charity has assets of £429,096 (2023: £540,657) and liabilities of £55,955 (2023: £18,746). The net assets of the Charity have decreased by £149,039.

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Policy on reserves

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 4 months of annual budgeted expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2024/25 is approximately £1.1m and therefore the target is £366,666 of general unrestricted funds. The reserves are required to meet not only the working capital requirements of the charity enabling the charity to continue with future investments and also ensure that the charity would be able to cover the costs of winding up should the worst happen and the charity need to close.

The actual reserves at 31 March 2024 amounted to £373,590 of which unrestricted reserves totalled £332,349 which is slightly less than the target figure of £366,666 for unrestricted funds. In calculating reserves the net book value of fixed assets held (£718) have been excluded. This met the target policy target of 4 months.

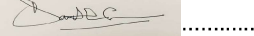
The Directors are aware of the events occurring within the financial year and will continue to keep under constant review. It remains the strategy of continuing to build reserves and apply resources to the charity's objectives and mission.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A D Poots
25/Oct/2024 14:07:19


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D L C Baker
25/Oct/2024 14:22:31


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Vision

The vision of the Charity is of confident, connected communities throughout County Down and South Armagh.

Mission

The Charity's mission is to enable and motivate people to help themselves to enhance and improve lives.

Strategic themes

To achieve our vision and mission we have focused our work under four strategic themes:

1. Empowering, connecting and strengthening communities
2. Supporting and enabling a strong community voice
3. Providing services to our members
4. Developing an adaptive and sustainable organisation

Public benefit

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose includes increased levels of community engagement; increased access to services, support, guidance, information and signposting; enhanced ability to participate in decision making on policies which affect rural life; improved governance in community organisations; improved access to funding; improved quality of life for all inhabitants through directly tackling issues that cause disadvantage and poverty within rural communities. These benefits are demonstrated through the number of community organisations seeking support to implement a wide range of community activities and services; the extent of dialogue and co-operation between different interest groups; the number of activities taking place within communities, the number of participants taking part in the activities, and regular and ongoing evaluation of programmes and activities. The purposes of our charity will not lead to any harm. The beneficiaries of the charity are the rural inhabitants living in the rural areas of County Down and its hinterland. A private benefit to trustees may arise from participating in activities. Trustees may gain skills and experience which are transferable to other settings. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

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

Trustees:	Nicholas John Moore
	Loretta Gribben
	Helen Margaret Coulter
	Alan David Poots
	Brian John Graham
	Robin Eldred Holliday
	Kathy Graham
	Liam Devine
	Nicola Fitzsimons
	Patrick Killen
	Deborah Boden
	David Lawrence Cole Baker
	William Samuel Alexander Megraw

Secretary:	Nicholas McCrickard
------------	---------------------

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

County Down Rural Community Network is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and is also registered as a company limited by guarantee.

Organisational structure

The Charity is governed by a Board of 13 Trustees who administer the Network and meet bi-monthly. Mr Nicholas McCrickard is the manager and manages the charity on a day-to-day basis.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of County Down Rural Community Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 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 charitable company will continue in business.

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor

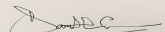
Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A D Poots
25/Oct/2024 14:07:19


.....
Alan David Poots
Trustee

D L C Baker
25/Oct/2024 14:22:31


.....
David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of County Down Rural Community Network (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity'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 responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion on other matter 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 Strategic Report and Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report have 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 charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities (set out on page 5 and 6), the trustees 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 charity'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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.

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

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance
- the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification of the risk of irregularities
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures; and

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. We also discussed the potential for non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a potential material misstatement in the financial statements.

Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation
- In response to the risk of management override of controls, identifying and testing journal entries and other adjustments, in particular any unusual account combinations and journals posted by unexpected users;
- Evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business;
- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged frauds;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates and judgements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulations. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission and misrepresentation.

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 on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees 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 charity'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 charity 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, 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 charity's trustees 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 its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

K Smyth
31/Oct/2024 08:46:17

Kyran Smyth.....

Kyran Smyth (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of KPS Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

23 October 2024

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,124,966	1,124,966
Investment income	4	3,055	-	3,055
Other income		81,367	1,280	82,647
Total income		<u>84,422</u>	<u>1,126,246</u>	<u>1,210,668</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(165,321)	(1,194,386)	(1,359,707)
Total expenditure		<u>(165,321)</u>	<u>(1,194,386)</u>	<u>(1,359,707)</u>
Net expenditure		(80,899)	(68,140)	(149,039)
Transfers between funds	14	37,247	(37,247)	-
Net movement in funds		(43,652)	(105,387)	(149,039)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>376,001</u>	<u>146,628</u>	<u>522,629</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>332,349</u>	<u>41,241</u>	<u>373,590</u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,049,861	1,049,861
Investment income	4	1,358	-	1,358
Other income		58,618	-	58,618
Total income		<u>59,976</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(88,126)	(1,052,266)	(1,140,392)
Total expenditure		<u>(88,126)</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>
Net expenditure		(28,150)	(2,405)	(30,555)
Net movement in funds		(28,150)	(2,405)	(30,555)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>404,151</u>	<u>149,033</u>	<u>553,184</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>376,001</u>	<u>146,628</u>	<u>522,629</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

(Registration number: NI042835) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

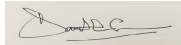
	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	449	718
Current assets			
Debtors	11	181,412	99,498
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>247,684</u>	<u>441,159</u>
		429,096	540,657
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(55,955)</u>	<u>(18,746)</u>
Net current assets		<u>373,141</u>	<u>521,911</u>
Net assets		<u>373,590</u>	<u>522,629</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted Funds		41,241	146,628
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted Funds		<u>332,349</u>	<u>376,001</u>
Total funds	14	<u>373,590</u>	<u>522,629</u>

The financial statements on pages 11 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 23 October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

A D Poots
25/Oct/2024 14:07:19


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D L C Baker
25/Oct/2024 14:22:31


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash expenditure		(149,039)	(30,555)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		269	269
Investment income	4	<u>(3,055)</u>	<u>(1,358)</u>
		(151,825)	(31,644)
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	11	(81,914)	71,182
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	13	<u>37,209</u>	<u>(102,039)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		(196,530)	(62,501)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	4	<u>3,055</u>	<u>1,358</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(193,475)	(61,143)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		<u>441,159</u>	<u>502,302</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		<u><u>247,684</u></u>	<u><u>441,159</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Office Unit 2
Ballymote Centre
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6PY

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 23 October 2024.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

Statement of compliance

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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

County Down Rural Community Network meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Judgements

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical judgements made in applying these charity accounting policies or that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Income and endowments

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Plant and machinery	15% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	15% straight line

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
DAERA - Newry, Mourne & Down	168,515	168,515
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	65,058	65,058
Public Health Agency (DFC Neighbourhood Renewal)	25,000	25,000
Public Health Agency (Community Health Development)	263,041	263,041
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	194,474	194,474
Ards & North Down District Council	10,000	10,000
DAERA - Social Prescribing	8,644	8,644
SEHSCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	2,850	2,850
Community Development Health Network	16,600	16,600
Community Foundation NI	202,259	202,259
Health Living Centre Alliance	2,000	2,000
Confederation of Community Groups	24,854	24,854
Choice Housing Association	4,000	4,000
Clanmil Housing Association	7,540	7,540
PHA - Clear Project	5,000	5,000
DFC Capital Grants	20,903	20,903
ANDBC Hardship Fund	19,531	19,531
The Heart Project - Better Days Pain Management	3,900	3,900
Clanrye Group	17,424	17,424
SEHSCT MDT	17,880	17,880
Department of Foreign Affairs: Shared Island Civic Society Fund	22,542	22,542
Other funds	22,951	22,951
	1,124,966	1,124,966
	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
DAERA - Newry, Mourne & Down	168,515	168,515
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	65,059	65,059
Public Health Agency (DFC Neighbourhood Renewal)	28,999	28,999
Public Health Agency (Community Health Development)	255,789	255,789
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	137,337	137,337
Ards & North Down District Council	12,933	12,933
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	23,567	23,567
DAERA - Social Prescribing	20,383	20,383
SEHSCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	60,135	60,135
Community Development Health Network	8,400	8,400
Community Foundation NI	133,849	133,849
Big Lottery - People & Communities	86,379	86,379
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	14,424	14,424
Health Living Centre Alliance	5,500	5,500
Confederation of Community Groups	7,500	7,500
Choice Housing Association	2,000	2,000

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £		
Clanmil Housing Association	8,092	8,092		
PHA - Clear Project	4,999	4,999		
DFC Capital Grants	6,001	6,001		
	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>		
4 Investment income				
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £		
Deposit account interest	3,055	3,055		
	<u>3,055</u>	<u>3,055</u>		
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £		
Deposit account interest	1,358	1,358		
	<u>1,358</u>	<u>1,358</u>		
5 Expenditure on charitable activities				
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Allocated support costs	5,365	82,772	88,137	59,222
Direct costs	159,956	1,111,614	1,271,570	1,081,170
	<u>165,321</u>	<u>1,194,386</u>	<u>1,359,707</u>	<u>1,140,392</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

6 Analysis of support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Management	-	78,746	78,746	54,309
Finance	92	570	662	570
Other	269	-	269	269
Governance	5,004	3,456	8,460	4,074
	<u>5,365</u>	<u>82,772</u>	<u>88,137</u>	<u>59,222</u>

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net outgoing resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit fees	8,460	4,073
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>269</u>	<u>269</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	493,478	497,009
Social security costs	46,504	44,403
Pension costs	<u>55,501</u>	<u>54,333</u>
	<u>595,483</u>	<u>595,745</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Total number of staff	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2024 No	2023 No
£60,001 - £70,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	<u>78,034</u>	<u>1,794</u>	<u>79,828</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>78,034</u>	<u>1,794</u>	<u>79,828</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	78,034	1,076	79,110
Charge for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>269</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>78,034</u>	<u>1,345</u>	<u>79,379</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>449</u>	<u>449</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>718</u>	<u>718</u>

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	167,517	99,316
Accrued income	13,475	-
Other debtors	<u>420</u>	<u>182</u>
	<u>181,412</u>	<u>99,498</u>

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	<u>247,684</u>	<u>441,159</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	48,882	15,089
Other creditors	4,073	657
Accruals	3,000	3,000
	55,955	18,746

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General	376,001	84,422	(165,321)	37,247	332,349
Restricted funds					
ANDBC Hardship Fund	-	19,531	(19,190)	-	341
Ards & North Down Borough Council	2,699	10,000	(11,913)	-	786
The Heart Project - Better Days Pain Management	-	3,900	(3,900)	-	-
Big Lottery	2,666	-	(2,366)	(300)	-
Confederation of Community Groups	-	24,854	(24,854)	-	-
Community Development Health Network	-	16,600	(7,000)	-	9,600
Community Foundation NI	37,466	202,259	(239,725)	-	-
Choice Housing Association	-	4,000	(3,550)	-	450
Clanmill Housing Association	4,458	7,540	(8,490)	-	3,508
Clanrye Group	-	17,424	(17,424)	-	-
PHA - Clear Project	-	5,000	(4,993)	(7)	-
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	3,328	65,058	(68,038)	-	348
DAERA Newry, Mourne & Down	(1,994)	168,515	(155,449)	-	11,072
DAERA Social Prescribing	(160)	8,644	(7,857)	(627)	-
DFC Capital Grants	-	20,903	(14,934)	(5,970)	(1)
Healthy Living Centre Alliance	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
SEHSCT MDT	17,897	17,880	(8,875)	(26,902)	-
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	9,456	194,474	(195,928)	(7,000)	1,002
People & Communities	68,089	-	(67,374)	(715)	-
SEHSCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	-	2,850	(2,982)	-	(132)

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Other funds	-	23,651	(14,107)	-	9,544
Public Health Agency (DFC Neighbourhood Renewal)	2,723	25,000	(25,000)	-	2,723
Department of Foreign Affairs: Shared Island Civic Society Fund	-	23,122	(27,396)	4,274	-
Public Health Agency (Community Health Development)	-	263,041	(263,041)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>146,628</u>	<u>1,126,246</u>	<u>(1,194,386)</u>	<u>(37,247)</u>	<u>41,241</u>
Total funds	<u>522,629</u>	<u>1,210,668</u>	<u>(1,359,707)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>373,590</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	449	-	449
Current assets	334,900	94,196	429,096
Current liabilities	(3,000)	(52,955)	(55,955)
Total net assets	<u>332,349</u>	<u>41,241</u>	<u>373,590</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	718	-	718
Current assets	391,874	148,783	540,657
Current liabilities	(16,590)	(2,156)	(18,746)
Total net assets	<u>376,002</u>	<u>146,627</u>	<u>522,629</u>

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	441,159	(193,474)	247,685
Net debt	<u>441,159</u>	<u>(193,474)</u>	<u>247,685</u>
	At 1 April 2022 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	502,302	(61,143)	441,159
Net debt	<u>502,302</u>	<u>(61,143)</u>	<u>441,159</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

County Down Rural Community Network

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106024

Accounts

Company registration number: NI042835

Charity registration number: 106024

County Down Rural Community Network

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

KPS Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Strategic Report	2 to 3
Trustees' Report	4 to 6
Independent Auditors' Report	7 to 10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 23

County Down Rural Community Network

Reference and Administrative Details

Secretary Nicholas McCrickard

Charity Registration Number 106024

Company Registration Number NI042835

Registered Office The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland.

Office Unit 2
Ballymote Centre
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6PY

Auditor KPS Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023, in compliance with s414C of the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102), in preparing their annual report and financial statements.

Achievements and performance

The Community Network sought and secured additional funds within the year over and above their main income streams and applied these funds to projects and initiatives addressing the needs of the community across County Down and South Armagh. These initiatives were aimed at tackling many issues from social isolation to physical and mental health and well-being and the "Cost of Living Crisis".

The period under review reflects the uncertainty in local communities that followed the lock downs and upsets of the years 2020 and 2021 and the subsequent increase in interest rates and cost of living. The charity was at the centre of many schemes to protect the most vulnerable people in our community. Through its relationships with Councils and other partners, the Network helped to distribute food, fuel, vouchers and financial aid at various times.

The Network has become more embedded than ever in emergency and community planning and in influencing government policy at a time when the lack of an Executive at Stormont has damaged social policy and planning at a strategic level. Network staff are represented on a multitude of partnerships which help to bring the community sector together with the public and private sectors. For example, our manager is Chairman of the Newry, Mourne & Down Community Planning Partnership and Vice-Chair of the local Peaceplus Partnership and other staff are involved in many more partnerships and forums dealing with mental and physical health, economy, housing, physical infrastructure, etc.

As BREXIT and the wind down of EU Rural Development Funds caused a tightening on purse strings, the Network continued to assist local groups to seek alternative funding for rural and urban infrastructure. The charity's health and social prescribing programmes matured in this period but uncertainty in Health budgets and the slow collapse of local health services have put increasing strain on C&V sector services which were designed to try to mitigate NHS problems. This is an issue which will dominate into the future.

The network celebrated over 25 years in existence in October 2022 and a huge number of member groups reflected on the amazing growth of the organisation in that time, from just 5 groups to over 250 fully registered members. It was agreed that society is better when communities are organised and community volunteers are active everywhere. That organisation of community does not happen by accident. These Financial Statements tell part of the story of the work behind it all.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year the Charity has assets of £541,375 (2022: £673,969) and liabilities of £18,746 (2022: £120,785). The net assets of the Charity have decreased by £30,555.

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Policy on reserves


The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 4 months of annual budgeted expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2023/24 is approximately £1.1m and therefore the target is £366,666 of general unrestricted funds. The reserves are required to meet not only the working capital requirements of the charity enabling the charity to continue with future investments and also ensure that the charity would be able to cover the costs of winding up should the worst happen and the charity need to close.

The actual reserves at 31 March 2023 amounted to £521,911 of which unrestricted reserves totalled £376,001 which exceeds the target figure of £366,666 for unrestricted funds. In calculating reserves the net book value of fixed assets held (£718) have been excluded. This met the target policy target of 4 months.


The Directors are aware of the events occurring within the financial year and will continue to keep under constant review. It remains the strategy of continuing to build reserves and apply resources to the charity's objectives and mission.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A Poots
15/12/2023 18:06:44


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D Cole-Baker
15/12/2023 17:27:42


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Vision

The vision of the Charity is of confident, connected communities throughout County Down and South Armagh.

Mission

The Charity's mission is to enable and motivate people to help themselves to enhance and improve lives.

Strategic themes

To achieve our vision and mission we have focused our work under four strategic themes:

1. Empowering, connecting and strengthening communities
2. Supporting and enabling a strong community voice
3. Providing services to our members
4. Developing an adaptive and sustainable organisation

Public benefit

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose includes increased levels of community engagement; increased access to services, support, guidance, information and signposting; enhanced ability to participate in decision making on policies which affect rural life; improved governance in community organisations; improved access to funding; improved quality of life for all inhabitants through directly tackling issues that cause disadvantage and poverty within rural communities. These benefits are demonstrated through the number of community organisations seeking support to implement a wide range of community activities and services; the extent of dialogue and co-operation between different interest groups; the number of activities taking place within communities, the number of participants taking part in the activities, and regular and ongoing evaluation of programmes and activities. The purposes of our charity will not lead to any harm. The beneficiaries of the charity are the rural inhabitants living in the rural areas of County Down and its hinterland. A private benefit to trustees may arise from participating in activities. Trustees may gain skills and experience which are transferable to other settings. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

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

Trustees:

- Nicholas John Moore
- Loretta Gribben (appointed 15 February 2023)
- Helen Margaret Coulter
- Alan David Poots
- Brian John Graham
- Robin Eldred Holliday
- Kathy Graham (appointed 15 February 2023)
- Liam Devine
- Nicola Fitzsimons (appointed 15 February 2023)
- Patrick Killen
- Deborah Boden (appointed 15 February 2023)
- David Lawrence Cole Baker
- William Samuel Alexander Megraw

Secretary: Nicholas McCrickard

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

County Down Rural Community Network is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and is also registered as a company limited by guarantee.

Organisational structure

The Charity is governed by a Board of 13 Trustees who administer the Network and meet bi-monthly. Mr Nicholas McCrickard is the manager and manages the charity on a day-to-day basis.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of County Down Rural Community Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor


Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A Poots
15/12/2023 18:06:44


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D Cole-Baker
15/12/2023 17:27:42


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of County Down Rural Community Network (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity'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) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion on other matter 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 Strategic Report and Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report have 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 charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities (set out on page 5 and 6), the trustees 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 charity'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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.

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

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance;
- the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification of the risk of irregularities;

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. We also discussed the potential for non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a potential material misstatement in the financial statements.

Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- In response to the risk of management override of controls, identifying and testing journal entries and other adjustments, in particular any unusual account combinations and journals posted by unexpected users;
- Evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business;
- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged frauds;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates and judgements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

- 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 (ie. gives a true and fair view).

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, 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 charity's trustees 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 its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

K Smyth
19/12/2023 00:36:41

Kyran Smyth.....

Kyran Smyth (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of KPS Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

14 December 2023

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,049,861	1,049,861
Investment income	4	1,358	-	1,358
Other income		<u>58,618</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,618</u>
Total income		<u>59,976</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(88,126)</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(88,126)</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(28,150)</u>	<u>(2,405)</u>	<u>(30,555)</u>
Net movement in funds		(28,150)	(2,405)	(30,555)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>404,151</u>	<u>149,033</u>	<u>553,184</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>376,001</u></u>	<u><u>146,628</u></u>	<u><u>522,629</u></u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,008,308	1,008,308
Investment income	4	36	-	36
Other income		<u>56,960</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>57,330</u>
Total income		<u>56,996</u>	<u>1,008,678</u>	<u>1,065,674</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(34,400)</u>	<u>(989,291)</u>	<u>(1,023,691)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(34,400)</u>	<u>(989,291)</u>	<u>(1,023,691)</u>
Net income		<u>22,596</u>	<u>19,387</u>	<u>41,983</u>
Net movement in funds		22,596	19,387	41,983
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>381,555</u>	<u>129,646</u>	<u>511,201</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>404,151</u></u>	<u><u>149,033</u></u>	<u><u>553,184</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

(Registration number: NI042835) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	718	987
Current assets			
Debtors	11	99,498	170,680
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>441,159</u>	<u>502,302</u>
		540,657	672,982
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(18,746)</u>	<u>(120,785)</u>
Net current assets		<u>521,911</u>	<u>552,197</u>
Net assets		<u>522,629</u>	<u>553,184</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted Funds		146,628	149,033
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted Funds		<u>376,001</u>	<u>404,151</u>
Total funds	14	<u>522,629</u>	<u>553,184</u>

The financial statements on pages 11 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 14 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

A Poots
15/12/2023 18:06:44



Alan David Poots
Trustee

D Cole-Baker
15/12/2023 17:27:42



David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(30,555)	41,983
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		269	269
Investment income		(1,358)	(36)
		(31,644)	42,216
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	11	71,182	(50,669)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	13	(102,039)	93,365
		(30,857)	42,696
Net cash flows from operating activities		(62,501)	84,912
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		1,358	36
		1,358	36
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(61,143)	84,948
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		502,302	417,354
		502,302	417,354
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		441,159	502,302

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Office Unit 2
Ballymote Centre
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6PY

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 14 December 2023.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

Statement of compliance

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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

County Down Rural Community Network meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Judgements

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical judgements made in applying these charity accounting policies or that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Income and endowments

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Plant and machinery	15% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	15% straight line

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£
DAERA - NMDDC	168,515	168,515
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	65,059	65,059
PHA - Health Development	255,789	255,789
NRI	28,999	28,999
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	87,164	87,164
Ards & North Down District Council	12,933	12,933
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	23,567	23,567
DAERA - Social Prescribing	20,383	20,383
SEH SCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	60,135	60,135
CDHN - Elevate Programme	6,000	6,000
NMDDC - Action Cancer Buses	2,250	2,250
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - SLA	47,923	47,923
Community Foundation NI	133,849	133,849
Big Lottery - People & Communities	86,379	86,379
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	14,424	14,424
CDHN - Community Pharmacy Programme	2,400	2,400
Heart Project - HLCA	5,500	5,500
CCG - Crisis Fund	7,500	7,500
Choice Housing - Ballynahinch Health Fayre	2,000	2,000
Clanmil Housing Funding	3,134	3,134
Clanmil Programmes for Newcastle	4,958	4,958
Clear Project	4,999	4,999
DFC Capital Grant Marian Park	6,001	6,001
	1,049,861	1,049,861

	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£
DAERA - NMDDC	162,670	162,670
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	62,981	62,981
PHA - Health Development	234,548	234,548
NRI	31,980	31,980
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	64,727	64,727
Ards & North Down District Council	25,000	25,000
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	20,441	20,441
DAERA - Social Prescribing	28,392	28,392
SEH SCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	17,880	17,880
CDHN - Elevate Programme	6,000	6,000
NMDDC - Action Cancer Buses	870	870

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Resurgam Community Development Trust	3,501	3,501
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - SLA	27,800	27,800
Community Foundation NI	122,210	122,210
Big Lottery - People & Communities	34,266	34,266
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	12,202	12,202
Versus Arthritis	4,970	4,970
CDHN - Community Pharmacy Programme	9,600	9,600
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - EOI	48,270	48,270
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - Family Hardship	60,000	60,000
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - Connectivity	30,000	30,000
	<u>1,008,308</u>	<u>1,008,308</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Deposit account interest	1,358	1,358
	<u>1,358</u>	<u>1,358</u>

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Allocated support costs		12,268	92,186	104,454
Direct costs		<u>75,858</u>	<u>960,080</u>	<u>1,035,938</u>
Total for 2023	6	<u>88,126</u>	<u>1,052,266</u>	<u>1,140,392</u>
Total for 2022		<u>34,400</u>	<u>989,291</u>	<u>1,023,691</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

6 Analysis of support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Management	11,128	88,413	99,541	109,935
Finance	60	510	570	645
Other	269	-	269	269
Governance costs	811	3,263	4,074	6,268
	<u>12,268</u>	<u>92,186</u>	<u>104,454</u>	<u>117,117</u>

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2023 £	2022 £
Other non-audit services	4,073	6,268
Depreciation of fixed assets	269	269
	<u>4,342</u>	<u>6,537</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	497,009	463,024
Social security costs	44,403	41,833
Pension costs	54,333	52,725
	<u>595,745</u>	<u>557,582</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Total number of staff	18	18

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2023 No
£60,001 - £70,000	1

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	78,034	1,794	79,828
At 31 March 2023	78,034	1,794	79,828
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	78,034	807	78,841
Charge for the year	-	269	269
At 31 March 2023	78,034	1,076	79,110
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	-	718	718
At 31 March 2022	-	987	987

11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	99,316	166,458
Other debtors	182	4,222
	99,498	170,680

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash on hand	-	601
Cash at bank	441,159	501,701
	441,159	502,302

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	15,089	115,308
Other creditors	657	1,265
Accruals	3,000	4,212
	<u>18,746</u>	<u>120,785</u>

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	404,151	59,976	(88,126)	376,001
Restricted funds	<u>149,033</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>146,628</u>
Total funds	<u>553,184</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>	<u>522,629</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General				
General	404,151	59,976	(88,126)	376,001
Restricted funds				
DAERA - NMDDC	12,533	168,515	(183,042)	(1,994)
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	3,723	65,059	(65,454)	3,328
PHA - Health Development	-	255,789	(255,789)	-
NRI	(1,345)	28,999	(24,931)	2,723
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	(18,147)	87,164	(59,561)	9,456
Ards & North Down Borough Council	1,527	12,933	(11,761)	2,699
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	-	23,567	(20,901)	2,666
DAERA - Social Prescribing	-	20,383	(20,543)	(160)
SEH SCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	872	60,135	(43,110)	17,897
CDHN - Elevate Programme	-	6,000	(6,000)	-
NMDDC - Action Cancer Buses	-	2,250	(2,250)	-
Heart Project - HLCA	(1,645)	5,500	(3,855)	-
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - SLA	-	47,923	(47,923)	-
Community Foundation NI	95,793	133,849	(192,176)	37,466
Big Lottery - People & Communities	44,372	86,379	(62,662)	68,089
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	-	14,424	(14,424)	-
Versus Arthritis	1,750	-	(1,750)	-
CDHN - Community Pharmacy Programme	9,600	2,400	(12,000)	-
CCG - Crisis Fund	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
Choice Housing - Ballynahinch Health Fayre	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Clanmil Housing Funding	-	3,134	(3,134)	-
Clanmil Programmes for Newcastle	-	4,958	(500)	4,458
Clear Project	-	4,999	(4,999)	-
DFC - Capital Grant Marian Park	-	6,001	(6,001)	-
	<u>149,033</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>146,628</u>
Total funds	<u>553,184</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>	<u>522,629</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	381,555	56,996	(34,400)	404,151
Restricted funds	<u>129,646</u>	<u>1,008,678</u>	<u>(989,291)</u>	<u>149,033</u>
Total funds	<u><u>511,201</u></u>	<u><u>1,065,674</u></u>	<u><u>(1,023,691)</u></u>	<u><u>553,184</u></u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	718	-	718
Current assets	391,874	148,783	540,657
Current liabilities	<u>(16,590)</u>	<u>(2,156)</u>	<u>(18,746)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>376,002</u></u>	<u><u>146,627</u></u>	<u><u>522,629</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	987	-	987
Current assets	499,159	173,823	672,982
Current liabilities	<u>(95,994)</u>	<u>(24,791)</u>	<u>(120,785)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>404,152</u></u>	<u><u>149,032</u></u>	<u><u>553,184</u></u>

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>502,302</u>	<u>(61,143)</u>	<u>441,159</u>
Net debt	<u><u>502,302</u></u>	<u><u>(61,143)</u></u>	<u><u>441,159</u></u>
	At 1 April 2021 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>417,354</u>	<u>84,948</u>	<u>502,302</u>
Net debt	<u><u>417,354</u></u>	<u><u>84,948</u></u>	<u><u>502,302</u></u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.



This Document has been Signed with a **secure electronic signature** via E-Sign.

Envelope Details

Title County Down Rural Community Network

Author KPS (info@kpsca.co.uk)

Envelope Created on Fri, 15 Dec 2023 17:13:51

Envelope ID 11c27c37-99d5-4b09-b473-d2c0727c5c3d

Document Details

Title Annual_Report___Financial_statements_YE_31.03.23_CDRCN.pdf.pdf

Digital Fingerprint 4645e7d2-bbbd-446d-b702-8cfa17b887e0

Document Signers

Scan/Click the QR Code to view signature information

Name [Alan Poots](#)

Email pootsies4@gmail.com

Status **SIGNED** at Fri, 15 Dec 2023 18:06:44 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint f6e78242-351c-4ef2-b816-ea39f40feb6c



Name [David Cole-Baker](#)

Email colebakers@hotmail.com

Status **SIGNED** at Fri, 15 Dec 2023 17:27:42 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint 14fcd018-17e8-41cf-ae42-e297b21e902a



Name [Kyran Smyth](#)

Email ksmyth66@icloud.com

Status **SIGNED** at Tue, 19 Dec 2023 00:36:41 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint 7ba70da5-3da9-4ba8-9a53-5292ef2d5509



Name [Nicholas McCrickard](#)

Email nicholas@countydowrnrcn.com

Status **SIGNED** at Mon, 18 Dec 2023 09:51:52 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint defef620-76c1-4438-9413-ee535ceb8c5b



Document History

Tue, 19 Dec 2023 00:36:41 **Kyran Smyth** Signed the Document (IP: 2.121.214.50)

Mon, 18 Dec 2023 09:51:52 **Nicholas McCrickard** Signed the Document (IP: 86.159.94.179)

Fri, 15 Dec 2023 18:06:44 **Alan Poots** Signed the Document (IP: 51.14.255.30)

Fri, 15 Dec 2023 17:27:43 **David Cole-Baker** Signed the Document (IP: 31.111.4.202)



County Down Rural Community Network

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106024

Annual report

Company registration number: NI042835

Charity registration number: 106024

County Down Rural Community Network

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

KPS Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Strategic Report	2 to 3
Trustees' Report	4 to 6
Independent Auditors' Report	7 to 10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 23

County Down Rural Community Network

Reference and Administrative Details

Secretary Nicholas McCrickard

Charity Registration Number 106024

Company Registration Number NI042835

Registered Office The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland.

Office Unit 2
Ballymote Centre
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6PY

Auditor KPS Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023, in compliance with s414C of the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102), in preparing their annual report and financial statements.

Achievements and performance

The Community Network sought and secured additional funds within the year over and above their main income streams and applied these funds to projects and initiatives addressing the needs of the community across County Down and South Armagh. These initiatives were aimed at tackling many issues from social isolation to physical and mental health and well-being and the "Cost of Living Crisis".

The period under review reflects the uncertainty in local communities that followed the lock downs and upsets of the years 2020 and 2021 and the subsequent increase in interest rates and cost of living. The charity was at the centre of many schemes to protect the most vulnerable people in our community. Through its relationships with Councils and other partners, the Network helped to distribute food, fuel, vouchers and financial aid at various times.

The Network has become more embedded than ever in emergency and community planning and in influencing government policy at a time when the lack of an Executive at Stormont has damaged social policy and planning at a strategic level. Network staff are represented on a multitude of partnerships which help to bring the community sector together with the public and private sectors. For example, our manager is Chairman of the Newry, Mourne & Down Community Planning Partnership and Vice-Chair of the local Peaceplus Partnership and other staff are involved in many more partnerships and forums dealing with mental and physical health, economy, housing, physical infrastructure, etc.

As BREXIT and the wind down of EU Rural Development Funds caused a tightening on purse strings, the Network continued to assist local groups to seek alternative funding for rural and urban infrastructure. The charity's health and social prescribing programmes matured in this period but uncertainty in Health budgets and the slow collapse of local health services have put increasing strain on C&V sector services which were designed to try to mitigate NHS problems. This is an issue which will dominate into the future.

The network celebrated over 25 years in existence in October 2022 and a huge number of member groups reflected on the amazing growth of the organisation in that time, from just 5 groups to over 250 fully registered members. It was agreed that society is better when communities are organised and community volunteers are active everywhere. That organisation of community does not happen by accident. These Financial Statements tell part of the story of the work behind it all.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year the Charity has assets of £541,375 (2022: £673,969) and liabilities of £18,746 (2022: £120,785). The net assets of the Charity have decreased by £30,555.

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Policy on reserves


The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 4 months of annual budgeted expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2023/24 is approximately £1.1m and therefore the target is £366,666 of general unrestricted funds. The reserves are required to meet not only the working capital requirements of the charity enabling the charity to continue with future investments and also ensure that the charity would be able to cover the costs of winding up should the worst happen and the charity need to close.

The actual reserves at 31 March 2023 amounted to £521,911 of which unrestricted reserves totalled £376,001 which exceeds the target figure of £366,666 for unrestricted funds. In calculating reserves the net book value of fixed assets held (£718) have been excluded. This met the target policy target of 4 months.


The Directors are aware of the events occurring within the financial year and will continue to keep under constant review. It remains the strategy of continuing to build reserves and apply resources to the charity's objectives and mission.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A Poots
15/12/2023 18:06:44


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D Cole-Baker
15/12/2023 17:27:42


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Vision

The vision of the Charity is of confident, connected communities throughout County Down and South Armagh.

Mission

The Charity's mission is to enable and motivate people to help themselves to enhance and improve lives.

Strategic themes

To achieve our vision and mission we have focused our work under four strategic themes:

1. Empowering, connecting and strengthening communities
2. Supporting and enabling a strong community voice
3. Providing services to our members
4. Developing an adaptive and sustainable organisation

Public benefit

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose includes increased levels of community engagement; increased access to services, support, guidance, information and signposting; enhanced ability to participate in decision making on policies which affect rural life; improved governance in community organisations; improved access to funding; improved quality of life for all inhabitants through directly tackling issues that cause disadvantage and poverty within rural communities. These benefits are demonstrated through the number of community organisations seeking support to implement a wide range of community activities and services; the extent of dialogue and co-operation between different interest groups; the number of activities taking place within communities, the number of participants taking part in the activities, and regular and ongoing evaluation of programmes and activities. The purposes of our charity will not lead to any harm. The beneficiaries of the charity are the rural inhabitants living in the rural areas of County Down and its hinterland. A private benefit to trustees may arise from participating in activities. Trustees may gain skills and experience which are transferable to other settings. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

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

Trustees:

- Nicholas John Moore
- Loretta Gribben (appointed 15 February 2023)
- Helen Margaret Coulter
- Alan David Poots
- Brian John Graham
- Robin Eldred Holliday
- Kathy Graham (appointed 15 February 2023)
- Liam Devine
- Nicola Fitzsimons (appointed 15 February 2023)
- Patrick Killen
- Deborah Boden (appointed 15 February 2023)
- David Lawrence Cole Baker
- William Samuel Alexander Megraw

Secretary: Nicholas McCrickard

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

County Down Rural Community Network is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and is also registered as a company limited by guarantee.

Organisational structure

The Charity is governed by a Board of 13 Trustees who administer the Network and meet bi-monthly. Mr Nicholas McCrickard is the manager and manages the charity on a day-to-day basis.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of County Down Rural Community Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor


Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A Poots
15/12/2023 18:06:44


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D Cole-Baker
15/12/2023 17:27:42


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of County Down Rural Community Network (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity'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) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion on other matter 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 Strategic Report and Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report have 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 charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities (set out on page 5 and 6), the trustees 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 charity'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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.

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

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance;
- the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification of the risk of irregularities;

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. We also discussed the potential for non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a potential material misstatement in the financial statements.

Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- In response to the risk of management override of controls, identifying and testing journal entries and other adjustments, in particular any unusual account combinations and journals posted by unexpected users;
- Evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business;
- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged frauds;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates and judgements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

- 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 (ie. gives a true and fair view).

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, 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 charity's trustees 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 its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

K Smyth
19/12/2023 00:36:41

Kyran Smyth.....

Kyran Smyth (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of KPS Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

14 December 2023

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,049,861	1,049,861
Investment income	4	1,358	-	1,358
Other income		<u>58,618</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,618</u>
Total income		<u>59,976</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(88,126)</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(88,126)</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(28,150)</u>	<u>(2,405)</u>	<u>(30,555)</u>
Net movement in funds		(28,150)	(2,405)	(30,555)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>404,151</u>	<u>149,033</u>	<u>553,184</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>376,001</u></u>	<u><u>146,628</u></u>	<u><u>522,629</u></u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,008,308	1,008,308
Investment income	4	36	-	36
Other income		<u>56,960</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>57,330</u>
Total income		<u>56,996</u>	<u>1,008,678</u>	<u>1,065,674</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(34,400)</u>	<u>(989,291)</u>	<u>(1,023,691)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(34,400)</u>	<u>(989,291)</u>	<u>(1,023,691)</u>
Net income		<u>22,596</u>	<u>19,387</u>	<u>41,983</u>
Net movement in funds		22,596	19,387	41,983
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>381,555</u>	<u>129,646</u>	<u>511,201</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>404,151</u></u>	<u><u>149,033</u></u>	<u><u>553,184</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

(Registration number: NI042835) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	718	987
Current assets			
Debtors	11	99,498	170,680
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>441,159</u>	<u>502,302</u>
		540,657	672,982
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(18,746)</u>	<u>(120,785)</u>
Net current assets		<u>521,911</u>	<u>552,197</u>
Net assets		<u>522,629</u>	<u>553,184</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted Funds		146,628	149,033
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted Funds		<u>376,001</u>	<u>404,151</u>
Total funds	14	<u>522,629</u>	<u>553,184</u>

The financial statements on pages 11 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 14 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

A Poots
15/12/2023 18:06:44



Alan David Poots
Trustee

D Cole-Baker
15/12/2023 17:27:42



David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(30,555)	41,983
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		269	269
Investment income		(1,358)	(36)
		(31,644)	42,216
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	11	71,182	(50,669)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	13	(102,039)	93,365
		(62,501)	84,912
Net cash flows from operating activities			
		(62,501)	84,912
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		1,358	36
		1,358	36
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(61,143)	84,948
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		502,302	417,354
		502,302	417,354
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		441,159	502,302

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Office Unit 2
Ballymote Centre
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6PY

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 14 December 2023.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

Statement of compliance

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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

County Down Rural Community Network meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Judgements

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical judgements made in applying these charity accounting policies or that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Income and endowments

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Plant and machinery	15% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	15% straight line

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£
DAERA - NMDDC	168,515	168,515
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	65,059	65,059
PHA - Health Development	255,789	255,789
NRI	28,999	28,999
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	87,164	87,164
Ards & North Down District Council	12,933	12,933
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	23,567	23,567
DAERA - Social Prescribing	20,383	20,383
SEH SCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	60,135	60,135
CDHN - Elevate Programme	6,000	6,000
NMDDC - Action Cancer Buses	2,250	2,250
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - SLA	47,923	47,923
Community Foundation NI	133,849	133,849
Big Lottery - People & Communities	86,379	86,379
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	14,424	14,424
CDHN - Community Pharmacy Programme	2,400	2,400
Heart Project - HLCA	5,500	5,500
CCG - Crisis Fund	7,500	7,500
Choice Housing - Ballynahinch Health Fayre	2,000	2,000
Clanmil Housing Funding	3,134	3,134
Clanmil Programmes for Newcastle	4,958	4,958
Clear Project	4,999	4,999
DFC Capital Grant Marian Park	6,001	6,001
	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>

	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£
DAERA - NMDDC	162,670	162,670
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	62,981	62,981
PHA - Health Development	234,548	234,548
NRI	31,980	31,980
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	64,727	64,727
Ards & North Down District Council	25,000	25,000
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	20,441	20,441
DAERA - Social Prescribing	28,392	28,392
SEH SCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	17,880	17,880
CDHN - Elevate Programme	6,000	6,000
NMDDC - Action Cancer Buses	870	870

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£
Resurgam Community Development Trust	3,501	3,501
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - SLA	27,800	27,800
Community Foundation NI	122,210	122,210
Big Lottery - People & Communities	34,266	34,266
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	12,202	12,202
Versus Arthritis	4,970	4,970
CDHN - Community Pharmacy Programme	9,600	9,600
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - EOI	48,270	48,270
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - Family Hardship	60,000	60,000
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - Connectivity	30,000	30,000
	1,008,308	1,008,308

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2023
	General	£
	£	£
Deposit account interest	1,358	1,358
	1,358	1,358

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	Note	General	£	£
		£	£	£
Allocated support costs		12,268	92,186	104,454
Direct costs		75,858	960,080	1,035,938
Total for 2023	6	88,126	1,052,266	1,140,392
Total for 2022		34,400	989,291	1,023,691

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

6 Analysis of support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Management	11,128	88,413	99,541	109,935
Finance	60	510	570	645
Other	269	-	269	269
Governance costs	811	3,263	4,074	6,268
	<u>12,268</u>	<u>92,186</u>	<u>104,454</u>	<u>117,117</u>

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2023 £	2022 £
Other non-audit services	4,073	6,268
Depreciation of fixed assets	269	269
	<u>4,342</u>	<u>6,537</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	497,009	463,024
Social security costs	44,403	41,833
Pension costs	54,333	52,725
	<u>595,745</u>	<u>557,582</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Total number of staff	18	18

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2023 No
£60,001 - £70,000	1

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	78,034	1,794	79,828
At 31 March 2023	78,034	1,794	79,828
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	78,034	807	78,841
Charge for the year	-	269	269
At 31 March 2023	78,034	1,076	79,110
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	-	718	718
At 31 March 2022	-	987	987

11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	99,316	166,458
Other debtors	182	4,222
	99,498	170,680

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash on hand	-	601
Cash at bank	441,159	501,701
	441,159	502,302

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	15,089	115,308
Other creditors	657	1,265
Accruals	3,000	4,212
	<u>18,746</u>	<u>120,785</u>

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	404,151	59,976	(88,126)	376,001
Restricted funds	<u>149,033</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>146,628</u>
Total funds	<u>553,184</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>	<u>522,629</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General				
General	404,151	59,976	(88,126)	376,001
Restricted funds				
DAERA - NMDDC	12,533	168,515	(183,042)	(1,994)
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	3,723	65,059	(65,454)	3,328
PHA - Health Development	-	255,789	(255,789)	-
NRI	(1,345)	28,999	(24,931)	2,723
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	(18,147)	87,164	(59,561)	9,456
Ards & North Down Borough Council	1,527	12,933	(11,761)	2,699
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	-	23,567	(20,901)	2,666
DAERA - Social Prescribing	-	20,383	(20,543)	(160)
SEH SCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	872	60,135	(43,110)	17,897
CDHN - Elevate Programme	-	6,000	(6,000)	-
NMDDC - Action Cancer Buses	-	2,250	(2,250)	-
Heart Project - HLCA	(1,645)	5,500	(3,855)	-
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - SLA	-	47,923	(47,923)	-
Community Foundation NI	95,793	133,849	(192,176)	37,466
Big Lottery - People & Communities	44,372	86,379	(62,662)	68,089
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	-	14,424	(14,424)	-
Versus Arthritis	1,750	-	(1,750)	-
CDHN - Community Pharmacy Programme	9,600	2,400	(12,000)	-
CCG - Crisis Fund	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
Choice Housing - Ballynahinch Health Fayre	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Clanmil Housing Funding	-	3,134	(3,134)	-
Clanmil Programmes for Newcastle	-	4,958	(500)	4,458
Clear Project	-	4,999	(4,999)	-
DFC - Capital Grant Marian Park	-	6,001	(6,001)	-
	<u>149,033</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>146,628</u>
Total funds	<u>553,184</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>	<u>522,629</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	381,555	56,996	(34,400)	404,151
Restricted funds	<u>129,646</u>	<u>1,008,678</u>	<u>(989,291)</u>	<u>149,033</u>
Total funds	<u><u>511,201</u></u>	<u><u>1,065,674</u></u>	<u><u>(1,023,691)</u></u>	<u><u>553,184</u></u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	718	-	718
Current assets	391,874	148,783	540,657
Current liabilities	<u>(16,590)</u>	<u>(2,156)</u>	<u>(18,746)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>376,002</u></u>	<u><u>146,627</u></u>	<u><u>522,629</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	987	-	987
Current assets	499,159	173,823	672,982
Current liabilities	<u>(95,994)</u>	<u>(24,791)</u>	<u>(120,785)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>404,152</u></u>	<u><u>149,032</u></u>	<u><u>553,184</u></u>

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>502,302</u>	<u>(61,143)</u>	<u>441,159</u>
Net debt	<u><u>502,302</u></u>	<u><u>(61,143)</u></u>	<u><u>441,159</u></u>
	At 1 April 2021 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>417,354</u>	<u>84,948</u>	<u>502,302</u>
Net debt	<u><u>417,354</u></u>	<u><u>84,948</u></u>	<u><u>502,302</u></u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.



This Document has been Signed with a **secure electronic signature** via E-Sign.

Envelope Details

Title County Down Rural Community Network

Author KPS (info@kpsca.co.uk)

Envelope Created on Fri, 15 Dec 2023 17:13:51

Envelope ID 11c27c37-99d5-4b09-b473-d2c0727c5c3d

Document Details

Title Annual_Report___Financial_statements_YE_31.03.23_CDRCN.pdf.pdf

Digital Fingerprint 4645e7d2-bbbd-446d-b702-8cfa17b887e0

Document Signers

Scan/Click the QR Code to view signature information

Name [Alan Poots](#)

Email pootsies4@gmail.com

Status **SIGNED** at Fri, 15 Dec 2023 18:06:44 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint f6e78242-351c-4ef2-b816-ea39f40feb6c



Name [David Cole-Baker](#)

Email colebakers@hotmail.com

Status **SIGNED** at Fri, 15 Dec 2023 17:27:42 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint 14fcd018-17e8-41cf-ae42-e297b21e902a



Name [Kyran Smyth](#)

Email ksmyth66@icloud.com

Status **SIGNED** at Tue, 19 Dec 2023 00:36:41 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint 7ba70da5-3da9-4ba8-9a53-5292ef2d5509



Name [Nicholas McCrickard](#)

Email nicholas@countydowrrcn.com

Status **SIGNED** at Mon, 18 Dec 2023 09:51:52 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint defef620-76c1-4438-9413-ee535ceb8c5b



Document History

Tue, 19 Dec 2023 00:36:41 **Kyran Smyth** Signed the Document (IP: 2.121.214.50)

Mon, 18 Dec 2023 09:51:52 **Nicholas McCrickard** Signed the Document (IP: 86.159.94.179)

Fri, 15 Dec 2023 18:06:44 **Alan Poots** Signed the Document (IP: 51.14.255.30)

Fri, 15 Dec 2023 17:27:43 **David Cole-Baker** Signed the Document (IP: 31.111.4.202)



County Down Rural Community Network

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106024

Annual return

Company registration number: NI042835

Charity registration number: 106024

County Down Rural Community Network

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

KPS Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Strategic Report	2 to 3
Trustees' Report	4 to 6
Independent Auditors' Report	7 to 10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Statement of Cash Flows	13
Notes to the Financial Statements	14 to 23

County Down Rural Community Network

Reference and Administrative Details

Secretary Nicholas McCrickard

Charity Registration Number 106024

Company Registration Number NI042835

Registered Office The charity is incorporated in Northern Ireland.

Office Unit 2
Ballymote Centre
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6PY

Auditor KPS Chartered Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present their strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023, in compliance with s414C of the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102), in preparing their annual report and financial statements.

Achievements and performance

The Community Network sought and secured additional funds within the year over and above their main income streams and applied these funds to projects and initiatives addressing the needs of the community across County Down and South Armagh. These initiatives were aimed at tackling many issues from social isolation to physical and mental health and well-being and the "Cost of Living Crisis".

The period under review reflects the uncertainty in local communities that followed the lock downs and upsets of the years 2020 and 2021 and the subsequent increase in interest rates and cost of living. The charity was at the centre of many schemes to protect the most vulnerable people in our community. Through its relationships with Councils and other partners, the Network helped to distribute food, fuel, vouchers and financial aid at various times.

The Network has become more embedded than ever in emergency and community planning and in influencing government policy at a time when the lack of an Executive at Stormont has damaged social policy and planning at a strategic level. Network staff are represented on a multitude of partnerships which help to bring the community sector together with the public and private sectors. For example, our manager is Chairman of the Newry, Mourne & Down Community Planning Partnership and Vice-Chair of the local Peaceplus Partnership and other staff are involved in many more partnerships and forums dealing with mental and physical health, economy, housing, physical infrastructure, etc.

As BREXIT and the wind down of EU Rural Development Funds caused a tightening on purse strings, the Network continued to assist local groups to seek alternative funding for rural and urban infrastructure. The charity's health and social prescribing programmes matured in this period but uncertainty in Health budgets and the slow collapse of local health services have put increasing strain on C&V sector services which were designed to try to mitigate NHS problems. This is an issue which will dominate into the future.

The network celebrated over 25 years in existence in October 2022 and a huge number of member groups reflected on the amazing growth of the organisation in that time, from just 5 groups to over 250 fully registered members. It was agreed that society is better when communities are organised and community volunteers are active everywhere. That organisation of community does not happen by accident. These Financial Statements tell part of the story of the work behind it all.

Financial review

At the end of the financial year the Charity has assets of £541,375 (2022: £673,969) and liabilities of £18,746 (2022: £120,785). The net assets of the Charity have decreased by £30,555.

County Down Rural Community Network

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Policy on reserves

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 4 months of annual budgeted expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2023/24 is approximately £1.1m and therefore the target is £366,666 of general unrestricted funds. The reserves are required to meet not only the working capital requirements of the charity enabling the charity to continue with future investments and also ensure that the charity would be able to cover the costs of winding up should the worst happen and the charity need to close.

The actual reserves at 31 March 2023 amounted to £521,911 of which unrestricted reserves totalled £376,001 which exceeds the target figure of £366,666 for unrestricted funds. In calculating reserves the net book value of fixed assets held (£718) have been excluded. This met the target policy target of 4 months.

The Directors are aware of the events occurring within the financial year and will continue to keep under constant review. It remains the strategy of continuing to build reserves and apply resources to the charity's objectives and mission.

The strategic report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A Poots
15/12/2023 18:06:44



Alan David Poots
Trustee

D Cole-Baker
15/12/2023 17:27:42



David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Vision

The vision of the Charity is of confident, connected communities throughout County Down and South Armagh.

Mission

The Charity's mission is to enable and motivate people to help themselves to enhance and improve lives.

Strategic themes

To achieve our vision and mission we have focused our work under four strategic themes:

1. Empowering, connecting and strengthening communities
2. Supporting and enabling a strong community voice
3. Providing services to our members
4. Developing an adaptive and sustainable organisation

Public benefit

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose includes increased levels of community engagement; increased access to services, support, guidance, information and signposting; enhanced ability to participate in decision making on policies which affect rural life; improved governance in community organisations; improved access to funding; improved quality of life for all inhabitants through directly tackling issues that cause disadvantage and poverty within rural communities. These benefits are demonstrated through the number of community organisations seeking support to implement a wide range of community activities and services; the extent of dialogue and co-operation between different interest groups; the number of activities taking place within communities, the number of participants taking part in the activities, and regular and ongoing evaluation of programmes and activities. The purposes of our charity will not lead to any harm. The beneficiaries of the charity are the rural inhabitants living in the rural areas of County Down and its hinterland. A private benefit to trustees may arise from participating in activities. Trustees may gain skills and experience which are transferable to other settings. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries.

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

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

Trustees:

- Nicholas John Moore
- Loretta Gribben (appointed 15 February 2023)
- Helen Margaret Coulter
- Alan David Poots
- Brian John Graham
- Robin Eldred Holliday
- Kathy Graham (appointed 15 February 2023)
- Liam Devine
- Nicola Fitzsimons (appointed 15 February 2023)
- Patrick Killen
- Deborah Boden (appointed 15 February 2023)
- David Lawrence Cole Baker
- William Samuel Alexander Megraw

Secretary: Nicholas McCrickard

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

County Down Rural Community Network is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and is also registered as a company limited by guarantee.

Organisational structure

The Charity is governed by a Board of 13 Trustees who administer the Network and meet bi-monthly. Mr Nicholas McCrickard is the manager and manages the charity on a day-to-day basis.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of County Down Rural Community Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

County Down Rural Community Network

Trustees' Report

- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor


Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A Poots
15/12/2023 18:06:44


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D Cole-Baker
15/12/2023 17:27:42


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of County Down Rural Community Network (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity'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) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

Opinion on other matter 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 Strategic Report and Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Trustees' Report have 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 charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities (set out on page 5 and 6), the trustees 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 charity'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

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.

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

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance;
- the results of our enquiries of management about their own identification of the risk of irregularities;

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. We also discussed the potential for non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a potential material misstatement in the financial statements.

Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- In response to the risk of management override of controls, identifying and testing journal entries and other adjustments, in particular any unusual account combinations and journals posted by unexpected users;
- Evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business;
- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged frauds;
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates and judgements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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 on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' 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.

County Down Rural Community Network

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of County Down Rural Community Network

- 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 (ie. gives a true and fair view).

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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, 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 charity's trustees 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 its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

K Smyth
19/12/2023 00:36:41

Kyran Smyth.....

Kyran Smyth (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of KPS Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Tax Advisers
Registered Auditors
35 Irish Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6BW

14 December 2023

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,049,861	1,049,861
Investment income	4	1,358	-	1,358
Other income		<u>58,618</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,618</u>
Total income		<u>59,976</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(88,126)</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(88,126)</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(28,150)</u>	<u>(2,405)</u>	<u>(30,555)</u>
Net movement in funds		(28,150)	(2,405)	(30,555)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>404,151</u>	<u>149,033</u>	<u>553,184</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>376,001</u></u>	<u><u>146,628</u></u>	<u><u>522,629</u></u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	3	-	1,008,308	1,008,308
Investment income	4	36	-	36
Other income		<u>56,960</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>57,330</u>
Total income		<u>56,996</u>	<u>1,008,678</u>	<u>1,065,674</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(34,400)</u>	<u>(989,291)</u>	<u>(1,023,691)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(34,400)</u>	<u>(989,291)</u>	<u>(1,023,691)</u>
Net income		<u>22,596</u>	<u>19,387</u>	<u>41,983</u>
Net movement in funds		22,596	19,387	41,983
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>381,555</u>	<u>129,646</u>	<u>511,201</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>404,151</u></u>	<u><u>149,033</u></u>	<u><u>553,184</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.


County Down Rural Community Network

(Registration number: NI042835) Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023


	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	718	987
Current assets			
Debtors	11	99,498	170,680
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>441,159</u>	<u>502,302</u>
		540,657	672,982
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(18,746)</u>	<u>(120,785)</u>
Net current assets		<u>521,911</u>	<u>552,197</u>
Net assets		<u>522,629</u>	<u>553,184</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted Funds		146,628	149,033
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted Funds		<u>376,001</u>	<u>404,151</u>
Total funds	14	<u>522,629</u>	<u>553,184</u>

The financial statements on pages 11 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 14 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

A Poots
15/12/2023 18:06:44


Alan David Poots
Trustee

D Cole-Baker
15/12/2023 17:27:42


David Lawrence Cole Baker
Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(30,555)	41,983
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		269	269
Investment income		(1,358)	(36)
		(31,644)	42,216
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	11	71,182	(50,669)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	13	(102,039)	93,365
		(30,857)	42,696
Net cash flows from operating activities		(62,501)	84,912
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		1,358	36
		1,358	36
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(61,143)	84,948
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		502,302	417,354
		502,302	417,354
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		441,159	502,302

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 14 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Office Unit 2
Ballymote Centre
40 Killough Road
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 6PY

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 14 December 2023.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

Statement of compliance

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)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

County Down Rural Community Network meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Judgements

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical judgements made in applying these charity accounting policies or that there are any critical accounting estimates or assumptions which may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Income and endowments

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Plant and machinery	15% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	15% straight line

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

3 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds	Total 2023
	£	£
DAERA - NMDDC	168,515	168,515
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	65,059	65,059
PHA - Health Development	255,789	255,789
NRI	28,999	28,999
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	87,164	87,164
Ards & North Down District Council	12,933	12,933
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	23,567	23,567
DAERA - Social Prescribing	20,383	20,383
SEH SCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	60,135	60,135
CDHN - Elevate Programme	6,000	6,000
NMDDC - Action Cancer Buses	2,250	2,250
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - SLA	47,923	47,923
Community Foundation NI	133,849	133,849
Big Lottery - People & Communities	86,379	86,379
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	14,424	14,424
CDHN - Community Pharmacy Programme	2,400	2,400
Heart Project - HLCA	5,500	5,500
CCG - Crisis Fund	7,500	7,500
Choice Housing - Ballynahinch Health Fayre	2,000	2,000
Clanmil Housing Funding	3,134	3,134
Clanmil Programmes for Newcastle	4,958	4,958
Clear Project	4,999	4,999
DFC Capital Grant Marian Park	6,001	6,001
	1,049,861	1,049,861

	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£
DAERA - NMDDC	162,670	162,670
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	62,981	62,981
PHA - Health Development	234,548	234,548
NRI	31,980	31,980
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	64,727	64,727
Ards & North Down District Council	25,000	25,000
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	20,441	20,441
DAERA - Social Prescribing	28,392	28,392
SEH SCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	17,880	17,880
CDHN - Elevate Programme	6,000	6,000
NMDDC - Action Cancer Buses	870	870

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£
Resurgam Community Development Trust	3,501	3,501
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - SLA	27,800	27,800
Community Foundation NI	122,210	122,210
Big Lottery - People & Communities	34,266	34,266
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	12,202	12,202
Versus Arthritis	4,970	4,970
CDHN - Community Pharmacy Programme	9,600	9,600
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - EOI	48,270	48,270
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - Family Hardship	60,000	60,000
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - Connectivity	30,000	30,000
	<u>1,008,308</u>	<u>1,008,308</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2023
	General	£
	£	£
Deposit account interest	1,358	1,358
	<u>1,358</u>	<u>1,358</u>

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		General	£	£
		£	£	£
Allocated support costs		12,268	92,186	104,454
Direct costs		75,858	960,080	1,035,938
Total for 2023	6	<u>88,126</u>	<u>1,052,266</u>	<u>1,140,392</u>
Total for 2022		<u>34,400</u>	<u>989,291</u>	<u>1,023,691</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

6 Analysis of support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Management	11,128	88,413	99,541	109,935
Finance	60	510	570	645
Other	269	-	269	269
Governance costs	811	3,263	4,074	6,268
	<u>12,268</u>	<u>92,186</u>	<u>104,454</u>	<u>117,117</u>

7 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2023 £	2022 £
Other non-audit services	4,073	6,268
Depreciation of fixed assets	269	269
	<u>4,342</u>	<u>6,537</u>

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	497,009	463,024
Social security costs	44,403	41,833
Pension costs	54,333	52,725
	<u>595,745</u>	<u>557,582</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Total number of staff	18	18

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2023 No
£60,001 - £70,000	1

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	78,034	1,794	79,828
At 31 March 2023	78,034	1,794	79,828
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	78,034	807	78,841
Charge for the year	-	269	269
At 31 March 2023	78,034	1,076	79,110
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	-	718	718
At 31 March 2022	-	987	987

11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	99,316	166,458
Other debtors	182	4,222
	99,498	170,680

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash on hand	-	601
Cash at bank	441,159	501,701
	441,159	502,302

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	15,089	115,308
Other creditors	657	1,265
Accruals	3,000	4,212
	<u>18,746</u>	<u>120,785</u>

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	404,151	59,976	(88,126)	376,001
Restricted funds	<u>149,033</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>146,628</u>
Total funds	<u>553,184</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>	<u>522,629</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General				
General	404,151	59,976	(88,126)	376,001
Restricted funds				
DAERA - NMDDC	12,533	168,515	(183,042)	(1,994)
DAERA - Lisburn, Castlereagh & North Down	3,723	65,059	(65,454)	3,328
PHA - Health Development	-	255,789	(255,789)	-
NRI	(1,345)	28,999	(24,931)	2,723
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	(18,147)	87,164	(59,561)	9,456
Ards & North Down Borough Council	1,527	12,933	(11,761)	2,699
Big Lottery - Social Prescribing	-	23,567	(20,901)	2,666
DAERA - Social Prescribing	-	20,383	(20,543)	(160)
SEH SCT (Multi Disciplinary Team)	872	60,135	(43,110)	17,897
CDHN - Elevate Programme	-	6,000	(6,000)	-
NMDDC - Action Cancer Buses	-	2,250	(2,250)	-
Heart Project - HLCA	(1,645)	5,500	(3,855)	-
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council - SLA	-	47,923	(47,923)	-
Community Foundation NI	95,793	133,849	(192,176)	37,466
Big Lottery - People & Communities	44,372	86,379	(62,662)	68,089
DAERA - Micro Capital Grant Scheme	-	14,424	(14,424)	-
Versus Arthritis	1,750	-	(1,750)	-
CDHN - Community Pharmacy Programme	9,600	2,400	(12,000)	-
CCG - Crisis Fund	-	7,500	(7,500)	-
Choice Housing - Ballynahinch Health Fayre	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Clanmil Housing Funding	-	3,134	(3,134)	-
Clanmil Programmes for Newcastle	-	4,958	(500)	4,458
Clear Project	-	4,999	(4,999)	-
DFC - Capital Grant Marian Park	-	6,001	(6,001)	-
	<u>149,033</u>	<u>1,049,861</u>	<u>(1,052,266)</u>	<u>146,628</u>
Total funds	<u>553,184</u>	<u>1,109,837</u>	<u>(1,140,392)</u>	<u>522,629</u>

County Down Rural Community Network

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	381,555	56,996	(34,400)	404,151
Restricted funds	<u>129,646</u>	<u>1,008,678</u>	<u>(989,291)</u>	<u>149,033</u>
Total funds	<u><u>511,201</u></u>	<u><u>1,065,674</u></u>	<u><u>(1,023,691)</u></u>	<u><u>553,184</u></u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	718	-	718
Current assets	391,874	148,783	540,657
Current liabilities	<u>(16,590)</u>	<u>(2,156)</u>	<u>(18,746)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>376,002</u></u>	<u><u>146,627</u></u>	<u><u>522,629</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	987	-	987
Current assets	499,159	173,823	672,982
Current liabilities	<u>(95,994)</u>	<u>(24,791)</u>	<u>(120,785)</u>
Total net assets	<u><u>404,152</u></u>	<u><u>149,032</u></u>	<u><u>553,184</u></u>

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>502,302</u>	<u>(61,143)</u>	<u>441,159</u>
Net debt	<u><u>502,302</u></u>	<u><u>(61,143)</u></u>	<u><u>441,159</u></u>
	At 1 April 2021 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>417,354</u>	<u>84,948</u>	<u>502,302</u>
Net debt	<u><u>417,354</u></u>	<u><u>84,948</u></u>	<u><u>502,302</u></u>

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.



This Document has been Signed with a **secure electronic signature** via E-Sign.

Envelope Details

Title County Down Rural Community Network

Author KPS (info@kpsca.co.uk)

Envelope Created on Fri, 15 Dec 2023 17:13:51

Envelope ID 11c27c37-99d5-4b09-b473-d2c0727c5c3d

Document Details

Title Annual_Report___Financial_statements_YE_31.03.23_CDRCN.pdf.pdf

Digital Fingerprint 4645e7d2-bbbd-446d-b702-8cfa17b887e0

Document Signers

Scan/Click the QR Code to view signature information

Name [Alan Poots](#)

Email pootsies4@gmail.com

Status **SIGNED** at Fri, 15 Dec 2023 18:06:44 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint f6e78242-351c-4ef2-b816-ea39f40feb6c



Name [David Cole-Baker](#)

Email colebakers@hotmail.com

Status **SIGNED** at Fri, 15 Dec 2023 17:27:42 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint 14fcd018-17e8-41cf-ae42-e297b21e902a



Name [Kyran Smyth](#)

Email ksmyth66@icloud.com

Status **SIGNED** at Tue, 19 Dec 2023 00:36:41 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint 7ba70da5-3da9-4ba8-9a53-5292ef2d5509



Name [Nicholas McCrickard](#)

Email nicholas@countydowrrcn.com

Status **SIGNED** at Mon, 18 Dec 2023 09:51:52 GMT(+0000)

Signature Fingerprint defef620-76c1-4438-9413-ee535ceb8c5b



Document History

Tue, 19 Dec 2023 00:36:41 **Kyran Smyth** Signed the Document (IP: 2.121.214.50)

Mon, 18 Dec 2023 09:51:52 **Nicholas McCrickard** Signed the Document (IP: 86.159.94.179)

Fri, 15 Dec 2023 18:06:44 **Alan Poots** Signed the Document (IP: 51.14.255.30)

Fri, 15 Dec 2023 17:27:43 **David Cole-Baker** Signed the Document (IP: 31.111.4.202)

