

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

THE TRUSTEES, AS DIRECTORS OF NORTHERN IRELAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HEALTH NETWORK LTD, PRESENT THEIR REPORT WITH THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE CHARITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023.

The directors are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

Chairperson's Report

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our annual report for 2022-23. I am honoured to share the remarkable impact we have achieved and the journey we embarked upon in the past year to support and enhance community health and well-being, while addressing regional and local health disparities.

Throughout the last year, the Community Development & Health Network has exemplified its commitment to ending social and health inequalities, demonstrating the strength that arises when communities unite to foster improved health outcomes. Despite the challenges presented by the ongoing political and fiscal crisis, the socio-economic repercussions of inflation, and the escalating cost of living, our dedication remains

This year's health inequalities report paints a sombre picture for health in Northern Ireland. Inequity gaps have widened, with our region significantly underperforming compared to other parts of the UK (DoH (Department of Health), Health Inequalities NI Report, 2023). These inequalities manifest in stark contrasts in life expectancy, mortality rates, and overall quality of life for people within our most disadvantaged communities, primarily due to preventable causes. It is essential that the implementation of the new Integrated Care System (ICS) will have a strong focus on prevention and addressing health inequalities across all stages of life.

In March, we celebrated a significant milestone as we funded the 1,000th Building Community Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP). This celebratory event, hosted by Centred Soul (our 1,000th project), provided a platform to network and exchange stories about the programme's impact. Over the last 22 years, the BCPP programme has invested over £7 million in local communities and Community Pharmacies, nurturing partnerships, utilizing community assets and social capital to yield tangible community health benefits.

The successful securing of a three-year delivery contract for BCPP is a testament to this collective effort. This partnership, having evolved over the years, has not only bolstered community health but also strengthened our bonds with local health providers, community partners, and the world of Pharmacy. This positions us favourably within the new integrated care system for Northern Ireland, igniting excitement for future developmental prospects and health enhancement opportunities

Equally, we were thrilled to announce that we have secured additional funding to deliver Elevate Community and Mentoring Grants Programme to another 22 communities until June 2024.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my colleagues on the Board for their unwavering commitment and support over the past year. Our commitment to transparency and accountability persists and we are actively implementing our Governance Action Plan through our newly established Audit and Risk Sub Committee, led by Janet Schofield.

My heartfelt thanks to our incredible team, led by Joanne Vance for their dedication, and their efforts far beyond the call of duty. To our members, partners, and our supporters for their trust, and for their invaluable collaboration.

Our gratitude extends to our funders, the Department of Health, as well as our colleagues at SPPG (Strategic Planning Performance Group) and the Public Health Agency for their trust and support.



Sheelin McKeagney
Chairperson

Date: 20 September 2023

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Trustees' Report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Our Purposes and Activities

The Charity's objects are:

- to relieve poverty and sickness;
- to advance the education of the public in the knowledge of community development approaches to health issues and provide training in all of its aspects;
- to improve the planning and delivery of health and social care, particularly amongst those who are or at risk of suffering from poor health due to social and economic circumstances, by carrying out research, disseminating information in health matters and initiative and encouraging the participation of all members of society in discussing and resolving issues relating to health in the community.

The mission of Northern Ireland Community Development and Health Network Ltd is to end health inequalities using a community development approach. By this we mean campaigning, influencing policy and developing best practice work which shows that communities, both geographical and of interest and identity, can define their own health needs and design and implement preventative and radical solutions.

The principal activity of Northern Ireland Community Development and Health Network Ltd is to provide a network encompassing statutory, voluntary and community groups in Northern Ireland for workers concerned with community development and health who wish to share and support each others work.

Vision

A fair and equal society where everyone experiences their best health and wellbeing.

CDHN Mission

A fair and equal society where everyone experiences their best health and wellbeing.

- 1: **Community Development:** To support communities as a catalyst for change in ending health inequalities.
- 2: **Policy & Practice:** To influence policy and practice to support the ending of health inequalities.
- 3: **Build evidence** to support communities and informs policy development in ending health inequalities.

Public Benefit

The public benefits that flow from the advancement of community development in health issues are:

- a) To relieve poverty and sickness.

Voluntary and Community Sector organisations are supported to develop the knowledge and skills to understand the effects of poverty on the health of individuals, communities and society within Northern Ireland. They can use this knowledge and skills to develop appropriate interventions and services to address issues caused by poverty which lead to ill health.

- b) To advance the education of the public in the knowledge of community development approaches to health issues and provide training in all of its aspects.

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Members of the public, specifically those volunteering or in paid employment within a community based organisation have the opportunity to avail of training and support in relation to community development and health. They will understand the factors affecting health in its widest sense and the importance of engaging communities in identifying those factors and developing interventions and activities to address them.

c) To improve the planning and delivery of health and social care, particularly amongst those who are or are at risk of suffering from poor health due to social or economic circumstances, by carrying out research, disseminating information in health matters and initiatives and encouraging the participation of all members of society in discussing and resolving issues relating to health in the community.

Local communities play a key role in the design and delivery of health outcomes; reciprocal relationships exist between policy makers, practitioners, researchers and communities and there is increased capacity to co-design and co-produce decisions and services relating to health.

Achievements in the year ended 31 March 2023

CDHN delivered over £500,000 in local community investment through our Building the Community Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) and Elevate programmes. We supported 42 new BCPP initiatives and 22 Elevate mentee organisations through small grants, training, mentoring and development support activities to address local health inequalities across NI.

Building the Community Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) celebrated its 1,000th project this year with an event to acknowledge positive cross sectoral partnership working which has brought communities and community pharmacies together to co-develop sustainable community-led solutions to local health issues and to improve the knowledge and health of people experiencing financial hardship and social isolation. CDHN won the contract to deliver the BCPP programme for another three years.

Following the publication of the Elevate External evaluation (2021-22) the Public Health Agency extended CDHN's contract to deliver Elevate for a further year until June 2024.

New funding from the Department for Communities (DfC) for their Start Here Grants Programme, is a most welcome development. Delivered by the Rank Foundation the award has enabled CDHN to employ a 3-year entry level Community Engagement Officer position to provide training and support and to enhance our staff team.

CDHN completed its new one-year exploratory community-based participatory research project on Community Medication Safety, entitled 'Our lives, Our Meds, Our Health' Commissioned by the Department of health, The report highlights the link between medication safety and social and health inequalities. A Knowledge Exchange Workshop (27 Oct 22) involving a range of community and health stakeholders helped us to share the report's findings. We discussed the relevance of the findings for policy and practice, which will inform the draft policy recommendations to support implementation of the Department of Health's 10 year Transforming Medication Safety plan.

At policy level, CDHN continues to work with other regional VCSE, HSC and DOH colleagues to influence the development of the inclusive cross sectoral, area level, partnership arrangements for the new Integrated Care System (ICS) for NI. We advocated for the Department of health to commission an independent consultant to engage with Voluntary and Community organisations to explore how the sector should be supported to participate in the five new Area Integrated Partnership Boards set up to support the planning functions of the ICS. The work is set to commence in April 2023.

In 2023 CDHN participated in a range of representative forums and committees to support community development and population health approaches to health and social wellbeing. The Department for Communities Cost of Living Group, the Equality Coalition, the PHA's Strengthening Communities for Health Steering Group, and the Regional Social Prescribing Board.

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Trustees' Report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Community Partnerships

Our Building the Community Partnership project funds community partnerships across NI.

Financial Review

The financial statements are presented in the standard format required by Charities SORP (FRS102) - 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) and the Companies Act 2006.

Northern Ireland Community Development and Health Network Ltd had very successful year in terms of project delivery. For the year ended 31 March 2023 the charity had net expenditure of £14,862 (before revaluations) compared to net expenditure of £6,462 in the previous year.

Total incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2023 were £1,048,747 compared with £984,449 in the previous year.

At 31 March 2023 the charity had a reconciled bank balance of £519,123 (2022: £540,381).

Pension Scheme Liability

CDHN operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees, administered and managed by The Pensions Trust (TPT). Prior to 2013, CDHN participated in TPT Growth Plan Series 3 which guaranteed that a member's money could not fall beneath the value of their contributions. TPT closed this Series in September 2013 with all members automatically transferring to Growth Plan Series 4. Series 4 is a pure defined contribution arrangement. As CDHN has at some time participated in a scheme which provided a form of capital guarantee; in the event that CDHN decides to withdraw from the Growth Plan it will - by law - be required to pay any share of the deficit arising from its participation in Series 3. CDHN is not required to make financial contributions towards TPT's recovery plan and no members are affected.

The most recent estimate of the amount that CDHN would become liable for (under the conditions set out above) was provided at September 2022, for the purposes of FRS102, and amounted to £12,783. A liability has been included in the financial statements for this.

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy is to maintain a level of free reserves which meets the needs of the organisation both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. Free reserves are its total funds excluding restricted funds, designated funds or income funds which can only be released by disposing of fixed assets held for charity use. CDHN hold a minimum of three months reserves.

Northern Ireland Community Development and Health Network Ltd had total reserves of £401,820 at 31 March 2023 (2022: £412,608) and £384,031 of these were free reserves.

Plans for Future Periods

CDHN's strategic aims are as follows:

- 1) Release capacity to improve people's lives and health by:
 - advancing knowledge and understanding of community development
 - supporting our members to plan, deliver and measure the impact of community development actions
 - leading an active and engaged network with members as a key source of CDHN's experience and expertise.

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- 2) Influence change towards a fairer and more equal society by:
- ensuring the key stakeholders know and understand CDHN and engage with its work
 - facilitating the network to use its expertise to ensure policy and decision makers understand and value the context of people's lives
 - advocating for and supporting the use of community development to change structures and processes that are unfair and unjust

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Number - CCNI	106078
Charity Number - HMRC:	XR72915
Company Number:	NI034114
Registered Office:	30A Mill Street, Newry, BT34 1EY

Our Advisors:

Auditors	FPM Accountants Limited
Bank	Danske Bank

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the Charitable Company (the Charity) are its Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law. The Trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Executive Committee	Sheelin McKeagney - Chairperson Janet Schofield - Vice Chairperson Michael Crean - Treasurer Liam Hannaway (resigned 13 October 2022) Carolyn Donnelly Claire Ferris Conor Flanagan Sloan Harper
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Chief Executive	Joanne Vance
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Structure, Governance and Management

Northern Ireland Community Development and Health Network Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

Northern Ireland Community Development and Health Network Ltd has an induction programme for new trustees / directors as part of which they receive a copy of the trustees' handbook. A skills audit is carried out as appropriate and trustees are advised of their legal responsibility and requirements with regards to the code of conduct and conflict of interest.

The directors have ultimate legal and financial responsibility for the affairs of Northern Ireland Community Development and Health Network Ltd, although the management of the organisation is generally delegated to the staff, through the Chief Executive. The management committee meet four times a year.

The trustees / directors of the company at 31 March 2023, all of whom have been trustees / directors for the whole of the year ended on that date, unless otherwise stated, are listed on the information page. Trustees / directors appointed to the board retire by rotation every three years.

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Risk Management

The directors are in the process of reviewing the major risks which the charity faces and believe that the charity has sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees / directors have also examined other business and operational risks, which the charity faces and confirm that it has established systems to mitigate significant risks.

Directors' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The directors (who are also the trustees of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the directors' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standard (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the directors, who are also the trustees, to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure for that year. In preparing the financial statements the directors are required to:

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

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

Statement of Disclosure to our Auditors

In so far as the trustees / directors in office at the date of approving our directors' annual report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the auditor is unaware; and
- the directors / trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors that they ought to have taken, have each taken all steps that he / she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, FPM Accountants Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board



Michael Crean
Director & Treasurer

Date: 20 September 2023