

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

Company Information

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| Chief Executive | Joanne Vance |
| Directors | Sheelin McKeagney - Chairperson Janet Schofield - Vice Chairperson Michael Crean - Treasurer Carolyn Donnelly Claire Ferris Conor Flanagan Sloan Harper Fiona Anderson (Appointed 12/11/24) Brian Pelan (Appointed 12/11/24) Rhoda Walker (Appointed 12/11/24) Ethna McFerran (Appointed 12/11/24) Lekan Ojo-Okiji Abasi (Appointed 12/11/24) |
| Secretary | Joanne Vance |
| Company Number | NI034114 (Northern Ireland) |
| Charity Number | 106078 XR72915 |
| Registered Office | 30A Mill Street Newry BT34 1EY |
| Website | www.cdhn.org |
| Auditors | AAB Group Accountants Limited Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors Dromalane Mill The Quays Newry BT35 8QS |
| Bankers | Danske Bank 58 Hill Street Newry BT34 1AR |
| Solicitors | Worthingtons Solicitors 24 - 38 Gordon Street Belfast BT1 2LG |

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, as directors of Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd, present their report with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

Chairperson's Report

Welcome to our Annual Report 2024-25.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our 30th anniversary celebration event in Belfast last November. Taking time to reflect on our strong foundations, reconnect with our roots, and recognise our collective achievements has renewed our focus and purpose. It reinforces why the Community Development and Health Network (CDHN), continues to work alongside people, communities, and power holders and future leaders to take collective action on the structural determinants of health.

Health inequalities in Northern Ireland have been widening for over a decade. The rising costs of housing, energy, and food, severely impact the social and mental well-being of children, young people, low-income women, and other vulnerable populations. Combined with geopolitical conflict and regional instability these challenges have deepened the crisis.

The need for intergovernmental and cross-societal approaches, emphasised in the recent Programme for Government, is greater than ever. Issues such as poverty, racism and discrimination, violence, homelessness, education access, and income inequality require coordinated responses. Co-design and citizen engagement must be central to implementing the Programme for Government and other social inclusion strategies, as outlined in New Decade, New Approach (2020). We were proud to support the Civic Initiative and Citizens Forum on housing access, showing how meaningful public engagement can shape better policy and democracy.

Our sincere thanks go to our members, partners, and supporters for your continued collaboration in tackling the region's diverse health needs. Your commitment ensures the voices of the people and communities we work with are heard in decision-making, helping improve outcomes for all.

We are especially grateful to our Board for their vision and leadership in setting strategic priorities; prevention, community health, social inclusion, communication, and sustainability; that will guide us over the next five years.

Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to our incredible team for their dedication and quality work. Through the Dormant Accounts Civic Funding, they launched our Digital Foundations project, strengthening our digital capacity and presence—essential to sustaining momentum, expanding reach, and deepening impact. This work highlights how communities are creating practical, positive solutions for a fairer, healthier Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

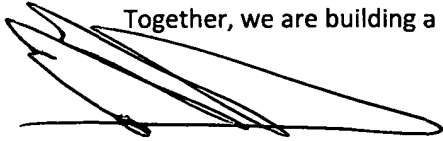
Trustees' Report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

We were both thrilled and relieved to secure Department of Health Core Grant Funding for 2025–26. This vital support will strengthen our policy development, collaborative research, and evidence-building efforts on health disparities.

We also welcome the continued partnership with the Public Health Agency's Strengthening Communities for Health Steering Group, advancing grassroots and cross-sectoral capacity in community development. Through our BCPP and Elevate regional programmes, we delivered over £500,000 in support and capacity building across 65 communities.

Finally, we thank all our funders, including the Department of Health, Public Health Agency, Department for Communities, UK National Lottery, St Stephen's Green Trust, and Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs Shared Island Fund. Your support enables lasting, meaningful change.

Together, we are building a fairer, healthier, and more inclusive society.



Sheelin McKeagney
Chairperson

Date: 18 September 2025

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.

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

Trustees' Report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

CDHN Mission

Using community development to address the social determinants and end health inequalities

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.

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 2025

In November, we welcomed back our founding members and CEO to help us commemorate our 30th anniversary AGM with over 110 guests last November. CDHN continued to invest time and over £500,000 in local communities through our Building the Community Pharmacy Partnership (BCPP) and Elevate programmes. We supported 43 new BCPP initiatives and 21 Elevate mentee organisations through small grants, training, mentoring and development support activities to address local health inequalities across NI. Over 269 people benefited from our training programmes. More detail on our website.

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

Trustees' Report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Health Minister, Mike Nesbitt launched the BCPP Impact Report (2021-23) at the Long Gallery in Stormont, which was hosted by Liz Kimmins, Health Committee Chairperson. Speakers included Lorna O'Neill from (CRUN) and Sheila Smyth from The Right Key, community pharmacists Evan Reid and Cathy Smyth and several participants who shared how BCPP is much more than a health initiative. The report demonstrates how targeted, cross-sectoral collaborative approaches are addressing the social determinants of health and making improvements to the lives, health, and wellbeing of people and disadvantaged communities across N I.

The Public Health Agency awarded CDHN a new three-year partnership contract to deliver Elevate until June 2028. Funding from the Department for Communities (DfC) for their Start Here Grants Programme, through the Rank Foundation will end in July 2025. Funding from the St Stephen's Green Trust's Civic Participation Fund enabled us to establish an 18 month all island open dialogue platform on mental health and Poverty with Community Work Ireland. CDHN and our partners have secured further funding from the Shared Island Civic Society Fund in January 2025 to continue the work for another 12 months.

CDHN is a partner in the new Maternity Inequalities Northern Ireland (MINI) research collaboration with Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and the PHA. Part of the UK-wide NIHR Maternity Disparities Consortium, this five-year programme aims to achieve measurable improvements in maternity health inequalities before, during and after pregnancy. CDHN played a key role in promoting participatory research methods, embedding community engagement and co-production, and valuing women's lived experiences and sector expertise on the social determinants of health. Our team delivered 19 speaking engagements, reaching over 1500 people; including our workshop and video contribution to the 24th International Conference on Integrated Care, in Belfast.

At policy level, CDHN and our members continue to support several cross-sectoral collaboration and pioneering partnership initiatives to address social determinants of health and tackle inequalities through prevention and early intervention. We co-operated with University College London's Health Equity Network and the Public Health Agency to organise a cross-sectoral conference to discuss how evidence-based Marmot Principles could be applied to local place-based partnerships to achieve health equity in Northern Ireland. We supported the Valuing Medicines Steering Group and Knowledge Exchange (Oct 2023–Sept 2024), which oversaw DoH's Case for Change research on improving medicine use across HSC. CDHN contributed to the PHA-led Steering Group on prevention, working with stakeholders to deliver an action plan that promotes mental wellbeing and improves timely access to support. We responded to three policy consultations this year DoH EQIA impact assessment (September 2024) Draft Programme for Government (November 2024) and the PHA corporate plan (February 2025).

In 2025 CDHN We hosted ten membership and public engagement events with 450 people taking part. Our Staff and trustees participated in a 23 representative forums and committees to support community development and population health approaches to prevention and social wellbeing. These ranged from Civil Society forums such as the Equality Coalition, the Civic Initiative and the NI Anti Poverty network to the cross-sectoral and interdepartmental PHA Strengthening Communities for Health Steering Group, The DOH Health Literacy Forum and the Funder's forum, and the PHA Tobacco Strategy Implementation Steering Group, CDHN advocates for renewed action on smoking and inequalities.

Community Partnerships

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

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

Trustees' Report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

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 2025 the charity had net income of £22,812 compared with net expenditure of £5,333 in the previous year.

Total incoming resources for the year ended 31 March 2025 were £1,027,907 compared with £1,006,251 in the previous year.

At 31 March 2025 the charity had bank and cash of £491,646 (2024: £516,137).

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 2024, for the purposes of FRS102, and amounted to £11,399. 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 £419,299 at 31 March 2025 (2024: £396,487) and £380,579 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; and
 - leading an active and engaged network with members as a key source of CDHN's experience and expertise.

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

Trustees' Report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

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; and
- advocating for and supporting the use of community development to change structures and processes that are unfair and unjust.

Reference and Administrative Details

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

Our Advisors:

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|------------|-------------------------------|
| Auditors | AAB Group Accountants Limited |
| Bankers | Danske Bank |
| Solicitors | Worthington Solicitors |

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:

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|---------------------|--|
| Executive Committee | Sheelin McKeagney - Chairperson |
| | Janet Schofield - Vice Chairperson |
| | Michael Crean - Treasurer |
| | Carolyn Donnelly |
| | Claire Ferris |
| | Conor Flanagan |
| | Sloan Harper |
| | Fiona Anderson (Appointed 12/11/24) |
| | Brian Pelan (Appointed 12/11/24) |
| | Rhoda Walker (Appointed 12/11/24) |
| | Ethna McFerran (Appointed 12/11/24) |
| | Lekan Ojo-Okiji Abasi (Appointed 12/11/24) |
| Chief Executive | Joanne Vance |

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.

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

Trustees' Report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

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 2025, 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.

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.

Trustees' 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; and
- 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.

Northern Ireland Community Development Health Network Ltd

**Trustees' Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Auditors

The auditors, AAB Group 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: 18 September 2025