

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI032846
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC106084

Fermanagh Women's Aid
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
31 March 2024

Fermanagh Women's Aid

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees/Directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Fermanagh Women's Aid
Charity registration number	NIC106084
Company registration number	NI032846
Principal office and registered office	Safe Hands Centre 19 Darling Street Enniskillen Co Fermanagh BT74 7DP

The trustees

Mc A McKinney	(Appointed 22 May 2023)
Ms T Maguire	(Served from 29 November 2021 to 22 January 2024)
Ms A Flanagan	(Served from 29 November 2021 to 4 July 2024)
Ms P F Lyness	
Dr S Maguire	
Ms T J Maguire	
Ms A Flanagan	
Ms D Blake	
Ms M Freehill	
Dr P Gilleece	(Served from 26 September 2022 to 11 December 2023)

Company secretary Ms A Flanagan

Auditor Crudden Dolan Limited
Chartered Accountants & statutory auditor
23-25 Darling Street
Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh
BT74 7DP

Bankers Bank of Ireland Current Account
Townhall Street
Enniskillen
Co Fermanagh
BT74 7BD

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Year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

Fermanagh Women's Aid is affiliated to Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland (WAFNI). Its purpose and objects are, inter alia, to support women and children who have been or are victims and survivors as a result of Domestic Violence and Abuse. It offers sanctuary, community support and aftercare service where the practical, emotional, social and educational needs of those women and children may be met in a safe environment of empowerment and self-help.

The Board of Directors are the decision-making body of Fermanagh Women's Aid. The Board of Fermanagh Women's Aid for the year ended 31st March 2024 comprised:

NAME	APPOINTMENT	RESIGNATION	ROLE
Angela McKinney	22 nd May 2023		
Jane Kremer	19 th November 2021	4 th July 2024	Chairperson
Claire Allen	19 th November 2021	22 nd January 2024	Secretary (Resigned)
Patricia Lyness	19 th November 2021		Vice-Chair
Stephanie Maguire	14 th December 2021		
Anita Flanagan	21 st June 2022		Secretary
Martina Freehill	10 th August 2022		
Patricia Gilleece	26 th September 2022	11 th December 2023	
Darina Blake	26 th September 2022		
Tara Maguire	20 th February 2023		

The women who sit on the Board as trustees of the charity and Directors of the company represent a range of backgrounds and communities. They bring management skills, and financial skills, as well as extensive experience in community work and development, fundraising and volunteering. There is a structured and detailed process to recruit new Trustees/Directors that is in line with the organisation's Equal Opportunities for Staff and Volunteers Policy and the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Fermanagh Women's Aid has a process for the recruitment and induction of trustees. New trustees will have the opportunity to attend induction training, including: Safeguarding, Governance and Domestic Violence Awareness, and will be provided with Board policies for their role and an Induction Handbook. Depending on the need identified to ensure effective governance, the Board will receive support from external consultants and support personnel on issues such as organisational strategy and employment law.

None of the Trustees/Directors have a financial interest in the company. Any private benefit flowing from the charity's purposes is purely incidental to the public benefit.

The Trustees/Directors receive quarterly reports from the CEO of Fermanagh Women's Aid, Mary McCann and the day-to-day operational management of Fermanagh Women's Aid lies with the CEO.

Under the CEO, staff operate in a number of roles including: Development Manager, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Team Leader, Domestic and Sexual Violence Support Workers (Floating Support Workers), Children's and Young People's Team Leader, Children's and Young People's Support Workers, Training Coordinator, Finance Manager and Triage Worker / Volunteer Coordinator.

Regular team meetings and supervision are carried out by Line Managers and other designated staff, which ensures that members of the organisation function as a closely knit team and that staff development is a priority. WAFNI and external training organisations provide various training courses which staff attend.

In addition to its staff, Fermanagh Women's Aid relies on a core group of volunteers who provide a range of services, including Administration, Court Support, Home Support, Transport, Accompaniment

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Year ended 31 March 2024

to Appointments and On-Call in the Refuge Accommodation. These volunteers, are Access NI checked, required to participate in both internal and external training courses, and are supported and supervised by the Volunteer Coordinator.

Management, in consultation with staff and service users have in place a Risk Management Strategy which assesses areas of risk: Governance, Operational, Financial, Environmental/External and Compliance (law and regulation) and service provision: Floating Support / Refuge Accommodation, Children's Services, and Management and Finance.

Objectives and activities

The charity bases its services around a core philosophy and ethos of self-help. Victims are encouraged to take responsibility for their own recovery and regain their self-respect and self-esteem through exercising control of their everyday lives. We offer a safe Crisis Accommodation, support and listening service to women who require it. Other important assistance includes a 24-hour Helpline, practical assistance and long-term support. The charity also recognises the importance of providing education to service users and other appropriate outside bodies and organisations on the effect of Domestic and Sexual Violence on women, children and extended family.

The core aims of Fermanagh Women's Aid are:

To relieve distress, suffering and poverty by the provision of safe temporary accommodation for women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependents who are, may be, or have been, experiencing domestic, sexual or gender-based violence or abuse;

- To relieve distress, suffering and poverty experienced by women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependents by providing and/or promoting a range of support services such as information, advice centres, confidential services, counselling, outreach, court support, training and advocacy;
- To relieve those in need by the provision of information and advice for those affected by domestic, sexual or gender-based violence or abuse and referral to relevant support agencies;
- To advance education on violence against women and girls, including trafficking and exploitation, and its effects, and to relieve those in need by promoting its prevention and the protection of those affected;
- To advance education on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and abuse and their effects. and to advocate for and to relieve those in need by promoting their prevention and the protection of those affected;
- To advance women's and children's human rights and gender equality to relieve the suffering and distress caused by violence emanating from the violation, impairment or nullification of enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Fermanagh Women's Aid recognises the continued importance of raising awareness of the services that they offer and the issues relating to Domestic and Sexual Violence. It is also important that the organisation continues to provide services at the current level to meet the presenting need and in this way, meet the public benefit requirements of the Charity Commission NI.

Domestic and Sexual Violence is a crime that affects all social classes, traditions and backgrounds and the risk of Domestic and Sexual Violence, among women, does not differ much by ethnic origin.

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Year ended 31 March 2024

The organisation is specifically aimed at assisting women and children who are living with or who have experienced Domestic and Sexual Violence by providing a co-ordinated approach to meeting their needs either through safely maintaining their tenancies or in leaving their home and accessing alternative safe accommodation. Those who require Crisis Accommodation are supported to seek new tenancies and offered resettlement support. Those clients who find alternative safe accommodation will be provided further support until such time as they feel ready to move on. Many of the target group avail of the Personal Development Programmes and assistance that Fermanagh Women's Aid facilitate to improve self-esteem and self-worth.

We have had regard to the Charity Commission NI guidance on public benefit in all our objectives and activities and assert that no harm flows from any of our charitable purposes.

Achievements and performance

Key Statistical Performance in 2023/24:

A full detailed Annual Report on our Impact and Monitoring is available on our website.

- 253 women and 215 children engaged directly in one to one support from a dedicated support worker in Fermanagh Women's Aid;
- Our Refuge Accommodation accommodated 11 women and 7 children;
- Floating Support Services, Refuge Accommodation and Safety and Wellbeing Women's Worker engaged in 1,216 centre/home/refuge visits and 2,229 text/phone/email and online support to women;
- Children's Services and Safety and Wellbeing Children's Worker engaged in 1,342 home/centre/school visits and 927 text/phone/email and online support to children and parents/guardians;
- We facilitated Personal Development Programmes: three My Life My Choice groups (18 women), two Journey to Freedom groups (13 women). Additional programmes delivered include: Right to Be Safe (18 women) and OCN Personal Development Programme (6 women). We facilitated My Life My Choice, Journey to Freedom and Right to be Safe with Omagh Women's Aid: Hope in Common.
- 258 individuals attended Domestic Violence Awareness programmes.
- Staff and Volunteers engaged in 12 Learning and Development Training Sessions, totalling approx. 280 hours for staff.
- Volunteers engaged in 620 hours of volunteering activities.
- Staff travelled 28,328 miles, volunteers travelled 2606 miles and the Board travelled 1557 miles.

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Key Funds Secured in 2023/24:

FUNDER	AMOUNT	TERMS
NIHE - Floating Support	£135,660.20	Ongoing
NIHE - Supporting People	£70,149.56	Ongoing
NIHE Supporting People - Emergency Funding	£18,263.54	In Year Non Recurring Funding
Western Health & Social Care Trust Grant Award	£58,563.36	Ongoing
Assets Recovery Community Scheme	£12,500.00	In Year Non Recurring Funding
BBC Children in Need	£16,666.50	2 Year Project ending 31/10/2023
Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP – Right to be Safe Project	£6,880.00	In Year Non Recurring Funding
Henry Smith Charity	£24,000.00	Annually for 3 Years
Henry Smith Covid Support Fund	£33,700.00	Annually for 3 Years
Leathersellers Co Charitable Fund	£20,000.00	Annually for 3 Years
National Lottery Community Fund	£122,559.00	Annually for 4 Years
Omagh Women's Aid	£2,846.94	In Year Non Recurring Funding
WAFNI	£26,500.00	In Year Non Recurring Funding
Western Outcomes	£5,000.00	In Year Non Recurring Funding
Business Management Activities	£5,417.09	
Conference	£300.00	
Fundraising Activities	£44,914.19	
Housing Management	£19,022.19	
Bank Interest	£1,028.78	
Training	£275.00	
NIHE - Floating Support	£135,660.20	Ongoing
NIHE - Supporting People	£70,149.56	Ongoing
NIHE Supporting People - Emergency Funding	£18,263.54	In Year Non Recurring Funding

Key Performances for Fermanagh Women's Aid 2023/24:

- **Fundraising in the Community:** We were bowled over by the amazing and enthusiastic support from our community in their fundraising efforts for Fermanagh Women's Aid; from knitting groups, coast to coast bicycle ride, winter sit out and the incredible £11,800 raised by one community through their street collections.
- **Monitoring Visits from Funders:** We were delighted to host many of our funders at Fermanagh Women's Aid, showcasing the impact of our work. Our funders had the opportunity to meet

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directly with women and children who accessed our services, reaffirming our commitment to centring the voices of survivors at all levels of our organisation.

- **Violence against Women and Girls Strategy Consultation:** Our staff and service users were honoured to participate in Women's Aid consultations. We ensured that rural women and children were given the opportunity to shape The Executive Office's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

Each of these key achievements of 2023/2024 deliver public benefit as required under the Charity Commission NI guidance.

The range of services offered by Fermanagh Women's Aid are:

Refuge Accommodation

The accommodation has 6 to 8 beds and comprises of self-contained units with communal areas for cooking, laundry and television. The accommodation provides a safe haven – a place of respite, safety and comfort. Women, children and young people are made to feel at home and take responsibility for its day-to-day running, doing their own cooking, cleaning and laundry, etc.

There is no set limit on how long the women may stay as this can depend on their own individual circumstances. Any period of time from two days to several months, longer if they are waiting to be rehoused.

Funding for the Refuge Accommodation comes from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Supporting People initiative.

Outreach services

This includes 4 Domestic and Sexual Violence Workers (Floating Support Workers) and 3 Children's Services Workers. Alongside a Safety and Wellbeing Women's Support Worker and Safety and Wellbeing Children's Support Worker (Safety and Wellbeing Project). Fermanagh Women's Aid provides support to women, children, and young people within the community experiencing Domestic Violence and Abuse.

In particular, outreach services help to promote awareness and support within remote rural areas. Therefore, services based in the outreach communities are essential for Fermanagh Women's Aid to fully address its remit for reaching out to all potential users.

Support and information

The support and information service provided by the Safe Hands Centre from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am to 4.00pm on Friday;

NEXUS NI operate a 24-hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline outside of office hours;

A 24-hour On-Call Rota System ensures that a member of staff is always on call to deal with any admissions to or emergency situations to the Refuge Accommodation;

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Women or statutory agencies and community/voluntary groups may call for support, guidance and information on Domestic Violence and Abuse and the services provided by Fermanagh Women's Aid;

We operate a drop-in service (walk in) which is open to all women who are currently experiencing or have experienced Domestic Violence and Abuse at some stage, whether or not they have used the services of Fermanagh Women's Aid in the past.

Prevention work in schools

Fermanagh Women's Aid delivers Healthy Relationships Programmes in post-primary schools and Social

Guardian Training to teachers in primary schools in Co. Fermanagh. This work is vitally important and highlights the difficulties children and young people face in their daily lives.

Personal Development Programmes

Fermanagh Women's Aid offers a wide range of Personal Development Programmes throughout the year to women both internally and externally, with the aim of increasing confidence, self-esteem, improving mental wellbeing and understanding and awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse and its impact:

- My Life My Choice
- Journey to Freedom

Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness

Our Training Coordinator delivers Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness within the community to statutory agencies and community/voluntary groups, including:

- Level 2 in Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness (CCN Endorsed or Unendorsed) (Full Day)
- Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness Sessions (1hr, 2hr, Half Day or Full Day)
- Bespoke Training, e.g. 'In Safe Hands' Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness for Hairdressers and Beauticians

Service delivery

All staff, volunteers and service users are given the opportunity to contribute to and influence the development of service delivery, through consultations, quarterly briefs and Focus Groups.

Regular house meetings at Refuge Accommodation with service users and Information Sharing Meetings with staff routinely encourage feedback and evaluation of services provided and organisational issues.

Monitoring

We routinely collect statistical information on the number of referrals, service user monitoring and weekly activities of staff and volunteers; this information forms our Annual Report and Impact Report (available upon request). The information obtained is used for service improvement, understanding emerging Domestic Violence and Abuse trends and used to inform funders, statutory agencies and the general public of the level and nature of the work carried out by Fermanagh Women's Aid.

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Evaluation forms are completed at the end of each Personal Development Programme, children and young people complete an evaluations questionnaire at commencement and exiting from the service and a sample selection of women will complete an Exit Questionnaire; all with the intention of providing user experience's comments on services delivered and areas for improvement.

Service users' views and experiences, in terms of qualitative feedback, are taken on board and used to inform the development of future services based on women's needs rather than those of Fermanagh Women's Aid.

Financial review

Fermanagh Women's Aid continues to depend on a diverse range of incomes and works continuously to source and secure new income streams. Most of the funds we receive are restricted to specific objectives and the organisation continues to work to secure unrestricted income streams.

At 31st March 2024, the unrestricted and designated reserves were £159,582 and restricted reserves were £177,212.

The charity also carries out traditional fundraising activities but its unrestricted reserves are comparatively small.

Reserves policy

The guidance on best practice for Charity Reserves states that "it is best practice for charities to maintain a level of reserve, sufficient to cover themselves in the face of unforeseen events and also to enable them to be able to cover the costs of winding up should the worst happen and the charity need to close"

The Board of Directors of Fermanagh Women's Aid has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. We have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible assets held by the charity should be between 3 and 6 months of the expenditure requirement.

Expenditure for 2023/24 was £599,237 and therefore the reserves target is £149,809 to £299,618

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

While overall reserves currently stands at £119,582, a designated contingency of £40,000 is required.

The Trustees are conscious of the current financial climate for the voluntary sector and anticipate that this may take 3 years to achieve. The Trustees will continue to contingency plan accordingly.

Future plans

- Promotion
 - To increase access to services and information by expanding Fermanagh Women's Aid's reach through a range of media.
 - To build and maintain partnership approaches both locally and regionally to Domestic Abuse.
-

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Year ended 31 March 2024

- To promote our Lottery funded Lighthouse project in partnership with Omagh Women's Aid engaging with young people across Fermanagh and Omagh to reduce Domestic Abuse.
 - To embed outcomes-based accountability into all aspects of our service monitoring to highlight the success of FWA interventions.
- Training
 - To deliver training and awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse within relevant statutory, voluntary and community agencies
 - To promote and disseminate effective local inter-agency work practice
 - To ensure that volunteers and Board Trustees/Directors receive appropriate training in order to fulfil their roles and responsibilities
 - To develop the sustainability of the post of Training Coordinator.
- Direct services
 - To progress proposals for Refuge Accommodation in Fermanagh.
 - To continue to manage and support volunteers and their skills within the organisation
 - To ensure equal opportunities through improved accessibility.
 - To develop our Adult Support Services, meeting the presenting and emerging needs of women.
 - To develop our Children's and Young People's Services, meeting the presenting and emerging needs of children and young people
 - To centre the voices of women and children in the development of our services through Focus Groups with Women and Young People
- Funding
 - To diversify income streams to secure the long-term sustainability of services.
 - To secure funding to expand services in response to identified need.
 - To raise our fundraising profile
 - To continue to nurture our relationships with current and future funders ensuring robust monitoring and accountability.
 - To increase access to unrestricted income streams and invest reserves.
- Staff
 - To recruit for vacancies as appropriate in order to meet service demands
 - To provide on-going support and supervision for staff and their development
- BOD
 - Continue to actively recruit to the Board of Directors, as required, ensuring that we maintain a minimum of 6 Board of Directors
 - Ensure that we define clear Board of Directors roles and responsibilities, and Board of Directors are aware of such at recruitment, induction and continued appointment to the Board.
 - To diversify the voices leading our organisation, ensuring that women from a wide range of backgrounds are represented.

Thanks

We work with a wide range of organisations and receive funding from a variety of sources. We are grateful to the funders referred to in these financial statements for their support. We are grateful also to

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

the various individuals and organisations that provide non-financial support in enabling Fermanagh Women's Aid to continue with its activities.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors 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).

Company law requires the company trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

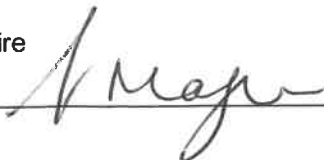
- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 2nd October 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Ms T Maguire
Director



Ms A Flanagan
Director

