

# Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd

Northern Ireland · Charity number 106096

## Details

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**Known as** Newry Women's Aid

**Status** Received

**Company number** [30774](#)

**Registered** 2017-04-03

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

## Contact

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Newry  
BT34 1dz  
BT34 1DZ

**Phone** 028 302 50765

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**Website** [www.womensaidarmaghdown.org](http://www.womensaidarmaghdown.org)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The Objects of the Charity for the benefit of the public are: 3.1. to relieve distress suffering and poverty by the provision of safe temporary accommodation for women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependants who are, or have been, experiencing domestic, sexual or gender based violence or abuse; 3.2. to relieve distress and suffering and poverty experienced by women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependants by providing and/or promoting a range of support services such as information, advice centres, confidential services, counselling, outreach, court support, training and advocacy; 3.3. 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; 3.4. 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; 3.5 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; 3.6. 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.

**What the charity does:** The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

**How the charity works:** Accommodation/housing, Advice/advocacy/information, Counselling/support, Criminal justice, Human rights/equality, Relief of poverty

**Who the charity helps:** Children (5-13 year olds), Community safety/crime prevention, Ethnic minorities, Homelessness, Mental health, Older people, Parents, Physical disabilities, Preschool (0-5 year olds), Tenants, Travellers, Unemployed/low income, Victim support, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,940,119	£1,338,112	£-35,860	36

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mrs Majella Gollogly		
Mrs Sarah Louise Henry		
Ms Cheryl Mcgookin		
Ms Gail Mcgreevy		
Ms Louise Campbell		
Ms Najla Basketfield		
Ms Niamh O'maolain		
Ms Tracy Mary Mcavoy		

**Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106096

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# Accounts

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**Charity registration number NIC106096 (Northern Ireland)**

**Company registration number NI030774**

**WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD  
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	N Ó'Maoláin S Henry N Basketfield M Larkin C Curran K Ervine M Gollogly J Laroche C M Magookin T McAvoy G McCreevy L Campbell	(Appointed 7 May 2024)
<b>Secretary</b>	M Larkin	
<b>Charity number (Northern Ireland)</b>	NIC106096	
<b>Company number</b>	NI030774	
<b>Registered office</b>	7 Downshire Place Newry BT34 1DZ	
<b>Auditor</b>	HM Chartered Accountants 6th Floor East Tower Lanyon Plaza 8 Lanyon Place Belfast County Antrim BT1 3LP	
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland 12 Trevor Hill Newry Co. Down BT34 1DT	
<b>Solicitors</b>	Casey & Casey Solicitors Legal House 25-27 Lower Catherine Street Newry Co Down Northern Ireland BT35 6BE	

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Women's Aid Armagh Down is a registered charity with Northern Ireland Charity Commission, NICC 106096 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland, NI030774. The organisation was founded in 1983 and it was established under Memorandum of Association in 1996 which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

We are members of the Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland (WAFNI) and a representative from our management board is invited to sit on the WAFNI board. We work closely with all Women's Aid local groups across Northern Ireland and promote good governance, best practice and effective communication across the organisation consequently ensuring a regional commitment and connected partnership working to effectively and efficiently manage the strategic direction for Women's Aid Armagh Down and for the work of Women's Aid regionally.

### Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The Directors of the company, as at year end are listed at the front of this report, are also Charity Trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the Company's Articles are known as members of the Board of Directors. The Board meet on a six-weekly basis and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the Charity. The day-to-day management and operations of the activities are carried out and overseen by the chief executive officer and the senior management team.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

N Ó'Maoláin	Chair
S Henry	Vice Chair
M Larkin	Secretary
L Campbell	Treasurer
C Curran	Director
N Basketfield	Director
M Gollongly	Director
C Magookin	Director
T McAvoy	Director
G McGreevy	Director
J LaRoche	Director
K Ervine	Director

### Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Directors are elected to serve a period of three years, after which they must be re-elected at the following AGM. The Directors' liability is limited by guarantee. The chair and Vice Chair are appointed from within the board and can remain in office for three years.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### Objectives and activities

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic violence and providing services for women, children and young people. Women's Aid seeks to challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic/sexual violence and abuse, and through its work, promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

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

To relieve distress and suffering experienced by women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependants 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.

Women's Aid Armagh Down provides a wide range of support services and other appropriate service necessity in the meeting of our Charity objectives and providing public benefit. Working within a challenging funding environment, Women's Aid Armagh Down continues to meet all performance targets throughout 2023/24. We engage with staff, volunteers and with a wide range of external agencies across the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council (NMDDC) and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council (ABCBC) areas ensuring our services are not only delivering on our charitable objectives in both rural and urban areas but also that our services are responding to the urgent need of women, children and young people right at the heart of our community.

### **Governance**

WAAD have continued with the following in place during this reporting period.

- Policy & Procedures reviewed and ratified by Board
- Organisational Risk Management oversight from Board

### Achievements and performance

#### **Strategic Planning**

Our strategic plan is dedicated to placing women, children and young people experiencing domestic/sexual abuse at the heart of everything we do, ensuring they receive the help and support they deserve. We recognise the challenges ahead - adapting to changing needs, addressing barriers, and responding to increasing demand - and are committed to meeting them with innovation, resilience, and collaboration.

#### **Vision**

'A world where women and children are safe and supported'

#### **Mission**

'To believe in, listen to and support women and children facing domestic abuse so that they feel safe, hopeful and can thrive'

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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The Vision and Mission of WAAD continue to be central to our daily work and future planning, guided by our 2023-28 Strategic Plan. Within our plan, we operate under two thematic pillars:

**Pillar One:** Supporting Women and Children & **Pillar Two:** Building a Sustainable and Resilient Organisation

Pillar One is underpinned with five goals and Pillar Two with three goals. Each goal is aligned to a measure of success which specifies the change we want to see. The measures of success aligned to our goals are not exhaustive and are likely to evolve as the social, economic and legal environments we work within change and we want to be both robust enough to meet the challenges and changes ahead while also flexible and adaptive enough to grasp the opportunities.

**Pillar One – Goal 1:** Support women facing domestic abuse to feel safe, supported, empowered and hopeful, unlocking their potential to thrive.

We deliver on this by:

- Providing 11 bed refuge accommodation
- Providing crisis support for women living in the community
- Represent women and children referred within the MARAC process

Key outputs for the year include:

- 1,559 referrals processed for 1342 women
- 1,237 women engaged in one or more forms of support with us
- 34 women and 25 children housed in refuge
- 54 programmes delivered supporting 540 women
- 83 referrals by WAAD to MARAC (11 being repeat MARAC referrals) and 69 referrals for support received from MARAC
- Represent the experiences of women and children within Domestic Homicide Reviews

### **Impact for women:**

When we asked women how the support has impacted their lives they told us:

*"Women's aid has changed my view on myself, my opinion of my relationships and most important I don't see myself as a VICTIM of abuse I am SURVIVIOR!!"*

*"Thank you to all amazing staff help me so much and show me I can be strong again"*

*"I can't thank the service providers enough for all their help. I've come out of this ordeal a much stronger and more confident person thanks to the help I have received."*

*"Each apt was a stepping stone for me to reach, when I was in a tough place I thought I only have X amount of days until I see Aoife...you are a parachute, an oxygen mask for women who are lost, confused, at breaking point."*

**Pillar One – Goal 2:** Address the evolving needs of children and young people across the region by building and extending our children's service

We deliver on this by:

- Providing 1-2-1 support
- Playroom support
- Creche
- Extending the SAHRA (Safe And Healthy Relationships Advocate) project into pre and post primary schools across ABC and NMD
- A range of summer activities



# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

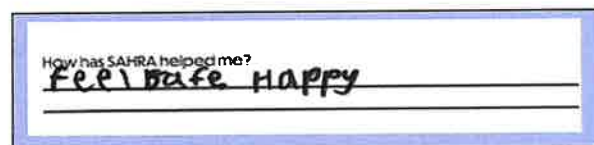
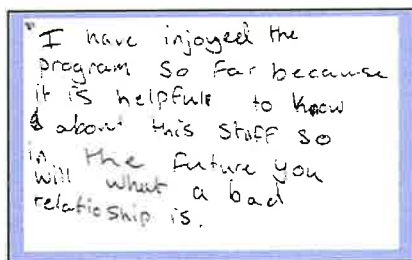
- A range of Christmas activities
- Providing Social Guardian Training to 19 primary school teachers
- Delivering Healthy Relationship programmes in 19 schools across the districts
- Social Action Youth



Key outputs for the year include:

- 166 referrals were processed for the service
- 25 children and their mums housed in refuge
- 133 children benefitted from emotional /playroom support.
- 97 engaged in tailored one to one support
- 41 children and young people engaged in the SAHRA project in schools following an Operation Encompass referral
- 660 pupils engaged in Healthy Relationship workshops delivered in their classrooms

### Impact for children and young people:



### Pillar One – Goal 3: Enhance access to our floating support and crisis services

We delivered on goal 3 by:

- Provide crisis support for women attending Emergency & Maternity Department in Daisy Hill, Craigavon Area Hospitals and now also South Tyrone Minor Injuries Unit, via our DASS project in partnership with the SHSCT
- Provide advocacy and education support to victims within 26 local GP surgeries via our IRIS project
- Nationwide Community Grant & Mercy Nuns funding provided additional crisis support capacity
- Provide safety and emotional support to females while their partners and ex partners complete PBNI Promoting Positive Relationship Programmes
- Provide Education and Employment pathways to women via the Employ Me partnership project
- Provide a wide range of wellbeing and post crisis support programs and activities through our Wellbeing "Hope & Resilience" and the new "Becoming Connected, Becoming Empowered" projects
- Provide access to Counselling support
- In October 2024, we also launched our new Newry, Mourne & Down One Stop Shop – a monthly drop-in service with 6 co-located services under one roof. More than just a service, the OSS has become a **safe and empowering space**, where women can access multiple agencies under one roof and feel truly heard. The stories emerging from this initiative highlight its growing impact, bringing hope, confidence, and meaningful change to women in our community.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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Key outputs for the year include:

- 127 women supported at hospital sites
- 104 patients supported via their GP surgery
- 8 women engaged with our PBNI Partner Support Worker
- 29 women came along to new One Stop Shops in Newry
- 67 women engaged in the Employ Me programme
- 95 women engaged in post crisis and wellbeing support
- 216 counselling sessions provided across the year

### Impact of Employ Me for women:

When we asked women who engaged in the Employ Me Project **“What impact has the programme had on your life”** they told us:

*“I just think that it would really be doing women an injustice to not have this programme through Women’s aid. It can be life changing, it can have that effect, that’s what it has been for me”*

When we asked **“Do you feel you would have looked at an employment programme without Women’s Aid”** they told us:

*“No way I would not have put myself forward for something like that...I did want to get a career but the low confidence and impact of being out of work was more powerful. Would have been a long time before reaching out or getting back into work”*

### Impact of IRIS for patients:

58% of patients (n=85) reported needing to see their GP less after engaging with IRIS. While 75% (n=85) of patients reported they felt more optimistic about the future.

*“The support and help I have received has been life changing. When I started my journey with Leona I was confused, alone, and very emotional. Today I feel strong, and I am so thankful for all of the support & care.”*

GP following training: *“I am now much more aware of how DVSA may present and am now much more likely to ask direct questions. I have also learnt the proper way to respond - to thank the patient for telling me and not to minimise what she is telling me. I am now much more likely to refer to Iris now that I am aware of its vital role. I am now aware of red flags relating to DSVAs. The course has also taught me how to deal with perpetrators as patients.”*

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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**Pillar One – Goal 4:** To develop and operate a holistic, multi-level support service for women, children and young people at all stages of their journey (ELEOS concept)

We deliver on this by:

- Continuing to build a multi-level pathway of support, with various entry and exit points for women at any stage of their journey from survival to thriving.
- Beginning the three-phase renovation works at No 5 Downshire Place. This is the first physical step on the pathway to a more extensive service for children and young people
- Secured funding from the Domestic & Sexual Abuse Strategy Small Grant scheme to deliver a research paper in partnership with Dr Annemarie Miller looking into the co-designing of a young women's support service to seek to meet the needs of girls 16 years plus
- Secured funding for a further three-year wellbeing programme "Becoming Connected, Becoming Empowered" to support women's journeys back into their communities. The project has three main pillars: Training & Connection, 1:1 Community Wellbeing Support, Giving Back/ Volunteering. Themes include Identity, confidence, self-esteem, connections, empowerment, goal setting and women into leadership
- Harnessing the support from our local communities in Dec 2024 to provide practical support for 161 families

Key outputs for the year include:

- 38 young women and girls took part in our Young Women's research.
- Nov 2024 - we break ground on the renovations on No 5 Downshire.
- 98 women engaged in the first elements of the new Wellbeing project.
- £79,580 worth of tangible support in toys, gifts, food, heating vouchers and Christmas dinner was provided to support 485 people for the festive season.

### **Impact for families:**

When we supported families at Christmas they told us:

*"I appreciate the food, toys and clothes and all the Christmas support my family received"*

One keyworker told us that without the Christmas food support the families she supported would not have been able to have a family Christmas dinner.

For one woman we were able to source a very simple but specific Christmas wish her young son had and ensure that she was able to give this to him on Christmas morning. This mum expressed feelings of being in a position to provide and care for her young family and this small gift was a huge symbol of connection between her and her son.

When we talked to women about the plans for renovations at our Newry Site they told us:

*"I wish I could get Anneka Rice to build your new premises but it's the people in it, not the building."*

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

**Pillar One – Goal 5:** To strengthen our relationships with local partners and work collaboratively to access new funding to enhance services for women, children and young people.

We deliver on this by:

- Delivery and development of our partnership DASS (Domestic Abuse Safety & Support) project providing advocacy to female victims of DSA and providing specialist training to SHSCT frontline staff and wider frontline emergency services
- Delivery and development of the SAHRA project with primary and post primary schools, supported in part by our local Police & Community Safety Partnerships, providing one to one support for children following an Operation Encompass referral to their school
- Employ Me completed year two of the project and supported women, using WAAD services to consider and engage in their re-entry to education and or employment. This is a highly successful partnership with Southern Regional College, Clanrye, Community Advice and WAAD. It has reopened a pathway for WAAD to promote education and employment to the women we support. Employment enables financial independence, and this creates freedom and opportunities for women living with the impact of Domestic and Sexual Abuse.
- WAAD continues to be a key partner in a range of local and regional partnerships. Across 24-25 WAAD was represented on:
  - Southern Area Domestic & Sexual Violence Partnership
  - Southern Area Safeguarding Panel
  - Local Adult Safeguarding Panel (including 2 x prevention and training sub committees)
  - Strategic Stakeholders Framework (NMD)
  - Southern Area Protect Life Implementation Group
  - Domestic Homicide Reviews
  - NIHE Homelessness Strategy
  - All Island VAW Working Group
  - ABC Council Community & Voluntary Sector Panel
  - NMD Wellbeing Action Partnership
  - NMD Family Support Hub
  - Armagh Family Support Hub
  - Banbridge & Craigavon Family Support Hub

- On the 10<sup>th</sup> of Dec 2024 we held our annual candlelight vigil to remember the lives and stolen futures of the 26 women who had been murdered in NI since 2020 in a Domestic Homicide, this year we held the vigil in Lurgan town centre.

Devastatingly 9 days later following the murder of Karen Cummings in her home in Banbridge WAAD was asked by ABC Councillors to support a candlelight vigil and call to action in Solitude Park. Attended by hundreds of residents, public representatives and close family and friends of Karen, WAAD stood shoulder to shoulder with ABC residents to call for action to stop the murder of women in their homes.



# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



Key outputs for the year include:

- 141 women offered DASS, 127 engaged in support. 1044 staff trained in multiple learning modules including Coercive Control, Non-Fatal Strangulation, Stalking and Harassment
- 5 schools engaged in the SAHRA project with 41 children and young people engaging in support
- 44 women had employment & education support, while 31 of those women actively engaged in formal education and employment programmes.
- Delivery of 943 external learning hours to stakeholders in the community.

### **Impact of the DASS training frontline medical teams:**

Non- Fatal Strangulation with Consultants: *"this training was so important to us as front-line workers"*

Coercive control session: *"A great piece of training which can be useful in all areas of professional life and personal life"*

Maternity Midwife: *"Excellent education setting, gained a lot of useful information that I will carry with me and use throughout my midwifery training and beyond."*

### **Impact of a Specialist worker in Schools (SAHRA)**

**Mr Andrew Frizzell, Principal of Hart Memorial Primary School, Portadown – participant in the SAHRA project.**

*"At our school, we have found the work with SAHRA to be invaluable to help us address pupil safety on the back of challenging situations in home lives. The project effectively bridges the gap between home difficulties and the school setting, in a way which we as a school could not do."*

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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**Pillar Two – Goal 6:** To operate with the highest standards of governance with robust financial management

We deliver on this by:

- Producing annual reports and impact cards annually
- Continuing with our practice of measuring our Social Return on Investment (SROI), our social impact independent audit of our services demonstrates that the work of Women's Aid Armagh Down gives a SROI return of £22 for every £1 of funding invested in our services.
- Independent financial audit
- Financial and Human Resources - policies and procedures – Reserves Policy
- Fundraising Regulator compliance
- Board of Directors recruitment
- Board of Directors and Finance & HR Sub Committee meetings

As a nonprofit organisation, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of governance and financial stewardship. Our Board of Directors provides strategic oversight to ensure that our activities remain aligned with our mission, values, and the interests of our stakeholders. We have established clear policies, transparent decision-making processes, and strong internal controls to support accountability and ethical leadership across the organization.

Our financial management practices are guided by prudence and transparency, ensuring that all resources are used effectively and responsibly to maximize impact. Regular financial reporting, independent audits, and ongoing monitoring help us maintain fiscal integrity and build trust with donors, partners, and the communities we serve.

**Pillar Two – Goal 7:** To invest in and support our staff and volunteers personally and professionally, ensuring that WAAD is a great place to work

We deliver on this by:

- Agreeing investment in staff training beginning a yearlong NOCN Level 3 Certificate in Preventing and Tackling DA, a nationally recognised IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) qualification. Once qualified, WAAD's 14 frontline staff will be amidst a small regional handful of qualified IDVAs
- Secured funding to provide a full day workshop with Wayne Denner on "Technology Assisted Harm" in March for 28 members of the team
- Completed the 3pm Friday finish pilot and was able to implement this into the standard working week for all staff
- Invested in approximately 1,720 hours of training across the team in 24-25.
- Wellbeing for Staff – as part of our overall wellbeing for staff plan, we aim to have four main events per year eg: International Women's Day sharing breakfast, Dealing with Stress in the Workplace, Health & Wellbeing checks. We engage with the staff to ask how best to support their wellbeing needs in the workplace.
- Work Well Live Well NICHHS programme – we are currently signed up to this programme and have two staff trained as Health Champions and another one due to be trained in Nov 25. The staff completed a survey in 2023 regarding all their health & wellbeing needs and from that a wellbeing plan was developed.
- Improved staff sickness benefit scheme.
- Enrolling all staff in the Hospital Saturday Fund's, Health Cash Plan and Health Assist programmes to support them and their families' health and wellbeing.

At WAAD, we believe that our staff and volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to investing in their personal and professional growth, ensuring they feel supported, valued, and empowered in their roles. Through training opportunities, ongoing development and open channels for feedback, we strive to foster a culture of learning, inclusion, and wellbeing.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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We continue to build a positive and supportive work environment where people are motivated by purpose and feel proud to contribute to our vision and mission. By promoting staff wellbeing, recognizing the contributions of volunteers, and nurturing leadership at all levels, we aim to make WAAD not just a great place to work, but a place where people thrive.

**Pillar Two – Goal 8:** To enhance our financial sustainability by raising our profile and diversifying our income sources including grant funding, corporate donations and social economy activity

This year, WAAD made significant progress in strengthening our financial sustainability by raising our profile and diversifying our income sources.

We successfully secured new grant funding including support from The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) for a three-year wellbeing project which helped us expand our services and reach more beneficiaries. We also received funding from Dormant Accounts through NLCF for a Business Development Manager post which enabled us to concentrate on our fundraising strategy.

We have continued to meet existing funders to review our budgets to meet National Insurance and cost of living increases.

We also deepened our engagement with the corporate sector, resulting in new corporate partnerships including Newry Chamber of Commerce and Lord Mayor of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Sarah Duffy who selected WAAD as Charity of the Year.

Thank you to all fundraisers who gave us their support in this year – too many to mention. We have seen fantastic fundraisers from local businesses, sports clubs, schools, churches and individuals who organised collections, ran marathons, walked the Camino and took part in spinathons. A special word of thanks must go to the McNally family on their Walk to Croker event, which supported by ABP Beef who matched their fundraising total. Also a special to the team and participants who ran Strictly Come Down in Portadown, also generously supported by local businesses, both huge fundraising events with a huge amount of investment. We are so grateful to each and every one.

In addition, we developed our income generating activity delivering training to 943 external stakeholders, which has provided new opportunities for community involvement and sustainability.

These efforts mark an important step toward reducing our reliance on a single income stream and ensuring WAAD can continue delivering vital support for years to come.

A pivotal achievement this year was securing grant funding through the Community Ownership Fund, with the expert guidance of Development Trusts Northern Ireland. This award acted as a vital catalyst, enabling us to attract further funding and investment from sources including Garfield Weston, the Pilgrim's Trust, corporate sponsors, and the remarkable generosity of local businesses and individuals. Together, these contributions allowed us to realise the aims outlined in our Strategic Plan.

Working with our architects, O'Hagan & Associates, and specifically under the guidance of Damian Morris, we entered a tender process for the capital works required to refurbish No. 5 Downshire Place. On 25th November 2024, Phase 1 of our ambitious £3 million refurbishment project commenced, marking the beginning of the ELEOS Centre. Witnessing the progress to date—and seeing the foundations being laid for a stronger, more sustainable future—fills me with confidence that this vital work will continue to flourish.

Once all three phases are complete, this transformative development will see both No. 5 and No. 7 Downshire Place fully refurbished and fit for purpose, while also creating a new Children and Young People's Hub. This dedicated space will provide a much-needed, trauma-responsive support service tailored to the complex needs of children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

We are now at a critical stage—one that will determine our ability to ensure women, children, and young people continue to access our specialised services within an environment that enhances recovery, inspires hope, and fosters resilience, enabling each person and families to rebuild and thrive. There is still much to be done.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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The completion of the ELEOS Centre will not only transform the experience of those we support but will also significantly enhance the wellbeing and effectiveness of our staff. By providing safe, professional, and uplifting surroundings, we will strengthen our ability to deliver high-quality services, while supporting the recruitment, retention, and development of our dedicated team, ensuring the long-term sustainability of our work.

The Board of Directors and Senior Management team remain focused on supporting our staff and volunteers to deliver the highest standard of professionalism and compassion, ensuring that everyone who turns to us in their most vulnerable moments is met with dignity, respect, and hope in a safe and supportive environment.

The team at WAAD is deeply grateful to all funders, community partners, board members, staff, volunteers, and our wider community, whose unwavering commitment makes this possible. Together, we ensure that every woman, child, and young person who comes through our doors finds not only safety, understanding, and support, but also the possibility of healing and a future filled with hope.

### **Volunteering**

Women's Aid Armagh Down is pleased to report the continued and invaluable contribution of volunteers within the organisation. During the reporting year, volunteers provided a total of 3079 hours of service across a range of functions, significantly enhancing the delivery of our work and the impact of our services.

The economic value of this volunteer contribution is conservatively estimated at £42,367. Beyond this measurable impact, the dedication and commitment of our volunteers continue to strengthen the organisation's capacity to support women and children affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

Women's Aid Armagh Down continues to work in close partnership with Volunteer Now to ensure that volunteers receive comprehensive support, training, and development opportunities, enabling them to carry out their roles effectively and with confidence.

### **Educate and Informing the Public – Policy/Lobbying**

On behalf of women, children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse, Women's Aid Armagh Down continues to advocate and lobby at local and regional level. The CEO and senior management team continue to work alongside the eight local groups and Women's Aid Federation NI to ensure regional, collective and responsive actions in campaigning, lobbying and policy development ensuring that the voices of women, children and young people are clearly heard and firmly on the agenda for all those decision makers who are in positions of power with the moral responsibility to listen and act putting safety and protection of women, children and young people centre front of all policies and strategies. As stated elsewhere in this report, we continue to deliver Domestic/Sexual Abuse awareness training to a wide range of agencies.

We responded to 8 consultations and calls for views across 24-25 ensuring the voices of women and children with lived experience continue to shape government policy and practices:

- Domestic Abuse Safe Leave
- Review of Routine Enquiry (PHA)
- Proposals to Enhance Protection of complainants' personal information in pre-trial third-party material disclosure applications in serious sexual offence cases (DoJ)
- Survey for Stakeholders Views of the Court Experiences of Witnesses of the New Domestic Abuse Offence (DoJ)
- People's Housing Bill Consultation (Private Members Bill)
- PPS Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Stalking
- Call for Views - New Victim and Witness Strategy 25/30
- Consultation on proposals for a Victims and Witnesses of Crime Bill

We continue to engage with researchers and academic projects to ensure they are informed by the lived experience. Across 24-25 both WAAD Domestic Abuse Specialists and the women, children and young people we work with engaged in 3 pieces of research.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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- “Designing specialised service for young women” with Dr Anne Marie Millar
- “Coercive Control: Understanding and Experiences in a Post – Bill Environment” with Rosalyn Millar, Dr Emma Nolan and Dr Katrina Mc Laughlin QUB, School of Psychology
- QUB Policy Paper: “Domestic Abuse Survivors Experiences of Family Courts in Northern Ireland” by Dr Katrina McLaughlin, School of Psychology, Queen’s University Belfast; Rosalyn Millar, School of Psychology, Queen’s University Belfast; and Caoilfhionn Hardy, Southern Trust and Women's Aid.

### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Board of Women’s Aid Armagh Down Limited confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance produced on public benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charitable company has continued to provide public benefits through the charitable activities delivered.

### **Financial review**

The net movement of funds amounted to an increase of £602,007, of which an increase of £246,566 related to unrestricted activities and a increase of £355,441 related to restricted funds. The Charity is involved in various income generating activities to provide adequate resources to meet its objectives. The charity has £1,169,766 of unrestricted reserves and restricted reserves of £456,190 as at 31 March 2025.

### **Reserves policy**

Reserves are represented by the fund balances in the balance sheet. Restricted funds are those where the charity must spend the funds in line with a particular purpose or project, usually specified by the donor or as identified at the time of receiving the funds. Unrestricted reserves do not carry any restrictions on how they can be used as they not restricted to, nor designated for, a particular purpose.

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a minimum of three month’s expected expenditure to cover the main risk to the organisation including redundancy and funder contracts. The aim is to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise, recognise the volatile grant environment as well as allowing for the payment of any liabilities which would arise should the company cease to operate. Reserves are monitored as part of the review of financial reports on an on-going basis throughout the year.

### **Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that HM Chartered Accountants be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

### **Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### A Word from the Directors/Trustees

Our Annual Report is produced each year to review progress against our strategic objectives and ensure good governance. Beyond that, however, it also offers us a moment of reflection to celebrate the many achievements of our staff and the women and children with whom they have worked over the last year.

The financial year 2024/25 was a busy and exciting one for Women's Aid Armagh Down. Having celebrated our 40th anniversary in 2023/24, the theme running throughout the work mentioned in this report is future ambition. This year we embarked on a significant capital project, developing our premises in line with our strategic aims to deliver long-term, sustainable services.

In last year's report, we reflected on the incredible generosity of the community - both individuals and businesses. I am delighted to see that continue. On behalf of the entire organisation I want to offer an enormous thank you to our many, many donors, without whom we could not continue. Donations have always come to us with a story: a tragic event sparking an outpouring of generosity; a donor knowing someone who had needed our services; a donor having once needed us themselves. In the last few years, however, we have seen more businesses stand behind us, because there is a greater understanding of just how valuable and needed our services are, by women and children from right across every demographic and every part of our area.

That need grows each year, and we must find ways to make our limited resources stretch. Our senior leadership team of Eileen, Helen, Gillian, Linda and Mairead do incredible work to deliver essential services with extreme professionalism. They are ably supported by our dedicated and talented staff team, who are experts in delivering the trauma-informed support that has helped so many women find a path out of the darkness. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our partners, in particular our accountant Tony Clarke, and our PR and comms consultant Deborah King, both of whom have helped us become a more resilient, ambitious and sustainable organisation. A huge thank you to our volunteers, who devote so much of their time and energy to this work, helping us do more and achieve more for women and children. I further extend that thanks to my fellow Board members, who volunteer their skills and expertise to make this a better and stronger organisation. The support and teamwork of everyone involved in our work at all levels is something for which we are profoundly grateful.

Our work, sadly, is far from done. The growing epidemic of male violence against women and children is a real and major threat. Perpetrators behave monstrously, but they are not monsters. They are men that we know. They are from our community and they are part of it. 'Protecting women and girls' was a slogan used in the summer of 2025 to justify violence against some of the most vulnerable in society by a group of men, almost half of whom had previously been reported for domestic abuse. There will always be those who try to distract and blame others for their wrong-doing; there will always be those who try to maintain their status through violence and control. Do not let them. The women who have come through our services know what can be achieved when we work together with hope and ambition. We believe in, listen to and support women and children facing domestic abuse so that they feel safe, hopeful and can thrive. When we all do that, consistently and collaboratively, we will build a world where women and children are safe and supported.

**The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Directors.**



**Niamh Ó'Maoláin**  
**Chair of Board of Directors**

Date: 23/12/2025

## WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

### A WORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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Again, as in every previous year, the statistics are startling, disturbing, but unfortunately very real. With only a single refuge available to provide safe and secure accommodation for women, children, and young people fleeing domestic abuse across the Newry, Mourne and Down, and the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon district areas, the facts are stark.

Out of the 119 women who sought refuge accommodation, we were only able to house 35 women and 22 children and young people — purely because the refuge remained full, operating at a 99% occupancy rate throughout 2024–25.

The demand for our community-based support services — consisting of a range of individual projects delivered across the above areas — also remains extremely high. In total, 1,202 women received direct support, and 540 women participated in therapeutic and personal development programmes.

Early intervention and prevention continue to be a central focus of our work wherever possible. Our support for children and young people also remains a priority — for me, this is vital work as we strive to guide them through their traumatic experiences of domestic abuse, helping them move forward with hope, clarity, and understanding.

However, the demand for a suitable and appropriate environment in which to deliver these essential services has become increasingly urgent. Both No. 5 and No. 7 Downshire Place have been degrading rapidly, becoming close to unusable for staff and unfit for purpose as safe, welcoming spaces for women and children. It had become increasingly distressing to ask anyone to receive support in such conditions.

Therefore, when we were successful in securing grant funding through the Community Ownership Fund, with the accomplished and judicious assistance of Development Trusts Northern Ireland, it marked a turning point — one that will allow us to provide the dignity, safety, and support our service users deserve.

The Community Ownership Fund award acted as a vital catalyst, enabling us to secure additional funding and investment from other sources. Alongside the generous contributions received from local businesses and individuals, this support allowed us to commence Phase 1 of an ambitious £3 million refurbishment project. This transformative development will see both No. 5 and No. 7 Downshire Place fully refurbished and made fit for purpose, while also creating a new Children and Young People's Hub. This dedicated space will provide a much-expanded, trauma-responsive support service tailored to the complex needs of children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

We are now at a critical stage in this endeavour — a stage that will determine our capacity to ensure women, children, and young people continue to access our specialised services within an environment that enhances recovery, inspires hope, and promotes resilience, enabling each person to rebuild and thrive.

This revitalised environment will not only transform the experience of those we support but will also significantly enhance the wellbeing and effectiveness of our staff. By providing safe, professional, and uplifting surroundings, we will strengthen our ability to deliver high-quality services, while also supporting the recruitment, retention, and development of our dedicated team, ensuring the long-term sustainability of our work.

As I approach my retirement in the coming year, after more than 22 years of service, I do so with immense pride and gratitude. It has been the greatest privilege of my career to lead an organisation so deeply committed to the safety, empowerment, and recovery of women, children, and young people.

Throughout the years, my focus has always been to ensure that our staff and volunteers are supported to deliver the highest standard of professionalism and compassion — and that those who turn to us in their most vulnerable moments are met with dignity, respect, and hope.

To witness the progress we have made, and to see the foundations now being laid for a stronger, more sustainable future, fills me with confidence that this vital work will continue to flourish long after my departure. I am deeply thankful to everyone — funders, community partners, board members, staff, volunteers, and our wider community — whose unwavering commitment makes this possible. Together, we are ensuring that every

**WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

**A WORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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woman, every child, and every young person who comes through our doors finds not only safety, understanding, and support, but also the possibility of healing and a future filled with hope.

**Eileen Murphy**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Date: **23/12/2025**

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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The Trustees, who are also the directors of Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd for the purpose 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 Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that 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.

By order of the Board of Trustees



N Ó'Maoláin  
Trustee

23 December 2025

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the 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 financial statements are 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 other information comprises the information included in the Directors' Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; 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, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with trustees and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

For and on behalf of HM Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

6th Floor East Tower

Lanyon Plaza

8 Lanyon Place

Belfast

County Antrim

BT1 3LP

23 December 2025

HM Chartered Accountants is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	187,934	-	187,934	179,955	-	179,955
Charitable activities	4	404,006	1,348,179	1,752,185	280,394	1,010,186	1,290,580
Investments	5	-	-	-	1,381	-	1,381
<b>Total income</b>		<b>591,940</b>	<b>1,348,179</b>	<b>1,940,119</b>	<b>461,730</b>	<b>1,010,186</b>	<b>1,471,916</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	6	149	-	149	-	1,575	1,575
Charitable activities	7	333,094	1,003,471	1,336,565	291,650	1,063,057	1,354,707
Other expenditure	12	-	1,398	1,398	176	663	839
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>333,243</b>	<b>1,004,869</b>	<b>1,338,112</b>	<b>291,826</b>	<b>1,065,295</b>	<b>1,357,121</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>258,697</b>	<b>343,310</b>	<b>602,007</b>	<b>169,904</b>	<b>(55,109)</b>	<b>114,795</b>
Transfers between funds		(12,131)	12,131	-	(17,386)	17,386	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	9	<b>246,566</b>	<b>355,441</b>	<b>602,007</b>	<b>152,518</b>	<b>(37,723)</b>	<b>114,795</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		923,200	100,749	1,023,949	770,682	138,472	909,154
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2025</b>		<b>1,169,766</b>	<b>456,190</b>	<b>1,625,956</b>	<b>923,200</b>	<b>100,749</b>	<b>1,023,949</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14		404,501		209,071
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	70,572		27,997	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,186,743		880,229	
		<u>1,257,315</u>		<u>908,226</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	<u>(35,860)</u>		<u>(93,348)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,221,455</u>		<u>814,878</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>1,625,956</u>		<u>1,023,949</u>
<b>The funds of the Charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	18	456,190		100,749	
Unrestricted funds	19	1,169,766		923,200	
		<u>1,625,956</u>		<u>1,023,949</u>	

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 23 December 2025



N Ó'Maoláin  
Trustee

Company registration number NI030774 (Northern Ireland)

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	25		526,422		196,513
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(219,908)		(1,499)	
Investment income received		-		1,381	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(219,908)		(118)
<b>Net cash generated from financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			306,514		196,395
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			880,229		683,834
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			1,186,743		880,229

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 7 Downshire Place, Newry, BT34 1DZ.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	4% straight line
Leasehold land and buildings	4% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

#### 1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.9 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	187,934	179,955

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Total</b>						
Sale of goods	27,386	-	27,386	10,374	-	10,374
Performance related grants	186,348	1,348,179	1,534,527	147,754	1,010,186	1,157,940
Charitable rental income	128,483	-	128,483	104,329	-	104,329
Other income	61,789	-	61,789	17,937	-	17,937
	<u>404,006</u>	<u>1,348,179</u>	<u>1,752,185</u>	<u>280,394</u>	<u>1,010,186</u>	<u>1,290,580</u>

### Performance related grants analysis

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Support People - Refuge support	250,286	241,591
Support People - Floating support	375,474	362,386
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	108,010	99,364
SHSCT - DASS officer	40,972	48,450
Iris Project	44,565	44,576
Community Foundation grant - Mental Health	54,821	218,036
Community Ownership Fund	350,000	-
DfC Hardship Grant Scheme Funding via NMDDC	24,640	24,640
Southern Regional College - Employ Me	52,411	26,370
Nationwide Community Grants	-	58,776
Wellbeing TNLCF	122,024	-
Dormant Accounts	48,335	-
Other	62,989	33,751
	<u>1,534,527</u>	<u>1,157,940</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	-	1,381
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Fundraising and publicity</b>						
Other fundraising costs	149	-	149	-	1,575	1,575
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	959,172	908,331
Depreciation and impairment	24,478	34,849
Rent	47,435	45,510
Insurance	15,656	12,024
Light & heat	30,199	38,658
Cleaning	11,831	8,866
Repairs	55,895	15,184
Staff Training & Recruitment	24,679	5,955
ICT Costs	28,384	22,905
Admin & printing	11,494	14,223
Fees & subscriptions	2,879	2,712
Support for service users	16,357	57,433
Travel	8,261	8,472
Telephone	17,734	17,053
Other charitable expenditure	62,096	82,139
Supporting People recovery	-	63,818
	<u>1,316,550</u>	<u>1,338,132</u>
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)</b>		
Governance	20,015	16,575
	<u>1,336,565</u>	<u>1,354,707</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	333,094	291,650
Restricted funds	1,003,471	1,063,057
	<u>1,336,565</u>	<u>1,354,707</u>

Included in charitable expenditure for 2024 are amounts of £27,355 and £36,463 which relate to amounts to be repaid to Supporting People in respect of the financial years ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 respectively. Grant income and expenditure is subject to periodic review and these amounts were requested to be recovered by the grant funder.

### 8 Support costs allocated to activities

	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Governance costs	<u>20,015</u>	<u>16,575</u>
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Total	<u>20,015</u>	<u>16,575</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

<b>9 Net movement in funds</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	6,900	4,800
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	24,478	34,849
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

### 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
37	37
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### Employment costs

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	864,809	819,690
Social security costs	72,326	68,221
Other pension costs	22,037	20,420
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	959,172	908,331
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### Remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity comprises the Trustees and the senior management team. The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Aggregate compensation	200,227	200,913
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 12 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Financing costs	-	1,398	1,398	176	663	839

### 13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

### 14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Leasehold land and buildings £	Assets under construction £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 April 2024	111,907	379,477	-	188,060	679,444
Additions	-	-	217,232	2,676	219,908
At 31 March 2025	111,907	379,477	217,232	190,736	899,352
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>					
At 1 April 2024	109,670	207,198	-	153,505	470,373
Depreciation charged in the year	2,237	8,179	-	14,062	24,478
At 31 March 2025	111,907	215,377	-	167,567	494,851
<b>Carrying amount</b>					
At 31 March 2025	-	164,100	217,232	23,169	404,501
At 31 March 2024	2,237	172,279	-	34,555	209,071

### 15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	51,339	22,242
Other debtors	19,233	5,755
	70,572	27,997

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	-	30,079
Trade creditors	23,206	11,276
Other creditors	7,854	47,193
Accruals and deferred income	4,800	4,800
	<u>35,860</u>	<u>93,348</u>

### 17 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	22,037	20,420
	<u>22,037</u>	<u>20,420</u>

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

### 18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Supporting People Refuge	-	250,286	(248,360)	-	1,926
Supporting People Floating	26	375,474	(416,997)	41,497	-
Supporting People Covid	1,018	-	(799)	-	219
Community Ownership	-	350,000	(18,311)	-	331,689
Supporting People - Provider Innovation Fund	1,863	-	(894)	-	969
Supporting People - Covid-19 recovery fund	24,497	-	(8,399)	-	16,098
SHSCT - DASS	-	40,972	(36,047)	(4,925)	-
Dormant Accounts	-	48,335	(34,074)	(4,602)	9,659
Community Foundation - Mental Health	14,569	54,821	(64,959)	(4,259)	172
IRIS	-	44,565	(39,673)	(4,892)	-
Southern Regional College - Employ Me	-	52,411	(33,618)	(5,121)	13,672
Nationwide Community Grants	58,776	-	(19,684)	-	39,092
Wellbeing TNLCF	-	122,024	(73,763)	(5,567)	42,694
Homeless Connect	-	9,291	(9,291)	-	-
	<u>100,749</u>	<u>1,348,179</u>	<u>(1,004,869)</u>	<u>12,131</u>	<u>456,190</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 18 Restricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Supporting People Refuge	53,458	241,591	(295,083)	34	-
Supporting People Floating	10,386	362,386	(390,098)	17,352	26
Supporting People Covid	1,817	-	(799)	-	1,018
Community Ownership	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Supporting People - Provider Innovation Fund	2,757	-	(894)	-	1,863
Supporting People - Covid-19 recovery fund	32,896	-	(8,399)	-	24,497
SHSCT - DASS	-	48,450	(48,450)	-	-
ACNI	7,377	-	(7,377)	-	-
Community Foundation - Mental Health	29,781	218,037	(233,249)	-	14,569
IRIS	-	44,576	(44,576)	-	-
Southern Regional College - Employ Me	-	26,370	(26,370)	-	-
Nationwide Community Grants	-	58,776	-	-	58,776
	<u>138,472</u>	<u>1,010,186</u>	<u>(1,065,295)</u>	<u>17,386</u>	<u>100,749</u>

### 19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Designated building fund	-	-	-	400,000	400,000
General funds	923,200	591,940	(333,243)	(412,131)	769,766
	<u>923,200</u>	<u>591,940</u>	<u>(333,243)</u>	<u>(12,131)</u>	<u>1,169,766</u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 April 2023 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Resources expended £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2024 £</b>
General funds	770,682	461,730	(291,826)	(17,386)	923,200

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
<b>At 31 March 2025:</b>			
Tangible assets	385,040	19,461	404,501
Current assets/(liabilities)	784,726	436,729	1,221,455
	<u>1,169,766</u>	<u>456,190</u>	<u>1,625,956</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>At 31 March 2024:</b>			
Tangible assets	179,398	29,673	209,071
Current assets/(liabilities)	743,802	71,076	814,878
	<u>923,200</u>	<u>100,749</u>	<u>1,023,949</u>

### 21 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

A contingent liability exists to repay government grants received should certain conditions under which they were awarded cease to be met.

### 22 Operating lease commitments

#### Lessee

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	<u>43,666</u>	<u>43,666</u>

### 23 Events after the reporting date

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the balance sheet date.

### 24 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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<b>25 Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Surplus for the year	602,007	114,795
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	-	(1,381)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	24,478	34,849
<b>Movements in working capital:</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(42,575)	2,589
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(57,488)	45,661
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>526,422</u>	<u>196,513</u>

### 26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no material debt during the year.

**Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106096

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# Accounts

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	179,955	-	179,955	114,128	-	114,128
Charitable activities	4	280,394	1,010,186	1,290,580	304,376	857,386	1,161,762
Investments	5	1,381	-	1,381	835	-	835
<b>Total income</b>		<b>461,730</b>	<b>1,010,186</b>	<b>1,471,916</b>	<b>419,339</b>	<b>857,386</b>	<b>1,276,725</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	6	-	1,575	1,575	1,094	401	1,495
Charitable activities	7	291,650	1,063,057	1,354,707	276,139	776,388	1,052,527
Other expenditure	12	176	663	839	415	708	1,123
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>291,826</b>	<b>1,065,295</b>	<b>1,357,121</b>	<b>277,648</b>	<b>777,497</b>	<b>1,055,145</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>169,904</b>	<b>(55,109)</b>	<b>114,795</b>	<b>141,691</b>	<b>79,889</b>	<b>221,580</b>
Transfers between funds		(17,386)	17,386	-	45,226	(45,226)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	9	<b>152,518</b>	<b>(37,723)</b>	<b>114,795</b>	<b>186,917</b>	<b>34,663</b>	<b>221,580</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		770,682	138,472	909,154	583,765	103,809	687,574
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>923,200</b>	<b>100,749</b>	<b>1,023,949</b>	<b>770,682</b>	<b>138,472</b>	<b>909,154</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	14		209,071		242,420
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	27,997		30,586	
Cash at bank and in hand		880,229		683,834	
		<u>908,226</u>		<u>714,420</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	<u>(93,348)</u>		<u>(47,686)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>814,878</u>		<u>666,734</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>1,023,949</u>		<u>909,154</u>
<b>The funds of the Charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	18	100,749		138,472	
Unrestricted funds	19	923,200		770,682	
		<u>1,023,949</u>		<u>909,154</u>	

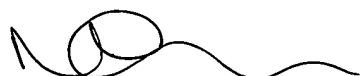
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 3 December 2024



N Ó'Maoláin  
Trustee

Company registration number NI030774 (Northern Ireland)

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	25		196,513		186,281
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,499)		(2,893)	
Investment income received		1,381		835	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>			(118)		(2,058)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>			196,395		184,223
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			683,834		499,611
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			880,229		683,834

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 7 Downshire Place, Newry, BT34 1DZ.

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

##### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 1 Accounting policies (Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	4% straight line
Leasehold land and buildings	4% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

#### 1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.9 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

---

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### 1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### 1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Donations and gifts	179,955	114,128

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Total</b>						
Sales within charitable activities	10,374	-	10,374	8,019	-	8,019
Performance related grants	147,754	1,010,186	1,157,940	178,191	857,386	1,035,577
Charitable rental income	104,329	-	104,329	94,389	-	94,389
Other income	17,937	-	17,937	23,777	-	23,777
	<u>280,394</u>	<u>1,010,186</u>	<u>1,290,580</u>	<u>304,376</u>	<u>857,386</u>	<u>1,161,762</u>

#### Performance related grants analysis

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Support People - Refuge support	241,591	235,223
Support People - Floating support	362,386	352,828
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	99,364	96,053
SHSCT - DASS officer	48,450	29,060
Iris Project	44,576	39,887
Community Foundation grant - Mental Health	218,036	233,143
PBNI	-	11,750
DfC Hardship Grant Scheme Funding via NMDDC	24,640	-
Southern Regional College - Employ Me	26,370	-
Nationwide Community Grants	58,776	-
Other	33,751	37,633
	<u>1,157,940</u>	<u>1,035,577</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### 5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	1,381	835

### 6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising and publicity	-	1,575	1,575	1,094	401	1,495
Other fundraising costs	-	1,575	1,575	1,094	401	1,495

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
Staff costs	908,331	772,622
Depreciation and impairment	34,849	36,000
Rent	45,510	44,472
Insurance	12,024	8,398
Light & heat	38,658	32,235
Cleaning	8,866	7,457
Repairs	15,184	22,843
Staff Training & Recruitment	5,955	5,360
ICT Costs	22,905	12,507
Admin & printing	14,223	7,122
Fees & subscriptions	2,712	2,732
Support for service users	57,433	22,712
Travel	8,472	6,091
Telephone	17,053	21,220
Other charitable expenditure	82,139	39,636
Supporting People recovery 21/22	27,355	
Supporting People recovery 22/23	36,463	-
	1,338,132	1,041,407
<b>Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)</b>		
Governance	16,575	11,120
	1,354,707	1,052,527
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	291,650	276,139
Restricted funds	1,063,057	776,388
	1,354,707	1,052,527

Included in charitable expenditure are amounts of £27,355 and £36,463 which relate to amounts to be repaid to Supporting People in respect of the financial years ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 respectively. Grant income and expenditure is subject to periodic review and these amounts were requested to be recovered by the grant funder.

### 8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Governance costs	16,575	11,120
<b>Analysed between:</b>		
Total	16,575	11,120

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

<b>9</b>	<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>

The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	4,800	6,000
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	34,849	36,000

#### 10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

#### 11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
37	38

#### Employment costs

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	819,690	695,296
Social security costs	68,221	61,491
Other pension costs	20,420	15,835
	<u>908,331</u>	<u>772,622</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
£60,000 - £70,000	1	-

#### Remuneration of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the charity comprises the Trustees and the senior management team. The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>Restated</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>
Aggregate compensation	<u>200,913</u>	<u>170,609</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### 11 Employees (Continued)

The remuneration of key management personnel for the year ended 31 March 2023 has been restated for consistency with the preparation of the disclosure for the year ended 31 March 2024.

### 12 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Financing costs	176	663	839	415	708	1,123

### 13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

### 14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Leasehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023	111,907	379,477	186,561	677,945
Additions	-	-	1,499	1,499
At 31 March 2024	111,907	379,477	188,060	679,444
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2023	105,194	198,020	132,311	435,524
Depreciation charged in the year	4,476	9,179	21,194	34,849
At 31 March 2024	109,670	207,198	153,505	470,373
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2024	2,237	172,279	34,555	209,071
At 31 March 2023	6,713	181,457	54,250	242,420

### 15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	22,242	23,922
Other debtors	5,755	5,186
Prepayments and accrued income	-	1,478
	27,997	30,586

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	30,079	22,578
Trade creditors	11,276	10,806
Other creditors	47,193	8,302
Accruals and deferred income	4,800	6,000
	<u>93,348</u>	<u>47,686</u>

#### 17 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Defined contribution schemes</b>		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>20,420</u>	<u>15,835</u>

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund.

#### 18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Supporting People Refuge	53,458	241,591	(295,083)	34	-
Supporting People Floating	10,386	362,386	(390,098)	17,352	26
Supporting People Covid	1,817	-	(799)	-	1,018
Community Ownership	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Supporting People - Provider Innovation Fund	2,757	-	(894)	-	1,863
Supporting People - Covid-19 recovery fund	32,896	-	(8,399)	-	24,497
SHSCT - DASS	-	48,450	(48,450)	-	-
ACNI	7,377	-	(7,377)	-	-
Community Foundation - Mental Health	29,781	218,037	(233,249)	-	14,569
IRIS	-	44,576	(44,576)	-	-
Southern Regional College - Employ Me	-	26,370	(26,370)	-	-
Nationwide Community Grants	-	58,776	-	-	58,776
	<u>138,472</u>	<u>1,010,186</u>	<u>(1,065,295)</u>	<u>17,386</u>	<u>100,749</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 18 Restricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Supporting People Refuge	27,355	235,223	(209,120)	-	53,458
Supporting People Floating	26	352,828	(342,468)	-	10,386
Supporting People Covid	2,616	-	(799)	-	1,817
Supporting People - Provider Innovation Fund	32,517	-	(894)	(28,866)	2,757
Supporting People - Covid-19 recovery fund	41,295	-	(8,399)	-	32,896
SHSCT - DASS	-	27,060	(27,060)	-	-
ACNI	-	9,132	(1,755)	-	7,377
Community Foundation - Mental Health	-	233,143	(187,002)	(16,360)	29,781
	<u>103,809</u>	<u>857,386</u>	<u>(777,497)</u>	<u>(45,226)</u>	<u>138,472</u>

Included in resources expended for Supporting People Refuge and Supporting People Floating funds are amounts of £27,355 and £36,463 which relate to amounts to be repaid to Supporting People in respect of the financial years ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023 respectively. Grant income and expenditure is subject to periodic review and these amounts within the brought forward balances were requested to be recovered by the grant funder.

#### 19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	<u>770,682</u>	<u>461,730</u>	<u>(291,826)</u>	<u>(17,386)</u>	<u>923,200</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
General funds	<u>583,765</u>	<u>419,339</u>	<u>(277,648)</u>	<u>45,226</u>	<u>770,682</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b>At 31 March 2024:</b>			
Tangible assets	179,398	29,673	209,071
Current assets/(liabilities)	743,802	71,076	814,878
	<u>923,200</u>	<u>100,749</u>	<u>1,023,949</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
<b>At 31 March 2023:</b>			
Tangible assets	194,806	47,614	242,420
Current assets/(liabilities)	575,876	90,858	666,734
	<u>770,682</u>	<u>138,472</u>	<u>909,154</u>

#### 21 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

A contingent liability exists to repay government grants received should certain conditions under which they were awarded cease to be met.

#### 22 Operating lease commitments

##### Lessee

At the reporting end date the Charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	<u>43,666</u>	<u>40,429</u>

#### 23 Events after the reporting date

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the balance sheet date.

#### 24 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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25 Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus for the year	114,795	221,580
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(1,381)	(835)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	34,849	36,000
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	2,589	83,635
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	45,661	(154,099)
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<u>196,513</u>	<u>186,281</u>

## 26 Analysis of changes in net funds

The Charity had no material debt during the year.

**Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106096

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# Annual report

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	N Ó'Maoláin S Henry N Basketfield M Larkin C Curran K Ervine M Golligly J Laroche C M Magookin T McAvoy G McCreevy L Campbell	(Appointed 23 January 2024)  (Appointed 23 January 2024) (Appointed 23 January 2024) (Appointed 23 January 2024) (Appointed 12 March 2024) (Appointed 7 May 2024)
<b>Secretary</b>	M Larkin	
<b>Charity number (Northern Ireland)</b>	NIC106096	
<b>Company number</b>	NI030774	
<b>Registered office</b>	7 Downshire Place Newry BT34 1DZ	
<b>Auditor</b>	Harbinson Mulholland Centrepont 24 Ormeau Avenue Belfast Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT2 8HS	
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland 12 Trevor Hill Newry Co. Down BT34 1DT	
<b>Solicitors</b>	Casey & Casey Solicitors Legal House 25-27 Lower Catherine Street Newry Co Down Northern Ireland BT35 6BE	

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# **WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Women's Aid Armagh Down is a registered charity with Northern Ireland Charity Commission, NICC 106096 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland, NI030774. The organisation was founded in 1983 and it was established under Memorandum of Association in 1996 which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

We are members of the Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland (WAFNI) and a representative from our management board is invited to sit on the WAFNI board. We work closely with all Women's Aid local groups across Northern Ireland and promote good governance, best practice and effective communication across the organisation consequently ensuring a regional commitment and connected partnership working to effectively and efficiently manage the strategic direction for Women's Aid Armagh Down and for the work of Women's Aid regionally.

### Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The Directors of the company, as at year end are listed at the front of this report, are also Charity Trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the Company's Articles are known as members of the Board of Directors. The Board meet on a six-weekly basis and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the Charity. The day-to-day management and operations of the activities are carried out and overseen by the chief executive officer and the senior management team.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

N Ó'Maoláin	Chair
S Henry	Vice Chair
M Larkin	Secretary
C Curran	Director
N Basketfield	Director
M Gollogly	Director
G Magookin	Director (Appointed: 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 24)
Tracy McAvoy	Director (Appointed: 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 24)
G McGreevy	Director (Appointed: 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 24)
J LaRoche	Director (Appointed: 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 24)
K Ervine	Director (Appointed: 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 24)
L Campbell	Director (Appointed: 7 <sup>th</sup> May 24)
B McGuinness	Director (resigned 29 <sup>th</sup> February 24)

### Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Directors are elected to serve a period of three years, after which they must be re-elected at the following AGM. The Directors' liability is limited by guarantee. The chair and Vice Chair are appointed from within the board and can remain in office for three years.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **Structure, governance and management (continued)**

Women's Aid Armagh Down have put the following in place during this reporting period:

Policy & Procedures reviewed and ratified by Board

Extensive fundraising plan rolled out

Buildings revalued to ensure fully covered

Cyber Essentials Plus awarded

Appointment of new Auditors in March 2024.

New Board members appointed

Salesforce Not for Profit CRM system with customisation implemented

In continuing with our practice of measuring our Social Return on Investment (SROI), our social impact independent audit of our services demonstrates that the work of Women's Aid Armagh Down gives a SROI return of £22 for every £1 of funding invested in our services. Our SROI distinctly validates the work of our organisation and in totality demonstrates our organisation provides a real and tangible benefit to our beneficiaries, to all our stakeholders and indeed to society as a whole.

### **Objectives and activities**

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic violence and providing services for women, children and young people. Women's Aid seeks to challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic/sexual violence and abuse, and through its work, promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

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

To relieve distress and suffering experienced by women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependants 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.

Women's Aid Armagh Down provides a wide range of support services and other appropriate service necessity in the meeting of our Charity objectives and providing public benefit. Working within a challenging funding environment, Women's Aid Armagh Down continues to meet all performance targets throughout 2023/24. We engage with staff, volunteers and with a wide range of external agencies across the Newry, Mourne & Down District Council (NMDDC) and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council (ABCBC) areas ensuring our services are not only delivering on our charitable objectives in both rural and urban areas but also that our services are responding to the urgent need of women, children and young people right at the heart of our community.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **Achievements and performance**

Measuring our social impact has become a mode of continuous improvement process, facilitating effective strategic and operational planning and enabling us to deliver a clear and strong method of communication to all.

**A year of Celebrations: 40 years** of delivering specialised support services to women, children and young people who experienced domestic and sexual abuse and all the associated traumatic impacts on their daily life now and ongoing.



Women's Aid Armagh Down officially launched its extremely successful 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference 'Be the Change' which took place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. The conference was aimed at anyone in business, education, sport or community life who has responsibility for people, such as HR professionals, managers, sports coaches, or community workers. With an internationally renowned speaker line-up including US based Jackson Katz, educator and author who has long been a major figure in the growing global movement of men working to promote gender equality and prevent gender-based violence. Jackson is a co-founder of the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MPV), one of the longest-running and most widely

influential gender violence prevention programme in North America. The MPV introduced the Bystander Approach and Jackson has run MVP Strategies, which provides sexual harassment and gender violence prevention/leadership training to institutions in the public and private sectors in U.S. and around the world. We are delighted that our Conference Platinum Sponsor Terex will be hosting a global Webinar for all their staff across their various venues with Jackson Katz later in the year. Jackson was joined by lifelong campaigner Sabina Higgins who is married to the current President of Ireland Michael D Higgins; Dragon's Den dragon and serial entrepreneur Norah Casey, who has lived experience, a senior legal figure - Presiding District Judge Keown; and Bernie McNally, Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Board. A poignant talk was delivered by Noel McNally, whose daughter Natalie was tragically killed along with her unborn child, in her own home in Lurgan in 2022. Noel was joined by his wife Bernie and his sons. This conference represented a major event for Women's Aid Armagh Down as we brought an exceptional line up of speakers to our local community to speak to a wide range of attendees from the world of Statutory, Corporate, Private, Sport and the Voluntary & Community sectors about how we all can be part of "Being the Change" and growing our understanding of the concept of being an 'active bystander' in domestic abuse and male violence scenarios and in particular Jackson Katz's, 'Mentors in Violence Prevention' programme, the first large-scale prevention initiative in professional sports and the U.S. military. This conference was directed at tackling the scourge of domestic and sexual abuse in our communities. The conference was made possible through the generosity and support of our sponsors and partners, our platinum sponsors Terex Corporation and Murdock Building Supplies with ReGen, Rathbane Group, and Jack Murphy Jewellers who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us to raise awareness of domestic and sexual abuse. We relied also on our statutory partners for their support with Newry Mourne Down PCSP (Police and Community Safety Partnership), Armagh Banbridge Craigavon PCSP and Southern Health and Social Care Trust partnering us on the event. The strong takeaways from the conference were the fact that domestic and sexual abuse reaches across all socio-economic groups, is a serious societal issue and if we call out behaviours and actions, we move from being active bystanders to being part of the change. This is at a time when Women's Aid Armagh Down's services have record high demand and are starved of the vital funding and resources needed to address this critical need.

**WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

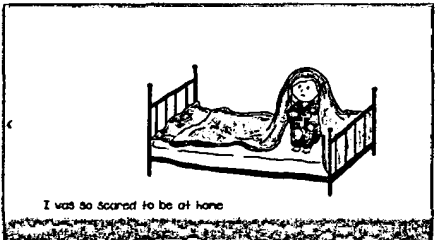
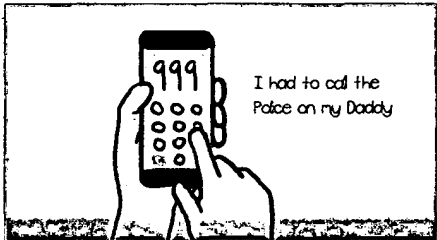
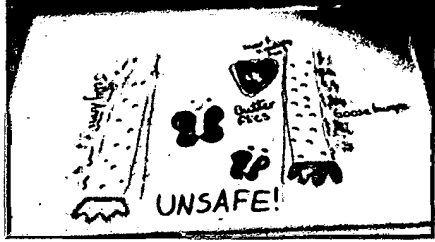
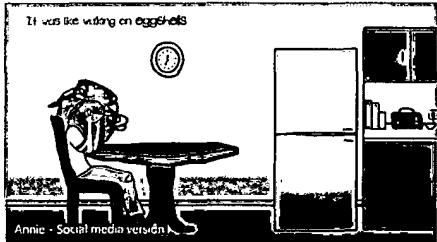
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

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**Achievements and performance (continued)**

We persist in ensuring that the children and young people receiving our support services continue to be heard. This was made possible with funding from Safeguarding Board Northern Ireland and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust that enabled our young people to work in partnership with our local Slackpress Studios to produce our Children's Voices video that formed a vital part of the conference and provided a perfect opportunity for the real voices of children and young people harmed by domestic abuse to be heard on an extensive level.



A massive thank you to Deborah Loughran who not only coordinated the event to perfection but has also given much of her precious time to assist us in our communications throughout the year – we owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all her efforts on our behalf. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the young women of Our Lady's Grammar School Newry who, under the supervision of Deborah, supported us throughout the day ensuring that everything flowed as it should.

**Support for Women, Children & Young People**

Women's Aid Armagh Down received **1,852** referrals for women during this period. Of these referrals a total of **1,373** women engaged with our service provision. **738** children and young people accessed our services in this year.

**Refuge:**

Our refuge occupancy was consistently operating at full or almost full, with a mean average **99%** occupancy throughout the year. There were **108** referrals to refuge but due to high level of occupancy **88** women and their children could not be accommodated in refuge. A total of **35** women with **24** children/young people were accommodated in refuge. **3** women were supported through their pregnancy bringing their new babies back home to refuge. Of the 35 women accommodated **10** women were from the BME community. During the year **14** women and their children secured stable and safe housing.

The children and young people's team held **262** supported play sessions with **60** one-to-one sessions completed in refuge and **20** children/young people took part in special outings and events made possible with funding and donations from the local community and Allstate NI.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

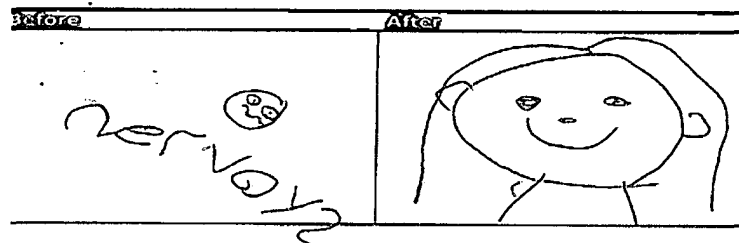
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### Achievements and performance (continued)

13 children were under the age of 5, and there were 7 young people between the ages of 11 – 15 years of age. A significant number of women had a range of additional complex support needs including impaired mental health, and physical disabilities. Of the 24 children and young people in refuge 21 were registered with a GP, 14 with a dentist and those of school age attended school. A vital part of the children and young person's team is working with mothers to help them support their children through the trauma of having to flee their home to seek safe accommodation in refuge due to the significant level of risk they live with every day. The specialised trauma informed staff in refuge work diligently with mums and young people helping them navigate the traumatic journey generated by an abuser who dominates and controls their lives through domestic abuse.

Feedback from our young people demonstrates the positive impact achieved:

Draw or write about the changes (if any) you have seen in yourself or your family since you came to Women's Aid



Changes in myself/my life since I came to Women's Aid

Before	After
Quiet hidden Didn't want to be seen	happy a little open I am ok to see them now

This vital service that our refuge provides, confirms that our work within the community at grassroots crisis level, reduces risk from homelessness and significant harm. Women's Aid Armagh Down's Refuge provision is vital resource to our community by providing a safe, secure and supported environment is an active response to preventing potential homicides.

### Children & Young People in the Community

114 children and young people engaging in the service receiving support. 303 one-to-one support sessions were completed, and 19 children and young people took part in our Helping Hands Summer Groups. Feedback from our young people demonstrated the positive outcome from the support they received such as:

If I could sum up how Women's Aid has helped me in one sentence it would be...

feel safe

Safety planning is a vital aspect of our service provision, and the children and young person's team work closely with mothers and their children exploring and agreeing a safety plan for high/medium risk cases. This work enables mums to work closely with our team to help them to manage their children's constant state of fear of what might happen next.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

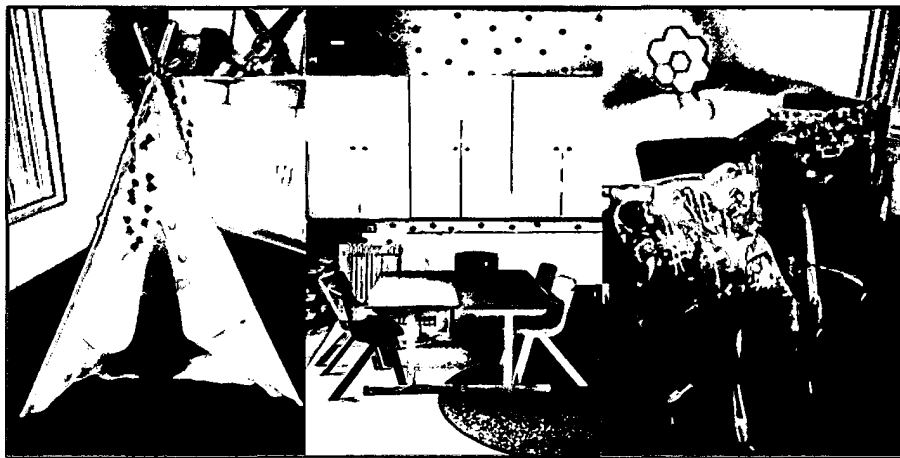
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### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

Providing support to children and young people is completed in venues that the young people feel safe and secure in and to do this staff provided outreach support by travelling to a range of community-based venues who worked closely with us so children could receive the support they needed. Some of this work was facilitated by schools allowing children to attend support in school's time and by providing a room. In one-to-one support children described how they struggle with what they had witnessed, worried about their mum and missing their dad even though sometimes they were afraid of him.

### **Children & Young People's Playrooms**

Thanks to a very kind private donation to the C&YP department we were able to refurbish all our playrooms providing age-appropriate spaces for all our young people.



Because of the generosity of community, we were able to continue to provide Calming Kits to every child or young person who engaged in support with us.

48 Children & Young People participated in Focus groups and Art & Music sessions. These photos are some of the work produced within projects completed throughout the year 2023-24 enabling our Children & Young People to explore feeling safe and unsafe and allowing their thoughts and feelings to be expressed through the safe medium of art. Christmas & Summer trips and events were as usual the highlight of the year with everyone participating in lots of fun and games.



**WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

**Achievements and performance (continued)**

**WE HAVE SOMETHING TO...**



A number of our young people took part of the regional Women's Aid **Social Action Youth** (SAY) Project which informed the government of the impact of Domestic & Sexual Abuse in their lives, ensuring their voices are heard in Stormont and in particular in the offices of the First and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.



**Working in Partnership with our local Schools.**

**19** schools with a total of **600** pupils participated in our education and support services to children and young people. 17 post primary schools completed our Heading for Healthy Relationship programme and 2 primary schools completed our Helping Hands programme. Of these a total of 399 pupils were from the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon area and 146 in the Newry, Mourne & Down area and 1 school with 55 pupils in Dungannon. A total of 600 young people more educated in how to keep themselves and others safe from abuse and understanding they have the right to be safe from others. It is also important to receive the feedback from teachers which continues to be very positive:

*Killicomaine Junior High, Portadown*

**WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE HEADING FOR HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS PROGRAMME?**

*Excellent programme & very well delivered and great to have PSNI involvement*

*St Joseph's High School, Newry*

**ANY OTHER COMMENTS:**

*Help to promote positive attitudes towards women based on mutual respect & understanding*

We are delighted that funding was available again this year from the Department of Education that enabled our Children & Young People's staff to deliver 2-days of Social Guardian training. **24** Primary School Teachers completed this programme of training which enables teachers to deliver our Helping Hands programme within their own schools.



Because everyone can do something

**SAHRA Pilot**



In November 2023 we began the SAHRA (Safety and Healthy Relationships Advocate) pilot with a small pot of funding gathered from a number of stakeholders including Allstate NI, AIB, both the Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon & Newry Mourne and Down Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and private donations from local businesses and individuals. This allowed us to place a skilled CYPS (Children and Young People's Service) support worker directly into two schools for a period of five months, one morning per week.

While onsite the SAHRA worker provided up to 6 weeks of specialist one-to-one support to **16** young people referred to her via the school's designated safeguarding teacher following a notification from Operation Encompass or where domestic abuse was identified within the family home.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

#### **Children and Young People's feedback on SAHRA:**

100% of completed evaluations stated that they agree or strongly agree that:

- ✓ I have a better understanding of healthy and unhealthy relationships
- ✓ I found the support provided helpful
- ✓ I have a better understanding of how I can keep myself safe
- ✓ I know where to go to for support

#### **Teachers feedback on SAHRA:**

*St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan*

'The program identified students through Operation Encompass, allowing us to offer support discreetly. The Women's Aid staff created a safe space where students could discuss their experiences and develop healthy coping mechanisms.'

*St Catherine's College, Armagh*

'We also felt the pupils were more open to discuss their experience with non-teaching staff, but that they were comfortable to avail of the support within the school environment.'

### **Community Based Services**

Our floating support service received and processed **1,262** referrals for **990** women. A 13.5% increase from last year's figures. These referrals were received from multiple sources however the main pathways for referrals we received continues to be the PSNI 36% and Self-referral 28% and a very welcoming increase of 9% from Social Services. Geographically 54% of our referrals come from the Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council area and 46% Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area.

Of the 990 women for whom we received a referral **707** engaged in active support which is a 4% increase and 572 completed their support within this financial reporting period.

35 women receiving community based floating support services were pregnant.

While the numbers of women seeking support increased consistently the age profiles remain consistent. With women aged 26-45 years making up 65% of those seeking support.

The 2023-24 year saw an increase in the number of women 66-75 years reaching out to seek help with a total of 16 women in this cohort receiving support. While at the other end of the age spectrum have had a percentage increase of 57% in young women 16-18 years reaching out to seek support for both abusive and unhealthy intimate partner violence.

37% of the women we supported stated they had a disability with 61 women having more than one disability.

43% of the women supported reported having mental health vulnerabilities while 13% reported physical health vulnerabilities. 18% of women reported having more than one vulnerability.

Of the 707 women supported in 97% of cases the perpetrator of the abuse was male. With 72% being an intimate ex-partner or spouse, 25% being a current intimate partner or spouse.

41 women in this reporting period reported having more than one perpetrator at the time of support.

Some of the feedback from women we supported in this reporting period includes:

*100% of feedback stated that women got the support they felt they needed from us.*

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

When we asked, *"What difference the service has made to your life?"* women told us:

"It saved my life. Without my support worker and Women's Aid Service, I would not have survived. I felt safe for the first time in many years."

"More confidence and understanding."

"Really helped me go through a very tough section on my life and I don't know how I would get back into a straight road without it."

"A positive impact on all kinds of relationships and life in general."

"I stand on my own two feet."

"I was open that I'm using the service and felt it was the right thing to do. I felt clearer and stronger in my life."

"Feeling a little more confident in believing in myself."

"Felt supported and not alone."

"It was a lifeline to me. I was lost, living alone in new town. I cannot and could never ever thank my support worker enough for her support and guidance. She just got me and knew what I needed. She was so gentle when my head was all over the place and kept putting me back on track. I'd never been to Newry before so even just getting there took me out of my comfort zone."

"I have more respect for myself in what I tolerate. I've learnt about types of abuse and that it was wrong & not my fault."

"Totally changed my perspective of who I am and what I can achieve in the most positive way. I have learned a lot about myself and have become a lot more comfortable delving into my past."

"It's giving me someone who listens to me and understands me."

"WA was a constant through a period when I was very confused, scared, isolated, and let down by other services. WA doesn't trivialise emotional abuse and trauma and it was a place I didn't feel I had to mask how difficult I was finding things."

"Enabled me to make positive changes in my day-to-day life but also empowered me to make life choices and changes such as pursuing higher education."

"To open up more about the abuse I experienced and to be taught that life can be free of this - this has made my life feel hopeful."

"It had made me a stronger person and able to know my worth."

"It has made a huge difference to my life. I always viewed Women's Aid as being 'man haters' but this is not the case at all. I received this service, and it was incredible, and I feel really lucky that I now have the tools to set boundaries, etc. The biggest difference is that I no longer feel ashamed or embarrassed for what I put up with from my ex-husband. I now know that he was the problem, not me."

"Massive difference. Got myself back and wouldn't have if I didn't get the help from the service."

"It has been life changing!"

"Changed my thinking, made me the stronger and more confident, feeling safe."

"I have grown stronger day by day."

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

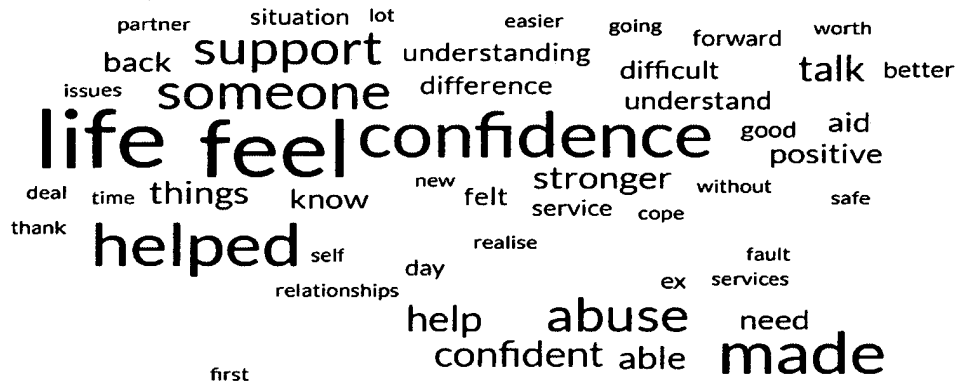
## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

When we analysed the words women used, here are their words:



When we asked, *"What do you think we do well?"* women told us:



When we asked women what suggestions they had for improving our service some of the responses included:

"Personally, I would probably like to think more housing options for security would become available to women in crisis, which necessitates external state funding and recognition of that need."

"More family/child/mom programs."

"More workers who speak other languages."

"I thought perhaps working with Curves to obtain reduced membership rates. Exercise is so important physically and mentally and will improve confidence. Some women wouldn't feel comfortable going to a mixed gym and so Curves is a great option. A subsidised membership would be valuable."

"Perhaps advice if needed by a solicitor to answer a query or give advice."

"I know because of staff issues but childcare."

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### Achievements and performance (continued)

#### Some additional comments given by women were:

"This is such a great service provided free to the local community, and I think not enough people are aware of the extent of the service."

"I appreciated all the practical help to move into my new flat and support during Christmas period."

"Woman's Aid helped me to secure Supported Accommodation. You have given me the confidence to be more independent."

"I can't thank the service providers enough for all their help. I've come out of this ordeal a much stronger and more confident person thanks to the help I have received."

"While going to my support worker she went above and beyond to get support for me of my issues which I was extremely grateful for. Her dedication, professionalism didn't go unnoticed."

"I will highly recommend your service and all your team. You definitely change my life and I am very grateful for this."

"Was very grateful for all the practical support, clothes/toys/school uniforms for my daughters."

"Even though there was a wait for direct support, the centre was always open and someone was always available to talk to."

"I found the support during the court process invaluable. I was tempted to give up several times but with support I was able to get through it and get the result that was good for me and my daughters."

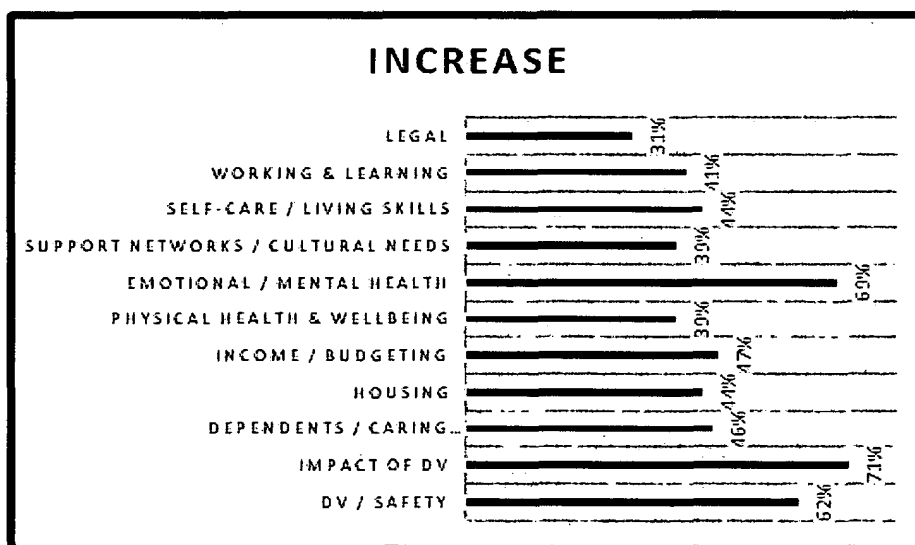
"Appreciated time staff gave me to work out my options even though I have decided to stay in relationship."

"I am looking forward to getting involved with Well Being programme as I want to improve my support group."

"It was the first time that I was able to talk about my experiences. I felt listened to and even though at times it was very difficult to express myself I am glad that I did."

"You're doing a very good job 😊"

When we review the journey travelled of women using our services in 2023-24 via the outcomes wheel monitoring tool, we see that:



# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### Achievements and performance (continued)

#### Projects

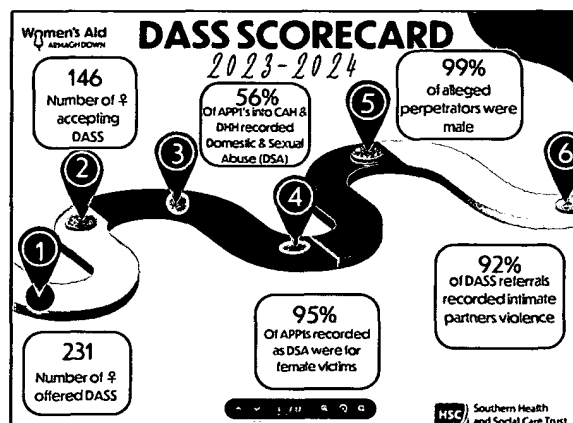
We are fortunate that we have been able to source funding to deliver much needed projects. One of which is leading the field in innovative thinking and delivering a vital service which is building upon its positive impact year on year. **DASS the Only One of its Kind** in Northern Ireland

#### **DASS (Domestic Abuse Safety & Support)**

Having completed its 4<sup>th</sup> year in operation the DASS project continues to grow and be an excellent example of collaborative working grounded in the heart of the community.

The number of women being offered DASS services has increased by **200%** in the four years of its operation. This clearly demonstrates how DASS has increased recognition of Domestic & Sexual abuse on the cutting edge of acute services.

DASS is growing the confidence of front-line support service within our acute hospital support with many more frontline staff having "Courageous Conversations" leading to more women accessing support. In this financial reporting year **231** women received referrals into our hospital based specialised domestic abuse support with **146** accepting supports from our DASS worker. A significant point here is the women who declined the DASS services, attended the Emergency Department outside of the DASS operating times or had already engaged in community-based support. There has also been a significant increase in the number of women accepting a referral into DASS resulting in more engagement and protection for women and children. The greater number of referrals came from the Emergency Department, with Maternity as the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest referral pathway.



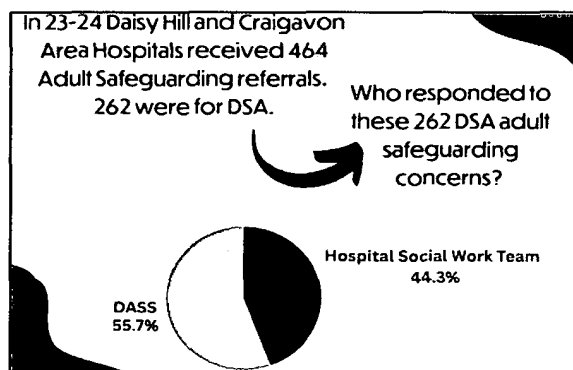
An important fact is that 9 out of the 10 women who accept a DASS referral actively engage in DASS and 6 out of 10 women go on to engage in Women's Aid support services. The DASS service provides a range of interventions such as Safety planning, Needs Assessment and Safe Accommodation. The DASS services also refers to other support required such as Adult/Children Safeguarding.

Service Users Feedback from the support they received in DASS:

"Before I didn't have the energy to ask for help, this day changed that. I want this service to always be in the hospital for other women, it's a great service and she is a good person."

"She was there with me when I had no one, she supported me with speaking to the police, she was so kind and helped me so much. I don't know what I would have done if she wasn't there."

"I was so scared to go home, I couldn't go. She helped me get refuge that day and supported me with everything I needed at that time- such a kind person."

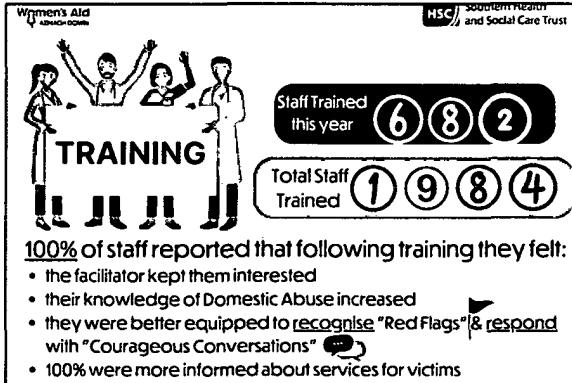


# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### Achievements and performance (continued)



**WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH-DOWN** | **NSC Southern Health and Social Care Trust**

**TRAINING**

Staff Trained this year: **682**

Total Staff Trained: **1984**

**100% of staff reported that following training they felt:**

- the facilitator kept them interested
- their knowledge of Domestic Abuse increased
- they were better equipped to recognise "Red Flags" & respond with "Courageous Conversations"
- 100% were more informed about services for victims

Besides providing one-to-one support to women the DASS worker also provided specialised Domestic Abuse training to 682 staff. One direct quote stated, "Absolutely fantastic session, very informative for my role as a paramedic."

The impact of DASS was felt much further afield through lectures to Nursing and Midwifery student in Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and in April 2024 our DASS worker travelled to London to speak about DASS at the International Forum on Quality & Safety in Health Care.



**WHAT ELSE DID WE GET UP TO THIS YEAR?**

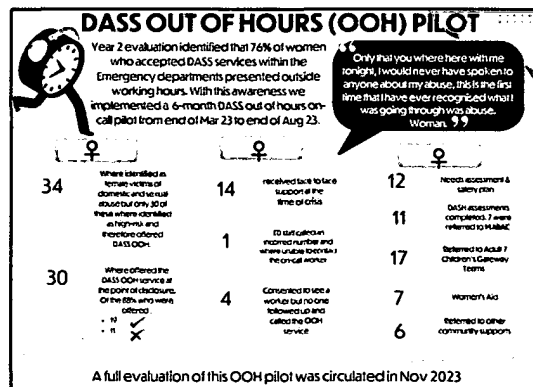
As part of ongoing partnership and research with Women's Aid Armagh Down and Queen's University Belfast, DASS delivered lectures to Nursing and Midwifery students. To increase their awareness of Domestic Abuse.

"This was one of the best lectures I have had yet!"

In April 2024 DASS Travelled to London to speak about DASS at the International Forum on Quality & Safety in Healthcare in London.

To address the number of women presenting at the Emergency Departments outside of normal DASS working hours a 6-month Out of Hours DASS pilot, financially supported by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, was implemented from March 2023 to the end of August 2023. This pilot was evaluated in November 2023 which highlighted the benefits and limitations of an Out of Hours ('OOH') service. One of the main limitations was the lack of a generic contact number for the service and further made difficult by ongoing hospital pressures and lengthy waiting times.

One of the major benefits was providing a real time service at the point of crisis increasing the window of opportunity for engagement, safety planning and early intervention. Interaction with the DASS OOH services led to a woman having the confidence to report to the PSNI for the first time. We continue to work with our colleagues in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and the hospital staff to build on our partnership with front-line emergency services, continuing to keep training up to date with emerging issues such as Non-Fatal Strangulation, Stalking and Financial abuse etc. We will continue to seek means of expanding the service provision by securing a second DASS worker and continue our collaboration with QUB in research into Domestic & Sexual Abuse. A **significant fact** to highlight is that both the DASS and the IRIS projects have received **regional recognition** as projects to consider for regional expansion in both Domestic & Sexual Violence and End Violence Against Women and Girls ('EVAWG') strategies.



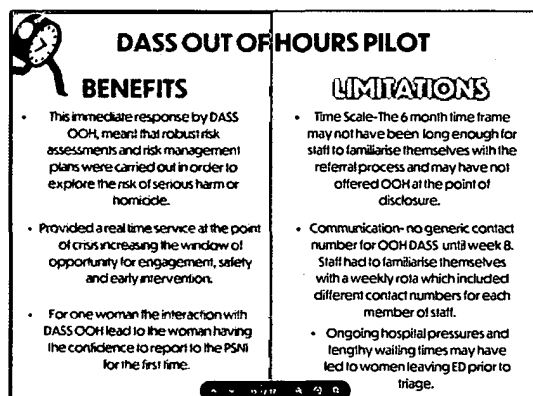
**DASS OUT OF HOURS (OOH) PILOT**

Year 2 evaluation identified that 76% of women who accepted DASS services within the Emergency departments presented outside working hours. With this awareness we implemented a 6-month DASS out of hours on-call pilot from end of Mar 23 to end of Aug 23.

Only that you weren't there with me tonight, I would never have spoken to anyone about my abuse, this is the first time that I have ever recognised what I was going through was abuse. Women 99

34	14	12
Where identified as victims of domestic and sexual abuse but only 30 of these were contacted as high and fracture referred DASS OOH.	received back to care support at the time of crisis	Needs assessment & safety plan
30	1	11
Where offered the DASS OOH service at the point of disclosure. Of the 18% who were referred:	Did not call an incorrect number and where unable to reach the person on phone	DASH assessments completed, 7 were referred to MAMC
11 ✓ 19 ✗	4	17
	Converted to see a worker but no one followed up and called the OOH service	Referred to Adult & Children's Gateway Teams
		7 Women's Aid 6 referred to other community support

A full evaluation of this OOH pilot was circulated in Nov 2023



**DASS OUT OF HOURS PILOT**

**BENEFITS**

- This immediate response by DASS OOH meant that robust risk assessments and risk management plans were carried out in order to explore the risk of serious harm or homicide.
- Provided a real time service at the point of crisis increasing the window of opportunity for engagement, safety and early intervention.
- For one woman the interaction with DASS OOH led to the woman having the confidence to report to the PSNI for the first time.

**LIMITATIONS**

- Time Scale- The 6 month time frame may not have been long enough for staff to familiarise themselves with the referral process and may have not offered OOH at the point of disclosure.
- Communication- no generic contact number for OOH DASS until week 8. Staff had to familiarise themselves with a weekly rota which included different contact numbers for each member of staff.
- Ongoing hospital pressures and lengthy waiting times may have led to women leaving ED prior to triage.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

#### **MARAC** (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

From April 2023 – March 2024 Women's Aid Armagh Down made **62 referrals to MARAC** (63% increase from previous year) and received **61 referrals from MARAC**. During this time our staff attended 24 MARAC meetings across two jurisdictions and were involved in the Decision-Making Forums for 1 Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DVAD) (1 Power to tell and 0 Right to ask)

#### **IRIS** (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety)

The Department of Health continued to fund the IRIS project in its 4<sup>th</sup> year across 2023-24. This funding allowed our IRIS advocate / educator (AE) to continue delivering specialist training to 25 of the 31 GP surgeries across the GP Federation area. Some feedback from the GPs trained includes:

*"This was excellent, and I would recommend this training to any new staff coming into the GP surgery. I feel all members of the MDT should be fully appraised and up to date with same." (multi-disciplinary team)*

*"Following the online training I have had my attention drawn to many aspects that I would not necessarily thought of before. It has given me a much wider understanding of the service and steps that can be taken to offer a safe referral to both the women, children & men who may need to use the service." (GP)*

Across the reporting period the IRIS AE received 81 referrals for both female (76) and male (5) victims of Domestic and Sexual Abuse (DSA). 25 of the women referred were able to access longer term support within Women's Aid Armagh Down. 32 women were supported full term by the IRIS AE.

The source of referrals into IRIS are coming from 52% from GP Social Workers and Mental Health Practitioners, 35% directly from GP and 13% self-referral.

IRIS discusses the needs of each patient and makes requested onward referrals to Women's Aid, Men's Advisory Project, Nexus, VSNI, MARAC, PACE, Family Support Hub, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Wave Trauma etc.

Outcomes for patients engaging in the IRIS service continue to be positive with 100% of patients providing feedback stating they were "pleased to be asked about domestic abuse by their GP/Health Clinician." 100% "felt listened to by their AE" and "found the support helpful" while 100% of patients "felt safer" and 67% "felt more optimistic about their future" as a result of the IRIS support. While finally 67% of those engaged in IRIS "visited their doctor less than before"

Patient feedback included:

*"I have found this service to be so helpful & kind. I was not judged & made to feel safe & not alone. A great support so thank-you."*

*"I visit my doctor/nurse less than before. IRIS AE has been a rock for me. I couldn't have got this far without her. Very grateful. Thank-you."*

*"Thank-you so much for everything. I wouldn't have got to where I am without your support through this."*

#### **Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) advocacy**

The regional funding stream between the PBNI and Women's Aid continued across 2023-24 enabling our Partner Support Worker to provide vital specialised support for women whose current or previous partners are attending the Promoting Positive Relationship programme with the PBNI. Women's Aid Armagh Down received 11 referrals from the PBNI for our area and of those, 6 women took up support. These women had 24 children whom to date received no support work in regards to this programme.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### Achievements and performance (continued)

#### **Short Term Work**

The team at Women's Aid Armagh Down also provide support to women who do not want to engage in longer term support, as well as responding to queries from other professionals, families and friends of women whom they fear are in abusive relationships. Across 2023-24 Women's Aid Armagh Down supported an additional **111** women and **39** professional / family/ friend guidance queries for women not yet known to us. Short Term Work involves addressing and supporting immediate domestic abuse concerns, safety planning for women and their children and providing information and options.

#### **Group Support**

Whilst one-to-one support is the predominant method of support for women, group and peer support is an invaluable aspect of the work of Women's Aid Armagh Down. Last year we delivered **10 Journey to Freedom programmes** and **88** women were able to complete this special 14-week programme. While evaluations from this programme are still being developed, the information available demonstrates that those who complete the programme, self-report an increase in both the Warwick and Edinburgh Mental Health scale and the Hope Scale. Indicating that completion of the course nurtures hope and has a positive impact on a woman's mental health.

#### **Counselling**

We continue to work in partnership with the local colleagues to facilitate the placement of a number of student counsellors and in 2023-24 **35** women engaged in counselling following a programme of support within Women's Aid Armagh Down.

#### **Communities supporting us to support others at Christmas**

In the winter of 2023-24 Women's Aid Armagh Down supported by our local communities helped approximately 300 families with an average value of **£288**. The cumulative total support value was **£86,450** within a 2-month period.

402 external agencies representatives received Domestic & Sexual Abuse awareness training from Women's Aid Armagh Down across the year.

#### **Hope & Resilience Wellbeing Project**

Funded through the Department of Health our two-year Wellbeing programme aims to provide a holistic 'whole life' program to inspire, build women's confidence and courage, to support them in their journey of recovery and beyond based on the building blocks of well-being: positive emotion, engagement, relationships, meaning and accomplishment. Women are assisted and supported to connect with a process that inspires, motivates and supports them through their journey from disadvantage and health inequality to improved health and wellbeing, towards independence and economic success. Helping them find real Hope and Healing in their lives. A unique facet of the programme has been the continued evolution of the activities to reflect the needs of women taking part and to maximise the resources afforded within the programme. This has included new activities and ongoing collaboration and partnership working with agencies such as the Southern Heath & Social Care Trust Multidisciplinary Teams & Promoting Wellbeing Team and local councils Newry, Mourne & Down District Council and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council. The programme developed four new and innovative 'Me & My' courses as part of the 30 additional programmes or activities that was delivered in the four themes of: Creativity, Emotional & Mental Wellbeing, Health Awareness and Physically Active. A key tool developed was a bespoke 'Wellness Plan' booklet that women could use throughout their journey on the Hope & Resilience programme.

The rationale for the programme was founded on the need for additional, low intensity, non-crisis services supports for women that have accessed Women's Aid Armagh Down's crisis services previously and need continued engagement to improve their own mental health and wellbeing and support their emotional, physical and psychological health and wellbeing.

"90% of the women who use our services come from areas which are recorded as being areas of high multiple deprivation, in terms of health, income employment, education and crime."

- Women's Aid Armagh Down Strategic Review 2021

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### Achievements and performance (continued)

Northern Ireland (NI) is reported to have the highest prevalence of mental health problems in the UK. Academic studies and research articles have reported that NI has the highest prevalence of mental illness in the UK, with psychiatric morbidity in NI 25% higher than mainland UK.

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(18\)30392-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(18)30392-4/fulltext)

According to the Mental Health Foundation research<sup>1</sup> mental health problems cost the NI economy £3.4bn annually (£117.8bn across UK).

- The Lancet

The Women's Aid Armagh Down team have an innate and considered understanding that it is essential for women to be:

1. Connected
2. Be Active
3. Be Safe
4. Be Hopeful
5. Be Empowered
6. Be Supported

**Only for Women's Aid I wouldn't be here today. I was deteriorating! I am now 65 and feel 55 (if not 25 😊)**

The programme has achieved some considerable outputs and outcomes delivering upon ambitious targets set out within the programme letter of offer. The table below illustrates the extent to which the programme has met or exceeded each output area:

Output / Outcome	Target	Achieved	Notes
Women accessing Level 1 Wellbeing support	136	125	648 women in total have been supported through the programme
Women accessing Level 2 Wellbeing support	180	209	
Women access support in Refuge through our Life Skills worker	50	55	
1:1 support sessions	4,500	3875	12 women attending weekly to the Wool Crew which is facilitated by a Wellbeing Buddy volunteer
Programmes delivered to 288 women	36	73	Innovative new programmes were developed in response to the needs of women
Women will benefit from a range of mental health & Wellbeing supports	700	648	In addition to the Me & My series of programmes an extra 3 new programmes have been developed
New Wellbeing programmes developed	3	3	The level of engagement from buddies changed for example a volunteer buddy run's the Wool Crew group every Friday and now in turn 2 older women have become leaders within the group
Women accessing Wellbeing buddies' support	120	30	
Active Wellbeing Buddies	30	31	

**Places like Women's Aid give you the tools to put yourself back together!**

At the midway point of the programme, in September 2023, output deliverables were ahead of schedule with 270 women supported with six months left of the programme – 85% of the target at the ¾ stage of the programme including 35 women living in our Refuge.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

3,488 1:1 sessions had been delivered, 77% of target achieved

12 women attending weekly to the Wool Crew, facilitated by a Wellbeing Buddy volunteer

An extra 3 new programmes had been developed.

**I learned how to plan ahead, safety first, how to use many tools, hand and power tools. How to fix cupboards, taps, how to fix tiles, shelves etc.**

**I was on autopilot for years I would put things on the shelf and have a cry, I was numb so when I finally got away... it all came out and was too much to bear. Thank God I had the refuge!**

The women continue to say the Hope & Resilience project has given them a sense of identity and confidence which they had lost, and they clearly state that it has empowered them to continue to heal on their personal journey.

Overall, the success of this programme clearly demonstrated the need for an ongoing programme of this nature. The need for this programme is also grounded in the substantial waiting list of women, children and young people seeking access to Women's Aid Armagh Down's support services which is typically 200 plus at any given time. We will continue to seek funding opportunities to continue this vital and lifesaving work.

**The Hope and Resilience Wellbeing Project has enabled me to find myself again and it's giving me hope that things will get better. I can't express how much this service has helped me. Personally, I want every woman who experienced domestic abuse to do this programme as there is HOPE through the storm.**

### **Employ Me – Partnership in Action**

This project consisted of a partnership with our local Southern Regional College, Community Advice at Newry, Mourne & Down District Council and Clanrye Group.

Employ Me is an employability programme providing training, employability and wraparound support for Economically Inactive people aged 16+ to reduce barriers, develop skills, achieve qualifications and enhance employability to enable progression to employment/self-employment. The programme targets economically inactive people only, with emphasis on specific cohorts to include Disability, Aged 50+, Women Returners, Justice (those in, or at risk of entering, the justice system), single parents and carers.

Over the 40 years plus we have been providing our specialised domestic abuse support services to women we are extremely aware that the physical and psychological impact of trauma experienced by women from domestic abuse presents a huge barrier to entering or indeed re-entering education and/or employment. This project was crucial in enabling us to provide the vital support required to help women combat those barriers and challenges. Our Employ Me support worker took direct internal referrals from across all our service provision and developed a holistic person-centred plan enabling her to work with women to determine their options and next steps. The work incorporated a flexible approach that assisted the women to determine the level of support they needed before, during and after any engagement with the programmes within the Employ Me project. A vital aspect of this project was that it gave women back supported options and informed choices for their future.

During the year **60** women were referred to the Employ Me project with **38** women being in a position to attend their one-to-one assessment. **32** of these women continued on and successfully engaged in Employ Me project.

The average age of women involved in the project was 38 years old with the youngest being **16** and the oldest being **64** years of age. **8** of the women engaging in the project were currently or had previously resided in our refuge and **10** women had also been referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for high-risk victims.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### **Achievements and performance (continued)**

An alarming fact that the project highlighted was that **84%** of the women participating have had to leave their previous employment because of the domestic abuse they experienced. Issues such as the perpetrator constantly contacting them at work or "he made me leave work because I couldn't answer the phone to him". This was due to her employer's workplace policy on phones not allowing staff to take personal calls during working hours. Her perpetrator insisted on her being able to answer the phone every time he rang so he would know where she was and who she was talking to. Asking women to put the camera on and show him where she is and who she is with is a fairly common demand from domestic abusers. Women expressed experiences such as "he wouldn't let me sleep so I wasn't able to work". The psychological traumatic impact of being a victim of domestic abuse resulted in some women losing their jobs because they were unable to concentration or experiencing brain fog due to the impact of the trauma, "I was let go in my role as I wasn't able to fulfil job requirements". Pregnancy also featured as a prominent factor in being made to give up employment, "I was pregnant and he didn't want me to work so made me leave".



Another interesting fact that was highlighted through this programme was that women were more likely to engage with the Employ Me project and progress into education or employment if they had previously engaged in our Wellbeing Hope and Resilience project. This was due to the fact that the most prominent barrier being experienced at this moment in time was the lack of confidence in herself, lack of confidence in her current skills and lack of confidence in applying for jobs and going for interviews. One of the challenges that this project identified that it became clear that while women being referred from the front-line crisis support such as Floating Support or Refuge, wanted to engage and they clearly felt the need to engage, with the project. The impact of their trauma from domestic abuse was still very much active in their lives causing a wide range of challenges and barriers such as Child Contact issues and ongoing court demands to deal with the domestic abuse experienced. While this funding stream was only for 2 years we are very hopeful that as a partnership we can find a way to ensure its continuation of the extremely valuable work of supporting and assisting individuals disengaged with education and/or employment to engage/re-engage, enhancing their lived experienced, providing hope, a sense of achievement and success.

### **Volunteering**

Women's Aid Armagh Down are delighted to enable women to volunteer in our organisation with over 2,867 volunteer hours provided during the year. Our volunteers play a vital role in our work, and they support the work of Women's Aid Armagh Down across a wide range of functions. We conservatively calculate the economic value of the work contributed by our volunteers to be approximately £34,404.

### **Educate and Informing the Public**

On behalf of women, children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse Women's Aid Armagh Down continue to advocate and lobby at local and regional level. The CEO and senior management team continue to work alongside the eight regional Women's Aid groups and Women's Aid Federation NI to ensure regional, collective and responsive actions in campaigning, lobbying and policy development ensuring that the voices of women, children and young people are clearly heard and firmly on the agenda for all those decision makers who are in positions of power with the moral responsibility to listen and act putting safety and protection of women, children and young people centre front of all policies and strategies. As stated elsewhere in this report we continue to deliver Domestic/Sexual Abuse awareness training to a wide range of agencies.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### Strategic Planning

Our strategic plan is dedicated to placing women, children and young people experiencing domestic/sexual abuse at the heart of everything we do, ensuring they receive the help and support they deserve. We recognize the challenges ahead—adapting to changing needs, addressing barriers, and responding to increasing demand—and are committed to meeting them with innovation, resilience, and collaboration.

Our strategic plan reflects our commitment to delivering trauma-informed support services that place the safety, dignity, and empowerment of women, children, and young people at the centre of our mission. Recognizing the profound impact of domestic and sexual abuse, we strive to create an environment of trust, understanding, and respect where women, children and young people feel heard, valued, and supported.

By prioritising the voices of those we serve, embracing evidence-based practices, and fostering strong partnerships, we will not only address immediate needs but also drive meaningful, long-term change.

We are committed to meeting challenges through evidence-based, trauma-informed approaches that address the complex needs of those we serve. By fostering resilience, promoting healing, and advocating for systemic change, our plan aims to ensure every individual has the opportunity to rebuild their lives free from violence and fear."

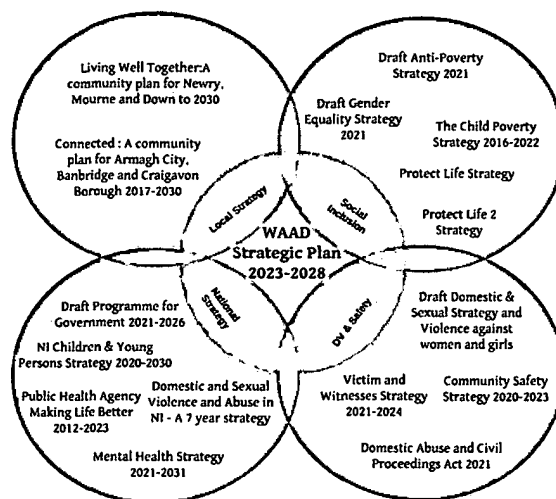
The pillars, strategic goals, and key action areas outlined in our strategy are designed to complement a broad range of local, regional, and national strategies and policies. By aligning with existing frameworks, we enhance our collective impact and ensure that our efforts are synchronized with wider initiatives. The diagram below illustrates the strategic alignment of the Women's Aid Armagh Down Strategic Plan 2023-28, highlighting the interconnectedness of our work with national and regional priorities.

**Our Vision** 'A world where women and children are safe and supported.'

**Our Mission** 'To believe in, listen to and support women and children facing domestic abuse so that they feel safe, hopeful and can thrive.'

Our work is focused over two thematic pillars and 8 strategic goals

1. Supporting women and children – To provide trauma sensitive support for women and children through high quality programmes, services and the provision of safe and secure spaces.
2. Developing a Sustainable and Resilient organisation- To operate with the highest standards of governance with robust financial management, investing in and supporting our staff and volunteers and to enhance our financial sustainability by raising our profile and diversifying our income sources.



We believe that through partnership working, we will build a future where safety, empowerment, and healing are accessible to all.

Our strategy is in place to help us amplify the voices of women, children and young people experiencing domestic/sexual abuse and to strive to deliver the services you need.

There are many people to thank for the continued success of Women's Aid Armagh Down. Our funders, our staff and volunteers, and the local businesses and individuals who remain so generous.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Board of Women's Aid Armagh Down Limited confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance produced on public benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charitable company has continued to provide public benefits through the charitable activities delivered.

### **Financial review**

The net movement of funds amounted to an increase of £114,795, of which an increase of £152,518 related to unrestricted activities and a decrease of £37,723 related to restricted funds. The Charity is involved in various income generating activities to provide adequate resources to meet its objectives.

At 31 March 2024 the Charity had restricted reserves of £100,749 and unrestricted reserves of £923,200.

### **Reserves policy**

Reserves are represented by the fund balances in the balance sheet. Restricted funds are those where the charity must spend the funds in line with a particular purpose or project, usually specified by the donor or as identified at the time of receiving the funds. Unrestricted reserves do not carry any restrictions on how they can be used as they are not restricted to, nor designated for, a particular purpose.

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a minimum of three months' expected expenditure to cover the main risk to the organisation including redundancy and funder contracts. The aim is to provide sufficient funds to cover any unforeseen costs which may arise, recognise the volatile grant environment as well as allowing for the payment of any liabilities which would arise should the company cease to operate. Reserves are monitored as part of the review of financial reports on an on-going basis throughout the year.

### **Auditor**

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Harbinson Mulholland be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

### **Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **A Word from the Directors/Trustees**

Our Annual Report presents our progress against our strategic objectives over the last year and is a record of achievement and an opportunity for reflection and appreciation of our staff and volunteers. This has been a historic year for Women's Aid Armagh Down as we have marked 40 years of history in the area. This milestone year has been filled with moments of celebration and contemplation, and is evidence of the commitment and support of our staff, volunteers, and community. There is much for which to be thankful.

In this year we have had more engagement with our local business community than ever before. We are delighted that so many business leaders in our area are generous enough to give their support to the organisation, and as we look to the future we are grateful of their support. Our donations from private individuals have also been higher than we had expected, and each one is received with thanks - not just for the financial support of our work, but for the message behind them: across Armagh-Down, we know that our services are seen and valued, and we feel the support of our communities. Thank you.

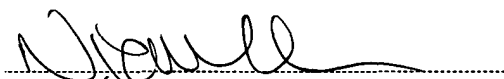
That support has been particularly needed this year. Male violence against women is on the rise, and there has been a steady, and terrifying, stream of news stories reminding us of that. Our incredible staff team have worked tirelessly in this year to achieve the numbers set out in this report, fighting against a rising tide of gender based violence to make meaningful changes to our service users, impacting one woman, one life, at a time, to make the world a better and safer place. We are privileged to work alongside such an inspirational team, and the Board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to them.

This has been the first year for many of our new board members, who joined us shortly after our last AGM. They bring a mix of skills, and as we approach the mid-term of our Strategic Plan, it is reassuring to have financial, business, legal, and healthcare expertise on the board. Our role on the Board is made easier by the strong leadership shown by Eileen and the Senior Leadership Team – Gillian, Helen, Linda and Mairead. They continue to navigate difficult waters with the upmost professionalism and compliance.

As an organisation we are entering a new phase; our buildings are in the process of a significant upgrade, and we have ambitions to modernise and transform the delivery of services. This is an exciting time, made possible by the continued support shown to us by our donors and the efforts from key individuals including Tony Clarke, who provides Accountancy services, and Deborah Loughran of King Communication who has been invaluable in connecting us to stakeholders and amplifying our message.

Ultimately, we exist for women. We are here to do everything in our power to protect women and children from gender based violence, and we will be here for as long as it takes to build a world free from it. This report sets out the actions we have taken in the last year to move towards that goal, while we know the road ahead is long, we know we walk it with your support. Thank you.

**The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Directors.**



**Niamh O'Maoláin**  
**Chair of Board of Directors**

Date: 3 December 2024

## WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

### A WORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

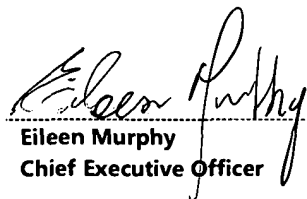
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#### Thank You

As the Chief Executive Officer, I wish to extend my gratitude to all the staff and volunteers whose dedication, passion and strenuous efforts are the bedrock of our success both in this year and going forward where I am confident, we will achieve even greater outcomes together. The team at Women's Aid Armagh Down are truly remarkable individuals who continue to strive to provide the much-needed collective effort in ensuring we support as many women children and young people as possible. In particular I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our Senior Management Team - Gillian, Helen, Linda and Mairead for their continuous assistance, support and, wisdom afforded to me throughout the year ensuring we deliver excellence every day. My sincere gratitude also to the voluntary members of the Women's Aid Armagh Down Board for their tireless commitment and professionalism giving up their time and energy ensuring the vital governance, strategic direction and compliance of Women's Aid Armagh Down as we deliver on our stated aims and objectives as a charity and as an employer. I consider myself truly fortunate and honoured to work alongside such extraordinary individuals.

It is also imperative for me to extend my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to our incredible local community and further afield for their steadfast and unwavering support for our work. Without your extraordinary support we would not be able to provide the wide range of support to women, children and young people whose lives depend on our services being available to them. Your combined efforts have touched countless lives and without your support our work would be so much more challenging and at times nearly impossible. A massive thank you to everyone across our community supporting our work. As I have said previously - your support is the beating heart of our community.

Above all, I want to extend a special thanks to the women, children and young people at the most difficult times in their lives trusted us to help and support them, and they work with us to rediscover their resilience, confidence, freedom and self-belief. We will listen to you, we believe you and in you, and we are here for you because you are the reason Women's Aid Armagh Down exists.



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**Eileen Murphy**  
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 3 December 2024

# **WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

## **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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The Trustees, who are also the directors of Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd for the purpose 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 Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that 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.

By order of the Board of Trustees



N Ó'Maoláin  
Trustee

3 December 2024

**Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106096

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# Annual return

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the 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 financial statements are 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 other information comprises the information included in the Directors' Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; 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, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

# **WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

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Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with trustees and/or senior management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;

We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charity, including Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in Note 2 were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions;

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC and the company's legal advisors;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

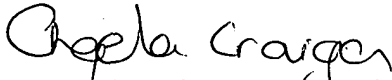
## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities Accounts and Reports Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Angela Craigan (Senior Statutory Auditor)**

For and on behalf of Harbinson Mulholland, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Centrepoint

24 Ormeau Avenue

Belfast

Co. Antrim

BT2 8HS

Northern Ireland

3 December 2024

Harbinson Mulholland is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106096

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# Accounts

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**Charity Registration No. 106096**

**Company Registration No. NI030774 (Northern Ireland)**

**WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	N O'Maolain S Henry M Larkin C Curran N Basketfield B McGuinness M Gollogly
<b>Secretary</b>	M Larkin
<b>Charity number</b>	106096
<b>Company number</b>	NI030774
<b>Registered office</b>	7 Downshire Place Newry Co. Down Northern Ireland BT34 1DZ
<b>Auditor</b>	FPM Accountants Limited 1 - 3 Arthur Street Belfast Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT1 4GA
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland 12 Trevor Hill Newry Co. Down Northern Ireland BT34 1DT  AIB 42-44 Hill Street Newry Co. Down Northern Ireland BT34 1AU

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### **Solicitors**

Casey & Casey Solicitors  
Legal House  
25-27 Lower Catherine Street  
Newry  
Co. Down  
Northern Ireland  
BT35 6BE

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors report together with the associated financial statements of the Charity for the year ending 31 March 2023.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (NI) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations (NI) 2015, Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Women's Aid Armagh Down is a registered charity with Northern Ireland Charity Commission, NICC 106096 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland, NI30774. The organisation was founded in 1983 and was established under Memorandum of Association in 1996 which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is governed under its Articles of Association. We are members of the Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland (WAFNI) and a representative from our management board sits on the WAFNI board. We work closely with all Women's Aid local groups across Northern Ireland and promote good governance, best practice and effective communication across the organisation consequently ensuring a regional commitment and connected partnership working to effectively and efficiently manage the strategic direction for Women's Aid Armagh Down and for the work of Women's Aid regionally.

#### **Objectives**

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic violence and providing services for women, children and young people. Women's Aid seeks to challenge the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic/sexual violence and abuse, and through its work, promote healthy and non-abusive relationships. The objectives of the Charity are:

- To relieve distress, suffering and poverty by the provision of safe temporary accommodation for women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependants who are, or have been, experiencing domestic, sexual or gender-based violence or abuse;
- To relieve distress and suffering experienced by women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependants 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 to those in need by the provision of information and advice for those affected by domestic, sexual or gender-based violence or abuse and referrals 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 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **Activities**

Women's Aid Armagh Down provides a wide range of support services and other appropriate services necessary in the meeting of our Charity objectives and providing public benefit. Working within a challenging funding environment Women's Aid Armagh Down continues to meet all performance targets throughout 2022/23. We engage with staff, volunteers and with a wide range of external agencies across the Newry, Mourne and Down District (NMDDC) and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ABCBC) area ensuring our services are not only delivering on our charitable objectives in both rural and urban areas but also that our services are responding to the urgent need of women, children and young people right at the heart of our community.

### **Governance:**

WAAD have put the following in place during this reporting period.

- New financial structure including outsourcing payroll and management accounts to Clarke & Co. Accountancy, Bookkeeping and Business Services.
- New Office Manager in post leading on the financial aspects of the organisation.
- New accounting package now in use as we changed from SAGE to Quick Books
- Gift Aid registered and active
- Policy & Procedures reviewed and ratified by Board including Financial Policy
- Enthuse donations platform introduced
- Recruitment & Selection training completed by all senior managers and appropriate staff
- Cora's story & other fundraising campaigns undertaken.
- Insurance review resulted in New insurer being contracted.
- IT tendering process was completed to ensure we are receiving a high quality and value for money service.

In continuing with our practice of measuring our Social Return on Investment (SROI) our social impact independent audit of our services demonstrates that the work of Women's Aid Armagh Down gives a SROI return of £23.50 for every £1 of funding invested in our services. Our SROI distinctly validates the work of our organisation and in totality demonstrates our organisation provides a real and tangible benefit to our beneficiaries, to all our stakeholders and indeed to society as a whole. Measuring our social impact has become a mode of continuous improvement process, facilitating effective strategic and operational planning and enabling us to deliver a clear and strong method of communication to all.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### **Support for Women, Children & Young People**

A total of **1,324** women and **1,515** children and young people were supported in this year.

#### **Refuge:**

Our refuge occupancy was consistently operating at full or almost full with a mean average **98%** occupancy throughout the year, resulting in 123 women, 4 of whom were pregnant and 102 children and young people not being accommodated due to the refuge being full. A total of 28 women with 25 children and young people were accommodated in refuge, 11 children were under the age of 5. 18 women had a range of additional complex support needs, 13 women were managing a physical disability and 1 woman was supported through her pregnancy and birth of her baby. Of the 28 women accommodated 18 women were from the BME community. During the year 17 women and 16 children secured stable and safe housing. A range of activities were provided in refuge for women including Yoga, BBQ, Library visits and a month of events in December alongside wellbeing events such as World Mental Health Day, Being Connected programme, Wool crew, Good Food programme and Motivational Mondays. We provided 58 one to one support sessions and 188 supported play session for children and young people in refuge and 14 children and young people took part in special outings and events. All children and young people in refuge were registered with a GP, dentist and those of school age attended school. Feedback from our young people in refuge demonstrates the positive impact achieved:

#### **The best thing about my time with Women's Aid was:**

- *"Having a friendly face who understood me and what I was going through".*

#### **Changes in myself/my life since I came to Women's Aid:**

- *"Before I was quiet, hidden and didn't want to be seen. After to coming to Women's Aid, I am happy, a little more open and I'm okay to see them now".*

This vital service ensure we continue to work at crisis level in reducing risk from homelessness and increasing women, children and young people's safety through providing access to crisis refuge accommodation by providing a safe, secure environment.

Our education and support service to children and young people in schools delivered our prevention education programme to 19 schools across the SHSCT area, 10 schools with 1,015 pupils participated in schools based in the Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon council area, 8 schools with 369 pupils engaging in the Newry Mourne and Down council area and 1 school with 18 pupils in Dungannon. 28 primary school pupils completed our Helping Hands programme and 1,374 post primary pupils completed our Heading for Healthy Relations programme resulting in a total of 1,402 young people more educated in how to keep themselves and others safe from abuse and understanding they have the right to be safe from others. It is also important to receive the feedback from teachers which continues to be very positive:

*Eotas Newry:*

*'It's a very worthwhile programme for our young people, I would love everyone of them to get the full benefit of it'*

*St Catherine's Lurgan:*

*'I feel it helped our young people to think about elements of their relationships and some issues to look for'  
'this programme is very helpful in providing preventative curriculum for our students'*

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023



#### Children and Young Peoples' Support Services

148 referrals were received with 106 children and young people engaging in the service. 410 one to one support sessions were completed. Feedback from our young people demonstrated the positive outcome from the support they received such as:

#### Changes in myself/my life since I came to Women's Aid

Before	After
Cross angry	happy. better understanding.

Draw or write about the changes (if any) you have seen in yourself or your family since you came to Women's Aid

Before	After
 worried Complete our quiz ... Agree - disagree - Not sure? tick, underline or circle!	 happy

Draw or write about the changes (if any) you have seen in yourself or your family since you came to Women's Aid

Before	After
 confused	 I understand it now happy

Safety planning is a vital aspect of our service provision and the children and young person's team work closely with mothers and their children exploring and agreeing a safety plan for high/medium risk cases. This work enables mums to work closely with our team to help them to manage their children's constant state of fear of what might happen next.

Providing support to children and young people is completed in venues that the young people feel safe and secure in and in order to do this staff provide outreach support by travelling to a range of community-based venues who worked closely with us so children could receive the support they needed. Some of this work was facilitated by schools allowing children to attend support in schools time and by providing a room. In one to one support children described how they were struggling with what they had witnessed, worried about their mums and missing their dad even though sometimes they were afraid of him. We were delighted to introduce Calming Kits, to compliment the one to one Helping Hands support to children which enabled them to emotionally regulate themselves. A review of the Heading for Healthy Relationships programme was undertaken by the children and young people's team and they amended the programme to incorporate Coercive Control and Consent issues and information. The team also created and facilitated a 7-week programme, 'Insight' to young women aged 16-24 years of age.

We were delighted to produce four Animations highlighting the impact and experience of Children and young people who use our service. This provides us with a really powerful means to help others understand how domestic abuse impacts on young people's lives.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### Community Based Services

Our floating support service received and processed 1,112 referrals for different 889 women. These referrals were received from multiple sources however the main pathways for referrals remains PSNI 36% and Self-referral 29%. And geographically 56% of our referrals come from the ABCB Council area and 44% NMDD Council area.

Of the 889 women for whom we received a referral 677 engaged in active support and 522 completed their support within the reporting period.

39 women engaging in floating support where pregnant.

Age profile of women using the service saw a slight change in that the numbers of women 16-30yrs has increased from 20% in 21-22 to 29% in 22-23. 14% of women were 50yrs+ and within this reporting period we worked with 3 women who came into the service aged 75 years plus.

32% of the women we supported stated they had a disability with 55 women having more than one disability.

45% of the women supported reported having mental health vulnerabilities while 18% reported physical health vulnerabilities. While 23% of women reported have more than one vulnerability.

Of the 677 women supported in 97% of cases the perpetrator of the abuse was male. With 70% being an intimate ex-partner or spouse, 21% being a current intimate partner or spouse.

29 women in this reporting period reported having more than one perpetrator at the time of support.

An additional 77 women were supported by a Domestic & Sexual Abuse Transition Support Worker.

Some of the feedback from women we supported in this reporting period includes:

- *"I got the support that I needed when I needed it".*
- *"When I first came to women's aid I did not know how I was going to stand on my own two feet. With their support I've my own house, survived Christmas thanks to the donations, got amazing support through the court system and now I'm the girl I was before my abusive relationship 8 years ago. I have never been happier".*
- *"Gave me the confidence to ask my husband to leave family home. I am embarking on a new future for myself and my children".*
- *"Very big, I don't know how I would cope without my key workers support and help".*
- *"I got a safe house & got all the help that my family needed. Because of WA I feel safe & stronger".*
- *"It has helped me take control with my life".*
- *"I find it difficult to open up to people/accept help but workers made this easy by their gentle manner".*

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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When we analysed the words women used, this is the word cloud;



When we asked women what suggestions they had for improving our service some of the responses included:

- *"Get back to very vulnerable ladies asap".*
- *"I didn't like using the front door at the very beginning, paranoid my ex partners family were watching. A side door or more discreet entrance away from the traffic looking in would be useful".*
- *"Less waiting time to be seen".*
- *"The rooms in the building are a bit bare. More welcoming colours or pictures on the wall".*
- *"I was unable to attend group sessions as they were during working hours, an evening session would work well".*
- *"Support for children? Maybe a crèche area for women who are attending sessions with key workers. I was lucky to have family support but others may not and when I first left the relationship I wouldn't leave my children".*

Some additional feedback provided included:

- *"I really have to say a massive thank you to my keyworker she has been amazing she has listened to me about all my woes and concerns advised me the best she can and has helped me in every way she possibly could. thank you".*
- *"Appreciated getting food, clothes and toiletries from Eleos".*
- *"I feel ready to face the future and know, if needed, I can call on Women's Aid for support".*

### Project Work

#### MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Our staff attended 24 MARAC meetings across two jurisdictions Newry, Armagh and Dungannon and Craigavon and Banbridge which reviewed a total of 244 cases of domestic abuse. All of these cases need to be researched and reported on where applicable and this involves significant time and effort. From April 2022 – March 2023. In the same year WAAD made **38 referrals to MARAC** and received **21 referrals from MARAC**. Currently, WAAD like all Women's Aid groups in Northern Ireland receive no funding for this work even though it is essential that we participate in this process to ensure the voices of women, children and young people are at the centre of all discussion and actions. As part of this process WAAD was also involved in the Decision-Making Forums for 6 Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Schemes (5 Power to tell and 1 Right to ask)

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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#### **IRIS** (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety)

The Department of Health continued to fund the IRIS project across this year. This funding enables our IRIS advocate / educator (AE) to continue delivering specialist training to more GP surgeries across the NMD and ABC Council areas. Across the reporting period the IRIS AE received 79 who all engaged in the support service, with 31 of these women able to access longer term support within Women's Aid Armagh Down. Some feedback from the GP's trained includes:

*"I now feel I can confidently ask the right questions and use my clinical judgement to be able to identify DSVAs and appropriately deal with any disclosure"*

Outcomes for patients engaging in the IRIS service continue to be positive with 100% of patients stating they were "pleased to be asked about domestic abuse by their GP/Health Clinician". 100% "felt listened to by their AE" and "found the support helpful" while 100% of patients "felt safer" and 86% "felt more optimistic about their future" as a result of the IRIS support. While finally 86% of those engaged in IRIS "Visited their doctor less than before"

Patient feedback included:

- *"Amazing service. The IRIS AE was not only there for me emotionally but practically – Thank you!"*
- *"I wouldn't be where I am today without the IRIS AE's support"*

#### **DASS** (Domestic Abuse Safety & Support)

The DASS project also continues to be in place and at the end of 22-23 we were able to secure recurrent funding for this one post via the NHS 'at risk' register, which puts its security on par with other NHS staff. The year 2 evaluation of the DASS project showed its potential to continue to meet the needs of women in crisis at the point of need. With 114 women being offered the service and 78 agreeing to engage this shows the increase in confidence and ability of the hospitals front line staff to engage women in "courageous conversations" and offer the service. 406 medical and social care staff received DASS training in this year and feedback was resoundingly positive. Outcomes for women were also very positive with 100% of those surveyed stating they felt safer, understood and more confident to access longer term services. Women told us "she listened to me" "she helped me to recognise the abuse" "she made me feel believed".

In the 2nd year DASS also completed 51 DASH risk assessments and made 21 onwards referrals to MARAC. As well as 44 referrals directly into WAAD.

Just as this reporting period was closing DASS had launched its Out of Hours Trial with an on-call service to both hospitals with the support of the team at WAAD. The outcomes from this will be eagerly anticipated. In year four we have completed a business case with the DASS project team to seek secure permanent funding for two full time DASS staff to allow us to expand the service across both sites.

#### **PBNI** (Probation Board Northern Ireland - Promoting Positive Relationships Programme PPRP)

The regional funding stream between the PBNI and Women's Aid continued into its fourth year enabling our Partner Support Worker to provide vital specialised support for women whose current or previous partners are attending the Promoting Positive Relationship programme with the PBNI. WAAD received 11 referrals from the PBNI for our area and of those, 8 women took up support. These women had 28 children whom to date received no support work in regards to this programme.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### HOPE & RESILIENCE WELLBEING PROJECT

The Wellbeing programme aims to provide a holistic 'whole life' program to inspire, build women's confidence and courage, to support them in their journey of recovery and beyond based on the building blocks of well-being: positive emotion, engagement, relationships, meaning and accomplishment. Women are assisted and supported to connect with a process that inspires, motivates and supports them through their journey from disadvantage and health inequality to improved health and wellbeing, towards independence and economic success. Helping them find real Hope and Healing in their lives.

It is important for women to be:

1. Connected
2. Be Active
3. Be Safe
4. Be Hopeful
5. Be Empowered
6. Be Supported

The Hope & Resilience project continues to deliver a wide range of Health & Wellbeing, supporting a total of 398 women completing 3,267 1:1 support sessions. This includes 1:1 support for 76 women through level 1 and 73 women through level 2, with 26 Wellbeing programmes delivered, Wellbeing health mornings on topics which the women feel is important to them. We also provide Wellbeing programmes and activities to 26 women who live in WAAD refuge.

The women continue to say the Hope & Resilience project has given them a sense of identity and confidence which they had lost.

*"I forgot how strong I was mentally and physically – this has reminded me"*

It gives them connection with other women for support and their lack of isolation has decreased over the period.

*"I feel really good doing the Tai Chi – it helped me to connect better with like-minded people"*

The women have stated that it has given them a sense of purpose for life and for the future. The improvement in emotional wellbeing and mental health has continued to increase.

*"This has really helped with my mental health"*

The women find it very positive and useful that they learn self-care practices and tools to be able to use in times of heightened crisis or when they feel over-whelmed.

*"I loved the colouring very distracting and helpful with my anxiety"*

*It has empowered them to continue to heal on their personal journey.*

The Hope and Resilience project overarching aim is to keep the women well, and/or ensure that those who have been previously been unwell remain well. Undoubtedly, the woman's voice is the centre of the programmes offered.

The Hope and Resilience project provide various opportunities for women to establish links within the community. Programmes are often run in various locations as well as the resource centres such as community halls, libraries and leisure centres. In turn, this increases the women's ability to attend groups within the community. Indeed, one woman attended the Be Active programme in the leisure centre and has since joined the gym. The project seeks to strengthen each women's ability to develop their ability to engage in self-care practices to strengthen their overall health and wellbeing. Many women express that due to domestic abuse they have lost their voice but are so thankful that their 'voice is coming back.' Moreover, one woman expressed that she is 'getting more comfortable with self-care and realise the benefits. I now understand I deserve it.' Consequently, this will build each woman's ability to empower themselves as well as other women. Working in partnership with Statutory & voluntary organisations has proven very beneficial to the project and to the women on the ground. An example of this is the "Wool Crew".

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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We are working in partnership with the Southern Trust Multi-Disciplinary team to deliver this on a weekly basis. The women knit or crochet. The benefits to the women have included – Connection, sense of purpose, supported and with the therapeutic benefits of knitting and crochet it has increased positive emotional and mental wellbeing. One of our older women who is part of the group had not knitted from 1983 due to the impact of domestic abuse and she has stated: "I hadn't knitted since 1983 my face just lit up. I got a great sense of achievement I didn't believe in myself before. In this period, we have seen the full impact of the Hope & Resilience project on a number of the women and the positives impacts for the future. Some of the positive impacts include women: Having the confidence to return to work: Who have joined a gym after taking part in the Be Active programme. Signed up to do a WRAP course after taking part in the Me & My Wellbeing programme in Refuge. Joined the local Library after the Mindful Colouring programme. Signed up for an IT course. Joined a parenting course. Volunteering with animal shelter. Joined classes within their own community.

Some additional feedback provided included:

- "I am not the same person anymore. More positive, even living in the hostel. I can see myself at Christmas with my 3 children, not unalive, now as a result of the support from WAAD & being involved with the Hope & Resilience project"
- "1:1's were lifesaving. I wouldn't be here other than for my support worker before Christmas! She helped me realise it is not my shame to carry."
- "very therapeutic & great conversation"
- "I feel more in control of my life now thanks"
- "I've learned about different food groups, what we need for great nutrition. It also helps my mental health ensuring I have a good balanced diet."

#### **Volunteering**

Women's Aid are delighted to enable women to volunteer in our organisation with over **2,610** volunteer hours provided during the year. If this is conservatively valued at £10.42 per hour the volunteer efforts amount to over **£27,196.20**. This does not include all the hours and efforts of our voluntary board directors who tirelessly continue to support and guide the charity in Good Governance and strategic development.

#### **Educating and Informing the Public**

On behalf of women, children and young people who have experience domestic abuse Women's Aid Armagh Down continue to advocate and lobby at local and regional level. The CEO and senior management team continue to work alongside the eight local groups and Women's Aid Federation NI to ensure regional, collective and responsive actions in campaigning, lobbying and policy development ensuring that the voices of women, children and young people are clearly heard and firmly on the agenda for all those decision makers who are in positions of power with the moral responsibility to listen and act putting safety and protection of women, children and young people centre front of all policies and strategies.

190 external agencies representatives received Domestic/Sexual Abuse awareness training from WAAD. 19 school teachers from across NMDDC and ABCBC participated in our Social Guardian training. This specialised training enables them to deliver our Helping Hands programme to children and young people in their schools and thereby ensuring a greater number of children and young people are educated and confident in reducing risk and increasing their personal safety.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **Strategic Planning: Future Development**

As Women's Aid Armagh Down enters our fortieth year of operation, our strategy sets out our aims and priorities for the future. Throughout our history as an organisation we have faced challenges, time and again proving our ability to adapt and change while always putting our service users at the heart of what we do. The last few years have seen an unprecedented level of uncertainty - since our last strategy document was published we have seen the Covid pandemic, the cost of living crisis, collapses of Stormont, and Brexit. Throughout the turmoil, Women's Aid Armagh Down has focused on keeping women and children safe, educating our communities about domestic and sexual abuse, and helping service users feel empowered. Despite the many difficulties in the last few years, there has also been much to celebrate, and our work continues to change and improve lives across our community.

In setting the new strategy, we have been diligent about maintaining focus on our mission, vision, and values. These lie at the heart of our organisation, and it is our hope that this document makes clear how we will further these aims. Across all our services - crisis accommodation, advice and information, outreach support, education, and partnership working to name a few - we listen and respond to the needs of women and children. Our staff and volunteers are our greatest asset, and every single one of them is dedicated to furthering our aims through their contributions. This strategy recognises that. It offers clear measures of success which we look forward to reviewing continuously on an individual, team, and organisational basis. We are fortunate to maintain excellent relationships with our stakeholders, especially the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and including the various funders that enable us to innovate and persist in growing and improving upon the services we deliver. They continue to support our work and help us develop services which make a meaningful difference to the lives of our service users. Throughout the lifetime of this strategy, we hope to develop these relationships further and increase the impact we can have.

There are many people to thank for the continued success of Women's Aid Armagh Down. Our funders, our staff and volunteers, and the local businesses and individuals who remain so generous.

But above all, we want to extend a special thanks to our service users. At the most difficult times in their lives, these women and children have trusted us to help and support them, and they work with us to rediscover their confidence, happiness, and freedom. We will listen to you, believe you, and are here for you. This strategy is in place to help us amplify your voices and deliver the services you need.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **A Word from the Directors/Trustees**

Our Annual Report serves many functions. It is our legal statement of our financial position; our opportunity to thank our wonderful staff and volunteers; and our record of the work we have done with service users. It is also a way for us to share the experiences of some of the women and children with whom we work. In this document you will read about how Women's Aid Armagh Down delivers life-changing – and life-saving – services to our community. This essential work has been carried out again this year against a backdrop of extreme financial pressures caused by insufficient funding and the systemic, even if unconscious, devaluing of women's lives and women's work by our governments and society.

Despite the many achievements of the women who have gone before us, we know all too well how dangerous it still is to be a woman today. Too many women are hurt, and murdered, by men who told them they loved them. Too many children are growing up in homes that are not safe. Too much media and policy discussion is focused on trying to drive division between marginalised groups and not nearly enough on supporting efforts to hold toxic masculinity and patriarchy to account for the evil it causes. At Women's Aid we see the result of that every day. And every day our staff show up to work ready to comfort, support, and empower. Our staff and our service users deserve better than our government gives them.

The staff at Women's Aid Armagh Down are inspirational. While the work they do is often heroic, they are not superheroes. They are real women, who have families and pressures of their own, and yet they have chosen to do a job that is difficult, emotionally taxing, and underfunded. Their resilience and ability to work with vulnerable and traumatised people with sensitivity and intelligence is not a miracle; it is the result of huge amounts of training and development. They are expert, educated, professional women and without their efforts we would all be worse off. The details in this Annual Report prove how valuable the work of our women is, and we the Board, and the senior leadership team of Women's Aid Armagh Down, will continue to demand that their value is properly acknowledged by our government funders.

We are incredibly grateful to you, our local community, for your continued support and generosity. Our donated funds have helped us support more women as they learn to rebuild their lives after domestic abuse, and provide a safe haven for women and children fleeing dangerous homes. The many businesses and individuals across our two council areas who have given their money and time to our organisation are a reminder that we are not alone on our journey to a brighter future. Thank you for standing with us.

It is an honour to serve on our Board, and the women I work alongside are dedicated to our cause. I would like to thank them for their efforts over the last financial year, and we look forward to the year ahead as we work with our incredible Senior Management Team – Eileen Murphy, Gillian McAllister, Helen Cranney, Linda Roger and Mairead Hearty– to make more women and children feel safe, supported, and hopeful.



Niamh O'Maolain

Chair of Board of Directors.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

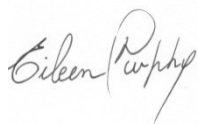
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **How our Community Support Us Supporting Women, Children and Young People.**

In the winter of 22-23, the team at WAAD were truly delighted to be in the position to help 268 families manage the challenges of winter and Christmas, with an average value of £268 support packages be made available to those most in need. The cumulative total support value was £71,700 within a 2-month period. We could only achieve this due to the support our local community including individuals and a wide range of organisations including but not limited to NMDDC, Norbrook Laboratories, Cash for Kids, Caring Coins, Newry Chamber of Commerce Toy Mountain and numerous others.

As the Chief Executive of WAAD I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the ongoing and unwavering support we as a team receive from our local communities throughout the year. Without your support our work would be so much more challenging and at times nearly impossible. On behalf of the women children and young people and all at WAAD I extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who helps in any little way, your support is the beating heart of our community.



Eileen Murphy

Chief Executive Officer

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was set up on 29th April 1996. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

N O'Maolain  
S Henry  
M Larkin  
C Curran  
N Basketfield  
B McGuinness  
M Gollogly

The Directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the Company's Articles are known as members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors are recruited through professional and personal recommendation and by advertisement. Voluntary Board Members receive a comprehensive induction to support them in fulfilling their role in relation to governance of the organisation. The Board meet on a monthly basis and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The day to day management and operations of the activities are carried out by a staff team lead by the Chief Executive Officer Eileen Murphy and a Senior Management Team – Gillian McAllister and Helen Cranney who report regularly to the Board. The Directors/Trustees are appointed according to the specific skills required by the organisation to fulfil its responsibilities. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the Directors are elected to serve a period of three years, after which they must be re-elected at the following AGM. The Directors' liability is limited by guarantee. The Chair and Vice Chair are appointed from within the Board and can remain in office for three years.

### **Auditor**

FPM have expressed their willingness to continue in office.

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....

**N O'Maolain**

Trustee

Dated: .....

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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The Trustees, who are also the directors of Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees 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; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### **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 financial statements are 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; 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, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

# **WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

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Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company through enquiry of management, sector research and the application of cumulative audit knowledge. We identified the following principal laws and regulations relevant to the company – Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

We developed an understanding of the key fraud risks to the entity (including how fraud might occur), the controls in place to help mitigate those risks, and the accounts, balances and disclosures within the financial statements which may be susceptible to management bias. Our understanding was obtained through review of the financial statements for significant accounting estimates, analysis of journal entries, walkthrough of the key controls cycles in place and enquiry of management.

Our procedures to respond to those risks identified included, but were not limited to:

- Enquiry of management, and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

# **WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

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A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. 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 auditors' 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Lowry Grant (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**for and on behalf of FPM Accountants Limited**

#### **Chartered Accountants**

##### **Statutory Auditors**

1 - 3 Arthur Street  
Belfast  
Co. Antrim  
Northern Ireland  
BT1 4GA

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	<b>Notes</b>						
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	<b>3</b>	114,128	-	114,128	88,927	12,313	101,240
Charitable activities	<b>4</b>	304,376	857,386	1,161,762	229,894	755,234	985,128
Investments	<b>5</b>	835	-	835	160	-	160
<b>Total income</b>		<u>419,339</u>	<u>857,386</u>	<u>1,276,725</u>	<u>318,981</u>	<u>767,547</u>	<u>1,086,528</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	<b>6</b>	1,094	401	1,495	19	-	19
Charitable activities	<b>7</b>	276,139	776,388	1,052,527	295,882	719,312	1,015,194
Other	<b>11</b>	415	708	1,123	198	430	628
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>277,648</u>	<u>777,497</u>	<u>1,055,145</u>	<u>296,099</u>	<u>719,742</u>	<u>1,015,841</u>
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>		141,691	79,889	221,580	22,882	47,805	70,687
Gross transfers between funds		45,226	(45,226)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<u>186,917</u>	<u>34,663</u>	<u>221,580</u>	<u>22,882</u>	<u>47,805</u>	<u>70,687</u>
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		<u>583,765</u>	<u>103,809</u>	<u>687,574</u>	<u>560,883</u>	<u>56,004</u>	<u>616,887</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2023</b>		<u><u>770,682</u></u>	<u><u>138,472</u></u>	<u><u>909,154</u></u>	<u><u>583,765</u></u>	<u><u>103,809</u></u>	<u><u>687,574</u></u>

# **WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023***

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The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

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	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		242,420		275,528
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	30,586		114,220	
Cash at bank and in hand		683,834		499,611	
		<u>714,420</u>		<u>613,831</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	(47,686)		(201,785)	
Net current assets			666,734		412,046
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>909,154</u>		<u>687,574</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	15		138,472		103,809
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	16	-		9,997	
General unrestricted funds		770,682		573,768	
		<u>770,682</u>		<u>583,765</u>	
			<u>909,154</u>		<u>687,574</u>

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

*AS AT 31 MARCH 2023*

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The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

.....  
N O'Maolain

**Trustee**

**Company Registration No. NI030774**

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	20		186,280		154,356
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,893)		(52,356)	
Investment income received		835		160	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>					
			(2,058)		(52,196)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>					
			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>					
			184,222		102,160
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			499,611		397,451
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>					
			683,834		499,611

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### 1 Accounting policies

#### Charity information

Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 7 Downshire Place, Newry, Co. Down, BT34 1DZ, Northern Ireland.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	4% straight line
Leasehold improvements	4% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

#### 1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### ***Basic financial assets***

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### ***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### ***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### **1.10 Employee benefits**

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### **1.11 Retirement benefits**

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

### 3 Donations and legacies

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	<b>2023</b>	2022	2022	2022
	<b>£</b>	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	114,128	87,705	12,313	100,018
Job Retention Scheme	-	1,222	-	1,222
	<u>114,128</u>	<u>88,927</u>	<u>12,313</u>	<u>101,240</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 4 Charitable activities

	Restricted Income	Unrestricted Income	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	8,019	-	8,019	-
Performance related grants	857,386	178,191	1,035,577	925,677
Charitable rental income	-	94,389	94,389	43,859
Other income	-	23,777	23,777	15,592
	<u>865,405</u>	<u>296,357</u>	<u>1,161,762</u>	<u>985,128</u>
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	8,019	296,357	304,376	229,894
Restricted funds	857,386	-	857,386	755,234
	<u>865,405</u>	<u>296,357</u>	<u>1,161,762</u>	<u>985,128</u>
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2022</b>				
Unrestricted funds	-	229,894		229,894
Restricted funds	755,234	-		755,234
	<u>755,234</u>	<u>229,894</u>		<u>985,128</u>
<b>Performance related grants</b>				
Supporting People - Refuge support	235,223	-	235,223	218,865
Supporting People - Floating Support	352,828	-	352,828	328,292
Supporting People - PIF	-	-	-	123,530
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	-	96,053	96,053	92,329
SHSCT - DASS officer	27,060	2,000	29,060	-
Supporting People - Covid-19 Recovery	-	-	-	41,995
NIHE - Additional grant	-	-	-	24,008
PBNI	-	11,750	11,750	15,000
IRIS Project	-	39,887	39,887	41,302
Community foundation grant - Mental health	233,143	-	233,143	-
Other	9,132	28,501	37,633	40,356
	<u>857,386</u>	<u>178,191</u>	<u>1,035,577</u>	<u>925,677</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### 5 Investments

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest receivable	835	160
	<u>835</u>	<u>160</u>

The 2022 amount of £160 was treated as unrestricted income.

### 6 Raising funds

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>				
Other fundraising costs	1,094	401	1,495	19
	<u>1,094</u>	<u>401</u>	<u>1,495</u>	<u>19</u>
	<u>1,094</u>	<u>401</u>	<u>1,495</u>	<u>19</u>

The 2022 amount of £19 was treated as unrestricted expenditure.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 7 Charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	597,153	175,469	772,622	706,144
Depreciation and impairment	17,602	18,398	36,000	35,376
Rent	27,699	16,773	44,472	42,833
Rates	-	-	-	808
Insurance	5,881	2,517	8,398	5,884
Light & heat	25,506	6,729	32,235	30,893
Cleaning	4,847	2,610	7,457	13,461
Repairs	10,285	12,558	22,843	7,974
Staff Training & Recruitment	5,294	66	5,360	10,180
ICT costs	11,887	620	12,507	16,843
Admin & printing	3,527	3,595	7,122	4,616
Fees & subscriptions	2,108	624	2,732	2,200
Support costs	3,643	19,069	22,712	5,441
Travel	4,081	2,010	6,091	4,889
Telephone	17,899	3,321	21,220	18,697
Grants to Service Users	-	-	-	40,007
Other charitable expenditure	31,779	7,857	39,636	50,173
	<u>769,191</u>	<u>272,216</u>	<u>1,041,407</u>	<u>996,419</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	7,197	3,923	11,120	18,775
	<u>776,388</u>	<u>276,139</u>	<u>1,052,527</u>	<u>1,015,194</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>				
Unrestricted funds	-	276,139	276,139	
Restricted funds	776,388	-	776,388	
	<u>776,388</u>	<u>276,139</u>	<u>1,052,527</u>	
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2022</b>				
Unrestricted funds	-	295,882		295,882
Restricted funds	719,312	-		719,312
	<u>719,312</u>	<u>295,882</u>		<u>1,015,194</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	-	6,000	6,000	-	6,000	6,000
Legal and professional	-	5,120	5,120	-	12,775	12,775
	-	11,120	11,120	-	18,775	18,775
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	-	11,120	11,120	-	18,775	18,775

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £6,000 (2022- £6,000) for audit fees.

### 9 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

### 10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Employees	38	36
<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	695,296	642,515
Social security costs	61,491	49,578
Other pension costs	15,835	14,051
	772,622	706,144

The key management personnel of the charity comprises the Trustees and the senior management team. The employee benefits of the key management personnel were £158,916.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 11 Other

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
			£	£
Financing costs	415	708	1,123	628
	<u>415</u>	<u>708</u>	<u>1,123</u>	<u>628</u>

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2022	111,907	379,477	183,668	675,052
Additions	-	-	2,893	2,893
	<u>111,907</u>	<u>379,477</u>	<u>186,561</u>	<u>677,945</u>
At 31 March 2023	111,907	379,477	186,561	677,945
	<u>111,907</u>	<u>379,477</u>	<u>186,561</u>	<u>677,945</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2022	100,718	188,841	109,966	399,525
Depreciation charged in the year	4,476	9,179	22,345	36,000
	<u>105,194</u>	<u>198,020</u>	<u>132,311</u>	<u>435,525</u>
At 31 March 2023	105,194	198,020	132,311	435,525
	<u>105,194</u>	<u>198,020</u>	<u>132,311</u>	<u>435,525</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2023	6,713	181,457	54,250	242,420
	<u>6,713</u>	<u>181,457</u>	<u>54,250</u>	<u>242,420</u>
At 31 March 2022	11,190	190,636	73,702	275,528
	<u>11,190</u>	<u>190,636</u>	<u>73,702</u>	<u>275,528</u>

### 13 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	23,922	24,606
Other debtors	5,186	88,261
Prepayments	1,478	1,353
	<u>30,586</u>	<u>114,220</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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**14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other taxation and social security	22,578	21,519
Trade creditors	10,806	31,101
Other creditors	8,302	142,851
Accruals	6,000	6,314
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	47,686	201,785
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Movement in funds		Movement in funds	
	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers 31 March 2023 £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Supporting People Refuge	6,905	218,865	(198,415)	27,355	235,223	(209,120)	-	53,458
Supporting People Floating	20,233	328,292	(348,499)	26	352,828	(342,468)	-	10,386
Supporting People Covid	-	14,052	(11,436)	2,616	-	(799)	-	1,817
Supporting People Staff Recognition	-	12,313	(12,313)	-	-	-	-	-
Supporting People - Provider Innovation Fund	28,866	123,530	(119,879)	32,517	-	(894)	(28,866)	2,757
Supporting People - Covid-19 recovery fund	-	41,995	(700)	41,295	-	(8,399)	-	32,896
SHSCT - DASS	-	28,500	(28,500)	-	27,060	(27,060)	-	-
ACNI	-	-	-	-	9,132	(1,755)	-	7,377
Community foundation - Mental health	-	-	-	-	233,143	(187,002)	(16,360)	29,781
	56,004	767,547	(719,742)	103,809	857,386	(777,497)	(45,226)	138,472

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Resources expended 31 £	Balance at March 2023 £
Capital Grant fund	21,598	(11,601)	9,997	(9,997)	-
	<u>21,598</u>	<u>(11,601)</u>	<u>9,997</u>	<u>(9,997)</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 17 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	194,806	47,614	242,420	212,784	62,744	275,528
Current assets/(liabilities)	575,876	90,858	666,734	370,981	41,065	412,046
	<u>770,682</u>	<u>138,472</u>	<u>909,154</u>	<u>583,765</u>	<u>103,809</u>	<u>687,574</u>

#### 18 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	<u>40,429</u>	<u>40,429</u>

#### 19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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20	Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
		£	£
	Surplus for the year	221,580	70,687
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(835)	(160)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	36,000	35,376
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	83,634	(67,217)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(154,099)	115,670
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>186,280</b>	<b>154,356</b>
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
21	<b>Analysis of changes in net funds</b>		
	The charity had no debt during the year.		

**Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106096

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# Annual report

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**Charity Registration No. 106096**

**Company Registration No. NI030774 (Northern Ireland)**

**WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	N O'Maolain S Henry M Larkin C Curran N Basketfield B McGuinness M Gollogly
<b>Secretary</b>	M Larkin
<b>Charity number</b>	106096
<b>Company number</b>	NI030774
<b>Registered office</b>	7 Downshire Place Newry Co. Down Northern Ireland BT34 1DZ
<b>Auditor</b>	FPM Accountants Limited 1 - 3 Arthur Street Belfast Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT1 4GA
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland 12 Trevor Hill Newry Co. Down Northern Ireland BT34 1DT  AIB 42-44 Hill Street Newry Co. Down Northern Ireland BT34 1AU

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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### **Solicitors**

Casey & Casey Solicitors  
Legal House  
25-27 Lower Catherine Street  
Newry  
Co. Down  
Northern Ireland  
BT35 6BE

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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The Trustees are pleased to present their annual directors report together with the associated financial statements of the Charity for the year ending 31 March 2023.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act (NI) 2008, the Charities (Accounts and Reports Regulations (NI) 2015, Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Women's Aid Armagh Down is a registered charity with Northern Ireland Charity Commission, NICC 106096 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland, NI30774. The organisation was founded in 1983 and was established under Memorandum of Association in 1996 which established the objects and powers of the Charitable Company and is governed under its Articles of Association. We are members of the Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland (WAFNI) and a representative from our management board sits on the WAFNI board. We work closely with all Women's Aid local groups across Northern Ireland and promote good governance, best practice and effective communication across the organisation consequently ensuring a regional commitment and connected partnership working to effectively and efficiently manage the strategic direction for Women's Aid Armagh Down and for the work of Women's Aid regionally.

#### **Objectives**

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic violence and providing services for women, children and young people. Women's Aid seeks to challenge the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic/sexual violence and abuse, and through its work, promote healthy and non-abusive relationships. The objectives of the Charity are:

- To relieve distress, suffering and poverty by the provision of safe temporary accommodation for women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependants who are, or have been, experiencing domestic, sexual or gender-based violence or abuse;
- To relieve distress and suffering experienced by women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependants 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 to those in need by the provision of information and advice for those affected by domestic, sexual or gender-based violence or abuse and referrals 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 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **Activities**

Women's Aid Armagh Down provides a wide range of support services and other appropriate services necessary in the meeting of our Charity objectives and providing public benefit. Working within a challenging funding environment Women's Aid Armagh Down continues to meet all performance targets throughout 2022/23. We engage with staff, volunteers and with a wide range of external agencies across the Newry, Mourne and Down District (NMDDC) and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ABCBC) area ensuring our services are not only delivering on our charitable objectives in both rural and urban areas but also that our services are responding to the urgent need of women, children and young people right at the heart of our community.

### **Governance:**

WAAD have put the following in place during this reporting period.

- New financial structure including outsourcing payroll and management accounts to Clarke & Co. Accountancy, Bookkeeping and Business Services.
- New Office Manager in post leading on the financial aspects of the organisation.
- New accounting package now in use as we changed from SAGE to Quick Books
- Gift Aid registered and active
- Policy & Procedures reviewed and ratified by Board including Financial Policy
- Enthuse donations platform introduced
- Recruitment & Selection training completed by all senior managers and appropriate staff
- Cora's story & other fundraising campaigns undertaken.
- Insurance review resulted in New insurer being contracted.
- IT tendering process was completed to ensure we are receiving a high quality and value for money service.

In continuing with our practice of measuring our Social Return on Investment (SROI) our social impact independent audit of our services demonstrates that the work of Women's Aid Armagh Down gives a SROI return of £23.50 for every £1 of funding invested in our services. Our SROI distinctly validates the work of our organisation and in totality demonstrates our organisation provides a real and tangible benefit to our beneficiaries, to all our stakeholders and indeed to society as a whole. Measuring our social impact has become a mode of continuous improvement process, facilitating effective strategic and operational planning and enabling us to deliver a clear and strong method of communication to all.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### **Support for Women, Children & Young People**

A total of **1,324** women and **1,515** children and young people were supported in this year.

#### **Refuge:**

Our refuge occupancy was consistently operating at full or almost full with a mean average **98%** occupancy throughout the year, resulting in 123 women, 4 of whom were pregnant and 102 children and young people not being accommodated due to the refuge being full. A total of 28 women with 25 children and young people were accommodated in refuge, 11 children were under the age of 5. 18 women had a range of additional complex support needs, 13 women were managing a physical disability and 1 woman was supported through her pregnancy and birth of her baby. Of the 28 women accommodated 18 women were from the BME community. During the year 17 women and 16 children secured stable and safe housing. A range of activities were provided in refuge for women including Yoga, BBQ, Library visits and a month of events in December alongside wellbeing events such as World Mental Health Day, Being Connected programme, Wool crew, Good Food programme and Motivational Mondays. We provided 58 one to one support sessions and 188 supported play session for children and young people in refuge and 14 children and young people took part in special outings and events. All children and young people in refuge were registered with a GP, dentist and those of school age attended school. Feedback from our young people in refuge demonstrates the positive impact achieved:

#### **The best thing about my time with Women's Aid was:**

- *"Having a friendly face who understood me and what I was going through".*

#### **Changes in myself/my life since I came to Women's Aid:**

- *"Before I was quiet, hidden and didn't want to be seen. After to coming to Women's Aid, I am happy, a little more open and I'm okay to see them now".*

This vital service ensure we continue to work at crisis level in reducing risk from homelessness and increasing women, children and young people's safety through providing access to crisis refuge accommodation by providing a safe, secure environment.

Our education and support service to children and young people in schools delivered our prevention education programme to 19 schools across the SHSCT area, 10 schools with 1,015 pupils participated in schools based in the Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon council area, 8 schools with 369 pupils engaging in the Newry Mourne and Down council area and 1 school with 18 pupils in Dungannon. 28 primary school pupils completed our Helping Hands programme and 1,374 post primary pupils completed our Heading for Healthy Relations programme resulting in a total of 1,402 young people more educated in how to keep themselves and others safe from abuse and understanding they have the right to be safe from others. It is also important to receive the feedback from teachers which continues to be very positive:

#### *Eotas Newry:*

*'It's a very worthwhile programme for our young people, I would love everyone of them to get the full benefit of it'*

#### *St Catherine's Lurgan:*

*'I feel it helped our young people to think about elements of their relationships and some issues to look for'  
'this programme is very helpful in providing preventative curriculum for our students'*

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023



#### Children and Young Peoples' Support Services

148 referrals were received with 106 children and young people engaging in the service. 410 one to one support sessions were completed. Feedback from our young people demonstrated the positive outcome from the support they received such as:

#### Changes in myself/my life since I came to Women's Aid

Before	After
Cross angry	happy. better understanding.

Draw or write about the changes (if any) you have seen in yourself or your family since you came to Women's Aid

Before	After
 worried Complete our quiz ... Agree - Disagree - Not sure? Tick, underline or circle!	 happy

Draw or write about the changes (if any) you have seen in yourself or your family since you came to Women's Aid

Before	After
 confused	 I understand it now happy

Safety planning is a vital aspect of our service provision and the children and young person's team work closely with mothers and their children exploring and agreeing a safety plan for high/medium risk cases. This work enables mums to work closely with our team to help them to manage their children's constant state of fear of what might happen next.

Providing support to children and young people is completed in venues that the young people feel safe and secure in and in order to do this staff provide outreach support by travelling to a range of community-based venues who worked closely with us so children could receive the support they needed. Some of this work was facilitated by schools allowing children to attend support in schools time and by providing a room. In one to one support children described how they were struggling with what they had witnessed, worried about their mums and missing their dad even though sometimes they were afraid of him. We were delighted to introduce Calming Kits, to compliment the one to one Helping Hands support to children which enabled them to emotionally regulate themselves. A review of the Heading for Healthy Relationships programme was undertaken by the children and young people's team and they amended the programme to incorporate Coercive Control and Consent issues and information. The team also created and facilitated a 7-week programme, 'Insight' to young women aged 16-24 years of age.

We were delighted to produce four Animations highlighting the impact and experience of Children and young people who use our service. This provides us with a really powerful means to help others understand how domestic abuse impacts on young people's lives.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### Community Based Services

Our floating support service received and processed 1,112 referrals for different 889 women. These referrals were received from multiple sources however the main pathways for referrals remains PSNI 36% and Self-referral 29%. And geographically 56% of our referrals come from the ABCB Council area and 44% NMDD Council area.

Of the 889 women for whom we received a referral 677 engaged in active support and 522 completed their support within the reporting period.

39 women engaging in floating support where pregnant.

Age profile of women using the service saw a slight change in that the numbers of women 16-30yrs has increased from 20% in 21-22 to 29% in 22-23. 14% of women were 50yrs+ and within this reporting period we worked with 3 women who came into the service aged 75 years plus.

32% of the women we supported stated they had a disability with 55 women having more than one disability.

45% of the women supported reported having mental health vulnerabilities while 18% reported physical health vulnerabilities. While 23% of women reported have more than one vulnerability.

Of the 677 women supported in 97% of cases the perpetrator of the abuse was male. With 70% being an intimate ex-partner or spouse, 21% being a current intimate partner or spouse.

29 women in this reporting period reported having more than one perpetrator at the time of support.

An additional 77 women were supported by a Domestic & Sexual Abuse Transition Support Worker.

Some of the feedback from women we supported in this reporting period includes:

- *"I got the support that I needed when I needed it".*
- *"When I first came to women's aid I did not know how I was going to stand on my own two feet. With their support I've my own house, survived Christmas thanks to the donations, got amazing support through the court system and now I'm the girl I was before my abusive relationship 8 years ago. I have never been happier".*
- *"Gave me the confidence to ask my husband to leave family home. I am embarking on a new future for myself and my children".*
- *"Very big, I don't know how I would cope without my key workers support and help".*
- *"I got a safe house & got all the help that my family needed. Because of WA I feel safe & stronger".*
- *"It has helped me take control with my life".*
- *"I find it difficult to open up to people/accept help but workers made this easy by their gentle manner".*

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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When we analysed the words women used, this is the word cloud;



When we asked women what suggestions they had for improving our service some of the responses included:

- *"Get back to very vulnerable ladies asap".*
- *"I didn't like using the front door at the very beginning, paranoid my ex partners family were watching. A side door or more discreet entrance away from the traffic looking in would be useful".*
- *"Less waiting time to be seen".*
- *"The rooms in the building are a bit bare. More welcoming colours or pictures on the wall".*
- *"I was unable to attend group sessions as they were during working hours, an evening session would work well".*
- *"Support for children? Maybe a crèche area for women who are attending sessions with key workers. I was lucky to have family support but others may not and when I first left the relationship I wouldn't leave my children".*

Some additional feedback provided included:

- *"I really have to say a massive thank you to my keyworker she has been amazing she has listened to me about all my woes and concerns advised me the best she can and has helped me in every way she possibly could. thank you".*
- *"Appreciated getting food, clothes and toiletries from Eleos".*
- *"I feel ready to face the future and know, if needed, I can call on Women's Aid for support".*

### Project Work

#### MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Our staff attended 24 MARAC meetings across two jurisdictions Newry, Armagh and Dungannon and Craigavon and Banbridge which reviewed a total of 244 cases of domestic abuse. All of these cases need to be researched and reported on where applicable and this involves significant time and effort. From April 2022 – March 2023. In the same year WAAD made **38 referrals to MARAC** and received **21 referrals from MARAC**. Currently, WAAD like all Women's Aid groups in Northern Ireland receive no funding for this work even though it is essential that we participate in this process to ensure the voices of women, children and young people are at the centre of all discussion and actions. As part of this process WAAD was also involved in the Decision-Making Forums for 6 Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Schemes (5 Power to tell and 1 Right to ask)

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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#### **IRIS** (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety)

The Department of Health continued to fund the IRIS project across this year. This funding enables our IRIS advocate / educator (AE) to continue delivering specialist training to more GP surgeries across the NMD and ABC Council areas. Across the reporting period the IRIS AE received 79 who all engaged in the support service, with 31 of these women able to access longer term support within Women's Aid Armagh Down. Some feedback from the GP's trained includes:

*"I now feel I can confidently ask the right questions and use my clinical judgement to be able to identify DSVAs and appropriately deal with any disclosure"*

Outcomes for patients engaging in the IRIS service continue to be positive with 100% of patients stating they were "pleased to be asked about domestic abuse by their GP/Health Clinician". 100% "felt listened to by their AE" and "found the support helpful" while 100% of patients "felt safer" and 86% "felt more optimistic about their future" as a result of the IRIS support. While finally 86% of those engaged in IRIS "Visited their doctor less than before"

Patient feedback included:

- *"Amazing service. The IRIS AE was not only there for me emotionally but practically – Thank you!"*
- *"I wouldn't be where I am today without the IRIS AE's support"*

#### **DASS** (Domestic Abuse Safety & Support)

The DASS project also continues to be in place and at the end of 22-23 we were able to secure recurrent funding for this one post via the NHS 'at risk' register, which puts its security on par with other NHS staff. The year 2 evaluation of the DASS project showed its potential to continue to meet the needs of women in crisis at the point of need. With 114 women being offered the service and 78 agreeing to engage this shows the increase in confidence and ability of the hospitals front line staff to engage women in "courageous conversations" and offer the service. 406 medical and social care staff received DASS training in this year and feedback was resoundingly positive. Outcomes for women were also very positive with 100% of those surveyed stating they felt safer, understood and more confident to access longer term services. Women told us "she listened to me" "she helped me to recognise the abuse" "she made me feel believed".

In the 2nd year DASS also completed 51 DASH risk assessments and made 21 onwards referrals to MARAC. As well as 44 referrals directly into WAAD.

Just as this reporting period was closing DASS had launched its Out of Hours Trial with an on-call service to both hospitals with the support of the team at WAAD. The outcomes from this will be eagerly anticipated. In year four we have completed a business case with the DASS project team to seek secure permanent funding for two full time DASS staff to allow us to expand the service across both sites.

#### **PBNI** (Probation Board Northern Ireland - Promoting Positive Relationships Programme PPRP)

The regional funding stream between the PBNI and Women's Aid continued into its fourth year enabling our Partner Support Worker to provide vital specialised support for women whose current or previous partners are attending the Promoting Positive Relationship programme with the PBNI. WAAD received 11 referrals from the PBNI for our area and of those, 8 women took up support. These women had 28 children whom to date received no support work in regards to this programme.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### HOPE & RESILIENCE WELLBEING PROJECT

The Wellbeing programme aims to provide a holistic 'whole life' program to inspire, build women's confidence and courage, to support them in their journey of recovery and beyond based on the building blocks of well-being: positive emotion, engagement, relationships, meaning and accomplishment. Women are assisted and supported to connect with a process that inspires, motivates and supports them through their journey from disadvantage and health inequality to improved health and wellbeing, towards independence and economic success. Helping them find real Hope and Healing in their lives.

It is important for women to be:

1. Connected
2. Be Active
3. Be Safe
4. Be Hopeful
5. Be Empowered
6. Be Supported

The Hope & Resilience project continues to deliver a wide range of Health & Wellbeing, supporting a total of 398 women completing 3,267 1:1 support sessions. This includes 1:1 support for 76 women through level 1 and 73 women through level 2, with 26 Wellbeing programmes delivered, Wellbeing health mornings on topics which the women feel is important to them. We also provide Wellbeing programmes and activities to 26 women who live in WAAD refuge.

The women continue to say the Hope & Resilience project has given them a sense of identity and confidence which they had lost.

*"I forgot how strong I was mentally and physically – this has reminded me"*

It gives them connection with other women for support and their lack of isolation has decreased over the period.

*"I feel really good doing the Tai Chi – it helped me to connect better with like-minded people"*

The women have stated that it has given them a sense of purpose for life and for the future. The improvement in emotional wellbeing and mental health has continued to increase.

*"This has really helped with my mental health"*

The women find it very positive and useful that they learn self-care practices and tools to be able to use in times of heightened crisis or when they feel over-whelmed.

*"I loved the colouring very distracting and helpful with my anxiety"*

*It has empowered them to continue to heal on their personal journey.*

The Hope and Resilience project overarching aim is to keep the women well, and/or ensure that those who have been previously been unwell remain well. Undoubtedly, the woman's voice is the centre of the programmes offered.

The Hope and Resilience project provide various opportunities for women to establish links within the community. Programmes are often run in various locations as well as the resource centres such as community halls, libraries and leisure centres. In turn, this increases the women's ability to attend groups within the community. Indeed, one woman attended the Be Active programme in the leisure centre and has since joined the gym. The project seeks to strengthen each women's ability to develop their ability to engage in self-care practices to strengthen their overall health and wellbeing. Many women express that due to domestic abuse they have lost their voice but are so thankful that their 'voice is coming back.' Moreover, one woman expressed that she is 'getting more comfortable with self-care and realise the benefits. I now understand I deserve it.' Consequently, this will build each woman's ability to empower themselves as well as other women. Working in partnership with Statutory & voluntary organisations has proven very beneficial to the project and to the women on the ground. An example of this is the "Wool Crew".

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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We are working in partnership with the Southern Trust Multi-Disciplinary team to deliver this on a weekly basis. The women knit or crochet. The benefits to the women have included – Connection, sense of purpose, supported and with the therapeutic benefits of knitting and crochet it has increased positive emotional and mental wellbeing. One of our older women who is part of the group had not knitted from 1983 due to the impact of domestic abuse and she has stated: "I hadn't knitted since 1983 my face just lit up. I got a great sense of achievement I didn't believe in myself before. In this period, we have seen the full impact of the Hope & Resilience project on a number of the women and the positives impacts for the future. Some of the positive impacts include women: Having the confidence to return to work: Who have joined a gym after taking part in the Be Active programme. Signed up to do a WRAP course after taking part in the Me & My Wellbeing programme in Refuge. Joined the local Library after the Mindful Colouring programme. Signed up for an IT course. Joined a parenting course. Volunteering with animal shelter. Joined classes within their own community.

Some additional feedback provided included:

- "I am not the same person anymore. More positive, even living in the hostel. I can see myself at Christmas with my 3 children, not unalive, now as a result of the support from WAAD & being involved with the Hope & Resilience project"
- "1:1's were lifesaving. I wouldn't be here other than for my support worker before Christmas! She helped me realise it is not my shame to carry."
- "very therapeutic & great conversation"
- "I feel more in control of my life now thanks"
- "I've learned about different food groups, what we need for great nutrition. It also helps my mental health ensuring I have a good balanced diet."

#### **Volunteering**

Women's Aid are delighted to enable women to volunteer in our organisation with over **2,610** volunteer hours provided during the year. If this is conservatively valued at £10.42 per hour the volunteer efforts amount to over **£27,196.20**. This does not include all the hours and efforts of our voluntary board directors who tirelessly continue to support and guide the charity in Good Governance and strategic development.

#### **Educating and Informing the Public**

On behalf of women, children and young people who have experience domestic abuse Women's Aid Armagh Down continue to advocate and lobby at local and regional level. The CEO and senior management team continue to work alongside the eight local groups and Women's Aid Federation NI to ensure regional, collective and responsive actions in campaigning, lobbying and policy development ensuring that the voices of women, children and young people are clearly heard and firmly on the agenda for all those decision makers who are in positions of power with the moral responsibility to listen and act putting safety and protection of women, children and young people centre front of all policies and strategies.

190 external agencies representatives received Domestic/Sexual Abuse awareness training from WAAD. 19 school teachers from across NMDDC and ABCBC participated in our Social Guardian training. This specialised training enables them to deliver our Helping Hands programme to children and young people in their schools and thereby ensuring a greater number of children and young people are educated and confident in reducing risk and increasing their personal safety.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **Strategic Planning: Future Development**

As Women's Aid Armagh Down enters our fortieth year of operation, our strategy sets out our aims and priorities for the future. Throughout our history as an organisation we have faced challenges, time and again proving our ability to adapt and change while always putting our service users at the heart of what we do. The last few years have seen an unprecedented level of uncertainty - since our last strategy document was published we have seen the Covid pandemic, the cost of living crisis, collapses of Stormont, and Brexit. Throughout the turmoil, Women's Aid Armagh Down has focused on keeping women and children safe, educating our communities about domestic and sexual abuse, and helping service users feel empowered. Despite the many difficulties in the last few years, there has also been much to celebrate, and our work continues to change and improve lives across our community.

In setting the new strategy, we have been diligent about maintaining focus on our mission, vision, and values. These lie at the heart of our organisation, and it is our hope that this document makes clear how we will further these aims. Across all our services - crisis accommodation, advice and information, outreach support, education, and partnership working to name a few - we listen and respond to the needs of women and children. Our staff and volunteers are our greatest asset, and every single one of them is dedicated to furthering our aims through their contributions. This strategy recognises that. It offers clear measures of success which we look forward to reviewing continuously on an individual, team, and organisational basis. We are fortunate to maintain excellent relationships with our stakeholders, especially the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and including the various funders that enable us to innovate and persist in growing and improving upon the services we deliver. They continue to support our work and help us develop services which make a meaningful difference to the lives of our service users. Throughout the lifetime of this strategy, we hope to develop these relationships further and increase the impact we can have.

There are many people to thank for the continued success of Women's Aid Armagh Down. Our funders, our staff and volunteers, and the local businesses and individuals who remain so generous.

But above all, we want to extend a special thanks to our service users. At the most difficult times in their lives, these women and children have trusted us to help and support them, and they work with us to rediscover their confidence, happiness, and freedom. We will listen to you, believe you, and are here for you. This strategy is in place to help us amplify your voices and deliver the services you need.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **A Word from the Directors/Trustees**


Our Annual Report serves many functions. It is our legal statement of our financial position; our opportunity to thank our wonderful staff and volunteers; and our record of the work we have done with service users. It is also a way for us to share the experiences of some of the women and children with whom we work. In this document you will read about how Women's Aid Armagh Down delivers life-changing – and life-saving – services to our community. This essential work has been carried out again this year against a backdrop of extreme financial pressures caused by insufficient funding and the systemic, even if unconscious, devaluing of women's lives and women's work by our governments and society.

Despite the many achievements of the women who have gone before us, we know all too well how dangerous it still is to be a woman today. Too many women are hurt, and murdered, by men who told them they loved them. Too many children are growing up in homes that are not safe. Too much media and policy discussion is focused on trying to drive division between marginalised groups and not nearly enough on supporting efforts to hold toxic masculinity and patriarchy to account for the evil it causes. At Women's Aid we see the result of that every day. And every day our staff show up to work ready to comfort, support, and empower. Our staff and our service users deserve better than our government gives them.

The staff at Women's Aid Armagh Down are inspirational. While the work they do is often heroic, they are not superheroes. They are real women, who have families and pressures of their own, and yet they have chosen to do a job that is difficult, emotionally taxing, and underfunded. Their resilience and ability to work with vulnerable and traumatised people with sensitivity and intelligence is not a miracle; it is the result of huge amounts of training and development. They are expert, educated, professional women and without their efforts we would all be worse off. The details in this Annual Report prove how valuable the work of our women is, and we the Board, and the senior leadership team of Women's Aid Armagh Down, will continue to demand that their value is properly acknowledged by our government funders.

We are incredibly grateful to you, our local community, for your continued support and generosity. Our donated funds have helped us support more women as they learn to rebuild their lives after domestic abuse, and provide a safe haven for women and children fleeing dangerous homes. The many businesses and individuals across our two council areas who have given their money and time to our organisation are a reminder that we are not alone on our journey to a brighter future. Thank you for standing with us.

It is an honour to serve on our Board, and the women I work alongside are dedicated to our cause. I would like to thank them for their efforts over the last financial year, and we look forward to the year ahead as we work with our incredible Senior Management Team – Eileen Murphy, Gillian McAllister, Helen Cranney, Linda Roger and Mairead Hearty– to make more women and children feel safe, supported, and hopeful.



Niamh O'Maolain

Chair of Board of Directors.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

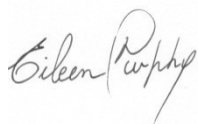
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **How our Community Support Us Supporting Women, Children and Young People.**

In the winter of 22-23, the team at WAAD were truly delighted to be in the position to help 268 families manage the challenges of winter and Christmas, with an average value of £268 support packages be made available to those most in need. The cumulative total support value was £71,700 within a 2-month period. We could only achieve this due to the support our local community including individuals and a wide range of organisations including but not limited to NMDDC, Norbrook Laboratories, Cash for Kids, Caring Coins, Newry Chamber of Commerce Toy Mountain and numerous others.

As the Chief Executive of WAAD I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the ongoing and unwavering support we as a team receive from our local communities throughout the year. Without your support our work would be so much more challenging and at times nearly impossible. On behalf of the women children and young people and all at WAAD I extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who helps in any little way, your support is the beating heart of our community.



Eileen Murphy

Chief Executive Officer

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was set up on 29th April 1996. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

N O'Maolain  
S Henry  
M Larkin  
C Curran  
N Basketfield  
B McGuinness  
M Gollogly

The Directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the Company's Articles are known as members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors are recruited through professional and personal recommendation and by advertisement. Voluntary Board Members receive a comprehensive induction to support them in fulfilling their role in relation to governance of the organisation. The Board meet on a monthly basis and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The day to day management and operations of the activities are carried out by a staff team lead by the Chief Executive Officer Eileen Murphy and a Senior Management Team – Gillian McAllister and Helen Cranney who report regularly to the Board. The Directors/Trustees are appointed according to the specific skills required by the organisation to fulfil its responsibilities. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the Directors are elected to serve a period of three years, after which they must be re-elected at the following AGM. The Directors' liability is limited by guarantee. The Chair and Vice Chair are appointed from within the Board and can remain in office for three years.

### **Auditor**

FPM have expressed their willingness to continue in office.

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....

**N O'Maolain**

Trustee

Dated: .....

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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The Trustees, who are also the directors of Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees 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; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### **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 financial statements are 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

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#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; 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, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

# **WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

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Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company through enquiry of management, sector research and the application of cumulative audit knowledge. We identified the following principal laws and regulations relevant to the company – Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

We developed an understanding of the key fraud risks to the entity (including how fraud might occur), the controls in place to help mitigate those risks, and the accounts, balances and disclosures within the financial statements which may be susceptible to management bias. Our understanding was obtained through review of the financial statements for significant accounting estimates, analysis of journal entries, walkthrough of the key controls cycles in place and enquiry of management.

Our procedures to respond to those risks identified included, but were not limited to:

- Enquiry of management, and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

# **WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

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A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. 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 auditors' 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Lowry Grant (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**for and on behalf of FPM Accountants Limited**

#### **Chartered Accountants**

##### **Statutory Auditors**

1 - 3 Arthur Street  
Belfast  
Co. Antrim  
Northern Ireland  
BT1 4GA

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	<b>Notes</b>						
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	<b>3</b>	114,128	-	114,128	88,927	12,313	101,240
Charitable activities	<b>4</b>	304,376	857,386	1,161,762	229,894	755,234	985,128
Investments	<b>5</b>	835	-	835	160	-	160
<b>Total income</b>		<u>419,339</u>	<u>857,386</u>	<u>1,276,725</u>	<u>318,981</u>	<u>767,547</u>	<u>1,086,528</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	<b>6</b>	1,094	401	1,495	19	-	19
Charitable activities	<b>7</b>	276,139	776,388	1,052,527	295,882	719,312	1,015,194
Other	<b>11</b>	415	708	1,123	198	430	628
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>277,648</u>	<u>777,497</u>	<u>1,055,145</u>	<u>296,099</u>	<u>719,742</u>	<u>1,015,841</u>
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>		141,691	79,889	221,580	22,882	47,805	70,687
Gross transfers between funds		45,226	(45,226)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<u>186,917</u>	<u>34,663</u>	<u>221,580</u>	<u>22,882</u>	<u>47,805</u>	<u>70,687</u>
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		<u>583,765</u>	<u>103,809</u>	<u>687,574</u>	<u>560,883</u>	<u>56,004</u>	<u>616,887</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2023</b>		<u><u>770,682</u></u>	<u><u>138,472</u></u>	<u><u>909,154</u></u>	<u><u>583,765</u></u>	<u><u>103,809</u></u>	<u><u>687,574</u></u>

# **WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD**

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023***

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The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

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	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		242,420		275,528
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	30,586		114,220	
Cash at bank and in hand		683,834		499,611	
		<u>714,420</u>		<u>613,831</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	(47,686)		(201,785)	
Net current assets			666,734		412,046
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>909,154</u>		<u>687,574</u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds	15		138,472		103,809
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	16	-		9,997	
General unrestricted funds		770,682		573,768	
		<u>770,682</u>		<u>583,765</u>	
			<u>909,154</u>		<u>687,574</u>

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

*AS AT 31 MARCH 2023*

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The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

.....  
N O'Maolain

**Trustee**

**Company Registration No. NI030774**

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash generated from operations	20		186,280		154,356
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,893)		(52,356)	
Investment income received		835		160	
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>					
			(2,058)		(52,196)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>					
			-		-
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>					
			184,222		102,160
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			499,611		397,451
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>					
			683,834		499,611

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# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 7 Downshire Place, Newry, Co. Down, BT34 1DZ, Northern Ireland.

##### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

##### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

##### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

##### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	4% straight line
Leasehold improvements	4% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

#### 1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

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

#### 1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

##### ***Basic financial assets***

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

##### ***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### ***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

#### **1.10 Employee benefits**

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

#### **1.11 Retirement benefits**

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

### 3 Donations and legacies

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	<b>2023</b>	2022	2022	2022
	<b>£</b>	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	114,128	87,705	12,313	100,018
Job Retention Scheme	-	1,222	-	1,222
	<u>114,128</u>	<u>88,927</u>	<u>12,313</u>	<u>101,240</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 4 Charitable activities

	Restricted Income	Unrestricted Income	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	8,019	-	8,019	-
Performance related grants	857,386	178,191	1,035,577	925,677
Charitable rental income	-	94,389	94,389	43,859
Other income	-	23,777	23,777	15,592
	<u>865,405</u>	<u>296,357</u>	<u>1,161,762</u>	<u>985,128</u>
Analysis by fund				
Unrestricted funds	8,019	296,357	304,376	229,894
Restricted funds	857,386	-	857,386	755,234
	<u>865,405</u>	<u>296,357</u>	<u>1,161,762</u>	<u>985,128</u>
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2022</b>				
Unrestricted funds	-	229,894		229,894
Restricted funds	755,234	-		755,234
	<u>755,234</u>	<u>229,894</u>		<u>985,128</u>
<b>Performance related grants</b>				
Supporting People - Refuge support	235,223	-	235,223	218,865
Supporting People - Floating Support	352,828	-	352,828	328,292
Supporting People - PIF	-	-	-	123,530
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	-	96,053	96,053	92,329
SHSCT - DASS officer	27,060	2,000	29,060	-
Supporting People - Covid-19 Recovery	-	-	-	41,995
NIHE - Additional grant	-	-	-	24,008
PBNI	-	11,750	11,750	15,000
IRIS Project	-	39,887	39,887	41,302
Community foundation grant - Mental health	233,143	-	233,143	-
Other	9,132	28,501	37,633	40,356
	<u>857,386</u>	<u>178,191</u>	<u>1,035,577</u>	<u>925,677</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### 5 Investments

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	Unrestricted funds
	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Interest receivable	835	160
	<u>835</u>	<u>160</u>

The 2022 amount of £160 was treated as unrestricted income.

### 6 Raising funds

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>				
Other fundraising costs	1,094	401	1,495	19
	<u>1,094</u>	<u>401</u>	<u>1,495</u>	<u>19</u>
	<u>1,094</u>	<u>401</u>	<u>1,495</u>	<u>19</u>

The 2022 amount of £19 was treated as unrestricted expenditure.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 7 Charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	597,153	175,469	772,622	706,144
Depreciation and impairment	17,602	18,398	36,000	35,376
Rent	27,699	16,773	44,472	42,833
Rates	-	-	-	808
Insurance	5,881	2,517	8,398	5,884
Light & heat	25,506	6,729	32,235	30,893
Cleaning	4,847	2,610	7,457	13,461
Repairs	10,285	12,558	22,843	7,974
Staff Training & Recruitment	5,294	66	5,360	10,180
ICT costs	11,887	620	12,507	16,843
Admin & printing	3,527	3,595	7,122	4,616
Fees & subscriptions	2,108	624	2,732	2,200
Support costs	3,643	19,069	22,712	5,441
Travel	4,081	2,010	6,091	4,889
Telephone	17,899	3,321	21,220	18,697
Grants to Service Users	-	-	-	40,007
Other charitable expenditure	31,779	7,857	39,636	50,173
	<u>769,191</u>	<u>272,216</u>	<u>1,041,407</u>	<u>996,419</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	7,197	3,923	11,120	18,775
	<u>776,388</u>	<u>276,139</u>	<u>1,052,527</u>	<u>1,015,194</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>				
Unrestricted funds	-	276,139	276,139	
Restricted funds	776,388	-	776,388	
	<u>776,388</u>	<u>276,139</u>	<u>1,052,527</u>	
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2022</b>				
Unrestricted funds	-	295,882		295,882
Restricted funds	719,312	-		719,312
	<u>719,312</u>	<u>295,882</u>		<u>1,015,194</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £
Audit fees	-	6,000	6,000	-	6,000	6,000
Legal and professional	-	5,120	5,120	-	12,775	12,775
	-	11,120	11,120	-	18,775	18,775
Analysed between Charitable activities	-	11,120	11,120	-	18,775	18,775

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £6,000 (2022- £6,000) for audit fees.

### 9 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

### 10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Employees	38	36
<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Wages and salaries	695,296	642,515
Social security costs	61,491	49,578
Other pension costs	15,835	14,051
	772,622	706,144

The key management personnel of the charity comprises the Trustees and the senior management team. The employee benefits of the key management personnel were £158,916.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 11 Other

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
			£	£
Financing costs	415	708	1,123	628
	<u>415</u>	<u>708</u>	<u>1,123</u>	<u>628</u>

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2022	111,907	379,477	183,668	675,052
Additions	-	-	2,893	2,893
	<u>111,907</u>	<u>379,477</u>	<u>186,561</u>	<u>677,945</u>
At 31 March 2023	111,907	379,477	186,561	677,945
	<u>111,907</u>	<u>379,477</u>	<u>186,561</u>	<u>677,945</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 1 April 2022	100,718	188,841	109,966	399,525
Depreciation charged in the year	4,476	9,179	22,345	36,000
	<u>105,194</u>	<u>198,020</u>	<u>132,311</u>	<u>435,525</u>
At 31 March 2023	105,194	198,020	132,311	435,525
	<u>105,194</u>	<u>198,020</u>	<u>132,311</u>	<u>435,525</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 31 March 2023	6,713	181,457	54,250	242,420
	<u>6,713</u>	<u>181,457</u>	<u>54,250</u>	<u>242,420</u>
At 31 March 2022	11,190	190,636	73,702	275,528
	<u>11,190</u>	<u>190,636</u>	<u>73,702</u>	<u>275,528</u>

### 13 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	23,922	24,606
Other debtors	5,186	88,261
Prepayments	1,478	1,353
	<u>30,586</u>	<u>114,220</u>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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**14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other taxation and social security	22,578	21,519
Trade creditors	10,806	31,101
Other creditors	8,302	142,851
Accruals	6,000	6,314
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	47,686	201,785
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2021		Movement in funds		Balance at 1 April 2022		Movement in funds		Transfers		Balance at 31 March 2023	
	£	£	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Incoming resources	Resources expended	£	£	£	£
Supporting People Refuge	6,905		218,865	(198,415)	27,355	(209,120)	235,223	(209,120)	-	-	53,458	
Supporting People Floating	20,233		328,292	(348,499)	26	(342,468)	352,828	(342,468)	-	-	10,386	
Supporting People Covid	-		14,052	(11,436)	2,616	(799)	-	(799)	-	-	1,817	
Supporting People Staff Recognition	-		12,313	(12,313)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Supporting People - Provider Innovation Fund	28,866		123,530	(119,879)	32,517	(894)	-	(894)	(28,866)		2,757	
Supporting People - Covid-19 recovery fund	-		41,995	(700)	41,295	(8,399)	-	(8,399)	-	-	32,896	
SHSCT - DASS	-		28,500	(28,500)	-	(27,060)	27,060	(27,060)	-	-	-	
ACNI	-		-	-	-	(1,755)	9,132	(1,755)	-	-	7,377	
Community foundation - Mental health	-		-	-	-	(187,002)	233,143	(187,002)	(16,360)		29,781	
	56,004		767,547	(719,742)	103,809	(777,497)	857,386	(777,497)	(45,226)		138,472	

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### 16 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Resources expended £	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Resources expended 31 March 2023 £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Capital Grant fund	21,598	(11,601)	9,997	(9,997)	-
	<u>21,598</u>	<u>(11,601)</u>	<u>9,997</u>	<u>(9,997)</u>	<u>-</u>

#### 17 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	194,806	47,614	242,420	212,784	62,744	275,528
Current assets/(liabilities)	575,876	90,858	666,734	370,981	41,065	412,046
	<u>770,682</u>	<u>138,472</u>	<u>909,154</u>	<u>583,765</u>	<u>103,809</u>	<u>687,574</u>

#### 18 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	<u>40,429</u>	<u>40,429</u>

#### 19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

# WOMEN'S AID ARMAGH DOWN LTD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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20	Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
		£	£
	Surplus for the year	221,580	70,687
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(835)	(160)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	36,000	35,376
	Movements in working capital:		
	Decrease/(increase) in debtors	83,634	(67,217)
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(154,099)	115,670
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<b>Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>186,280</b>	<b>154,356</b>
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
21	<b>Analysis of changes in net funds</b>		
	The charity had no debt during the year.		

**Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106096

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# Annual return

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Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd  
7 Downshire Place  
Newry  
Co. Down  
BT34 1DZ

4 December 2023

FPM Accountants Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
Dromalane Mill  
The Quays  
Newry  
BT35 8QS

Dear Sirs

We confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief, and having made appropriate enquiries of other directors and officials of the company, the following representations given to you in connection with the company's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**General**

We acknowledge the responsibility of the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements (which you have prepared for the company).

All transactions undertaken by the company have been properly recorded in the accounting records.

We have made available to you all financial records and related data including minutes of management and shareholders' meetings.

All known assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date have been included in the Financial Statements.

**Systems**

We acknowledge it is our responsibility for the design and implementation of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud and error. We believe that the effects of any uncorrected errors or adjustments are immaterial.

**Fixed Assets**

The company has a satisfactory title to all fixed assets included in the Financial Statements.

The charges for depreciation in the Financial Statements are adequate and consistent with those made in the previous year.

All amounts of expenditure capitalised in respect of fixed assets as detailed in the Financial Statements represent expenditure incurred in acquiring additional assets or improving existing assets. No expenditure capitalised is of a revenue nature.

We further confirm that all assets disposed of during the year have been properly reflected in the financial statements of the company.

### **Debtors/other current assets**

Balances included in the Financial Statements are valid debtors or prepayments and adequate provision has been made for any bad or doubtful debts, sales returns or allowances that can be reasonably anticipated at this date.

All other current assets have been included and full provision has been made for any possible diminution in the value of current assets.

We confirm that no directors owe money to the company.

We confirm that no connected individuals owe money to the company.

### **Cash**

All bank and cash balances have been included in the Balance Sheet.

### **Liabilities**

All known liabilities of material amount at the accounting date are included in the Financial Statements and sufficient, but not excessive, provision has been made for estimated liabilities.

We confirm that no balances are due to connected parties.

### **Transactions involving directors and connected persons**

We confirm that there are no transactions with, or on behalf of, the directors or their associates, or contracts in which the directors or their associates have an interest, which are required to be disclosed in the Financial Statements under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 other than those detailed in the Financial Statements.

### **Profit and Loss Account**

Except as disclosed in the Financial Statements, the results for the accounting period were not materially affected by:

- (a) transactions of a sort not usually undertaken by the company;
- (b) circumstances of an exceptional or non-recurrent nature;
- (c) charges or credits relating to prior years;
- (d) any change in accounting policies

Any expenditure included in the Financial Statements (where receipts or vouchers were not available) was properly made in connection with the carrying of the company's business.

We also confirm that all travel and other expenses paid to employees and directors of the company are in respect of reimbursement of business expenses and not for personal expenses.

### **Casual Labour**

We confirm that all of the company's employees are included in the payroll system operated by the company, and that all wages and salaries are properly accounted for.

### **Future Cash Requirements**

In our opinion the company will have adequate cash resources available to finance its trading and meet its obligations during the course of the 12 months following the date of this letter.

### **Capital Commitments**

At the Balance Sheet date, the company had no significant capital commitments.

**Contingent Liabilities**

All contingent liabilities at the balance sheet date, have been disclosed in the Financial Statements.

**Post-balance Sheet Events**

All post balance sheet events have been disclosed in the Financial Statements.

**Shortages or irregularities**

We confirm that all moneys due to the company have been correctly recorded and banked.

**Laws & Regulations**

We are not aware of any irregularities, including fraud, involving management or employees of the company; nor are we aware of any breaches or possible breaches of statute, regulations, contracts, agreements or the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association which might prejudice the company's going concern status or that might result in the company suffering significant penalties or other loss. No allegations of such irregularities, including fraud, or such breaches have come to our notice.

**Financial Statements and Letter Of Representation**

We confirm that a copy of the Financial Statements for the year, together with a copy of this letter of representation has been made available to all the directors.

Yours faithfully

For and on behalf of the Board of Women's Aid Armagh Down Ltd

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**N O'Maolain**  
Trustee

Date