

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report and the unaudited 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 company's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, Part 8 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, other applicable law and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), FRS102 and with the financial reporting standards applicable to charities preparing their accounts.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The organisation is a private charitable company limited by guarantee, having been incorporated on 28 February 2001. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Article of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is committed to the principles of Corporate Governance; and through the development of various manuals, will capture all internal and external processes and procedures. The detailing of the company's activities in this way will ensure we follow best practice guidelines and demonstrate appropriate openness, transparency and accountability in all of our business activities.

Embracing Corporate Governance ensures that as an organisation we adhere to the highest standards of integrity in carrying out our business and managing our finances. The company is fully aware of its responsibilities and the need for accountability, particularly in relation to the management of public money.

Management Committee as at the 31 March 2025

Mary Devlin

Gerard Lynch

Michael Murphy

Joseph Wilson

Mary Josephine McGuckin Treasurer

Ms Rachael Jane Jeffers Chairperson

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The directors have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Appropriate systems and internal controls are in place throughout the charity's processes and procedures to provide clear accountability and to mitigate those risks which the charity faces.

The company seeks to maintain high standards in the management of risk and the processes in place reviewed annually to ensure their relevance.

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity, at the date of this report and those who served during the financial year together with the dates of any changes are set out on page 3 and are listed below.

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year are as follows:

Mrs Mary Devlin
Mr Gerard Lynch
Mr Michael Murphy
Mr Joseph Wilson
Ms Mary Josephine McGuckin
Ms Rachael Jane Jeffers

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre as set out in our Articles are to advance community development by promoting and providing volunteering opportunities and activities for the benefit of individuals and communities throughout Mid Ulster and by supporting and developing the work of community and voluntary groups and organisations in charitable activity which seeks to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of the Mid Ulster.

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre aims to advance education and training for the public benefit by delivering training and mentoring to volunteers, staff and directors / management committee members of volunteering-involving organisations in the area of benefit.

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre also aims to promote personal development with a view to enabling the community to enhance their social and personal skills and develop and participate in valued roles in the community.

Public Benefit Statement

In setting objectives and planning activities, the trustees have given full consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit. All activities undertaken during the year have been designed to fulfil the charity's stated purposes and deliver clear, measurable benefits to the intended beneficiaries.

Summary of Main Activities

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre operates across Magherafelt and Cookstown, working to promote social inclusion and personal development through volunteering and training. The Centre is governed by a voluntary Management Committee and supported by a dedicated team of knowledgeable staff who deliver its core services and strategic aims.

As a registered Umbrella Body with Access NI, the Centre has provided discreet and professional vetting services to volunteer-involving organisations since April 2008.

The Centre adopts an ethos of empowerment, recognising its importance in improving health and wellbeing and enabling individuals and communities to take greater control over their lives.

Volunteer Support and Placement

Safe Recruitment and Vetting

- Operated as a registered Umbrella Body with Access NI
- Provided guidance and support to organisations on safe recruitment practices
- Helped reduce barriers to participation and supported safeguarding standards across the sector

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Training and Capacity Building

- Delivered and facilitated training programmes tailored to local needs
- Supported volunteers, staff, and committee members of volunteer-involving organisations
- Worked in partnership with statutory and community organisations to enhance learning opportunities

Information and Advice Services

Provided support to:

- Individuals seeking to volunteer or learn more about volunteering
- Organisations wishing to engage or expand their use of volunteers
- Agencies referring individuals for volunteering guidance and placement

Communications and Outreach

- Maintained a comprehensive database of volunteers, organisations, and opportunities
- Promoted volunteering through the Centre's website, social media channels, and printed volunteer opportunity booklets

Strategic Projects

In addition to recruiting, placing, and supporting volunteers across a wide range of community-based organisations, the Centre delivers targeted projects in partnership with statutory and community bodies:

- **The Base:** Delivered in partnership with the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, this initiative offers an alternative to traditional day-care for individuals with learning disabilities. It supports access to community services, facilitates social inclusion, and fosters meaningful friendships.
- **Forever Young:** A comprehensive programme promoting health and wellbeing among older people. Activities raise awareness of age-related risks and provide support to caregivers.

The Centre was pleased to receive the **Strategic Community Development Grant** from Mid Ulster District Council, which has been instrumental in maintaining a presence in Cookstown and expanding local engagement.

The work of Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre would not be possible without the generous support of our funders. We extend our sincere thanks to:

- Department for Communities
- Mid Ulster District Council
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust
- The Beth Johnston Foundation (All Ages)
- Public Health Agency
- Community Development & Health Network

Your support for our mission has empowered us to deliver meaningful programmes, uplift volunteers, and deepen community connections across Mid Ulster.

We offer heartfelt appreciation to our Management Committee and volunteers, whose unwavering dedication and commitment have been instrumental throughout the year. Their time, energy, and insight are vital to the success and sustainability of our work.

We also wish to acknowledge the continued and invaluable support from InVOLve (NI), whose partnership and shared vision have helped us maintain and grow our impact.

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and Performance

Key Achievements 2024–2025

- **394** new volunteers registered
- Ongoing support provided to volunteering placement organisations
- Delivered **8** "Turn Up, Take Part" one-off volunteering opportunities
- Promoted volunteering across multiple platforms and events
- Participated in regional initiatives recognising the value of volunteering
- Actively worked to increase volunteer representation from underrepresented groups, including people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals from disadvantaged areas.
- Provided tailored advice and guidance to volunteer placement organisations
- Delivered **7** training sessions to **119** participants, covering:
 - Safeguarding (x2)
 - Suicide Prevention and Emotional Health Awareness
 - First Aid (x2)
 - Supporting Connections
 - Good Governance and Committee Skills
- Conducted **15** health checks for volunteer placement organisations
- Processed **205** Access NI applications
- Facilitated **4** corporate social action days, including:
 - CDE Group supporting Hope Magherafelt's Christmas Appeal
 - Sensata Technologies Day of Service with Sunflower Support NI
- Hosted and supported **22** volunteer recognition events

Ongoing Support and Sector Engagement

The Centre continues to promote volunteering opportunities and provide practical support to organisations in areas such as policy development, volunteer management, and operational procedures. Where appropriate, referrals are made to sector bodies including NICVA, RCN, CWSAN, and CiNI for specialist guidance on topics such as risk assessments, funding, and training.

EPIC Awards

The Centre proudly celebrated volunteer contributions through the EPIC Awards programme:

- **21,250 hours** of volunteering recognised
- **456 certificates** presented across achievement levels (50, 100, and 200 hours)



Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre
(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 31 March 2025



Volunteers' Week 2025

This year marked the 40th anniversary of Volunteers' Week, held from 3rd to 9th June across the UK. The campaign celebrates the invaluable contributions of volunteers and highlights the positive impact they make in communities every day.

To mark the occasion, Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre was honoured to welcome Linda McAuley MBE from BBC Radio Ulster to our Magherafelt office. Linda met with volunteers from Mid Ulster Agewell, Out and About Community Transport, and Praxis Care to hear their stories and reflections on volunteering.

The interview was pre-recorded and aired on Saturday 15 June at 10am, as part of Linda's final broadcast before her retirement. It was a fitting tribute to both the volunteers and Linda's legacy of community-focused journalism.

This special moment helped shine a spotlight on the dedication of local volunteers and the spirit of collaboration that defines our region



Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre
(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 31 March 2025



Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre marked Volunteers' Week 2024 with a celebration event at the Springhill House, Moneymore for registered volunteers and organisations. We organised an afternoon tea, house and garden tour and finished with an Ice Cream Van.



Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025



The Base Drop-In Centre

The Base is a community-based drop-in centre delivered under a Service Level Agreement with the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT). It offers an inclusive, community-integrated alternative to traditional day-care for adults with learning disabilities - supporting individuals to access local services, build friendships, and participate meaningfully in everyday community life.

Operating Monday to Friday, the Centre can facilitate up to 17 individuals at any one time, offering a flexible and responsive model of support. The environment is intentionally designed to be safe, welcoming, and empowering - a space where participants are encouraged to develop confidence, independence, and a sense of belonging. Staff work closely with the individuals to tailor activities to their interests, strengths, ensuring that the Base contributes to wellbeing and personal development.

Participants engage in a wide range of activities, including:

- **Arts and crafts** – fostering creativity, fine motor skills, and self-expression
- **Drama workshops** – building confidence, communication, and teamwork
- **Games and group activities** – promoting social interaction and enjoyment
- **Nature walks and day trips** – encouraging physical activity and connection with the outdoors
- **Coffee outings and lunch meetups** – supporting community inclusion and informal socialising
- **Volunteering on community projects** – enabling participants to contribute meaningfully and build civic pride

These activities are not only enjoyable but also purposeful, helping individuals to establish routines, strengthen social networks, and take on valued roles within their communities. Many participants report increased self-esteem, improved communication skills, and a greater sense of autonomy as a result of their involvement.

"I love coming here - I've made real friends and I get to do things I never thought I could," said one participant.

"The Base gives people a chance to be seen, heard, and valued. It's not just a service - it's a community," noted a staff member.

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

"Since my daughter started attending The Base, we've seen such a positive change in her. She's more confident, more independent, and genuinely looks forward to each day. It's made a real difference to our whole family," shared one parent.

The Centre's approach is rooted in person-centred practice and aligns closely with regional health and social care priorities, including the promotion of inclusion, resilience, and preventative support.

The ongoing partnership with NHSCT remains a cornerstone of this work, enabling the delivery of high-quality, responsive services that reflect best practice in community-based support. Through this collaboration, The Base continues to demonstrate the value of integrated, locally delivered provision that empowers individuals and strengthens community connections, celebrating the strengths and contributions of every individual.

Forever Young

The Forever Young Programme has continued to grow and evolve throughout 2024/25, offering a wide range of activities that make a meaningful difference in participants' lives. Feedback has consistently highlighted benefits such as reduced loneliness, improved wellbeing, increased social connection, and the joy of shared experiences.

Volunteer Engagement

Several new volunteers joined this year, supporting social and hospitality activities. All have shared positive feedback, and their contributions are deeply appreciated.

Talks and Information Sessions

A range of informative talks were delivered throughout the year, including:

- Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke (NICHs)
- Energy efficiency and home safety (Mid Ulster District Council)
- Diabetes awareness and Living Well Hubs
- Scams awareness (Trading Standards)
- Inspire's 4-week Healthy Restart series covering sleep, self-care, mental health, and food and mood

All sessions were well attended and positively received.

Physical Activities and Wellbeing

- **Line Dancing:** A 6-week block was delivered and well received. Further sessions are under discussion with MUDC's Age Friendly Coordinator.
- **Chair Yoga:** A taster session followed by a 4-week programme, both well attended.
- **Otago Classes:** Delivered during winter months when the walking group paused. Participants expressed interest in continuing.
- **Move More Live More:** Two sessions delivered by Age NI, combining practical movement tips with light exercises.
- **Walking Group:** Established in partnership with Mid Ulster Agewell, with walks in Magherafelt, Ballyronan Marina, Antrim Castle Gardens, Lough Fea, and Church Island. Some members completed Walk Leader training to support future walks.

Creative and Social Activities

- **Storytelling Sessions:** A 4-week series by Maura Johnson, culminating in a visit from a local primary school. Funded by Armstrong Storytelling Trust.
- **Tea Dance:** Held in June 2024 with live music and refreshments.

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

- **Coleman's Garden Centre Trip:** A summer outing with afternoon tea for 18 participants.
- **Acrylic Painting:** A 4-week workshop with positive feedback.
- **Autumn Flower Arranging:** Enjoyed by 10 participants.
- **Craft Class:** Trialled but discontinued due to low uptake and budget constraints.
- **Boccia:** A one-off session delivered by Disability Sport NI, well received.

Intergenerational Workshop

Delivered in partnership with St. Pius X College, students were paired with Forever Young members. After introductory writing exercises, each pair co-created a poem about Spring, guided by a facilitator. The poem highlighted shared experiences across generations and was deeply moving. Plans are underway to continue this intergenerational link.

Christmas Activities

Festive events included:

- Pantomime trip to Millennium Forum (*Aladdin*) and lunch at City Hotel
- Two Christmas dinners for members with carol singing from Rainey Endowed and Holy Family Primary Schools
- Shopping trip to Rushmere, supported by staff and volunteers
- Movie day, Christmas crafts, card-making workshop and Afternoon Tea with mince pies

All activities were well attended and positively received.

Men's Group Development

Efforts continued to establish a regular men's group. Activities included:

- Health checks (blood pressure, BMI, glucose, etc.) with nurse support
- Cook IT class facilitated by MUDC
- Cancer Focus talk on prostate cancer
- Men's Games Day to mark International Men's Day

Although uptake varied, services were maximised by opening unused slots to other members.

CDHN Funding – Community Pharmacy Project

We received funding to build a partnership with Moneymore Pharmacy, focusing on older people. Sessions were co-designed by the community lead, the pharmacist, and participants to ensure they met the group's needs. Four organisations - Inspire, Charis Cancer Care, Connect North, and Versus Arthritis - each led a session. Activities included basic first aid, a cookery demonstration, and a showcase of mobility aids. Feedback was very positive, with participants feeling more informed about pharmacy services and local support, and more confident about where to go for help.

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended 31 March 2025

All Ages Activity – Linking Generations Funding

This intergenerational project involved a creative writing workshop with St Pius X College. Participants wrote short letters to introduce themselves, then worked in pairs and as a group to write a poem about Spring. The activity helped build connections between age groups and was enjoyed by all. Comments included “age is just a number” and “the atmosphere was so friendly.”

Connect 4 Health – Public Health Agency Funding

We delivered a programme to reduce loneliness and isolation, based on the Take 5 approach. Sessions covered sleep, diet, exercise, holistic therapies, and included a health fair, flower arranging, and a Christmas lunch. Participants learned how everyday habits affect mental and emotional health and felt more connected. After one session, the group decided to attend a singalong event already taking place at the local library. They've since planned other activities and expressed interest in continuing to meet.

Ongoing Activities

Luncheon club, crochet, exercise classes, and afternoon teas remain popular and continue to receive positive feedback.

Membership and Growth

The programme continues to welcome new members, with over 200 currently registered. The year has been filled with meaningful activities, and the overwhelmingly positive feedback reinforces our commitment to growing and evolving the programme - with members at its heart.

Financial Review

In 2024/25, total incoming resources were £268,602 (2023/24 £253,506)

During the year the charity was fortunate enough to receive support from a number of sources including Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Mid Ulster Council, Department for Communities, The National Lottery Community Fund and Tesco bags for help.

Total expenditure for 2024/25 was £221,884 (2023/2024 £243,484)

The Charity was in a healthy financial position at the year-end, with net current assets of £183,625.

The trustees confirm that since the year-end, it is not aware of any events that would have a material detrimental impact on its position.

Reserves Policy

The trustees of Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre have set a reserves policy which requires:

The charity to maintain a level of reserves which meets the needs of the project both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The level of reserves held are based on the need to fund unexpected expenditure and to ensure that it can fund any shortfalls in income, should income not reach expected levels.

The Board of Directors will be responsible for monitoring the level of reserves on a monthly basis.

Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding sources for Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre is currently by way of grant and contract income.

Related Party Transactions

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. They are only reimbursed for charitable expenses. During the year none of the trustees were reimbursed.

Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND DECLARATION ON UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

General responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees as the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under charitable company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the net income or expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- state whether the Charities SORP (effective January 2015) in accordance with FRS 102 has been followed;
- 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 proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with, and all Regulations to be construed as one with that Act. 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.

Trustees' declaration on unaudited financial statements

In relation to the financial statements comprising the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Accounting Policies and the related notes:

The trustees approve these financial statements and confirm that they are responsible for them, including selecting the appropriate accounting policies, applying them consistently and making, on a reasonable and prudent basis, the judgements underlying them. They have been prepared on the going concern basis on the grounds that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees confirm that they have made available to R T J Ross & Co, Chartered Accountants, all the charity's accounting records and provided all the information, books and documents necessary for the compilation of the financial statements.

The trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge and belief, the accounting records reflect all the transactions of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Special provisions relating to small companies

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the Board


Ms Rachael Jane Jeffers

Date: 17th November 2025