

Omagh Women's Aid

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees, who are also directors of Omagh Women's Aid for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out below.

Structure, governance and management

Trustees

Allison Forbes	Chairperson
Cathy O'Neill	Treasurer

Committee members

Deborah Cunningham
Linda McKee
Michelle McRory

Objectives and activities

To relieve distress and suffering by the provision of safe temporary accommodation for women and their children, young people and vulnerable adult dependents 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 dependents by providing and/or promoting a range of support services such as information, advice centres, confidential services, counselling, outreach, court support, training and advocacy.

To relieve those in need by the provision of information and advice for those affected by domestic, sexual or gender based violence or abuse and referral to relevant support agencies.

To advance education on violence against women and girls, including trafficking and exploitation, and its effects, and to relieve those in need by promoting its prevention and the protection of those affected.

To advance education on domestic, sexual and gender based violence and abuse and their effects, and to advocate for and to relieve those in need by promoting their prevention and the protection of those affected.

To advance women's and children's human rights and gender equality to relieve the suffering and distress caused by violence emanating from the violation, impairment or nullification of enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The promotion of such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined in accordance with Northern Ireland charity law.

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Achievements and performance

For year 2022/2023 Omagh Women's Aid continued to provide crisis and essential support services to women and children who experienced domestic violence. The year seen 82 referrals to our refuge, 26 women and 11 children were accommodated at our Refuge. 86 women, 70 children and young people in the community also accessed support. Our Empowerment and Triage projects proved very successful and enabled OWA to provide a comprehensive holistic service for clients. During the year the Empowerment project was enhanced by various funding streams, which meant a variety of personal development, self-esteem raising courses and creative workshops were held e.g. "Right to be Safe, "Sustaining Healthy Tenancies", "Journey to Freedom", Creative writing etc. 65 women accessed these courses, and all feedback received was very positive. The Triage and short-term support work post has allowed for an immediate assessment of needs and risks for women and children experiencing domestic violence. Autumn 2022 seen children in need funding secured for two years which has enabled us to continue with our much-needed Children's support service which continues to operate at full capacity. Throughout the year increasing inflation and interest rates impacted immensely on our clients and we sourced funding at various times throughout the year to help families in crisis so as to provide food hampers and energy vouchers etc. Towards the end of the financial year along with Clanmil Housing Association works commenced to update the kitchens and bedrooms at refuge. This will make a more comfortable environment for our clients. As in previous years local support remains very important to our work and we thank the people of Omagh and surrounding districts who continue to support the work both financially and in spirit.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Omagh Women's Aid for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the 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 charitable company 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 charitable company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees have complied with the duty to have regard to the guidance issued by the Commission under section 4(b) 'of the Charities Act (the public benefit requirement statutory guidance)

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Small company provisions

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

On behalf of the board



Cathy O'Neill

29th November 2023

Charity number : NIC 106650

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