

Omagh Women's Aid

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. 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	Co - Chairperson	
Susan Glass	Co - Chairperson	appointed 18th April 2024
Bridget Collins	Treasurer	appointed 26th February 2025 resigned 22nd August 2025
Deborah Cunningham		appointed 18th April 2024
Michelle McRory		appointed 18th April 2024
Megan Glennie		appointed 18th April 2024
Catherine McCaul		appointed 13th June 2024
Meabh Donnelly		appointed 13th June 2024
Josephine Treanor		appointed 3 December 2024
Cathy O'Neill	Treasurer	resigned 3 December 2024

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 2024/2025 Omagh Women's Aid continue to provide crisis and essential support services to women and children who experienced domestic violence.

The year has seen 42 women and 26 children accommodated at our refuge and 30 children supported through services provided to mothers. Additionally, 77 women availed of support from our community-based support projects and 8 women took part in personal development programmes facilitated by OWA.

Our triage project continued to process more women than ever, identifying high risk cases and this project continues to enable OWA to provide a comprehensive range of services for clients.

The many courses facilitated through the empowerment project continue to be enjoyed by many women and we continue to lead in the provision of domestic abuse services to women children and young people across Omagh and surrounding district.

Local community groups, churches, schools and charities continued to support us in our work and helped clients in many ways e.g. with donations, equipment and food boxes/parcels. All this local support is invaluable and we thank them all for their contribution.

Finally, all the work is not possible without our team of dedicated staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly for the clients and continue to achieve better lives and futures for victims.

Plans for future periods

Over the past year, OWA has forged a stronger working relationship with Fermanagh Women's Aid ["FWA"], securing joint funding from both the National Lottery (Lighthouse project) & FODC (Peace Plus & To Be The Change projects). FWA have also provided invaluable operational support to OWA and both organisations commenced a process with a view to merging the two charities. The potential merger will build on the strengths of each organisation and will deliver even greater support to women and children across all of Fermanagh & Omagh.

Reserves Statement

The OWA Reserves as at 31st March 2025 are as follows:

Restricted Reserves

Restricted income funds	£49,500
Supporting People	<u>£56,438</u>
	£105,938

Unrestricted Reserves

Designated Reserves	£155,991
Unrestricted & Undesignated Reserves	<u>£224,910</u>
	£380,991

The reserves are aligned with OWA's strategic plans in accordance with OWA's Reserves policy.

Designated reserves to be ringfenced, from the existing unrestricted reserves, totals £155,991 and incorporates the cost of delivering the merger (including professional fees), which could potentially reach £100k with all costs expected to be incurred by the end of 2025. It also includes any one-off employment related costs, associated professional fees, and salary increases for all staff for 2025/26.

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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)

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



Susan Glass

9th September 2025

Charity number : NIC 106650

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