

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ending 31 October 2023.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objectives are specifically restricted to the following:

Via Wings was established in 2009 to relieve poverty and to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Dromore and its environs of County Down without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants and in particular:

- a) To maintain and manage a centre or centres in the area of benefit for activities promoted by the charity:
- b) The provision of programmes in order to advance education and promote the benefit of the beneficiaries, in particular mothers with children;
- c) The provision of practical help for the beneficiaries who require such assistance as a result of their economic circumstances.

Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit

During 2022-2023 Via Wings provided the following for those people within the greater community of Dromore, Co. Down who had specific needs:

- Food parcels to families in need.
- Social supermarket providing food at an affordable price.
- Practical help for those in crisis situations through support and advice and by distributing household items to create homes for families in poverty.
- Pastoral support for those isolated or lonely.
- Provided counselling and social support services to those in need, with mental health, grief, addiction and family breakdown situations.
- Education programmes for school age children and young people with additional needs.
- Training to prepare them for the general workplace.
- Worked to train and encourage volunteers.
- Distribution of food and toys at Christmas.
- Provided safe location for social gathering.
- Opened a Wellbeing centre to run programmes for personal wellbeing and provide mental health support.
- Provision of affordable clothing to the community and a social enterprise through their preloved clothing shop.

Community Services

Via Wings continued to develop existing projects and services for the benefit of others during 2022-2023, seeking to provide wrap around support to meet the physical, mental and emotional needs of the community. With a staff team of 22 and many volunteers, the projects and services are provided from the charity's property in the centre of Dromore.

The charity met physical needs of those in poverty through 'Dare2Care' and the social supermarket, 'The Larder', which provided clients with food and material items for house and home as well as advice and support for those affected by poverty. In partnership with local food stores, agencies and government bodies, Via Wings provided an accessible place for the community to select surplus food items that may otherwise have been wasted. Preloved clothing was sold through the charity's social enterprise, 'Wing's 'n Things', providing affordable clothing to the community as well as funds for the charity. Families were further supported through the 'Mini Wings' project which provided afterschool educational programmes for children from the two local primary schools in Dromore. Play therapists provided services for younger children through Via Wings.

Community Services continued

Young adults with additional needs received training and mentoring to prepare them for employment through the 'Learning 360' project. Older adults attended for activities and received support to combat isolation as part of the 'Recycled Teenagers' project.

During 2022-2023 an increase in demand for counselling services highlighted the importance and need for expansion of counselling and mentoring services at Via Wings as the charity sought to support not only the physical but the mental and emotional needs people may have to help break the chains of poverty. The Wellbeing Centre opened in May 2023 providing a space for counselling, complementary therapies and courses to support and equip people with the tools to manage their mental health.

Property and Premises

- The Wellbeing Centre opened in May 2023 completing phase 3 of the conversion of the previously unrestored outbuildings on the property. The transformation of this space has created 2 counselling rooms, 2 therapy rooms for aromatherapy and reflexology, and meeting room for classes including yoga, mindfulness and baby massage.
- The Dare to Care building and Larder were maintained to enable effective and safe food storage prior to preparation of parcels for the community. The Larder, social enterprise supermarket, continued to be a success supporting families access affordable food. The baking kitchen provided a safe environment to train young adults in food preparation and its effective distribution to the community.
- The archway access to Via Wings was fitted with a cooler room to aid storage of surplus food from local shops donating through the Fareshare scheme.

Financial Review

The results for the year are set out in the statement of financial activities on page 8 of the financial statements. The charity recorded net deficit for the year ended 31 October 2023 of £24,723 (2022: net income £46,203). This was deducted from reserves brought forward of £527,717 to leave total reserves of £502,994 at 31 October 2023.

Grants received during the year 2022-2023 of substantial size, that were £25K or over, were:

- DoH Mental Health grant of £33,986.
- £57,900 from Henry Smith Charity for running costs, training, catering and salaries.
- £27,160 from Trusthouse Charitable Foundation for Dare 2 Care.
- £50,000 from Groundwork NI (Whitemountain) for the Wellbeing Centre renovations.

Income was also generated through the Wings 'N' Things shop, donations for FareShare food and fundraising activities arranged by staff and volunteers. An increase in demand for the work of Via Wings has resulted in a gradual increase in staff numbers and employee costs: £213,299 (2022: £182,801).

Trade creditors of £8,108 (2022: £6,875) include a list of supplier invoices which were invoiced within the financial year ending 31 October 2023, but payment for these did not occur until the new financial year. The large prepayments and deferred income balances relate to the expenses paid and donations received prior to the year end in relation to our Strictly event that took place in November 2023.

Reserves and Going Concern

It has been the policy of the Board of Trustees to maintain sufficient unrestricted funds as are consistent with the ongoing financial requirements of the charity. However, the trustees note that the charity experienced a difficult year as detailed in the financial review above. As a result of increased costs relating to staffing, projects and the building of the Wellbeing Centre a deficit in unrestricted cash occurred. The charity's unrestricted funds are £175,264 which include fixed assets of £229,630 which therefore represents an unrestricted cash deficit of £54,366.

Reserves and Going Concern continued

The charity's unrestricted funds net deficit in the year has resulted in the charity using all of its restricted cash reserves by the year end. The trustees have taken various steps to reduce the running costs of the charity and increase the unrestricted income by implementing a reduction in staff and their working hours, the sale of smaller assets and reductions in overheads and day to day running costs. Unrestricted income has subsequently been generated through increased focus on fundraising events, a campaign for monthly regular donors and utilising the capacity of the charity as a social enterprise.

The trustees are aware that a reliance upon restricted funding sources cannot be a guaranteed source of income for the charity in these changeable times but shall continue to seek external funding sources where available. The trustees are in the processing of confirming an overdraft facility which will be taken with the charity's property as collateral.

The trustees' budgets and projections have taken into account these factors and the possible changes that may continue to occur in the coming year and as a result, the trustees believe that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis for a period of at least twelve months from the date of signing the financial statements.

Uncertainties around going concern

The trustees are aware of risks and uncertainties facing Via Wings relating to the ability to have unrestricted income available for the running of the charity. With the cost reductions implemented and an increased focus on generating unrestricted funds through their social enterprises and fundraising activities they plan to manage and minimise these risks to enable the charity to continue to thrive in the charitable services it provides.

Recruitment and appointment of the trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association unless otherwise determined by the company in a General Meeting the number of trustees shall not be less than three and is not subject to any maximum. Trustees are elected to serve only until the next Annual General Meeting, at which they shall then be eligible for re-election.

Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity

The Charity is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 28 October 2016. The Board of Trustees meets on a monthly basis and at least ten times per year.

Compliance with Public Benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the Charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries. The charity trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Commission under section 4(b) of the Charities Act (the public benefit requirement statutory guidance). Details of how the main activities undertaken by the Charity to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit have been detailed in 'Achievements, Performance and Public Benefit' on page 3.

Directors (who are also trustees)

R. McKnight
R. Beasley
E. Atchison (resigned 27 March 2024)
D. Weir (appointed 17 January 2024)
P. Crothers (appointed 17 January 2024)
J. McMurray (appointed 17 January 2024)

J. Dillon (appointed 17 January 2024)
A. Dillon (appointed 17 January 2024)
J. Costello (appointed 17 January 2024)
B. Skillen (appointed 27 March 2024)
M. Bond (appointed 27 March 2024)

Reference and Administrative Information

The charity's reference and administrative details are outlined on page 2.

The trustees serving as at the date of the Trustees' Annual Report are outlined on page 2. No other individual, other than those listed, served as a trustee of the Charity during the financial year.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees (who are also directors of Via Wings for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

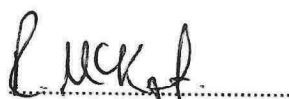
Company law requires the trustees prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing the 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 (FRS102);
- 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 business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to 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 taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees on 17 June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs R. McKnight
Trustee and Board Chairperson



Mr D. Weir
Trustee and Board Secretary