

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ending 31 October 2024.

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 2023-2024 Via Wings provided the following for those people within the greater community of Dromore, Co. Down who had specific needs:

- A wraparound service to address the root problem of food poverty.
- Food parcels to families in need: 336 families and individuals.
- Social supermarket providing food at an affordable price. Forty-two families moved from free food dependency to paying a weekly membership at our social supermarket.
- Enabled 38 families to exit food insecurity, no longer needing support.
- 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: including a telephone befriending service for older people to check in or ascertain needs.
- Provided counselling and social support services to those in need, with mental health, grief, addiction and family breakdown situations.
- Provided play therapy sessions for 12 children.
- Training to prepare for the general workplace.
- Worked to train and encourage volunteers.
- Distributed food and toys at Christmas: 192 Christmas meals, 35 elderly food and treat hampers, and 63 full Santa Wish lists.
- 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 the successful preloved clothing shop, "Wings'n'Things".

Community Services

Via Wings continued to develop existing projects and services for the benefit of others during 2023/24, seeking to provide wraparound support to meet the physical, mental and emotional needs of the community. We are motivated by compassion for the most vulnerable in society, recognising the dignity and worth of every individual. With our wraparound service we continue to aim to support families and individuals 'from a crisis to full potential', while empowering them to tackle the underlying root causes of poverty and its effects.

Community Services continued

With a staff team of 22 and many volunteers, the projects and services are provided from our property in the centre of Dromore.

Via Wings continued to strive to meet the physical needs of those in poverty through the Dare2Care food project. This is the core work of Via Wings, providing regular food parcels, toiletries and cleaning products. Fresh food is displayed at our main archway 4 days a week where people can collect it anonymously, leaving a donation if they can.

To move people from food dependency, Via Wings has a 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. Our Larder team get to know each client personally and build up trusting relationships and friendships.

In 2024 Via Wings worked with "Your Local Pantry" (a network of social supermarkets in the UK) with a view to affiliation in 2025. These networks are built on the values of dignity, choice and hope.

Preloved clothing was sold through our social enterprise 'Wings'n'Things' providing affordable clothing to the community as well as funds for the charity.

Play therapists provided services for younger children through Via Wings. Our fully enclosed rooms, play area and courtyard provided a safe and relaxing area for the children, their grown-ups and their siblings. 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. Friendships were forged over a home cooked lunch.

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 they 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. During 2023-2024 we have continued to provide free counselling for those who may not be able to afford it. We have continued to provide yoga, mindfulness classes and wellbeing days.

Property and Premises

We continue to provide some yoga, mindfulness classes and wellbeing days when financially possible.

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 created 2 counselling rooms, 2 therapy rooms for aromatherapy and reflexology, and a meeting room for classes including yoga, mindfulness and baby massage.

The Dare2Care building and Larder are maintained to enable effective and safe food storage prior to preparation of parcels for the community. The Larder, social enterprise supermarket, continues to be a success allowing families to access affordable food. The baking kitchen provides a safe environment to train young adults in food preparation and its effective distribution to the community.

The archway access to Via Wings is 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 9 of the financial statements. The charity recorded a surplus in funds for the year ended 31 October 2024 of £27,651. This compared well with the net deficit of £24,723 for year ended 31 October 2023. This was added to reserves brought forward of £502,994 to leave total reserves of £530,645 at 31 October 2024.

Grants received during the year 2023-2024 of substantial size, that are over £25K, were:

ACB & CB Council	£28K for general running costs
Garfield Weston	£50K for core costs including salary and emergency food
The Henry Smith Charity	£59.6K for running costs, training, catering and salaries

Income of £55,521 (2023: £49,250) was also generated through the Wings'n'Things shop, donations for FareShare food, fundraising activities arranged by staff and volunteers and other trading activities. Grants provided income of £191,235 (2023 £268,869).

Staff costs for year ended 31 October 2024 were £191,356 (2023: £213,299). Via Wings reluctantly made staff redundant in 2024.

Trade creditors of £5,620 (2023: £8,108) include a list of supplier invoices which were invoiced within the financial year ending 31 October 2024, but payment of these did not occur until the new financial year.

Reserves and Going Concern

Income from charitable activities was fully restricted. It continues to be the policy of the Board of Trustees to maintain sufficient unrestricted funds as are consistent with the ongoing financial requirements of the charity. Lessons were learnt from use of restricted funds in the previous year.

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 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.

During this reporting period we thanked some retiring, long-serving trustees for their invaluable contribution to the Via Wings charity. This reporting period also saw an influx of new trustees eager to support and guide the charity.

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. Via Wings is currently reviewing this document.

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)

A. Dillon (appointed 17 January 2024)

J. Dillon (appointed 17 January 2024)

J. Costello (appointed 17 January 2024)

B. Skillen (appointed 27 March 2024)

D. Weir (appointed 17 January 2024)

L. McFarland (appointed 19 February 2025)

C. Pepper (appointed 18 March 2025)

K. Best (appointed 8 April 2025)

D. Elliott (appointed 8 April 2025)

J. Letman (appointed 8 April 2025)

E. Atchison (resigned 27 March 2024)

R. McKnight (resigned 3 December 2024)

J. McMurray (resigned 19 February 2025)

M. Bond (resigned 19 February 2025)

R. Beasley (resigned 18 March 2025)

P. Crothers (resigned 8 April 2025)

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".

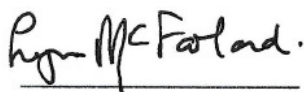
Company law requires the trustees prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that 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.

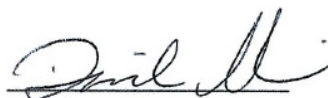
The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding 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 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Mrs C. L. McFarland
Trustee and Chairperson



Mir D. Weir
Trustee and Secretary