



NI Charity Ref: 107118

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING MARCH 2024

1.0 Introduction

This Annual Report relates to the year April 2023 to March 2024 which has been a strong year of operation and delivery for Walking Free. The Receipt and Payment accounts have been presented in the attached documents.

Walking Free was constituted in August 2018 under a Constitution and Governing document which is provided in Appendix 1.

2.0 Walking Free Purpose

WALKING FREE was set up in Northern Ireland UK in August 2018 with a remit across the UK and Ireland to raise awareness of addictions and provide assistance and support to people who are suffering from life controlling issues by helping them detox, get ready for rehabilitation, undertake rehabilitation. We provide a range of resources both online and books as well as one to one personal mentoring to addicts to get free from their addiction.

This leads to the second purpose as Walking Free supports former addicts to stay free from their addiction, to find a job, career, further study or education and to develop skills for life such as managing finance and relationships. Some of this is done directly and some through referrals to other faith based organisations and churches who offer specific courses and training.

The third purpose provides one to one support in an effort to increase the abilities, life skills and self-confidence of such communities in the area of benefit. We work with those affected by life controlling issues such as alcohol and drug addiction, self-harming etc and provides support directly to these individuals on a face to face basis, as well as on live streaming to help them to get free from these addictions and to stay free.

The fourth purpose to raise awareness is primarily carried out through school visits to Schools in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales and Republic of Ireland) to raise awareness of the distress caused by drugs and alcohol and to share stories of former addicts who are now free to encourage school kids to make great life choices.

3.0 Key Achievements

The charity has had a strong year of delivery of support and training to those in addiction and facing life controlling issues. The charity continued many of its operations online via online Recovery Groups and live streaming. Several hundred individuals were supported remotely via regular phone calls, some were referred to other ministries or rehabilitation centres for specialist support.

A new Walking Free Radio Station (Recovery Radio International) www.recoveryradiointernational.com is now live and whilst there is a lot of content there already, it will be an ongoing project to add testimonies, interviews with Rehabilitation centres, advice on Recovery from a Christian perspective and much more.

Recovery Retreats have taken place in Scotland with circa 100 attendees at each event, at Inchinnan Bible centre near Glasgow Airport, we have up to 100 people in recovery who join us.

John has continued to undertake a range of speaking engagements across the UK and Ireland and he and Trish moved to be based in Tipperary, Ireland in August 2023 as part of the agreement he is providing support to the rehab. His involvement in the rehab has grown significantly to the degree that we are influencing the programme to a large degree.

Two churches in Limerick and Tullamore receive regular practical support from John and both churches are doing well. Limerick church is growing quickly, they are on the streets 5-6 days a week and are leading many to Christ. (Over 3500 in last year)

Walking Free has been partnering with Joshua ministry which is run by Liam McNamara. They have two churches, one in Navan and the other in Ballyborough Co Cavan. They also have an outreach in Dublin, centred in the Salvation Army building on Kings Inn street near Dublin's Henry Street. John will be training up a team of 11 leaders for Joshua. It's proving to be quite an experience as they are all very young Christian's but we are making significant progress.

John is also writing a new book Reflection on Recovery. Walking Free livestreaming on Facebook live and YouTube has proved a great means of reaching more people; thousands are tuning in and it's proving to be a fantastic way of reaching our and helping people all over the world.

4.0 Public Benefit requirement

The Trustees confirm that all activity undertaken in the reporting year fulfilled the obligations as set out in the public benefit statement. Many people have been helped, impacted and supported in a positive and beneficial way in line with the public benefits. Walking Free provided a range of benefits which flow from its charitable purposes which are for all of the public within the area of benefit and all benefits are beneficial. In the case of relieving the needs of people who are lost and hurting, the public benefit was the advancement of health and in some cases saving of lives, individuals becoming well again as a result of the intervention.

5.0 Financial Overview

The Receipts & Payments Accounts for the period set out details of the income and expenditure. As at March 2024, Walking Free generated a net unrestricted surplus of £10,996.00

The Trustees agreed at its meeting in September 2024 that it would continue to work towards a reserves policy that equates to a minimum of 3 months operating expenditure of the charity, which would equate to approximately £10,000 in the current reporting period.

6.0 Trustees

The following Trustees served as Trustees in the period April 2023 to March 2024.

Dr George McIlroy
Mr Trevor Johnston
Ms Natalie Clarke
Mr Greg Turnbull
Mrs Janet Johnston

No Trustee received any emoluments during the period of this report, nor were there any expenses claimed by Trustees in their capacity as Trustees during this reporting period.

7.0 Confirmation

This report was adopted by the Trustees at its annual general meeting on 25 September 2024

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Johnston', written over a horizontal dashed line.

Trevor Johnston

Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George McIlroy', written over a horizontal dashed line.

George McIlroy

Treasurer