

Blackmountain Action Group

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107364

Details

Status Received

Registered 2020-04-10

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address Phoenix Centre
21-23 Black Mountain Grove
Belfast
Bt13 3tu
BT13 3TU

Phone 02890200305

Email info@blackmountainactiongroup.com

Website www.blackmountainactiongroup.com

Activities

Purposes: The Group is established to relieve and prevent poverty, advance education, and community development. The beneficiaries of the services provided will be the residents within the Highfield Ward of West Belfast and its surrounding areas. To promote the benefit of Health, Education, Employment and Social Regeneration in the Community by associating the statutory authorities' voluntary organisations and the Group in a common effort to meet the above-mentioned objectives.

What the charity does: The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of citizenship or community development

How the charity works: Community development, Cross-border/cross-community, Education/training, Environment/sustainable development/conservation, Playgroup/after schools, Relief of poverty, Volunteer development, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Adult training, Children (5-13 year olds), Community safety/crime prevention, Interface communities, Men, Older people, Parents, Unemployed/low income, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers, Women, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£153,220	£141,929	£0	7

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Frank Mccoubrey		
Miss Abbie-Louise Robinson		
Miss Jamie Houston		
Miss Jaqueline Dixon		
Miss Jayne Mccoubrey		
Miss Natasha Mckeown		
Miss Nicola Jamison		
Miss Rhonda Fisher		
Mr Gerald Solinas		
Mr Paul Mateer		
Mr Ryan Moorehead		
Mrs Claire Mckeown		
Ms Elizabeth Mccoubrey		

Blackmountain Action Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107364

Accounts

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2025

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Independent Examiners Report	7

Address for correspondence The Phoenix Centre
21-23 Blackmountain Grove
Belfast
BT13 3TU

Independent Examiner Thomas H Graham
79 Ballymacormick Avenue
Bangor
BT19 6AY

Bankers Danske Bank
Small Business
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast

Blackmountain Action Group

Trustees and Committee Members

Trustees

Fred Cobain

Jackie Redpath

Frank McCoubrey

Office Bearers

Frank McCoubrey Chairperson

Natasha McKeown Secretary

Jayne McCoubrey Treasurer

Committee Members

Abbey Louise Robinson

Stephen Boyd

Rhonda Fisher

Donna Moorehead

Clare McKeown

Andrew Reid

Gerald Solinas

Elizabeth McCoubrey

Charity NI 107364

**Management Committee's Report
For the year ended 31 March 2025**

The Management Committee presents its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Committee Members' Responsibilities

Organisation law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the receipts and payments of the organisation for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee is required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
3. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the organisation will continue

The Management Committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

Frank McCoubrey (Chairperson)

Natasha McKeown (Secretary)

Jane McCoubrey (Treasurer)

Blackmountain Action Group

Charity Number NI 107364

Blackmountain Action Group**Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Receipts				
Grants				
Education Authority		42761	42761	42895
Department for Communities		69223	69223	67107
Programme grants (see note 1)		20966	20966	36208
Big Lottery		20000	20000	0
Other	250		270	3400
Total Receipts	250	152970	153220	149610
Payments				
Salaries		58168	58168	57558
Garden costs		250	250	250
Programme costs		1300	1300	1300
Heat, Light & Insurance		5268	5268	7001
Equipment & Repairs		533	533	443
Cleaning		1300	1300	1361
Council Bins		159	159	175
Stationery		558	558	449
Accountancy		1300	1300	1300
Telephone		1091	1091	958
Bank Charges		549	549	634
Programme Salaries		34761	34761	32769
Programme Costs		36194	36194	35798
Programme overheads		498	498	900
Total Payments	0	141929	141929	140896
Net receipts / payments	250	11041	11291	8714
Transfer to / from funds				
Surplus/(Deficit for the year)	250	11041	11291	8714
Reconciliation at the 31st March 2025				
Cash in Bank and in hand 31st March 2024			5432	-3282
Income this year			11291	8714
Cash in Bank and in hand 31st March 2025			16723	5432

Blackmountain Action Group year ended 31st March 2025

Note one

Programme grants analysis

	2025
Belfast City Council	6787
GSP	8140
Halifax	500
NIHE	3760
Other	1779
	20966

Blackmountain Action Group

Trustees Report for the year ended 31" March 2025

The directors presented their report and financial statements for the year ended March 2025

Principle Activities

Principal activities of the group are to provide an establishment for the whole community to use. We run an after-school's club, pensioners lunches, bingo, youth club and disco. The group also run trips for housing and welfare issues.

Trustees

The following directors have held office since 22nd January 2019

Jackie Redpath, Fred Cobain, Frank McCoubrey

Trustees Responsibilities


The organisation is required to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the receipts and off the organisation for the period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting, policies and then apply them consistently,
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with readable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation, they are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking, reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board on.

Trustee Signature:

 Frank McCoubrey

 Jackie Redpath

 Fred Cobain

Blackmountain Action Group

Blackmountain Action Group. Charity No. 107364

Independent Examiners Report for the year ended 31st March 2025

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65 (9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for the Northern Ireland, I have found no matters require drawing to your attention.



Name: Thomas Graham. MA, BA (Jt Hons) PGCE

17/08/2025

Blackmountain Action Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107364

Accounts

Blackmountain Action Group
Receipts and payments account
Year ended 31st March 2024

Charity NI

107364

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st March 2024

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Office Bearers

Frank McCoubrey Chairperson

Natasha McKeown Secretary

Jayne McCoubrey Treasurer

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Abbey Louise Robinson

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Charity NI 107364

**Management Committee's Report
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

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Blackmountain Action Group

Charity Number NI 107364

Blackmountain Action Group**Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March 2024**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Receipts				
Grants				
Education Authority		42895	42895	74220
Department for Communities		67107	67107	70635
Programme grants (see note 1)		36208	36208	30693
Other		3400	3400	1200
Total Receipts		149610	149610	176748
Payments				
Salaries		57558	57558	66941
Garden costs		250	250	250
Programme costs		1300	1300	1300
Heat, Light & Insurance		7001	7001	4928
Equipment & Repairs		443	443	426
Cleaning		1361	1361	1300
Council Bins		175	175	217
Stationery		449	449	1171
Accountancy		1300	1300	1300
Telephone		958	958	882
Bank Charges		634	634	685
Programme Salaries		32769	32769	38030
Programme Costs		35798	35798	61134
Programme overheads		900	900	5513
Total Payments		140896	140896	184077
Net receipts / payments		8714	8714	-7329
Transfer to / from funds				0
Surplus/(Deficit for the year		8714	8714	-7329
Reconciliation at the 31st March 2024				
Cash in bank and in hand 31st March 2023		-3282	-3282	4047
Income this year		8714	8714	-7329
Csvh in bank and in hand 31st March 2024		5432	5432	-3282

Blackmountain Action Group year ended 31st March 2024

Note one

Programme grants analysis

Belfast City Council	3587
SEUPB	11837
GSP	11750
Halifax	3940
Training Women	2095
Other	6000
	36208

Blackmountain Action Group

Charity Number NI 107364

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
31st March 2024**

	2024	2023
Fixed Assets	0	0
Current Assets	5432	0
Current Liabilities		(3282)
Net Asset	5432	(3282)

Frank McCoubrey



Jackie Redpath

.....

Fred Cobain



Blackmountain Action Group

Charity number NI 107346

Receipts and Payments, Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31st March 2024

Independent Examiners Report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65 (9)(b) of the Charities Act.

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I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for the Northern Ireland, I have found no matters require drawing to your attention.



Name: Thomas H Graham. MA, BA(Jt Hons) PGCE

14/06/2024

Blackmountain Action Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107364

Annual report



Annual Report
April 2023- March 2024



How We Operate

The organisation has a Centre Manager (Matthew Kincaid) who ensures the organisation is running at full capacity. There is also a Youth & Development Worker (Paula Robinson) who plans, delivers, and oversees the running off programmes on the ground. Each month there is a staff planning meeting, which evaluates the impact of our work and directs future programmes. Our management committee holds meetings at least once a quarter. To give young people a voice we have developed a senior and junior youth committee, these committees are in direct contact with our management committee youth representatives (Abbie-Louise Robinson & Ruan Moorehead). At the end of each year, we develop an improvement plan, the information that informs this plan is taken from our key stakeholders such as young people, parents, and local services. The improvement plan will focus on the key issues identified by our committee, staff members and stakeholders.

Our funding from the Education Authority has continued which means we continue to employ our senior Youth Worker (Donna McCracken) and 3 part-time Assistant Youth Support Workers. All our staff team are continually undertaking appropriate training to develop themselves, which in turn positively impacts the services we provide. To provide effective services for our beneficiaries we work in partnership with many organisations. This enables us to be more effective in meeting the needs of the beneficiaries and having the knowledge off where we can sign post them to a variety of services when needed.

Youth & Development Worker Report

This year has been a challenging however successful year for the organisation. There have been many pressures around funding budgets being cut and lack of funding opportunities available to develop and deliver services. However, feedback from our key stakeholders has been positive as we are able to excess areas we have excelled in, areas for improvement and gaps in services. This has enabled us to improve our services and signpost community members unto services that they may benefit from that we are unable to deliver. This has strengthened partnership working as we work together to provide effective services for the community.

The past year has given insight into a variety of issues that young people are facing and ways in which the issues can be tackled. We have observed an increase in anti-social behaviour within the area and staff have worked to challenge this behaviour among young people. An example of staff addressing an issue is that there was group of young men experimenting with drug use. The young people continue to voice the benefit off the centre being open as a safe place to go where they can socialise and develop. This shows the impact the services we are providing is having not only for young people in the area but for the wider community.

As an organisation we will continue to raise our standards and look for methods and strategies to enhance our own practice to further develop all our members. The staff will continue with our own personal and social development through attending training courses to greater enhance our knowledge and skills which will then be implemented in our practice. An example of this is that Donna and I have participated in Study visits with the Education Authority to gain insight into a variety of methods we could adopt into our practice with community members. This will improve delivery of programmes throughout the organisation.

Our adult programmes have focused on increasing the health personal, social, and educational development of our members. An example of this is that we were fortunate enough to secure funding for a programme we developed called A Women's World, this programme gave 30 women the opportunity to develop learn about various cultures and the positive attributes they have brought to Northern Ireland. This has been one of our most successful adult programmes within the past year.

I would like to offer my appreciation and thanks to all members of our staff team, our management committee and our local partners for their constant support which contributes to the overall effectiveness of the organisation.

Many Thanks



Youth & Development Worker

Blackmountain Action Group

Senior Youth Worker Report

The funding received from EA has continued to enrich our approach when working with the young people. The increase in our staff team has enabled the development of more effective programmes for young people. However, this year has presented challenges when the budget was uncertain until July and when it was agreed we saw a decrease of £5000 from the previous year. This may seem a small amount of funding in comparison, to many larger organisations budget. This has meant the loss of a worker (6-hour post). This directly effects the services we had previously offered and has a negative impact on the young people we work with.

With the funding knock back, we have found innovative ways to provide an energetic and exciting service for the young people in our organisation. The programmes we have offered have been in direct response to the needs of the young people we work with. There are many programmes on offer that enables young people to take responsibility for their own learning, raises self-awareness, self-worth and encourages aspiration. The opportunities for young people to develop skills and gain recognition for their participation in different programmes has helped produce an environment of opportunity and growth within our organisation.

Our generic youth work enables the provision of two drop in evenings per week and as I have already mentioned are of great need to the local community. Young people had voiced that they felt that the centre should be opened more and that a weekend night should be included within the provision offered. EA have not given additional hours so one of the drop ins had to be moved from a weeknight to a weekend night. We had hoped for the weekend night to be additional however this was not the case.

The young people continue to take part in other programmes offered by partner organisations such as drama, Community development, Community relations, health and wellbeing, employability, and personal and social development. We held a celebration event at the end of summer to celebrate the successes and achievements of all our young people. This provides all members with the opportunity to develop as strong, confident young adults ready to face the challenges that life will bring them. And to show that we as an organisation are proud of their achievements.

We also held a very successful stakeholder event which helped to capture the success of the service offered and to find out what services we may be missing and how we can make our services better. This was attended by teachers from the local high schools and create a fantastic partnership that helped in our mentoring programme with the young members.

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation and thanks to our dedicated staff team for their dedication to the young people and the organisation going above and beyond to offer each young person every opportunity possible. Also congratulate them in their professional development and educational awards this year.

I must also thank our volunteers who help and support Blackmountain Action Group in all our endeavours.

I would like to extend my thanks and sincere appreciation to the Management committee for their constant support for the services offered to the young people.

Many Thanks

Senior Youth Worker

Many Thanks



Senior Youth Worker

Blackmountain Action Group

Projects April 2023- March 2024

As an organisation we offer a variety of services which cater for all members off our catchment area. Our programmes are developed and delivered to meet the needs and interests of our beneficiaries.



Community Relations

Due to been situated on an interface, community relations work is crucial to us as an organisation. Over the year we have developed great connections with organisations on the opposite side off the "Peace Wall". You will see below that our programmes ranged from working with young people to adults and the elderly, this was done in partnership with a variety of organisations which enhanced our work. The following programme's run this year where:

- Leadership Programme in partnership with Bytes and Corpus Christi Youth Centre.
- Community Relations Programme in partnership with Corpus Christi Youth Centre.
- Community Relations Programme in partnership with Glencairn Youth Club, Deanby Youth Club and Newlodge Youth Centre.

- Community Relations Residential for Health & Well-Being.

Accredited Courses

Being able to offer our members the opportunity to develop their skills is of high importance within our work. This is done using various methods which include accredited training. Below is a list of accreditations our members participated in over the past year:

- 12 Young people completed an OCN Level 2 in mental Health Awareness
- 20 men completed CSR Training.
- 10 young people completed an OCN in Youth Leadership.
- 20 women completed an OCN in Cooking.
- 12 women completed Essential Skills Level 1 in English
- 20 Women complete 3 OCN Level 2 in Community Relations, Diversity and Mediation.

Community Safety Initiatives

We deliver three annual community safety initiative's, these are delivered at times of the year, which our firework safety in the run up to Halloween, crime safety leading up to Christmas and Bonfire safety leading into the summer months.

Health & Well-Being

Our programmes focus on promoting health and well-being through providing a range off activities that develops physical, mental, and social health among all participants. We also provide direct health and well-being programmes that promote positive mental health and give participants relevant information on ways they can improve their health.

Youth Programmes

Youth Programmes are at the foundation of our organisation, it is vital aspect to the successful running of the organisation and makes up 70% of the services we offer. This has enabled us to develop and enhance the programmes we offered through the employment of a Youth Support Worker in Charge (Donna McCracken) and 3 part-time assistant youth support workers.

- Generic youth work 2 evenings per week 48 weeks of the year.
- Two Youth Committees continue to represent their peers.
- Youth Volunteer programme delivered.
- Mentoring Matters programme.
- Homework support class for primary school age.
- Four social action projects completed.
- Outreach service once a month all-year round (Increased at times of high tension.).
- Support for young people sitting GCSE's & Alevels
- Art & Crafts Projects Delivered.
- Gardening & environmental Projects delivered.
- Sports Programmes.
- Young Girls Programmes (issues Based).
- Young men's Programmes (issues Based)
- Community Relations Programmes.
- Media projects.

Summer Programmes-

Summer programmes are vital to the community we serve as many members do not have the opportunity to participate in activities over the summer months due to costs and home environments. This year saw another decrease in available funding however we were able to secure one youth intervention programme through the Education Authority and one Belfast City Council funded programme for our primary school age. This in total catered for only 55 young people. In order to provide effective services for young people throughout the summer we were able to use another organisation bus and take young people on activities where there was no cost. We also continued to provide our drop-in services over the summer months.

- One Natural High Programme was delivered. (Youth Intervention Programme).
- Two-week scheme for primary school age children
- An end of summer community celebration was held.

Blackmountain Action Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107364

Annual return

Blackmountain Action Group

Charity number NI 107346

Receipts and Payments, Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31st March 2024

Independent Examiners Report

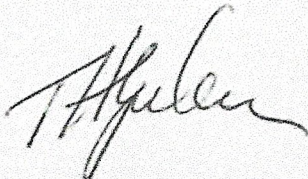
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14/06/2024

Blackmountain Action Group

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Accounts

Blackmountain Action Group
Receipts and payments account
Year ended 31st March 2023

Charity NI

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Frank McCoubrey (Chairperson)

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Jane McCoubrey (Treasurer)

Blackmountain Action Group

Charity Number NI 107364

Blackmountain Action Group**Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st MARCH 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Receipts				
Grants				
Education Authority		74220	74220	91549
Department for Communities		70635	70635	77779
Programme grants (see note 1)		30693	30693	10500
Other		1200	1200	750
Total Receipts		176748	176748	180578
Payments				
Salaries		66941	66941	98980
Garden costs		250	250	250
Programme costs		1300	1300	1300
Heat, Light & Insurance		4928	4928	4161
Equipment & Repairs		426	426	324
Cleaning		1300	1300	1300
Council Bins		217	217	175
Stationery		1171	1171	1335
Accountancy		1300	1300	1300
Telephone		882	882	726
Bank Charges		685	685	804
Programme Salaries		38030	38030	3321
Programme Costs		61134	61134	57607
Programme overheads		5513	5513	876
Total Payments		184077	184077	172459
Net receipts / payments		-7329	-7329	8119
Transfer to / from funds		0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit for the year)		-7329	-7329	8119
Reconciliation at the 31st March 2023				
Cash in bank and in hand 31st March 2022		4047	4047	-4071
Income this year		-7329	-7329	8119
Cash in bank and in hand 31st March 2023		-3282	-3282	4047

Blackmountain Action Group year ended 31st March 2023

Note one

Programme grants analysis

Belfast City Council	3762
CFNI	3374
RHACCS	598
Halifax	4382
Training Women	11171
TBUC	643
Other	6763
	30693

Blackmountain Action Group

Charity Number NI 107364

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2023	2022
Fixed Assets	0	0
Current Assets	0	4047
Current Liabilities	3282	0
Net Assets	-3282	4047
Liabilities		

Frank McCoubrey

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Jackie Redpath

.....

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.....

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Receipts and Payments, Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31st March 2023

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I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for the Northern Ireland, I have found no matters require drawing to your attention.



Name: Thomas H Graham. MA, BA(Jt Hons) PGCE

6/10/2023

Blackmountain Action Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107364

Annual report



Annual Report
April 2022- March 2023



How We Operate

The organisation has a Centre Manager (Matthew Kincaid) who ensures the organisation is running at full capacity. There is also a Youth & Development Worker (Paula Robinson) who plans, delivers, and oversees the running off programmes on the ground. Each month there is a staff planning meeting, which evaluates the impact of our work and directs future programmes. Our management committee holds meetings at least once a quarter. To give young people a voice we have developed a senior and junior youth committee, these committees are in direct contact with our management committee youth representatives (Abbie-Louise Robinson & Stephen Boyd). At the end of each year, we develop an improvement plan, the information that informs this plan is taken from our key stakeholders such as young people, parents, and local services. The improvement plan will focus on the key issues identified by our committee, staff members and stakeholders.

As an organisation we aim to grow from strength to strength, for example in April 2021 funding from the Education Authority was secured, this has enhanced our services for young people. We have been able to increase our staff team with a Youth Support Worker in Charge (Donna McCracken) and 3 part-time Assistant Youth Support Workers. All our staff team are continually undertaking appropriate training to develop themselves, which in turn positively impacts the services we provide.

To provide effective services for our beneficiaries we work in partnership with many organisations. This enables us to be more effective in meeting the needs of the beneficiaries and having the knowledge off where we can sign post them to a variety of services when needed.

Youth & Development Worker Report

This year has been a challenging however successful year for the organisation. There have been many pressures around funding budgets being cut and lack of funding opportunities available to develop and deliver services. However, feedback from our key stakeholders has been positive as we are able to excess areas we have excelled in, areas for improvement and gaps in services. This has enabled us to improve our services and signpost community members unto services that they may benefit from that we are unable to deliver. This has strengthened partnership working as we work together to provide effective services for the community.

The past year has given insight into a variety of issues that young people are facing and ways in which the issues can be tackled. We have observed an increase in anti-social behaviour within the area and staff have worked to challenge this behaviour among young people. An example of staff addressing an issue is that there was group of young men experimenting with drug use. Staff developed and delivered a programme on drug awareness; the programme give opportunity for the young people to talk about how they felt about the drugs that where available within the area and what they knew about the effects of the drugs that where available. The staff then delivered in a facts and myths aspect within the programme, where the young people became informed of the real impact that drug taken can have on a person, family, and community. The young people have consistently voiced the benefit off the centre being open as a safe place to go where they can socialise and develop. This shows the impact the services we are providing is having not only for young people in the area but for the wider community.

As an organisation we will continue to raise our standards and look for methods and strategies to enhance our own practice to further develop all our members. The staff will continue with our own personal and social development through attending training courses to greater enhance our knowledge and skills which will then be implemented in our practice. An example of this is that Donna and I have completed a Level Three Award in Education and Training. This will improve delivery of programmes throughout the organisation.

Our adult programmes have focused on increasing the health personal, social, and educational development of our members. An example of this is that we were fortunate enough to secure funding for a programme we developed called UPSKILLED, this programme gave 12 women the opportunity to develop personal action plans, transferrable skills and choose individual training courses they could do to improve their C. Vs in areas they would like to find employment in. This has been one of our most successful adult programmes.

I would like to offer my appreciation and thanks to all members of our staff team, our management committee and our local partners for their constant support which contributes to the overall effectiveness of the organisation.

Many Thanks



Youth & Development Worker

Blackmountain Action Group

Senior Youth Worker Report

The funding received from EA has continued to enrich our approach when working with the young people. The increase in our staff team has enabled the development of more effective programmes for young people. However, this year has presented challenges when the budget was uncertain until July and when it was agreed we saw a decrease of £5000 from the previous year. This may seem a small amount of funding in comparison, to many larger organisations budget. This has meant the loss of a worker (6hour post). This directly effects the services we had previously offered and has a negative impact on the young people we work with.

With the funding knock back, we have found innovative ways to provide an energetic and exciting service for the young people in our organisation. The programmes we have offered have been in direct response to the needs of the young people we work with. There are many programmes on offer that enables young people to take responsibility for their own learning, raises self-awareness, self-worth and encourages aspiration. The opportunities for young people to develop skills and gain recognition for their participation in different programmes has helped produce an environment of opportunity and growth within our organisation.

Our generic youth work enables the provision of two drop in evenings per week and as I have already mentioned are of great need to the local community. Young people had voiced that they felt that the centre should be opened more and that a weekend night should be included within the provision offered. EA have not given additional hours so one of the drop ins had to be moved from a weeknight to a weekend night. We had hoped for the weekend night to be additional however this was not the case.

The young people continue to take part in other programmes offered by partner organisations such as drama, Community development, Community relations, health and wellbeing, employability, and personal and social development. We held a celebration event at the end of summer to celebrate the successes and achievements of all our young people. This provides all members with the opportunity to develop as strong, confident young adults ready to face the challenges that life will bring them. And to show that we as an organisation are proud of their achievements.

We also held a very successful stakeholder event which helped to capture the success of the service offered and to find out what services we may be missing and how we can make our services better. This was attended by teachers from the local high schools and create a fantastic partnership that helped in our mentoring programme with the young members.

I would like to offer my sincere appreciation and thanks to our dedicated staff team for their dedication to the young people and the organisation going above and beyond to offer each young person every opportunity possible. Also congratulate them in their professional development and educational awards this year.

I must also thank our volunteers who help and support Blackmountain Action Group in all our endeavours.

I would like to extend my thanks and sincere appreciation to the Management committee for their constant support for the services offered to the young people.

Many Thanks

Senior Youth Worker

Many Thanks



Senior Youth Worker

Blackmountain Action Group

Projects April 2022- March 2023

As an organisation we offer a variety of services which cater for all members off our catchment area. Our programmes are developed and delivered to meet the needs and interests of our beneficiaries.



Community Relations

Due to been situated on an interface, community relations work is crucial to us as an organisation. Over the year we have developed great connections with organisations on the opposite side off the "Peace Wall". You will see below that our programmes ranged from working with young people to adults and the elderly, this was done in partnership with a variety of organisations which enhanced our work. The following programme's run this year where:

- Drama Project in partnership with Wheels Works and the Falls Women Centre.
- Leadership Programme in partnership with Bytes and Corpus Christi Youth Centre.
- Community Relations Programme in partnership with Belfast Interface Project and Corpus Christi Youth Centre.

- Leadership Programme in partnership with BYTES and Corpus Christi Youth Centre.
- Community Relations Residential for Health & Well-Being.

Accredited Courses

Being able to offer our members the opportunity to develop their skills is of high importance within our work. This is done using various methods which include accredited training. Below is a list of accreditations our members participated in over the past year:

- 8 Young people completed an OCN Level 1 in Life skills.
- 10 young people completed an OCN Level 2 in Mentoring.
- 20 men completed CSR Training.
- 10 young people completed an OCN in Youth Leadership. 20 women completed an OCN in Cooking.
- 12 women completed First Aid at work Certificate.
- 6 women completed Massage Therapy Training.
- 3 women completed Make Application training.

Community Safety Initiatives

We deliver three annual community safety initiatives, these are delivered at times of the year, which are our firework safety in the run up to Halloween, crime safety leading up to Christmas and Bonfire safety leading into the summer months.

Health & Well-Being

Our programmes focus on promoting health and well-being through providing a range of activities that develop physical, mental, and social health among all participants. We also provide direct health and well-being programmes that promote positive mental health and give participants relevant information on ways they can improve their health.

Youth Programmes

Youth Programmes are at the foundation of our organisation, it is vital aspect to the successful running of the organisation and makes up 70% of the services we offer. This has enabled us to develop and enhance the programmes we offered through the employment of a Youth Support Worker in Charge (Donna McCracken) and 3 part-time assistant youth support workers.

- Generic youth work 2 evenings per week 48 weeks of the year.
- Two Youth Committees continue to represent their peers.
- Youth Volunteer programme delivered.
- Mentoring Matters programme.
- Homework support class for primary school age.
- Four social action projects completed.
- Outreach service once a month all-year round (Increased at times of high tension.).
- Support for young people sitting GCSE's & Alevels
- Art & Crafts Projects Delivered.
- Gardening & environmental Projects delivered.
- Sports Programmes.
- Young Girls Programmes (issues Based).
- Young men's Programmes (issues Based)
- Community Relations Programmes.
- Media projects.

Summer Programmes-

Summer programmes are vital to the community we serve as many members do not have the opportunity to participate in activities over the summer months due to costs and home environments. This year saw another decrease in available funding however we were able to secure one youth intervention programme through the Education Authority and one Belfast City Council funded programme for our primary school age. This in total catered for only 55 young people. In order to provide effective services for young people throughout the summer we were able to use another organisation bus and take young people on activities where there was no cost. We also continued to provide our drop-in services over the summer months.

- One Natural High Programme was delivered. (Youth Intervention Programme).
- Two-week scheme for primary school age children
- An end of summer community celebration was held.

Blackmountain Action Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107364

Annual return

Blackmountain Action Group

Charity Number NI 107346

Receipts and Payments, Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Independent Examiners Report I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 55 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65 (gxb) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for the Northern Ireland, I have found no matters require drawing to your attention.

Thomass H Graham. MA, BA(JI Hons) PGCE

06/10/2023