

Bolster Community

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107382

Details

Status Received

Company number [655061](#)

Registered 2020-02-12

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

Contact

Address 11 Tullymurry Cottages
Tullymurry Road
Newry
Tullymurry Road
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Phone 07557676916

Email info@bolstercommunity.org

Website bolstercommunity.org

Activities

Purposes: The Charity's objects ("Objects") are to promote the benefits of health and wellbeing through community based interventions to any individual without distinction of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, class, marital status, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary and community sector organisations and the beneficiaries in a common effort to advance and promote the protection and preservation of health, and to provide facilities in the interests of community development, community education and social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said individuals and in particular: (i) to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of individuals, voluntary and community organisations, projects, and partnerships in the area by providing advice, education and training in health and wellbeing, and practical support to such individuals, organisations, projects and partnerships for the benefit of the public; (ii) to promote and assist in promoting community development & health and well-being programmes and projects for the benefit of people who are in need of such assistance as a result of their youth, age, disability or Infirmity, or social and economic circumstances, in an effort to increase their abilities skills and self-confidence.

What the charity does: The advancement of health or the saving of lives, The advancement of citizenship or community development

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information,Community development,Community transport,Disability,Education/training,General charitable purposes,Relief of poverty,Volunteer development

Who the charity helps: Carers,Children (5-13 year olds),Homelessness,Learning disabilities,Men,Mental health,Older people,Parents,Preschool (0-5 year olds),Tenants,Unemployed/low income,Volunteers,Women

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,087,280	£1,093,571	£-64,484	33

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Judith Mcconville		
Mr Gerry Flynn		
Mr Michael Doyle		
Mr Paul Slevin		
Mr Vinod Tohani		
Mr Willie Mcallister		
Mrs Geraldine Mckevitt		
Ms Breige Mcginn		
Ms Cathy Hughes		

Bolster Community

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107382

Accounts

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Statement of Financial Activities (Including Summary Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		2025	2025	2025	2024
Income from:	Notes	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	4	27,686	-	27,686	9,027
Income from charitable activities	5	225,859	779,241	1,005,100	960,763
Income from other trading activities	6	54,494	-	54,494	52,865
Total incoming resources		308,039	779,241	1,087,280	1,022,655
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		(310,705)	(782,866)	(1,093,571)	(1,064,560)
Total expenditure	7	(310,705)	(782,866)	(1,093,571)	(1,064,560)
Net income before transfers		(2,666)	(3,625)	(6,291)	(41,905)
Net incoming resources		(2,666)	(3,625)	(6,291)	(41,905)
Fund balances brought forward		398,324	15,625	413,949	455,854
Fund balances carried forward		395,658	12,000	407,658	413,949

All of the above results are derived from continuing gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		55,009		63,375
Current assets					
Debtors	10	186,077		195,314	
Cash at bank and in hand		231,056		214,790	
		<u>417,133</u>		<u>410,104</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(56,920)</u>		<u>(44,173)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>360,213</u>		<u>365,931</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			415,222		429,306
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		<u>(7,564)</u>		<u>(15,357)</u>
Net assets			<u>407,658</u>		<u>413,949</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds			395,658		398,324
Restricted funds			<u>12,000</u>		<u>15,625</u>
Total funds			<u>407,658</u>		<u>413,949</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 3 December 2025 and signed and approved for issue on its behalf by

Martina Flynn
Director

The notes on pages 16 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash generated from operations		
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(6,291)	(41,905)
Depreciation	8,366	8,366
Movement in debtors	9,237	(93,670)
Movement in creditors	4,954	(71,123)
Net cash movement from operating activities	<u>16,266</u>	<u>(198,332)</u>
 Cash flow statement		
 Cash flow from investing activities		
Movement in cash in the year	<u>16,266</u>	<u>(198,332)</u>
 Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		
 Movement in cash in the year	16,266	(198,332)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024	<u>214,790</u>	<u>413,122</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025	<u>231,056</u>	<u>214,790</u>

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

Company information

BOLSTER COMMUNITY is a Company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is Whitegates Business Park, Unit 1 Killeavy Road, Newry, Northern Ireland, BT35 6UA.

1.1. Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

1.2. Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3. Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4. Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Investment income is recognised once the income has been declared and notified to bank accounts.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

..... continued

1.5. Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.6. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land and buildings	-	10% residual value
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	25% residual value

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7. Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

..... continued

1.9. Financial Instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially and subsequently at transaction price.

1.10. Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.11. Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

..... continued

1.12. Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2.	Net incoming resources for the year	2025	2024
		£	£
	Net incoming resources is stated after charging:		
	Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	8,366	8,366
	Auditors' remuneration	3,588	3,588
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. Employees

Number of employees	2025	2024
The average monthly numbers of employees during the year were:		
Management and administration	33	29
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	636,665	607,921
Employers national insurance	45,065	43,031
Pension costs	60,825	34,010
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>742,555</u>	<u>684,962</u>

The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025	2024
£60,001 - £70,000	-	1
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity, neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: £Nil).

The remuneration paid or payable to key management staff for employee services was £54,009.(2024: £64,394)

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

..... continued

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
4. Income from donations and legacies				
Donations	27,686	-	27,686	9,027
	27,686	-	27,686	9,027
	27,686	-	27,686	9,027

In 2024 of the total donation income of £9,027 was attributable to unrestricted income funds.

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
5. Income from charitable activities				
Big Lottery Fund- generated income	-	60,000	60,000	-
Community Foundation for NI	-	-	-	46,000
MACE	-	-	-	112,153
SHSCT	-	375,456	375,456	324,196
NIHE- homeless fund	-	32,062	32,062	22,450
EISS NIACRO- generated income	-	40,309	40,309	40,309
Gullion Home 2 Hospital	-	10,000	10,000	5,753
Mourne Home 2 Hospital	-	15,000	15,000	18,903
Homestart	-	3,490	3,490	2,340
Dormant Accounts	-	24,500	24,500	29,500
Connections income	-	62,152	62,152	49,574
Other generated income	225,859	12,000	237,859	128,691
Building Futures Programme	-	129,272	129,272	114,894
DFC Hardship fund	-	-	-	66,000
MDT- GP Federation	-	15,000	15,000	-
	225,859	779,241	1,005,100	960,763
	225,859	779,241	1,005,100	960,763

In 2024 of the total charitable income of £128,691 was attributable to unrestricted income funds with the balance £832,072 adding to the restricted funds.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

..... continued

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
6. Income from other trading activities				
Fundraising	403	-	403	2,136
Shop income	54,091	-	54,091	50,729
	<u>54,494</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,494</u>	<u>52,865</u>

In 2024 of the total income from other trading activities of £52,865 was attributable to unrestricted income funds.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

..... continued

	2025	2024
	£	£
7. Expenditure:		
Charitable activities		
Wages and salaries	636,665	607,921
Employer's NI contributions	45,065	43,031
Staff money purchase pension costs	60,825	34,010
Shop stock purchases	27,803	27,479
Training and development	4,160	3,539
Travelling expenses	30,561	28,826
Volunteers costs	15,314	37,419
Programme costs	122,753	158,459
Sundry expenses	7,374	252
	950,520	940,936
Support and administrative expenses		
Rent	28,701	27,677
Insurance	10,873	10,197
Cleaning and repairs	4,460	2,515
Recruitment costs	590	630
Printing, postage and stationery	8,784	5,737
Digital marketing and communications	24,940	24,952
Telephone and internet	10,841	10,476
Computer costs	8,625	10,287
Hire of equipment	-	89
Outsourcing finance	16,260	15,972
Audit	3,588	3,588
Bank and interest charges	3,671	1,048
Fees and subscriptions	13,352	2,090
Depreciation	8,366	8,366
	143,051	123,624
Total expenditure	1,093,571	1,064,560
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	310,705	
Restricted funds	782,866	
	1,093,571	
For the year ended 31 March 2024		
Unrestricted funds		200,468
Restricted funds		864,092
		1,064,560

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

..... continued

8. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The Company is a registered charity .

9. Tangible fixed assets	Refurbishment costs £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	81,690	62,793	144,483
At 31 March 2025	81,690	62,793	144,483
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	23,379	57,729	81,108
Charge for the year	5,831	2,535	8,366
At 31 March 2025	29,210	60,264	89,474
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025	52,480	2,529	55,009
At 31 March 2024	58,311	5,064	63,375

10. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	152,320	172,650
Other debtors and prepayments	33,757	22,664
	186,077	195,314
	186,077	195,314

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

..... continued

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loan	10,656	10,656
Credit card	1,286	1,006
Trade creditors	24,340	3,586
Other taxes and social security costs	5,265	24,807
Deferred income	2,773	518
Accruals	12,600	3,600
	<u>56,920</u>	<u>44,173</u>

12. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loan	<u>7,564</u>	<u>15,357</u>

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

..... continued

	Balance April 24	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Balance March 25 £
13 Restricted Funds:					
Community Foundation for NI	15,625	-	(15,625)	-	-
SHSCT	-	375,456	(375,456)	-	-
NIHE- homeless fund	-	32,062	(32,062)	-	-
EISS NIACRO- generated income	-	40,309	(40,309)	-	-
Gullion Home 2 Hospital	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Mourne Home 2 Hospital	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Homestart	-	3,490	(3,490)	-	-
Dormant Accounts	-	24,500	(24,500)	-	-
Connections income	-	62,152	(62,152)	-	-
Building Futures Programme	-	129,272	(129,272)	-	-
MDT - GP Federation	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Big Lottery Fund - generated income	-	60,000	(60,000)	-	-
DOH research	-	12,000	-	-	12,000
	<u>15,625</u>	<u>779,241</u>	<u>(782,866)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,000</u>
Unrestricted Funds:					
Generated income	276,144	91,240	(111,828)	26,288	281,844
Designated Sustainability fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Designated Whitegates capitalised fund	72,180	-	(8,366)	-	63,814
SDS	-	162,708	(162,708)	-	-
Shop income	-	54,091	(27,803)	(26,288)	-
	<u>398,324</u>	<u>308,039</u>	<u>(310,705)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>395,658</u>

	Unrestricted reserve fund £	Restricted reserve fund £	Total £
14. Analysis of net assets between funds			
Fund Balances at 31 March 2025			
represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	55,009	-	55,009
Net current assets	340,649	12,000	352,649
	<u>395,658</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>407,658</u>

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

..... continued

15. Related party transactions

There were no material related party transactions to disclose during the year.

16. Ultimate Controlling party

The ultimate controlling party of the charity is the Trustees.

17. Company limited by guarantee

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

Bolster Community

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107382

Accounts

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Statement of Financial Activities (Including Summary Income and Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		2024	2024	2024	2023
Income from:	Notes	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	4	9,027	-	9,027	7,655
Income from charitable activities	5	128,691	832,072	960,763	956,872
Income from other trading activities	6	52,865	-	52,865	33,729
Total incoming resources		<u>190,583</u>	<u>832,072</u>	<u>1,022,655</u>	<u>998,256</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		(200,468)	(864,092)	(1,064,560)	(969,673)
Total expenditure	7	<u>(200,468)</u>	<u>(864,092)</u>	<u>(1,064,560)</u>	<u>(969,673)</u>
Net income before transfers		<u>(9,885)</u>	<u>(32,020)</u>	<u>(41,905)</u>	<u>28,583</u>
Net incoming resources		<u>(9,885)</u>	<u>(32,020)</u>	<u>(41,905)</u>	<u>28,583</u>
Fund balances brought forward		408,209	47,645	455,854	427,271
Fund balances carried forward		<u>398,324</u>	<u>15,625</u>	<u>413,949</u>	<u>455,854</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

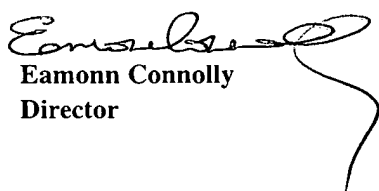
The notes on pages 16 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

**Balance sheet
as at 31 March 2024**

		2024		2023	
Notes	£	£	£	£	
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		63,375	71,741	
Current assets					
Debtors	10	195,314		101,644	
Cash at bank and in hand		214,790		413,122	
		<u>410,104</u>		<u>514,766</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(44,173)</u>		<u>(104,635)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>365,931</u>	<u>410,131</u>	
Total assets less current liabilities			429,306	481,872	
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		<u>(15,357)</u>	<u>(26,018)</u>	
Net assets			<u>413,949</u>	<u>455,854</u>	
Funds					
Unrestricted funds			398,324	408,209	
Restricted funds			15,625	47,645	
Total funds			<u>413,949</u>	<u>455,854</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 11 December 2024 and signed and approved for issue on its behalf by


Eamonn Connolly
 Director

The notes on pages 16 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

**Cash flow statement
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash generated from operations		
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(41,905)	28,583
Depreciation	8,366	9,516
Movement in debtors	(93,670)	1,061
Movement in creditors	(71,123)	47,306
Net cash movement from operating activities	<u>(198,332)</u>	<u>86,466</u>
Cash flow statement		
Cash flow from investing activities		
Movement in cash in the year	<u>(198,332)</u>	<u>86,466</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds		
Movement in cash in the year	(198,332)	86,466
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2023	<u>413,122</u>	<u>326,656</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024	<u>214,790</u>	<u>413,122</u>

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

Company information

BOLSTER COMMUNITY is a Company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is Whitegates Business Park, Unit 1 Killeavy Road, Newry, Northern Ireland, BT35 6UA.

1.1. Accounting convention

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2. Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3. Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4. Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Investment income is recognised once the income has been declared and notified to bank accounts.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

1.5. Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

1.6. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land and buildings	-	10% residual value
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	25% residual value

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7. Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

1.9. Financial Instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially and subsequently at transaction price.

1.10. Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.11. Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

1.12. Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2. Net incoming resources for the year	2024	2023
	£	£
Net incoming resources is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	8,366	9,516
Auditors' remuneration	3,588	2,960
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. Employees

Number of employees	2024	2023
The average monthly numbers of employees during the year were:		
Management and administration	<u> 29</u>	<u> 31</u>

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	607,921	565,052
Employers national insurance	43,031	38,233
Pension costs	34,010	38,433
	<u>684,962</u>	<u>641,718</u>

The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024	2023
£60,001 - £70,000	<u> 1</u>	<u> -</u>

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity, neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2023: £Nil).

The remuneration paid or payable to key management staff for employee services was £64,394. (2023: £58,681)

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4. Income from donations and legacies				
Donations	9,027	-	9,027	7,655
	<u>9,027</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,027</u>	<u>7,655</u>

In 2023 of the total donation income of £7,655 was attributable to unrestricted income funds.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
5. Income from charitable activities				
Big Lottery Fund- generated income	-	-	-	74,623
Community Foundation for NI	-	46,000	46,000	37,500
MACE	-	112,153	112,153	202,902
SHSCT- Surestart- generated income	-	177,884	177,884	172,098
SHSCT- PHWB- generated income	-	16,830	16,830	16,255
SHSCT- BME- generated income	-	6,214	6,214	5,001
SHSCT- Early Intervention & Prevention- generated income	-	-	-	14,645
SHSCT- Early Intervention & Prevention Support Services	-	33,000	33,000	28,431
SHSCT- Early Intervention & Prevention Family Support	-	90,268	90,268	71,388
SHSCT- Armagh & Dungannon family	-	-	-	9,121
NIHE- homeless fund	-	22,450	22,450	92,260
EISS NIACRO- generated income	-	40,309	40,309	40,309
Gullion Home 2 Hospital	-	5,753	5,753	7,857
Mourne Home 2 Hospital	-	18,903	18,903	16,302
Homestart	-	2,340	2,340	2,365
Dormant Accounts	-	29,500	29,500	46,000
Connections income	-	49,574	49,574	60,401
Elevate CDHN	-	-	-	3,000
Other generated income	128,691	-	128,691	56,414
Building Futures Programme	-	114,894	114,894	-
DFC Hardship fund	-	66,000	66,000	-
	128,691	832,072	960,763	956,872
	128,691	832,072	960,763	956,872

In 2023 of the total charitable income of £56,414 was attributable to unrestricted income funds with the balance £900,458 adding to the restricted funds.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
6. Income from other trading activities				
Fundraising	2,136	-	2,136	6,840
Shop income	50,729	-	50,729	26,889
	<u>52,865</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,865</u>	<u>33,729</u>

In 2023 of the total income from other trading activities of £33,729 was attributable to unrestricted income funds.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

	2024	2023
	£	£
7. Expenditure:		
Charitable activities		
Wages and salaries	607,921	565,052
Employer's NI contributions	43,031	38,233
Staff money purchase pension costs	34,010	38,433
Shop stock purchases	27,479	7,922
Training and development	3,539	1,896
Travelling expenses	28,826	24,092
Volunteers costs	37,419	58,586
Programme costs- Surestart	19,592	30,689
Programme costs	138,868	102,898
Sundry expenses	251	2,484
	<u>940,936</u>	<u>870,285</u>
Support and administrative expenses		
Rent	27,677	20,899
Insurance	10,197	8,101
Cleaning and repairs	2,515	3,338
Recruitment costs	630	2,904
Printing, postage and stationery	5,737	4,987
Digital marketing and communications	24,952	8,598
Telephone and internet	10,476	8,573
Computer costs	10,287	6,543
Hire of equipment	89	920
Outsourcing finance	15,972	17,493
Audit	3,588	2,960
Bank charges	1,048	985
Membership fees	2,090	3,571
Depreciation	8,366	9,516
	<u>123,624</u>	<u>99,388</u>
Total expenditure	<u>1,064,560</u>	<u>969,673</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	200,468	
Restricted funds	864,092	
	<u>1,064,560</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2023		
Unrestricted funds		50,825
Restricted funds		918,848
		<u>969,673</u>

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

8. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The Company is a registered charity .

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Refurbishment costs	fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	81,690	62,793	144,483
At 31 March 2024	<u>81,690</u>	<u>62,793</u>	<u>144,483</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	16,900	55,842	72,742
Charge for the year	6,479	1,887	8,366
At 31 March 2024	<u>23,379</u>	<u>57,729</u>	<u>81,108</u>
Net book values			
At 31 March 2024	<u>58,311</u>	<u>5,064</u>	<u>63,375</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>64,790</u>	<u>6,951</u>	<u>71,741</u>

10. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	172,650	86,387
Other debtors and prepayments	22,664	15,257
	<u>195,314</u>	<u>101,644</u>

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loan	10,656	10,656
Credit card	1,006	957
Trade creditors	3,586	3,317
Other taxes and social security costs	24,807	24,436
Deferred income	518	61,682
Accruals	3,600	3,587
	<u>44,173</u>	<u>104,635</u>
12. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loan	<u>15,357</u>	<u>26,018</u>

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

	Balance April 23	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer £	Balance March 24 £
13 Restricted Funds:					
Community Foundation for NI	-	46,000	(30,375)	-	15,625
SHSCT- Surestart- generated income	-	177,884	(177,884)	-	-
SHSCT- PHWB- generated income	-	16,830	(16,830)	-	-
SHSCT- BME- generated income	-	6,214	(6,214)	-	-
SHSCT- Early Intervention & Prevention- GI	14,645	-	(14,645)	-	-
SHSCT- Early Intervention & Prevention - SS	-	33,000	(33,000)	-	-
SHSCT- Early Intervention & Prevention - FS	-	90,268	(90,268)	-	-
NIHE- homeless fund	-	22,450	(22,450)	-	-
EISS NIACRO- generated income	-	40,309	(40,309)	-	-
Gullion Home 2 Hospital	-	5,753	(5,753)	-	-
Mourne Home 2 Hospital	-	18,903	(18,903)	-	-
Homestart	-	2,340	(2,340)	-	-
Dormant Accounts	33,000	29,500	(62,500)	-	-
Connections income	-	49,574	(49,574)	-	-
Building Futures Programme	-	114,894	(114,894)	-	-
DFC Hardship fund	-	66,000	(66,000)	-	-
MACE	-	112,153	(112,153)	-	-
	<u>47,645</u>	<u>832,072</u>	<u>864,092</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,625</u>
Unrestricted Funds:					
Generated income	277,663	67,516	(164,623)	95,588	276,144
Designated Sustainability fund	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Designated Whitegates capitalised fund	80,546	-	(8,366)	-	72,180
SDS	-	72,338	-	(72,338)	-
Shop income	-	50,729	(27,479)	(23,250)	-
	<u>408,209</u>	<u>190,583</u>	<u>(200,468)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>398,324</u>

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

14. Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted reserve fund £	Restricted reserve fund £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 March 2024			
represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	63,375	-	63,375
Net current assets	334,949	15,625	350,574
	<u>398,324</u>	<u>15,625</u>	<u>413,949</u>

15. Related party transactions

There were no material related party transactions to disclose during the year.

16. Ultimate Controlling party

The ultimate controlling party of the charity is the Trustees.

17. Company limited by guarantee

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

Bolster Community

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107382

Annual report

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Directors present their report with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019."

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Bolster Community

Charity Registration number: NIC107382

Company Registration number: NI655061

Registered Office: Whitegates Business Park, Unit 1 Killeavy Road, Newry, Northern Ireland, BT35 6UA.

Business Address: Whitegates Business Park, Unit 1 Killeavy Road, Newry, Northern Ireland, BT35 6UA.

Directors

E Connolly (Chairperson)

C Sweeney (Treasurer) (resigned 31st March 2024)

M Flynn (Vice Chair)

P Slevin

J White (resigned 1st January 2024)

J McConville

G Flynn

M Doyle

C Hughes

V Tohani

Chief Executive Officer

J Linden

Secretary

P Slevin

Auditors

McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD, 1 Lanyon Quay, Belfast, BT1 3LG

Bankers

AIB, 42/44 Hill Street, Newry, BT34 1AU

Danske Bank, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The policy and general management of the affairs of the Initiative shall be directed by the Committee which shall meet not less than five times a year and shall consist of not less than four members of the Initiative elected at the Annual General Meeting. Aside from the management committee the organisation has a range of staff including a CEO, Head of organisation and development, an office and comms and marketing manager training officer, administration officers, support & Family Support Workers and a range of staff and volunteers who support the project.

Recruitment and Appointment of Directors

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 the Directors hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election.

Individuals are invited to serve as Directors on the basis of their abilities and background so as to achieve a balance between those from the business, voluntary and charity sectors.

Directors Induction and Training

The Directors have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the premises. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Public Benefit Statement

The direct benefits which flow from our purposes include:

- Improved understanding, awareness and reduced social isolation leading to reduced levels of stress, anxiety and loneliness. These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from participants, regular evaluation and external monitoring and evaluation of our services.

- Improved partnership working to provide improved health and wellbeing for the constituents and awareness with and between the beneficiaries and stakeholders responsible for planning, services to promote health and wellbeing for an area.

- These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from participants, evaluation and monitoring of services. The benefits of this purpose are provided to those individuals who participate in the process of partnerships as a community representative or agency representative and provide Improved knowledge, resources and access to facilities and education within their locality which may lead to a better understanding of health and wellbeing choices.

- These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from participants and partners community engagement opportunities and through usage of programmes provided.

- Improved knowledge, improved collaborative working and information sharing as well as advice and practical support, for individuals and organisations which lead to a better shared understanding of health and wellbeing choices.

- Improved access to help and support so that individuals may reach their true potential regardless of ability, age, youth, infirmity or social and economic circumstance. Additional benefits may include enhanced confidence and serve to help others in the community develop skills as a result of witnessing the success of others

Achievements and Performance

Bolster Community, previously known as Space NI is a value`s driven, practical, hands-on social enterprise and charity that works to provide services, and support to improve wellbeing. Our business model is a hybrid of entrepreneurial vision and values that has earned an enviable reputation as a trusted partner to clients, funders, collaborators and requesters alike. We liken our culture at Bolster to a business head and a social heart. Since 2004, we've had the privilege of helping countless individuals reach their full potential. From early years right through to later years, we support and strengthen people facing life's tough challenges. Bolster Community has grown from a small campaigning organisation in Warrenpoint, to a key third sector agency providing services, support, training and leadership on community development, resilience and well-being.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Our services are centred around supporting three categories - Family, Ability and Seniors.

Strategic Projects include:

1. Coordination of Newry and Mourne Family Support Hub
2. Practical and therapeutic support for families, including lead organisation role to the Mourne's Sure Start project
3. Presenting themes for referrals to the family support Hub centre on, low mood/poor mental health in parents and children, Marriage breakdown, Autism, Poverty, Emotional and Behavioural Support for adolescents
4. Homeless prevention and tenancy sustainment projects- in partnership with the NIHE through practical activities including, a social kitchen, navigation and support service for individuals in housing distress.
5. Ability Services-provision of a wide range of community-based enterprise and training opportunities for young adults with a range of disability, adults with autism and families caring for children with additional needs
6. Home 2 hospital volunteer led service for adults in the Mourne's and Slieve Gullion areas requiring transport to out of area Hospital appointments
7. Levelling Up funded project creating opportunity for employment and training for hard-to-reach women
8. In partnership with Schools, the SHSCT and other partners we provide targeted and universal Family Support through a range of evidence-based training programmes and peer support networks
9. A social enterprise making and retailing natural soy wax candles, melts, diffusers whilst simultaneously providing day opportunities for young adults of mixed ability and developing and delivering evidence-based training programmes for children and parents in need.
10. Bolster Seniors- over the last year we started to rebuild our seniors' services to include Discover and connect sessions, tea - dances, clover social club, and we continued to provide signposting and practical support for Seniors operating a referral dial in and traffic light system to monitor seniors impacted by ill health, rural isolation and bereavement.
11. This year we also rolled out a range of evidence-based programmes to support children develop coping skills.

Key Outcomes for 2024

During the past year Bolster Community supported 9309 individuals' including parents, children, seniors and people of mixed ability. 7360 families and children were supported children and there were 8664 engagement opportunities for neuro diverse young adults.

In this financial year Bolster Community provided unique support to 497 single dwelling older people through our Home 2 hospital service and we also supported many vulnerable adults at risk of homelessness, through our Star bites 57 social café and navigator work in partnership with the NIHE. Over this year we sourced £80000 to distribute through our trusted partner network to directly impact people requiring practical financial support for seniors, families and people living with a disability.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

2023/2024 was a very challenging year with increasingly complex requests for help and unprecedented need for practical help to support families struggling to support their children and siblings with disability. Increasingly service delivery is impacted with the cost of room hire, utilities and governance considerations and staff stress levels need managed carefully throughout all activities. We know our staff are also impacted by the unrelenting cost of living crisis and the uncertain funding climate causes heightened anxiety for all. In the early days of 2024, together with our board we independently assessed our strategic direction, governance and oversight board tenure and succession planning and began to systematically review a succession plan and TOR for audit and risk and other policy documents.

- Independent governance review completed Feb 2024 by Roger Courtney
- Independent review of strategy planning N. McKeagney
- New TOR for FARC was ratified by the trustees
- Developed a new strategic plan for 2025-2030
- A new succession plan for the board was ratified Feb 2024

Social Return on Investment

The charity completed an independent SROI study which calculated that the charity returned £24.00 of social value for every £1 invested.

Other Charitable activity and milestones

1. "Autism Connect" funded by The National Lottery, GP Federation and SHSCT to scale to Armagh and Banbridge over the next 5 years and provide ground-breaking social space for adults with autism but without a learning disability or mental health diagnosis
2. 944 individuals were supported by the N family support hub with 31% of referrals coming to Bolster Community and 329 services provided to families
3. 2296 children were supported in group and 1-1 support
4. 4032 short break sessions were provided to children with additional needs and their siblings
5. 497 older people benefitted from our Home2 hospital project accounting for 1400 individual journeys
6. 142 women have to date benefitted from our Building Futures programme funded by UKSPF
7. Mourne SureStart was expanded to the Annalong area and now services over 400 children under 4 in the Greater Mourne area
8. Short breaks for adults with disability (Bolster Buddy service) grown at pace

During this year Bolster Community staff and CEO have provided input, representation and support to the following partnerships, organisations and committees and boards:

- Co-Chaired the workstream 9, DOH NI review of children and young people's services
- Chaired the Board of CO3 NI
- Appointed SHSCT AIPB shadow member C sector representative
- Members of the South Armagh Locality Group
- Members of the CYPSP Southern area Outcomes group
- Members of the Strategic Stakeholder Partnership Newry and Mourne Down District council area
- Members of the strategic CYPSP regional Partnership
- Sustained corporate partnership with Keoghs Cars Newry, Killeavy Castle, Best Estate Agents Warrenpoint, Deanery Demesne Property Developers.
- We have provided mentorship to 3 organisations this year

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Funding- the following funding applications and income streams were successful in 2023/24

- The National Lottery -Autism Connect 5-year project supported by the GP Federation MDT team and SHSCT
- Sure Start - Department of Education Sure Start extension Annalong
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust - Promoting Wellbeing Activities
- SHSCT-Family Support HUB/ disability/ autism connect
- Public Health Agency - EISS/ Parents Plus
- NM Council - Home 2 Hospital,
- Generated Income from Social Enterprise, Friends Resilience sales, donations and Room Hire

Plans for the Future

This is a small synopsis of the Charitable activity we have provided from April 23- March 2024 we look forward to progressing and developing relationships with Partner agencies, stakeholders and most importantly the seniors, individuals, children and families in the area to ensure more people can reach their potential and thrive. In October 2024 we will launch our 20-year celebrations along with our ambitious strategic plan and we hope that 2024/25 will bring more opportunity and much more resources so we can continue to do what we do best - help ordinary people overcome extraordinary challenges.

Related parties

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity to related parties must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a third party. There were no such disclosures in the current year.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- A finance, audit and risk sub-committee (FARC) which reviews all risk and completes the risk register prior to each board meeting and undertakes an annual review of the risks the charity may face
- The establishment of systems including a risk register, and procedures to mitigate those risk identified; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise

This work has identified that financial sustainability is a major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is via the reserves policy. Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, cyber safety, health and safety of employees, volunteers and scheme users. In providing access and opportunities to people and children, the Charity recognises that there are potential risks to children and vulnerable adults. A key element in the management of non-financial risk is the establishment and implementation of a robust chart of policies and procedures including Access NI Disclosure Check, Child Protection Policy and the renewal and training of staff in this area.

The Trustees are satisfied that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard participants, and ensure that the benefits provided outweigh any potential harm.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Financial Review

The charity reported a net deficit of £41,905,(£9,885) (unrestricted) and (£32,020) (restricted) derived from a total income of £1,022,655.

The principal funding sources were grants, tenders, social enterprise generated income and income from donations and fundraising. The support of our funders and community advocates continues to be essential to maintaining our programme of activities.

Reserves Policy

The total reserves as at 31 March 2024 were £15,625 (restricted) and £398,324 (unrestricted). It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted reserves which have not been designated for a particular purpose should be maintained at a level to ensure that in the event of a significant drop in funding, we will be able to sustain the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. It is a strategic objective of the charity to hold a minimum reserves fund of 3 months, which would allow the organisation to be sustainable in times of challenge and to continue to operate without other sources of income. The Board of Directors are keen that a minimum fund of reserves is held for 3 months alongside a strategic aspiration of extending this to achieve a reserves fund of 6 months over the next 5 years. The directors consider that this level should be sufficient to cover three months expenses, and potential wind-up costs, currently totalling £266,140.

The Trustees regularly review the level of reserves held and consider opportunities to apply them in line with, and in furtherance of, its charitable objectives. The amount of unrestricted funds held at 31st March 2024 was £398,324. (For 2023 £408,209).

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Directors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

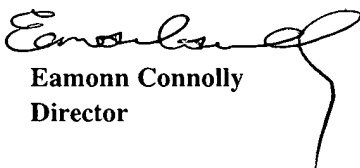
The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditors

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that McCreery Turkington Stockman Ltd be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

This report was approved by the Board on 11th December 2024.


Eamonn Connolly
Director

Bolster Community

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107382

Annual return

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Independent auditors' report to the members of Bolster Community

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of BOLSTER COMMUNITY for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the Year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditors report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Independent auditors' report to the members of BOLSTER COMMUNITY continued

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:
the information given in the trustees' Report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the Directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

Extent to which the audit was capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We identified the areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements and risks of material misstatement due to fraud, using our understanding of the entity's industry, regulatory environment and other external factors and inquiry with the Trustees. In addition, our risk assessment procedures included: inquiring with the Trustees as to the charities policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations and prevention and detection of fraud; inquiring whether the Trustees have knowledge of any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations or alleged fraud; inspecting the charities regulatory and legal correspondence; and reading Board minutes.

We discussed identified laws and regulations, fraud risk factors and the need to remain alert among the audit team.

The charity is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements charity and financial reporting legislation. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items, including assessing the financial statement disclosures and agreeing them to supporting documentation when necessary.

The charity is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: health and safety, anti-bribery, employment law, environmental law.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these non-direct laws and regulations to inquiry of the Trustees and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. These limited procedures did not identify actual or suspected non-compliance.

We assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. As required by auditing standards, we performed procedures to address the risk of management override of controls. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition. We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

In response to risk of fraud, we also performed procedures including: identifying journal entries to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation; evaluating the business purpose of significant unusual transactions; assessing significant accounting estimates for bias; and assessing the disclosures in the financial statements.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY

In addition, as with any audit, there remains a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditors-responsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Richard McClay FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD
1 Lanyon Quay
BELFAST
BT1 3LG

Chartered Accountants

11th December 2024



Bolster Community

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107382

Accounts

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER NI 655061

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER NIC 107382

O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 FALLS ROAD
BELFAST
BT11 9AB

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

OFFICERS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Trustees	Eamonn Connolly (Chairperson) Connor Sweeney (Treasurer) Martina Flynn (Vice Chair) Paul Slevin (Secretary) Julie White Judith McConville Gerard Flynn Michael Doyle Cathy Hughes Vinod Tohani
Chief Executive Officer	Jacinta Linden
Registered Office	1 Killeavy Road Newry County Down BT35 6EP
Auditors	O'Hara Shearer Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors 547 Falls Road Belfast, BT11 9AB
Bankers	AIB 42/44 Hill Street Newry County Down BT34 1AU
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Registration Number	NIC 107382

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023. The Trustees confirm that they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice which applies to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

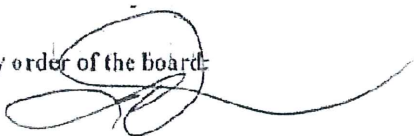
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- the directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

By order of the board:


CONNOR SWEENEY
TRUSTEE

8th December 2023

DATE

Reserves Policy

Financial Review

The charity achieved a net income surplus of £28,583, Surplus of 46,973 (unrestricted) and Deficit of £18,390 (restricted) derived from a total income of £998,256.

The principal funding sources were grants, tenders, social enterprise generated income and income from donations and fundraising. The support of our funders and community advocates continues to be essential to maintaining our programme of activities.

Reserves Policy

The total reserves as at 31 March 2023 were £455,855, £47,646 (restricted) and £408,209 (unrestricted). It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted reserves which have not been designated for a particular purpose should be maintained at a level to ensure that in the event of a significant drop in funding, we will be able to sustain the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. It is a strategic objective of the charity to hold a minimum reserves fund of 3 months, which would allow the organisation to be sustainable in times of challenge and to continue to operate without other sources of income. The Board of Directors are keen that a minimum fund of reserves is held for 3 months alongside a strategic aspiration of extending this to achieve a reserves fund of 6 months over the next 5 years. The directors consider that this level should be sufficient to cover three months expenses, and potential wind-up costs, currently totalling £232,966.

The Trustees regularly review the level of reserves held and consider opportunities to apply them in line with, and in furtherance of, its charitable objectives. The amount of unrestricted funds held at 31st March 2023 was £175,243. (For 2021: £260,267).

Auditors

A resolution to re-appoint the auditors, O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland 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 charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

Achievements and Performance

Bolster Community, previously known as Space NI is a value`s driven, practical, hands-on social enterprise and charity that works to provide services, and support to improve wellbeing.

Our business model is a hybrid of entrepreneurial vision and values that has earned an enviable reputation as a trusted partner to clients, funders, collaborators and requesters alike. We liken our culture at Bolster to a business head and a social heart. Since 2004, we've had the privilege of helping countless individuals reach their full potential. From early years right through to later years, we support and strengthen people facing life's tough challenges. Bolster Community has grown from a small campaigning organisation in Warrenpoint, to a key third sector agency providing services, support, training and leadership on community development, resilience and well-being.

Our services are centred around supporting three categories – Family, Ability and Seniors.

We are registered as a charity with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland 107382. We are also a company limited by guarantee registered in Companies House, 655061

Strategic Projects include:

1. Coordination of Newry and Mourne Family Support Hub
2. Practical and therapeutic support for families, including lead organisation role to the Mournes Sure Start project
3. Presenting themes for referrals to the family support Hub centre on, low mood/poor mental health in parents and children, Marriage breakdown, Autism, Poverty, Emotional and Behavioural Support for adolescents
4. Homeless prevention and tenancy sustainment projects- in partnership with the NIHE through practical activities including, a social kitchen, navigation and support service for individuals in housing distress.
5. Ability Services-provision of a wide range of community-based enterprise and training opportunities for young adults with a range of disability, adults with autism and families caring for children with Additional needs
6. Home 2 hospital volunteer led service for adults in the Mournes and Slieve Gullion areas requiring transport to out of area Hospital appointments
7. Levelling Up funded project creating opportunity for employment and training for hard-to-reach women

8. In partnership with Schools, the SHSCT and other partners we provide targeted and universal Family Support through a range of evidence-based training programmes and peer support networks
9. A social enterprise making and retailing natural soy wax candles, melts, diffusers whilst simultaneously providing day opportunities for young adults of mixed ability and developing and delivering evidence-based training programmes for children and parents in need.
10. Bolster Seniors- In 2023, we started to rebuild our seniors' services to include Discover and connect sessions, tea – dances, clover social club, and we continued to provide signposting and practical support for Seniors operating a referral dial in and traffic light system to monitor seniors impacted by ill health, rural isolation and bereavement.
11. In 2023 we rolled out a range of evidence-based programmes to support children develop coping skills through the CAWT funded MACE Project, in total 1315 children benefitted

Key Outcomes for 2023

During 2023 Bolster Community supported **8835 individuals'** parents, children, seniors and people of mixed ability. **1315** children and young people took part in education, support and activity sessions.

In this financial year Bolster Community provided unique support to **440** single dwelling older people and those identified as risk of homelessness, poor mental health and with low mood. Bolster Community were able to attract and distribute **over £91000** in direct financial support for seniors, families and people living with a disability.

2022/2023 was a challenging year for recruitment and sustainability of staff. The nature of referrals received through the charity and the level and frequency of support required, has become increasingly challenging and complex. Staff have been dealing with a cost-of-living crisis, escalating costs in managing their homes as well as a range of unknowns relating to security in employment whilst simultaneously expected to meet increased outputs and outcomes. In acknowledgement of the difficulties in attracting and maintaining quality staffing, trustees acknowledged the need to succession plan and the board recommended terms of reference for a benchmarking exercise and established TOR for a remuneration committee. Over the year 2022/2023 the remuneration committee:

- Agreed and recommended to the Board the organisations new remuneration policy.
- Agreed and recommended to the board the remuneration of the Chief Executive and the staff team including bonuses.
- Reviewed and approved matters relating to minimum wage uplifts, benchmark outcomes and pension redress matters
- Reported periodically to the Board on the work undertaken by the Committee its performance, constitution, and terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness, and recommended any changes considered necessary for Board approval.

Social Return on Investment

The charity completed an independent SROI study which calculated that the charity returned **£24.00** of social value for **every £1** invested.

Other Charitable activity and milestones

1. "Autism Connect" a ground-breaking social space for adults with autism but without a learning disability or mental health diagnosis launched and executed an exciting conference "Empowering Autistic voices", highlighting issues in employment, relationships, education and socially for young adults with autism
2. We were successful in providing trauma informed training and support through the MACE Interreg project resulting in 1315 children accessing quality support to build resilience and cope better with life challenges
3. Provision of a summer scheme, benefitting 36 children supported by a major Housing association and the local health trust
4. Through Community foundation NI funding supported by the DOH fund we were able to establish and develop two new services "After the Bell" and Tots and Tea to ensure an easement of provision so there would be no cliff edge for children and parents once the TNL funding ceased
5. We significantly grew our social value offer, and celebrated some key wins through our growing partnership with Women's Tec/CTS/ and were delighted to be recognised by our peers for this ground breaking work recognised by both the 3rd Sector and Private Sector as an innovative response to social value clauses.

During this year Bolster Community staff and CEO have provided input, representation and support to the following partnerships, organisations and committees and boards:

- The Strategic Stakeholder Partnership Newry and Mourne Down District council area
- Chaired the CYPSP Newry Locality Planning group
- Members of the South Armagh Locality Group
- Members of the CYPSP Southern area Outcomes group
- Members of the strategic CYPSP regional Partnership
- Facilitated a "Joining the Dots" networking event in the Canal Court in Newry
- Formed a new partnership with Womenstec Belfast and Newry and CTS projects
- Sustained corporate partnership with Keoghs Cars Newry, Killeavy Castle, Best Estate agents Warrenpoint
- We have provided mentorship to 4 organisations this year
- Supported the board of CO3

Funding- the following funding applications and income streams were successful in 2022

- CFNI- DOH Carers fund
- The National Lottery Dormant accounts fund
- NIHE- Homeless Prevention grant/Sustaining Tenancy grant
- Sure Start - Department of Education Sure Start extension
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust - Promoting Wellbeing Activities

- SHSCT-Family Support HUB/ disability/ autism connect
- Public Health Agency – EISS/ Parents Plus
- NM&D Council - Home 2 Hospital,
- Generated Income from Social Enterprise, Friends Resilience sales, donations and Room Hire

Plans for the Future

This is a small synopsis of the Charitable activity we have provided from December April 2022- March 2023 we look forward to progressing and developing relationships with Partner agencies, stakeholders and most importantly the individuals, children and families in the area to ensure more people can reach their potential and thrive.

Public Benefit Statement

The direct benefits which flow from our purposes include:

- Improved understanding, awareness and reduced social isolation leading to reduced levels of stress, anxiety and loneliness. These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from participants, regular evaluation and external monitoring and evaluation of our services.
- Improved partnership working to provide improved health and wellbeing for the constituents and awareness with and between the beneficiaries and stakeholders responsible for planning, services to promote health and wellbeing for an area.
- These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from participants, evaluation and monitoring of services. The benefits of this purpose are provided to those individuals who participate in the process of partnerships as a community representative or agency representative and provide Improved knowledge, resources and access to facilities and education within their locality which may lead to a better understanding of health and wellbeing choices.
- These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from participants and partners community engagement opportunities and through usage of programmes provided.
- Improved knowledge, improved collaborative working and information sharing as well as advice and practical support, for individuals and organisations which lead to a better shared understanding of health and wellbeing choices.
- Improved access to help and support so that individuals may reach their true potential regardless of ability, age, youth, infirmity or social and economic circumstance. Additional benefits may include enhanced confidence and serve to help others in the community develop skills as a result of witnessing the success of others

Organisational Structure

The policy and general management of the affairs of the Initiative shall be directed by the Committee which shall meet not less than five times a year and shall consist of not less than four members of the Initiative elected at the Annual General Meeting. Aside from the management committee the organisation has a range of staff including a CEO, Operation Manager, Project Manager, Social Enterprise Officer, Family Support Workers and a range of staff and volunteers who support the project.

Related parties

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity to related parties must be disclosed to

the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a third party. There were no such disclosures in the current year.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- A finance, audit and risk sub-committee (FARC) which reviews all risk and completes the risk register prior to each board meeting and undertakes an annual review of the risks the charity may face
- The establishment of systems including a risk register, and procedures to mitigate those risk identified; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise

This work has identified that financial sustainability is a major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is via the reserves policy. Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, cyber safety, health and safety of employees, volunteers and scheme users. In providing access and opportunities to people and children, the Charity recognises that there are potential risks to children and vulnerable adults. A key element in the management of non-financial risk is the establishment and implementation of a robust chart of policies and procedures including Access NI Disclosure Check, Child Protection Policy and the renewal and training of staff in this area.

The Trustees are satisfied that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard participants, and ensure that the benefits provided outweigh any potential harm.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bolster Community (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

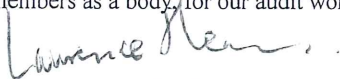
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., Senior Statutory Auditor
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, Statutory Auditor
O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

Dated: 8th December 2023

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	NOTES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies	1	7,655	-	-	7,655	3,964
Income from investments	2	-	-	-	-	-
Income from charitable activities	3	56,414	900,458	-	956,872	816,806
Income from other trading activities	4	33,729	-	-	33,729	32,637
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		97,798	900,458	-	998,256	853,407
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on raising funds	5	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	50,825	918,848	-	969,673	813,437
Other expenditure		-	-	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		50,825	918,848	-	969,673	813,437
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		46,973	(18,390)	-	28,583	39,970
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		46,973	(18,390)	-	28,583	39,970
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		361,236	66,036	-	427,272	387,302
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	16	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		408,209	47,646	-	455,855	427,272

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a
Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses has not been prepared

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities

The accompanying accounting policies and the notes form part of these financial statements

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

	NOTES	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	<u>71,741</u>	<u>81,257</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	11	101,644	102,705
Cash at bank	10	412,094	325,600
Cash in hand		1,028	1,056
		<u>514,766</u>	<u>429,361</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(104,634)	(46,672)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		410,132	382,689
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		481,873	463,946
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(26,018)	(36,674)
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>455,855</u>	<u>427,272</u>
FUNDS:			
ENDOWMENT FUNDS		-	-
UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	15/16	408,209	361,236
RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	15/17	47,646	66,036
		<u>455,855</u>	<u>427,272</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES :



CONNOR SWEENEY
TRUSTEE

DATE 8th December 2023

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	NOTES	2023 £	2022 £
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash generated from operations	14	86,466	11,427
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities		86,466	11,427
Investing activities			
Investment income		-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(10,056)
Acquisition of investments		-	-
Disposal of investments		-	-
Disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Net cash from investing activities		-	(10,056)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		86,466	1,371
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		326,656	325,285
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		413,122	326,656
Relating to:			
Cash at bank and in hand	10	413,122	326,656

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of these financial statements

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Convention and Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard which applies in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) .

Going Concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees' have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees' continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Income Recognition

Income is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Fundraising costs include the costs of advertising, producing publications, printing and mailing fundraising material, and staff costs in these areas.

Costs of charitable activities include direct expenditure incurred through operational activities.

Governance costs represent the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity which relate to the general running of the charity as opposed to those costs associated with fundraising or charitable activity.

Fixed Assets

All tangible fixed assets are recorded at cost.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:

Refurbishment Costs	10% residual value
Office equipment	25% residual value

Repairs and Renewals

All repairs and renewals are written off as incurred

Pension Costs

The charity does currently operate a defined contribution pension scheme. This is operated via the Workers Pension Trust Pension Scheme.

Debtors and Prepayments

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial Instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Foreign Currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net movement in funds.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are general funds that are available for use at the Trustees' discretion in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes.

Restricted funds are those given for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

The income received from funders depends on the charity meeting detailed criteria on expenses plans.

Grants given under such conditions are also given subject to them being obtained for in connection with the furtherance of the charity's aims and objectives.

Such income can be repayable to the funder if such expenses plans and criteria are not met.

Such income is only deferred when the donor specifies that the grant/donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions is recognised as earned as the related goods/services are provided.

Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income is deferred when: fees/performance related grants are received in advance of the performance/event to which they relate.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted reserves which have not been designated for a particular purpose should be maintained at a level to ensure that in the event of a significant reduction in funding, it will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. The directors consider that this level should be sufficient to cover six months expenditure, and potential winding-up costs.

The Directors regularly review the level of reserves held and consider opportunities to apply them in line with, and in the furtherance of, its charitable objectives.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

1. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Donations	7,655	-	7,655	3,964	-	3,964
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7,655	-	7,655	3,964	-	3,964

2. INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Income from UK listed investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from cash	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Big Lottery Fund - generated income	-	74,623	74,623	-	100,000	100,000
Community Foundation NI	-	37,500	37,500	-	-	-
MACE	-	202,901	202,901	-	-	-
SHSCT - Surestart - generated income	-	172,098	172,098	-	155,848	155,848
SHSCT - Hub Hosting - generated income	-	-	-	-	98,458	98,458
SHSCT - PHWB - generated income	-	16,255	16,255	-	15,639	15,639
SHSCT - FAST & BME - generated income	-	5,001	5,001	-	5,774	5,774
SHSCT - Early Intervention & Prevention - generated income	-	14,645	14,645	-	33,000	33,000
SHSCT - Early Intervention & Prevention Support Service	-	28,431	28,431	-	-	-
SHSCT - Early Intervention & Prevention Family Support Hub	-	71,388	71,388	-	-	-
SHSCT - Gold Fund	-	-	-	-	15,809	15,809
SHSCT - Armagh & Dungannon Family	-	9,121	9,121	-	20,000	20,000
MH2H - generated income	-	-	-	-	17,859	17,859
NIHE - generated income	-	92,260	92,260	-	59,400	59,400
SECAD - generated income	-	-	-	-	-	-
EISS NIACRO - generated income	-	40,309	40,309	-	41,201	41,201
Other - generated income	56,414	-	56,414	174,682	-	174,682
Management fee income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gullion Home 2 Hospital	-	7,857	7,857	-	-	-
Mourne Home 2 Hospital	-	16,302	16,302	-	-	-
Homestart	-	2,365	2,365	-	-	-
Dormant Accounts	-	46,000	46,000	-	-	-
Rent receivable	-	-	-	3,781	-	3,781
Older peoples programme	-	-	-	-	13,560	13,560
Personal development programme	-	-	-	-	2,515	2,515
Connections income	-	60,401	60,401	-	-	-
Youth Leadership programme	-	-	-	-	55,380	55,380
Elevate - CDHN	-	3,000	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
SPACE - Health & Wellbeing	-	-	-	-	900	900
	56,414	900,458	956,872	178,463	638,343	816,806

4. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Fundraising	6,840	-	6,840	-	-	-
Shop income	26,889	-	26,889	32,637	-	32,637
	33,729	-	33,729	32,637	-	32,637

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

5. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Promotional and fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 £
Wages and salaries (See Note 8)	-	581,835	581,835	4,848	422,372	427,220
Social security costs (See Note 8)	-	59,883	59,883	-	45,348	45,348
Shop stock purchases	7,922	-	7,922	16,513	-	16,513
Training and development	1,163	733	1,896	1,073	933	2,006
Monitoring, evaluation and learning	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel costs and expenses	430	23,662	24,092	15,560	12,782	28,342
Volunteers and facilitators	2,808	55,778	58,586	844	3,131	3,975
Transport	-	-	-	-	245	245
Programme costs - Surestart	10,483	20,206	30,689	-	19,064	19,064
Programme costs	5,298	97,600	102,898	22,974	95,240	118,214
Sundry expenses	2,484	-	2,484	2,033	1,768	3,801
	30,588	839,697	870,285	63,845	600,883	664,728

Support Costs and Governance costs

Telephone and internet	1,951	6,622	8,573	5,918	5,144	11,062
Rent and service charges	-	20,899	20,899	8,877	7,714	16,591
Accommodation costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	8,101	8,101	-	9,594	9,594
General running costs	-	-	-	-	874	874
IT support and maintenance costs	-	6,543	6,543	10,084	3,382	13,466
Printing, postage and stationery	2,163	2,824	4,987	13,180	11,455	24,635
Management and hosting fees	-	-	-	1,143	993	2,136
Digital marketing and outsourcing	-	-	-	6,082	-	6,082
Marketing and communications	400	8,198	8,598	4,372	3,940	8,312
Repairs and maintenance	1,187	190	1,377	2,846	2,473	5,319
Cleaning and hospitality	276	1,685	1,961	1,000	3,362	4,362
Recruitment costs	649	2,255	2,904	691	601	1,292
Hire of equipment	920	-	920	71	785	856
Depreciation and impairment	9,516	-	9,516	11,088	-	11,088
Membership fees	2,190	1,381	3,571	69	759	828
Legal and professional fees	-	-	-	163	141	304
Outsourcing finance	-	17,493	17,493	-	26,670	26,670
Audit fees	-	2,960	2,960	4,200	-	4,200
Bank interest and charges	985	-	985	-	1,038	1,038
	20,237	79,151	99,388	69,784	78,925	148,709

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	50,825	918,848	969,673	133,629	679,808	813,437
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BOLSTER COMMUNITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

7. NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	2023	2022
This is stated after charging/(crediting)	£	£
Auditors remuneration	2,960	4,200
Depreciation	9,516	11,088
Grants amortisation	-	-
	-	-

8. SALARY COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Total staff costs were as follows:		
Wages and salaries - key management personnel	58,681	59,302
Wages and salaries - other staff	523,154	367,918
Employer social security costs - key management personnel	11,084	9,587
Employer social security costs - other staff	52,799	39,761
Employer social security costs - Statutory Maternity Pay Recoverable	-	-
Employer social security costs - Employment Allowance	(4,000)	(4,000)
	641,718	472,568

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:	2023	2022
	Number	Number
	31	30

No employees had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2022: £Nil)

Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2023. (2022: £Nil)

Trustees' Expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2023. (2022: £Nil)

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Refurbishment Costs £	Office Equipment £	Total £
COST			
As at 1st April 2022	81,690	62,793	144,483
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st March 2023	81,690	62,793	144,483
DEPRECIATION			
As at 1st April 2022	9,701	53,525	63,226
Charge for year	7,199	2,317	9,516
Eliminated on disposal		-	-
As at 31st March 2023	16,900	55,842	72,742
Net book value 2023	64,790	6,951	71,741
Net book value 2022	71,989	9,268	81,257

10. CASH AT BANK

	2023 £	2022 £
AIB - Number 1 Account	214,731	134,842
AIB - Number 2 Account	90,049	95,405
Danske Bank	106,846	93,744
Paypal Account	468	1,609
Petty cash	1,028	1,056
	413,122	326,656

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	86,387	91,439
Grants receivable	-	-
Other debtors and prepayments	15,257	11,266
	<u>101,644</u>	<u>102,705</u>
12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,317	14,253
Social security costs and other taxes	696	17,529
Workers Pensions trust	23,740	-
Bank loans	10,656	10,661
Credit card	957	-
Accrued expenses	3,587	4,229
Deferred income	61,681	-
	<u>104,634</u>	<u>46,672</u>
13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans	26,018	36,674
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>26,018</u>	<u>36,674</u>
14. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING PROFIT TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
	£	£
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	28,583	39,970
Depreciation	9,516	11,088
Movement in debtors	1,061	(40,125)
Movement in creditors	47,306	494
Gain on investments	-	-
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of Fixed Assets	-	-
Investment income	-	-
	<u>86,466</u>	<u>11,427</u>

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Net Movement in Funds 2023 £	Transfers between Funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Unrestricted Funds <i>(See Analysis Below)</i>	361,236	97,798	(50,825)	46,973	-	408,209	361,236
Restricted Funds <i>(See Analysis Below)</i>	66,036	900,458	(918,848)	(18,390)	-	47,646	66,036
	427,272	998,256	(969,673)	28,583	-	455,855	427,272

Restricted Funds:	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Net Movement in Funds 2023 £	Transfers between Funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Big Lottery Fund - generated income	24,016	74,623	(98,639)	(24,016)	-	0	24,016
National Lottery Awards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Autism Connect income	-	60,401	(60,401)	0	-	0	-
SHSCT - Surestart - generated income	-	172,098	(172,098)	0	-	0	-
SHSCT - Hub Hosting - generated income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHSCT - PHWB - generated income	-	16,255	(16,255)	-	-	-	-
SHSCT - BME - generated income	-	5,001	(5,001)	0	-	0	-
SHSCT - Gold Fund - generated income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHSCT - Armagh & Dungannon family - generated income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHSCT - Armagh & Dungannon family	20,000	9,121	(29,121)	(20,000)	-	0	20,000
NI COVID Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armagh & Banbridge CC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	-	37,500	(37,500)	-	-	-	-
Charities Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MACE	-	202,901	(202,901)	(0)	-	0	-
Youth Leadership Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NI Housing Executive	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NI Housing Executive - homeless fund	22,019	92,260	(114,279)	(22,019)	-	0	22,019
MH2H - generated income	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Older Peoples Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Development Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHSCT - Early Intervention & Prevention	-	14,645	-	14,645	-	14,645	-
SHSCT - Early Intervention & Prevention Support Services	-	28,431	(28,431)	0	-	0	-
SHSCT - Early Intervention & Prevention Family Support Hub	-	71,388	(71,388)	(0)	-	0	-
Gullion Home 2 Hospital	-	7,857	(7,858)	(1)	-	1	-
Mourne Home 2 Hospital	-	16,302	(16,302)	0	-	0	-
Homestart	-	2,365	(2,365)	0	-	0	-
Dormant Accounts	-	46,000	(13,000)	33,000	-	33,000	-
Elevate CDHN	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	-	-	-
EISS NIACRO - generated income	-	40,309	(40,309)	(0)	-	0	-
Total Restricted Funds	66,036	900,458	(918,848)	(18,390)	-	47,646	66,036
Unrestricted Funds:							
Generated income	188,888	70,909	(33,387)	37,522	-	226,410	188,888
Rental income	4,844	-	-	-	-	4,844	4,844
Shop income	28,592	26,889	(7,922)	18,967	-	47,559	28,592
Designated Sustainability Fund	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Designated Whitegates Capitalised Fund	88,912	-	(9,516)	(9,516)	-	79,396	88,912
Total Other Restricted Funding	361,236	97,798	(50,825)	46,973	-	408,209	361,236
Total Restricted Funding	427,272	998,256	(969,673)	28,583	-	455,855	427,272

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

16. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at 1st April 2022	361,236	259,927
Incoming resources for the year	97,798	215,064
Resources expended for the year	(50,825)	(133,629)
Transfer between funds	-	19,874
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31st March 2023	<u>408,209</u>	<u>361,236</u>

17. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at 1st April 2022	66,036	127,375
Incoming resources for the year	900,458	638,343
Resources expended for the year	(918,848)	(679,808)
Transfer between funds	-	(19,874)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31st March 2023	<u>47,646</u>	<u>66,036</u>

18. LEGAL STATUS

Bolster Community is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Each member has agreed to contribute £1 in the event of a compulsory winding up.

Bolster Community is registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, Charity Number 107382. Date of registration 12th February 2020.

Bolster Community is a recognised Charity within the definition of Section 360(3) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 by the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue.

Bolster Community

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107382

Annual report

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023. The Trustees confirm that they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice which applies to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

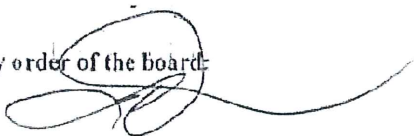
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- the directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

By order of the board:


CONNOR SWEENEY
TRUSTEE

8th December 2023

DATE

Reserves Policy

Financial Review

The charity achieved a net income surplus of £28,583, Surplus of 46,973 (unrestricted) and Deficit of £18,390 (restricted) derived from a total income of £998,256.

The principal funding sources were grants, tenders, social enterprise generated income and income from donations and fundraising. The support of our funders and community advocates continues to be essential to maintaining our programme of activities.

Reserves Policy

The total reserves as at 31 March 2023 were £455,855, £47,646 (restricted) and £408,209 (unrestricted). It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted reserves which have not been designated for a particular purpose should be maintained at a level to ensure that in the event of a significant drop in funding, we will be able to sustain the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. It is a strategic objective of the charity to hold a minimum reserves fund of 3 months, which would allow the organisation to be sustainable in times of challenge and to continue to operate without other sources of income. The Board of Directors are keen that a minimum fund of reserves is held for 3 months alongside a strategic aspiration of extending this to achieve a reserves fund of 6 months over the next 5 years. The directors consider that this level should be sufficient to cover three months expenses, and potential wind-up costs, currently totalling £232,966.

The Trustees regularly review the level of reserves held and consider opportunities to apply them in line with, and in furtherance of, its charitable objectives. The amount of unrestricted funds held at 31st March 2023 was £175,243. (For 2021: £260,267).

Auditors

A resolution to re-appoint the auditors, O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland 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 charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

Achievements and Performance

Bolster Community, previously known as Space NI is a value`s driven, practical, hands-on social enterprise and charity that works to provide services, and support to improve wellbeing.

Our business model is a hybrid of entrepreneurial vision and values that has earned an enviable reputation as a trusted partner to clients, funders, collaborators and requesters alike. We liken our culture at Bolster to a business head and a social heart. Since 2004, we've had the privilege of helping countless individuals reach their full potential. From early years right through to later years, we support and strengthen people facing life's tough challenges. Bolster Community has grown from a small campaigning organisation in Warrenpoint, to a key third sector agency providing services, support, training and leadership on community development, resilience and well-being.

Our services are centred around supporting three categories – Family, Ability and Seniors.

We are registered as a charity with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland 107382. We are also a company limited by guarantee registered in Companies House, 655061

Strategic Projects include:

1. Coordination of Newry and Mourne Family Support Hub
2. Practical and therapeutic support for families, including lead organisation role to the Mournes Sure Start project
3. Presenting themes for referrals to the family support Hub centre on, low mood/poor mental health in parents and children, Marriage breakdown, Autism, Poverty, Emotional and Behavioural Support for adolescents
4. Homeless prevention and tenancy sustainment projects- in partnership with the NIHE through practical activities including, a social kitchen, navigation and support service for individuals in housing distress.
5. Ability Services-provision of a wide range of community-based enterprise and training opportunities for young adults with a range of disability, adults with autism and families caring for children with Additional needs
6. Home 2 hospital volunteer led service for adults in the Mournes and Slieve Gullion areas requiring transport to out of area Hospital appointments
7. Levelling Up funded project creating opportunity for employment and training for hard-to-reach women

8. In partnership with Schools, the SHSCT and other partners we provide targeted and universal Family Support through a range of evidence-based training programmes and peer support networks
9. A social enterprise making and retailing natural soy wax candles, melts, diffusers whilst simultaneously providing day opportunities for young adults of mixed ability and developing and delivering evidence-based training programmes for children and parents in need.
10. Bolster Seniors- In 2023, we started to rebuild our seniors' services to include Discover and connect sessions, tea – dances, clover social club, and we continued to provide signposting and practical support for Seniors operating a referral dial in and traffic light system to monitor seniors impacted by ill health, rural isolation and bereavement.
11. In 2023 we rolled out a range of evidence-based programmes to support children develop coping skills through the CAWT funded MACE Project, in total 1315 children benefitted

Key Outcomes for 2023

During 2023 Bolster Community supported **8835 individuals'** parents, children, seniors and people of mixed ability. **1315** children and young people took part in education, support and activity sessions.

In this financial year Bolster Community provided unique support to **440** single dwelling older people and those identified as risk of homelessness, poor mental health and with low mood. Bolster Community were able to attract and distribute **over £91000** in direct financial support for seniors, families and people living with a disability.

2022/2023 was a challenging year for recruitment and sustainability of staff. The nature of referrals received through the charity and the level and frequency of support required, has become increasingly challenging and complex. Staff have been dealing with a cost-of-living crisis, escalating costs in managing their homes as well as a range of unknowns relating to security in employment whilst simultaneously expected to meet increased outputs and outcomes. In acknowledgement of the difficulties in attracting and maintaining quality staffing, trustees acknowledged the need to succession plan and the board recommended terms of reference for a benchmarking exercise and established TOR for a remuneration committee. Over the year 2022/2023 the remuneration committee:

- Agreed and recommended to the Board the organisations new remuneration policy.
- Agreed and recommended to the board the remuneration of the Chief Executive and the staff team including bonuses.
- Reviewed and approved matters relating to minimum wage uplifts, benchmark outcomes and pension redress matters
- Reported periodically to the Board on the work undertaken by the Committee its performance, constitution, and terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness, and recommended any changes considered necessary for Board approval.

Social Return on Investment

The charity completed an independent SROI study which calculated that the charity returned **£24.00** of social value for **every £1** invested.

Other Charitable activity and milestones

1. "Autism Connect" a ground-breaking social space for adults with autism but without a learning disability or mental health diagnosis launched and executed an exciting conference "Empowering Autistic voices", highlighting issues in employment, relationships, education and socially for young adults with autism
2. We were successful in providing trauma informed training and support through the MACE Interreg project resulting in 1315 children accessing quality support to build resilience and cope better with life challenges
3. Provision of a summer scheme, benefitting 36 children supported by a major Housing association and the local health trust
4. Through Community foundation NI funding supported by the DOH fund we were able to establish and develop two new services "After the Bell" and Tots and Tea to ensure an easement of provision so there would be no cliff edge for children and parents once the TNL funding ceased
5. We significantly grew our social value offer, and celebrated some key wins through our growing partnership with Women's Tec/CTS/ and were delighted to be recognised by our peers for this ground breaking work recognised by both the 3rd Sector and Private Sector as an innovative response to social value clauses.

During this year Bolster Community staff and CEO have provided input, representation and support to the following partnerships, organisations and committees and boards:

- The Strategic Stakeholder Partnership Newry and Mourne Down District council area
- Chaired the CYPSP Newry Locality Planning group
- Members of the South Armagh Locality Group
- Members of the CYPSP Southern area Outcomes group
- Members of the strategic CYPSP regional Partnership
- Facilitated a "Joining the Dots" networking event in the Canal Court in Newry
- Formed a new partnership with Womenstec Belfast and Newry and CTS projects
- Sustained corporate partnership with Keoghs Cars Newry, Killeavy Castle, Best Estate agents Warrenpoint
- We have provided mentorship to 4 organisations this year
- Supported the board of CO3

Funding- the following funding applications and income streams were successful in 2022

- CFNI- DOH Carers fund
- The National Lottery Dormant accounts fund
- NIHE- Homeless Prevention grant/Sustaining Tenancy grant
- Sure Start - Department of Education Sure Start extension
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust - Promoting Wellbeing Activities

- SHSCT-Family Support HUB/ disability/ autism connect
- Public Health Agency – EISS/ Parents Plus
- NM&D Council - Home 2 Hospital,
- Generated Income from Social Enterprise, Friends Resilience sales, donations and Room Hire

Plans for the Future

This is a small synopsis of the Charitable activity we have provided from December April 2022- March 2023 we look forward to progressing and developing relationships with Partner agencies, stakeholders and most importantly the individuals, children and families in the area to ensure more people can reach their potential and thrive.

Public Benefit Statement

The direct benefits which flow from our purposes include:

- Improved understanding, awareness and reduced social isolation leading to reduced levels of stress, anxiety and loneliness. These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from participants, regular evaluation and external monitoring and evaluation of our services.
- Improved partnership working to provide improved health and wellbeing for the constituents and awareness with and between the beneficiaries and stakeholders responsible for planning, services to promote health and wellbeing for an area.
- These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from participants, evaluation and monitoring of services. The benefits of this purpose are provided to those individuals who participate in the process of partnerships as a community representative or agency representative and provide Improved knowledge, resources and access to facilities and education within their locality which may lead to a better understanding of health and wellbeing choices.
- These benefits are demonstrated through feedback from participants and partners community engagement opportunities and through usage of programmes provided.
- Improved knowledge, improved collaborative working and information sharing as well as advice and practical support, for individuals and organisations which lead to a better shared understanding of health and wellbeing choices.
- Improved access to help and support so that individuals may reach their true potential regardless of ability, age, youth, infirmity or social and economic circumstance. Additional benefits may include enhanced confidence and serve to help others in the community develop skills as a result of witnessing the success of others

Organisational Structure

The policy and general management of the affairs of the Initiative shall be directed by the Committee which shall meet not less than five times a year and shall consist of not less than four members of the Initiative elected at the Annual General Meeting. Aside from the management committee the organisation has a range of staff including a CEO, Operation Manager, Project Manager, Social Enterprise Officer, Family Support Workers and a range of staff and volunteers who support the project.

Related parties

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity to related parties must be disclosed to

the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a third party. There were no such disclosures in the current year.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- A finance, audit and risk sub-committee (FARC) which reviews all risk and completes the risk register prior to each board meeting and undertakes an annual review of the risks the charity may face
- The establishment of systems including a risk register, and procedures to mitigate those risk identified; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise

This work has identified that financial sustainability is a major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is via the reserves policy. Attention has also been focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, cyber safety, health and safety of employees, volunteers and scheme users. In providing access and opportunities to people and children, the Charity recognises that there are potential risks to children and vulnerable adults. A key element in the management of non-financial risk is the establishment and implementation of a robust chart of policies and procedures including Access NI Disclosure Check, Child Protection Policy and the renewal and training of staff in this area.

The Trustees are satisfied that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard participants, and ensure that the benefits provided outweigh any potential harm.

Bolster Community

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107382

Annual return

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bolster Community (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

BOLSTER COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

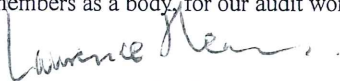
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., Senior Statutory Auditor
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, Statutory Auditor
O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

Dated: 8th December 2023