

**YOUTH WORK ALLIANCE LTD
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

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REPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements, applicable accounting standards, 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice. They have also had regard for any other information required by the charity's governing document.

TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The terms "director" and "trustee" are used interchangeably throughout the financial statements. The trustees who have served during the year were as follows:

Samuel McCready, Chairperson	
John McLaughlin, Treasurer	
Rita Burke	(resigned 8 th February 2023)
Shannon Clarke	(resigned 8 th February 2023)
Stephen Mallet	
Carmel McCavana	(resigned 8 th February 2023)
Monica Meehan	
Mark Roberts	(appointed 8 th February 2023)

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Board of Youth Work Alliance Ltd confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance produced on public benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, and are pleased to report that during the year the charitable company has continued to provide public benefits through the programmes and services we offer. In particular, the directors consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set out.

PUBLIC BENEFITS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Youth Work Alliance is a membership body providing representation and advocacy, coordination and communication and direct support to its members.

Our key purpose is:

- Promoting, developing and supporting voluntary youth work providers in Northern Ireland for the benefit of children and in particular, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of voluntary youth work providers, through the provision of training, information, guidance and representation.

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REPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS *(continued)*

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PUBLIC BENEFITS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES *(continued)*

Vision, Mission and Values

The Board has agreed the following Vision, Mission and Values:

Vision

We envision an inclusive community where *all* children and young people are safe, valued and achieve their full potential.

Mission

We support our members to deliver quality youth work to children and young people by providing training, information, guidance and representation.

Values

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Passion | – for children and young people achieving their full potential. |
| Empathy | – for the challenges facing children, young people, youth workers and volunteers. |
| Advocacy | – with and for member organisations. |
| Collaboration | – within the broader youth work sector and related and relevant stakeholders. |
| Enablement | – of member organisations to effectively serve children and young people. |

Our plan for 2022-23 was underpinned by a theory of change, structured around:

- What does Youth Work Alliance membership want from us? **NEED**
- How will it do this? **ACTIVITIES**
- What difference will this make? **IMPACT**

In developing the plan, the Board of Directors gave careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on public benefit to ensure that activities would help to achieve Youth Work Alliance's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries

Youth Work Alliance (YWA) is a membership body, established to deliver infrastructure support to local youth work providers across Northern Ireland. Our key beneficiaries are our member organisations, comprising voluntary management committees, managers, staff and volunteers and the children and young people they serve.

There has been no identifiable harm to any person through our activities and any private benefit gained (for example through transferrable skills development) is incidental and necessary to the achievement of Youth Work Alliance's purposes.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In May 2022, YWA opened our new offices in the North West followed by the Belfast office in June 2022. Alongside this, our management team worked hard to secure funding to deliver on core issues for our members. The Gambling and Digital Resilience specification is led by Clare Maguire and has been delivered to over 160 staff and volunteers since its commencement. This programme is also available through the medium of Irish and Ulster Scots.

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YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

Alongside this, YWA has a partnership with Young Gamers and Gamblers Education Trust (YGAM) to deliver on gambling awareness and this is led by Helen McVitty-O'Hara who has worked with volunteers, part-time staff and key stakeholders including PSNI and Social Services.

In June 2022, YWA established a partnership with Ulster University and Melbourne University to deliver a youth work and autism seminar, to 75 practitioners from across the sector. The primary purpose for this conference was to consult the sector on the need for CPD and exposure to local, national and international professionals in the hope of delivering a bigger conference later in the year.

In June 2022, YWA also hosted a members' conference where we explored the issues facing our sector with 60 member groups looking at leadership, organisational challenges and operational delivery from both professional and personal perspectives. This conference was a chance for the sector to explore the vision of the Alliance and how we can work to support them in practice, delivery and governance.

YWA have been working collaboratively with government departments and key funders to establish initiatives which involve partnership working with members and the statutory sector to address key areas of work arising for our members.

In July 2022, the new Fair Start initiative was born which is a joint statutory/voluntary partnership to reduce educational disadvantage across four identified areas. This is a joint project with EAYS and YWA that builds capacity for front line delivery through its member organisations such as Shantallow Community Residents Association and Dungannon Youth Resource Centre.

In September 2022, YWA were successful in obtaining an award from Children in Need to deliver on the Common Purpose Model. This involves working in partnership with Queens University Belfast to build capacity for front line delivery as well as training and employing young people as peer researchers on living in safety and stability.

In October 2022, YWA worked in collaboration with the Education Authority (EA) and Department of Education (DE) and other member groups to deliver the 'One Service' conference at the ICC Belfast, attended by 450 youth workers from across the field.

Since November 2022 YWA has been supporting our members with the New Funding Scheme, this was facilitated by coordinating funding workshops, and supporting members to complete applications. Release of the new funding in November brought about a real potential threat of reduced funding to our sector, and our membership in particular.

The team have been advocating and making representation to those in influence within the DE, EA, local councillors, MLAs, MPs and officials from across government. These engagements allowed us to communicate feelings, thoughts and emotions, as well as highlighting the potential impacts that reductions will have on young people and the level of service available to them within the community moving forward.

It has been a very challenging few months and YWA are grateful to see first-hand the passion and the commitment of our members, who have championed the cause of Youth Work and who place the voice and needs of children and young people at their core.

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REPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS *(continued)*

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

The last year has shown YWA that the voluntary youth work sector is a proud and vibrant sector and has a lot of challenges facing it.

The levels of commitment, passion, and drive that YWA have seen from everyone this year has filled YWA with hope and admiration. The way in which our members are all dedicated to ensuring that it delivers a service that meets the needs of children and young people is completely inspirational.

YWA will continue to help build a stronger and more cohesive sector that will overcome this impasse. YWA stand with our members and we are committed to delivering a service that is valued, respected and funded in line with Priorities for Youth.

It is our goal to support our members to deliver a more inclusive, strength-based youth service that meets the needs of our children and young people. The team and YWA look forward to carrying on its work with each member group, their boards and most importantly the young people we serve.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total income for the year was £565,223 (2022 - £26,027). Income from charitable activities amounted to £565,223 (2022 - £26,027).

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £523,320 (2022 - £43,777). The cost of charitable activities amounted to £523,320 (2022 - £43,777).

The net income for the year amounted to £41,903 (2022 - £17,750 net expenditure) and has been transferred to accumulated funds.

The results of the financial year are set out fully in Youth Work Alliance's financial statements on pages 15 to 28.

The directors consider the company's financial position at the date of the balance sheet to be satisfactory and that the charity is in a satisfactory position to carry on its charitable activities.

Funding

The principal funding during the year was from the Education Authority and funds received are deemed to be restricted funds.

Reserves policy

The Funds held by the charity of £59,565 as at 31 March 2023 consist of restricted funds only. The directors anticipate that future funding will continue to be restricted funds held for specific purposes.

Therefore, as reserves are those unrestricted funds of a charity, the directors consider that a reserves policy is not considered necessary.

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REPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS *(continued)*

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FINANCIAL REVIEW *(continued)*

Reserves

The restricted funds as at 31 March 2023 are £59,565 (2022 - £Nil) and unrestricted funds are £Nil (2022 - £17,662). The directors are satisfied that the level of reserves is sufficient to continue the activities of the charity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Youth Work Alliance Ltd is a charitable company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It was incorporated on 26 January 2017.

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment, appointment, induction and training

As set out in the Articles of Association, the number of directors is not less than 4 and not more than 10. The directors are elected by Youth Work Alliance's membership.

The directors have the power to co-opt members to fill specialist roles; directors so appointed shall hold office only until the next annual general meeting and shall then be eligible for re-appointment.

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under Youth Work Alliance's Articles are known as members of the Board of Directors. At each annual general meeting one-third (or number nearest to one-third) of the members of the Board of Directors must retire from office, but may be eligible for re-election.

All Youth Work Alliance members are circulated with invitations to nominate directors prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring directors and requesting nominations for the AGM.

There is no other person or body of persons permitted by the Youth Work Alliance Articles of Association to appoint one or more new trustees.

Appropriate training and induction is available to all directors.

Organisational structure and related parties

Youth Work Alliance's Board of Directors is responsible for policy, strategy, finance and organisational issues, and meets approximately 6-8 times per year.

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REPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS *(continued)*

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT *(continued)*

Risk management

The members and directors have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks. 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 at least annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

It is the intention of Youth Work Alliance to sustain its core funding allocations and seek to increase funding to ensure that Youth Work Alliance can provide the services and provision that enhances our ability to effectively support the needs of our members. Youth Work Alliance will continue to work with funders such as Education Authority - Youth Service, Big Lottery, and Children in Need to ensure we can deliver on the above for members.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Youth Work Alliance Ltd for the purposes of company law) 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these 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 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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**REPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS (continued)
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STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 and The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small companies' exemption

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

So far as each of the directors in office at the date of approval of these financial statements is aware:

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

Jackson Andrews have indicated their willingness to remain in office and a resolution for their re-election will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Registered Office:
12-14 The Diamond
Londonderry
BT48 6HW

Signed by order of the board


John McLaughlin
Director

Approved by the directors on 17th August 2023