

YOUTH WORK ALLIANCE LTD COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. 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
Stephen Mallet	
Mark Roberts	
Magdalene Rowan	(appointed 30 th October 2023)
Monica Meehan	

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)*

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 2023-24 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

Youth Work Alliance exists to serve its members. It is now seven years in existence, and we continue to strive to provide the best service to those members. This last year has been another challenging one with funding for front line delivery continuing to be the significant issue that has seen your representative body engage actively with Education Authority, Department of Education, and political representatives to impress upon them the importance of protecting our precious resources. April 2023 marked the start of significant exchanges and meetings between those bodies and us around funding and policy for our service. It has been a slow and arduous process but there are some signs that our

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE *(continued)*

patient and persistent approach has been gaining some traction and we look forward to impacting positively on Youth Work policy and funding in coming year.

Our contact with members continues to provide us with the most rewards. The 'Training the Trainers for Strength Based Youth Work' has been well received and engagement with part time units and volunteers has been most rewarding for our staff.

Our championing of Common Purpose continued to break new ground and a presentation to Government TTP Board was very well received and we look forward to embedding this work in policy and in practice in the coming year.

April 2023 seen the rollout of the Common Purpose Programme in partnership with BBC Children in Need and Queens University Belfast. 36 young people completed a Level 4 qualification with Queens University in Peer Research and Violence Prevention. YWA developed and provided training to 36 young leaders in Leadership & Communication, Safeguarding and Programme Planning, Facilitation and Evaluation.

June 2023 Youth Work Alliance commenced the training for part time staff and volunteers. 11 sessions were delivered to 66 part time staff and 49 volunteers across the 11 council areas, 105 completing OCN Level 2 in Youth Work Practice and 10 completing OCN Level 3 in Youth Work Practice.

June 2023 Youth Work Alliance develop the Global Education Framework and Curriculum for Youth Work. We were tasked with developing two Global Education programmes - one each for 9-13 year olds and 14-18 year olds, we successfully worked with 6 youth providers, delivered 8 developmental programmes, with 97 young people.

September we held a number of members engagements and the need arose to develop a communications strategy that provided direct access to support in geographical areas. As a result we were delighted to restructure and appointed 4 field officers Ben Ewan (North West), Barry McGinley (Central Hub), Colm Fanning (West and South Belfast), Sean McMullan (North and East Belfast).

January 2024 saw the publication of a comprehensive evaluation by Queens University Belfast and a conference held in Derry on 20th January 2024 in which over 60 people attended to celebrate its successes at putting the voice of children and young people at the centre of violence prevention.

February 2024 saw the official launch of the 'Take 5 in Youth Work' resource at an event held in Belfast City Hall attended by Lord Mayor of Belfast, Ryan Murphy, and NI Mental Health Champion, Professor Siobhan O'Neill. A range of youth providers from across the city joined the event to learn about this new and innovative resource pack and the plans for the forthcoming rollout of training to complement this.

The team and I have been advocating and making representation on the real potential threat of the current funding model. with those of influence in Department of Education, EA, local councillors, MLAs, MPs and officials from across government.

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REPORT OF THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS *(continued)*

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FINANCIAL REVIEW *(continued)*

Reserves policy

All restricted income is expended as detailed in funder contracts and other income may be considered unrestricted if not stated in contract conditions. All income will be expended in line with agreed policy and procedures.

Reserves

The restricted funds as at 31 March 2024 are £10,255 (2023 - £59,565) and unrestricted funds are £76,791 (2023 - £Nil). 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:

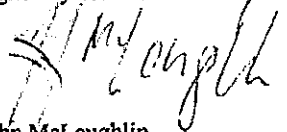
- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

GMcG Belfast 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:
20a Leafair Park
Leafair Wellbeing Village
Londonderry
BT48 8JS

Signed by order of the board


John McLaughlin
Director

Approved by the directors on ... 3 December 2024 ...