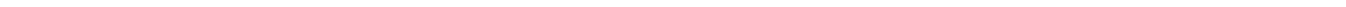


**NEWFORGE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

**Annual Report  
For the financial year ended  
31 March 2025**



# NEWFORGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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## REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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# NEWFORGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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## TRUSTEES AND OTHER INFORMATION AT DATE OF APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<b>Trustees</b>	A Jennings A Treacy A Wilson R Singleton P Hilman K Rollo M Rainey
<b>Company Secretary</b>	A McGowan
<b>Registered and Principal Office</b>	18b Newforge Lane Belfast BT9 5NW
<b>Independent Auditors</b>	Ruddell & Company Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors 16 - 18 Church Street Dungannon BT71 6AB
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland 1 Donegall Square South Belfast BT1 5LR
<b>Solicitors</b>	Edwards & Co 28 Hill Street Belfast BT1 2LA
<b>Registered Number</b>	NI643348
<b>Charity Commission Number</b>	107999

# NEWFORGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees submit their Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) ("Charities SORP (FRS 102)"), in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Company.

### Reference and Administrative Details

Details of the Registered Office, Trustees, Independent Advisers and other relevant information are given on page 2.

### Structure, Governance and Management

#### Governing Document

Newforge Community Development Trust ("the Trust") is a Company Limited by Guarantee and therefore does not have share capital.

#### Recruitment and Training of Trustees

Trustees of the charity are elected in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the NCDT Board. Membership and composition of the Board is specified as follows:

- Chaired by Aidan Jennings for a 3 year tenure;
- 1 x representative Royal Ulster Constabulary Athletic Association (RUCAA), 18b Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5NW;
- 1 x representative Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LD;
- 1 x representative Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS), 1 Prince William Road, Lisburn, BT28 3AN;
- 1 x representative Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS), Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SU;
- 1 x representative An Garda Síochána (AGS), Phoenix Park, Dublin, D08 HN3X, Ireland;

The Board may also co-opt additional Trustees to sufficiently meet the needs of the Trust in achieving its objectives. Trustees from sporting representatives of Pegasus Hockey and Netball NI were appointed to support the Board.

#### Organisation Management

The Trustees of the charity are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Trust. They meet on a quarterly basis. They receive detailed Management Accounts and a Management Report from the Chief Executive and his Senior Management Team who are tasked with the day to day running of the charity. A Project Board meets on a monthly basis and makes recommendations to the Executive Board on financial matters. A Steering Group also meets on a monthly basis and undertakes specific inspections of policies, procedures and their implementation, to ensure the highest level of probity and corporate governance are maintained within the charity. The Trustees have ultimate legal and financial responsibility for the affairs of the Trust. Day-to-day management is delegated to the permanent staff, through the Chief Executive. The Trustees of the Trust (as listed on page 2) at 31 March 2025, all have been Trustees for the whole of the year ended on that date, unless otherwise stated.

# NEWFORGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

### Risk Management

The Trustees of the charity are responsible for the management of risks faced by the Trust. Detailed consideration of risk is delegated to the Steering Committee assisted by the Chief Executive and his Senior Management Team.

The key controls used by the charity include:

- Formal agendas for all Executive Board and all other Committee Meetings;
- Terms of Reference for all Committees;
- Delegation of Interests as an agenda item for all Committees;
- Comprehensive budgeting, management accounting and detailed reporting;
- Formal written policies which are reviewed on a regular basis;
- Clear authorisation and approval levels and transparent tendering procedure;
- Vetting procedures as required by law for the protection of the vulnerable;
- Vetting procedures for all employees to ensure the integrity of all personal information is maintained;
- Regular detailed surveys on all aspects of health and safety management.

Through the risk management process the Trustees are satisfied that the major risks have been identified and have been adequately mitigated where necessary.

### Internal Control

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for monitoring that the Trust has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise, to provide reasonable assurance with respect to the:

- Business being operated efficiently and effectively;
- Safeguarding of assets against unauthorised use or disposal;
- Maintenance of proper records and the reliability of financial information used within the Association or for publication;
- Compliance with law and regulations.

In assessing what constitutes reasonable assurance the Trustees have regard to the materiality of any financial risks involved, the likelihood of such risks crystallising and the cost of and benefits from particular aspects of the internal control system. The Trustees review the effectiveness of the system of control regularly.

### Charitable Objectives and Activities

Newforge Community Development Trust (NCDT) is a visionary project designed to create a more cohesive society through community development, promotion of sport and advancement of the arts. NCDT promotes community participation in amateur sports and healthy recreation for the public at large.

### Public Benefit Statement

#### Purposes

The Trust's primary charitable purpose is to advance community development and active citizenship by:

- Promoting inclusivity, good community relations, social cohesion, racial and religious harmony and equality and diversity;

# NEWFORGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

- Organising and delivering, for the public benefit, social, celebratory and community events and initiatives;
- Facilitating the availability and safeguarding of assets for use by the community and sports, community and voluntary sector groups and organisations.

The Trustees believe that our purposes satisfy both elements of the Public Benefit requirement.

The next section of our Annual Report comments on how the Trust's activities meet our charitable and operational objectives for the year ended 31 March 2025. Following significant delays, NCDT's "Hub" main building enjoyed a full year of trading for the first time, with the 6 multi-purpose rooms upstairs, downstairs gym and changing rooms and sports hall open for business.

We had a target of 100,000 participations for our first year of full trading and surpassed this target by a significant amount by welcoming 182,494 participations to Newforge during the reporting period. We attract 60 community-based groups in total who use Newforge as their home base. Basketball teams include Belfast Star and Phoenix. We also host Sparta for Futsal and the Trailblazers for Powerchair Football. We attract 21 community groups to our weekly Newforge gym classes and host 17 gym classes each week for 48 weeks of the year plus 4 weekly palates classes for 32 weeks of the year. This equates to 7728 usages across the reporting period.

We also attract 26 community-based clubs on the outdoor pitches with Newforge as their home base. Teams include Arsenal Academy, Taughmonagh FC, Newtownbreda FC, Dunmurry Rec and South Belfast Football League.

From April 2024 until March 2025 the project has 4 schools who use the facilities regularly to deliver their sports programmes – Victoria College, Methody College, Campbell College and Royal Belfast Academical Institute.

In August 2024, the project at Newforge offered to assist the Muslim community in South Belfast. In the wake of racist public disorder in the region, the Muslim community were too intimidated to hold a planned summer scheme in a pre-booked location. Newforge stepped in to offer our facilities and hosted the 3-day summer school for up to 50 young people and their carers from the Muslim community. Liaising with PSNI representatives, several sports-based activities were provided at our facilities as well as contributions from mental health advocates.

In September 2024 we facilitated a 6-week training block for 30 Muslim females at Newforge. They had reached out to us to assess if private female only training was possible at our facility, as the group had approached other sports facilities and gyms in Belfast but had been rejected. Our Newforge PTs offered a 6-week block on Monday evenings with our female coach, splitting the group into mother and daughter sessions. The teenage girls trained from 6.30pm - 7.45pm; and then the adults and mothers from 8pm - 8.45pm. We accommodated up to 15 females per session and offered the use of the downstairs gym for up to 5 adults at a time to train, if they are comfortable doing so.

Newforge regularly hosts the sports of Basketball and Futsal in our sports hall. During the reporting period we had 2820 basketball players and 406 futsal players. We estimated that 20% of these users are from a BME background, therefore hosting 645 BME participants regularly for sport in 24/25.

Additionally, we liaised with BME and migrant groups on the possibility of a large-scale event at Newforge via the Belfast Multi Cultural Association. Whilst not a sports-event, it was requested that Newforge host the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan on Sunday 30th March 2025.

# NEWFORGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (continued)

The event was held outdoors on the Newforge sports pitches and we hosted an estimated 2000 participants from a BME or migrant background.

During 2024 we had 134 different groups use the multi-purpose rooms at Newforge. These included emergency services, public agencies, private companies, charities, sports clubs and personal bookings. 100 cross-community contacts would occur weekly in the facility with ongoing use of the shared space. Often clubs from different sides of the community share a pitch or the sports hall, each using one half at the same time.

We delivered 33 cross-community/border projects from July 2021 – December 2024 to 7820 participants. 41% male and 59% female participants. Community background of participants was 46% PUL, 49% CNR, 5% Other (primarily BAME). It worth highlighting that that we only had use of the fully completed shared space facility for the final 9 months of the 30 months during which the programmes were active. The programmes worked with 80 different schools, clubs or organisations in the shared space from 2021 to 2024. Of the 80 groups, 16 (20%) are majority PUL, 27 (34%) are majority CNR, 34 (42%) are primarily mixed/integrated and 3 (4%) are BAME.

NCDT had a target of opening up the Newforge restricted site and delivering strong peace programmes in world class/iconic facilities. The target was 90% of those using the facility perceiving it to be shared. NCDT achieved this target in the Newforge shared space with 93% of programme participants believing it to be shared. December 2024 saw the completion of the Peace IV funded projects. NCDT will now seek alternative funders to continue cross-community and cross-border programmes beyond the PEACE IV funding period.

Newforge is now viewed as a regionally significant sports centre, which has been recognised in the media for its promotion of understanding and respect. The final month of this reporting period, in March 2025, was a particular highlight with two notable event. Our hosting of Eid celebration with 2,000 participants from the Muslim community made headlines in the province as an outreach activity. This was followed by the Royal visit to Newforge by HM King Charles in March 2025. The King had the opportunity to engage with some of the schools and community sports teams who regularly use Newforge including Newforge Taggers, East Belfast GAA, Methody College and Victoria College. Later in the tour, in his speech the King noted the “thin green line” between the PSNI and the community, and the important role Newforge plays in improving understanding of the police by allowing community groups access to sport in Newforge. This was another opportunity to showcase the cross-community sport at the facility, recognised by the King, which made national headlines and reinforced the good work that NCDT continues to deliver.

### Access Policy

The Trustees are very clear that access to our facility cannot be restricted by the cost of using our services. They have therefore sought to keep these costs to a minimum. At present, a “community rate” for service usage has been established to ensure that our facilities and services are affordable to all.

### Plans for Future Periods

1. Seek funding to delivery cross-community and cross-border programmes
2. Maintain footfall to the sports arena
3. Increase membership within the gym
4. Facilitate two large events at the Hub

# NEWFORGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities in respect of Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 Trustees 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 year. In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements 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 charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper 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 and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. 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.

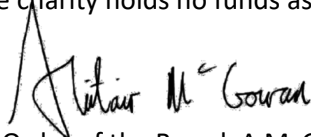
## Disclosure of Information to Auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Auditors are aware of that information.

## Funds Held as Custodian Trustees on Behalf of Others

The charity holds no funds as custodian Trustees on behalf of others.



By Order of the Board, A McGowan (*Company Secretary*)