

Changing Lives NI - Charity Annual Report 31.03.25

NI 108204

Chair/Secretary's report Year ending 31.03.2025

PROGRESS

In May 24 Changing Lives NI found suitable premises at Riverside Shopping Mall. The trustees agreed that this premises was a suitable venue to fulfil our charity public benefits by providing a first-class support and signposting service.

- We received funding from The Community Fund which enabled the charity to set up the Changing Lives NI support hub.

TRAINING

Trustees, Volunteers and members of the public have received training in the following:

SAFETALK – suicide prevention, ASIST – Suicide intervention, - safeguarding vulnerable adults, Safeguarding Children, Food Hygiene, Health and Safety, gambling addiction, substance misuse

Our support hub has facilitated many awareness workshops relation to mental health, addiction and substance misuse. This target audience ranges from young people to adult and is inclusive of all abilities.

REFERRALS, COUNSELLING AND SIGNPOSTING

To date, Changing Lives NI have sent more than 30 individual referrals to PIPS Hope and Support and Zest for Life, for counselling, bereavement support, alternative therapy and addiction charities such as Dunlewey and Inspire.

We have facilitated counselling within the support from other organisations to meet the needs of our service users. These include PIPS, SEFF and baby loss bereavement support.

Changing Lives NI is a member of the Protect Life Forum for the southern health and social care trust.

We are currently in the final stages of approval to a designated therapist available in our Support Hub which will enhance our ability to meet the needs of our service users. This will be referral based and assessed by the guidelines set out in the contract and according to our constitution.

FOOD HUB

Changing lives NI were given the opportunity to run a trial Food Hub with donations from our local Eurospar in Gilford. This highlighted a serious need for food support within the community.

Changing Lives NI are now a member of FareShare who have worked with us to secure a steady regular supply of foods from local supermarkets and organisations. This enables the charity to work within its public benefits.

All trustees are food safety certified, and we are also registered with our local authority with a 5 star rating.

Treasurers report

2024-2025 has been a busy year for Changing Lives NI. We received the Lottery Community Grant, received donations from members of the public some through events held like boxing events, raffles and bucket collections. The charity was also chosen to be the nominated charity for the year with Alternative for a year with the monthly donation allocated for counselling services.

Bank account balance as of 31.03.2025 - £24,290.37

Accounts attached for year ending 31.03.2025