

Our Social Space Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)
Year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Reference and administration details

Registered charity name	Our Social Space Ltd
Charity registration number	NIC108664
Company registration number	NI655540
Principal office and registered Office	74 Sunnyside Street Belfast BT7 3EY
The Trustees	Mr Seamus Young Dr Richard Turner Mr Philip Whyte Ms Helen McKenna Dr Mark Johnson
Company secretary	Carrie Montgomery
Independent Examiner	Mickey Ghanni 24 Ayrshire Lodge Lisburn BT28 2YZ
Bankers	Santander Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB

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Structure, Governance & Management

Our Social Space Ltd is a company limited by guarantee with charity status. It was incorporated on 7 September 2018. It has been registered as a charity with the Charities Commission Northern Ireland since 22 February 2022.

The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 29 January 2019 (amended). In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Articles of Association the number of trustees shall not be less than three appointed by the board. The initial term of office will be two terms of three years. Upon satisfactory completion of two terms Trustees are eligible for further terms at the Board's request. The trustees of the company have a mix of skills. In the event of particular skills being lost due to retirement or resignation, suitable individuals are approached to offer themselves for appointment as trustees.

Trustee induction and training

Most new trustees are already familiar with the work of the charity. New trustees are encouraged to attend suitable training courses to familiarise themselves with both the work of the charity and their responsibilities as directors.

Risk Management

The trustees have carried out a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and where appropriate have put in place systems and controls to mitigate the effects of those risks.

Key management

During the year in review the day to day running of Our Social Space Ltd was overseen by the CEO reporting to the Board of Trustees.

Objectives and activities

Why are we here?

To create space for social connections within local communities, with a vision that no one feels lonely or socially isolated.

We are a group of local residents who value: strong communities creating a sense of belonging; passion and drive to inspire each other; accountability to do what we say we'll do; communication and building trust and; environmentalism.

The Charity's objects ("Objects") are to:

Promote the benefit of residents of the Ballynaveigh/Ormeau Area without discrimination, in an effort to provide (or assist in providing) facilities in the interests of social welfare, for health, recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions and quality of life for the entire community to help in supporting those most socially vulnerable within our community.

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Achievements and Performance

This 6-month reporting period marked a focused and productive chapter for Our Social Space. Although shorter than a standard year, it was a time of consolidation, planning, and significant community impact. We continued to deliver on our mission to reduce loneliness and social isolation, and strengthen community connections through inclusive social dance, while laying important groundwork for the charity's next stage of growth.

Sustained Support in a Shortened Year

Despite the reduced timeframe, we received a similar level of donations as in the previous 12-month period - a powerful endorsement of the value and trust placed in our work by participants, partners, and supporters. This financial stability has allowed us to maintain and expand our programmes without interruption, ensuring continuity for those who rely on our classes as a vital source of connection and wellbeing.

Our Socially Active Communities

Our flagship programme, *Our Socially Active Communities*, supported by the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland - Community Flex, has continued to flourish. Over these six months, our beginner-friendly social dance classes and workshops have remained a lifeline for working aged and older adults, carers, neurodivergent individuals, people living with mental health conditions and people navigating life changes. Participants consistently report improved confidence, better mental health, and stronger social connections, affirming the ongoing relevance and impact of our work.

Policy Review and Governance Strengthening

A full review of the charity's policies was undertaken during this period, ensuring we remain compliant, transparent, and aligned with best practice in safeguarding, equality, data protection, and operational governance.

Strategic Planning and Future Development

Following the commencement of our strategic review in the previous reporting year, we have now entered the final stages of developing our *2025–2028 Strategic Framework*. This plan builds on our "Why Social Dancing?" vision, making the case for social health as a vital part of public health, and setting a clear path for our growth, artistic ambition, and community impact. It will position Our Social Space as a partner of choice for funders in health, arts, and community development.

Investing in Skills and Enriching Beneficiary Experience

We were delighted to celebrate the success of our dance facilitators in securing an individual Arts Council grant to attend *Bluesology*, an advanced teacher training intensive in summer 2025. This professional development opportunity - independent from the charity's funding - will directly enrich the quality, creativity, and inclusivity of our dance programmes for beneficiaries.

Exploring a New Home

Responding to increasing demand for our services, we have entered negotiations for a new premises. Consultation with our beneficiaries has been central to this process, ensuring the space we secure will meet community needs while supporting the sustainability of our programmes.

Plans for Future Periods

Over the next three years, guided by our 2025–2028 Strategic Framework, we will focus on deepening our impact and widening access to inclusive social dance as a tool for connection, wellbeing, and creative expression.

Health and Wellbeing – We will strengthen partnerships with health and social care providers to reach those most affected by loneliness and social isolation. Our evidence-based approach will highlight the role of social dance in improving mental health, physical activity, and emotional resilience.

Plans for Future Periods *(continued)*

Arts and Culture – We will continue to make dance accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, offering high-quality, participatory arts experiences outside traditional cultural venues. Programmes will incorporate the creative skills developed by our facilitators through their recent professional training, ensuring artistic excellence and innovation remain at the heart of our work.

Community Development – We will work with local communities to co-design activities, ensuring programmes reflect local needs and create meaningful opportunities for participation, volunteering, and leadership. The development of a new premises will be a major milestone, offering a dedicated, inclusive space for classes, workshops, and community gatherings.

By integrating health outcomes, artistic practice, and community engagement, we aim to position Our Social Space as a leader in using creative, inclusive approaches to address social isolation and strengthen the social fabric of Northern Ireland.

Financial review

It is the view of the Board of Directors that Our Social Space Ltd operated prudently and effectively within the parameters of the financial resources which were available.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's policy is to retain a level of unrestricted funds that are needed to provide funds which can be applied to specific projects to be undertaken at short notice and to cover the running costs of the Charity for a limited period, should there be a significant shortfall in projected income.

The Trustees consider it prudent that unrestricted reserves should be sufficient to avoid the necessity of realising fixed assets held for the Charity's use and to cover six months unrestricted expenditure. The level of unrestricted funds needed for these purposes are shown as designated funds.

The Boards strategy is to build reserves to ensure the Charity's obligations are met and also to build surpluses which can be reinvested in developing further services. The Charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board will review the appropriateness of the policy annually.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, 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 charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period. 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 applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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Independent Examiner

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 11 September 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Helen McKenna
Trustee