Trustees Report for finances 2025 - 26

The objects of the CIO are to establish and run a Community Centre and it is for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Murton (area of benefit) without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinions the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

Covid 19 restrictions on the centre had a massive impact and all groups were suspended for a time for safety reasons. Groups are slowly coming back.

Organisational structure

There is a management committee comprising trustees as a 'Foundation Model' Charitable Incorporated Organisation the 7 trustees are the only members. The new constitution allows for a maximum of 8 trustees.

All key decisions are made collectively and in line with the constitution.

Recruitment, skills, and training of trustees

The constitution stipulates the ethos of the trustees that any person wishing to be a trustee of the charity must have a clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and the liabilities of being a charity trustee and have appropriate and relevant skills and experience. Each new trustee must be willing to undertake training and work to further the objects of the charity.

The trustees will accept invitations from any person eligible under the constitution and can demonstrate the skills needed and commitment to the organisation. The Chair, Secretary and an independent person will consider any applications.

Report of Trustees

Introduction

Finance and Funding

We continue to seek new grant funds for community projects and have been successful in our endeavours.

We have a healthy bank balance.

In the period covered by this report we have received funding from a wide range of providers including the East Durham Area Action Partnership, Durham County Council, Public Health, East Durham Trust, Murton parish Council. COOP, Morrisons, ASDA and The Ballinger trust

Key Activities and Services

In addition to running the centre we have managed a range of projects and events throughout the past year.

The Drop-in Community group was set up to reduce isolation for the people of Murton and surrounding areas. The group keep active and share interests which help reduce stress and anxiety and enhances the well-being of all. attending. The group is a vital lifeline that reduces social isolation by increasing social links with the people and other local areas.

Kinit and Chatter group attends once weekly

Teatime club runs once weekly and is for families to come together for meals, crafts, play and learn new skills.

Playgroup runs once weekly and is for babies and toddlers and for mums and dads to socialise together.

Coffee mornings run once weekly and brings together people of all ages.

The group users enjoy the social aspect of meeting up for chats, refreshments, and activities such as craft, puzzles, potting and maintaining plants for our gardens which.
is an ongoing project. They also enjoy trips to various venues of interest. All the groups help reduce isolation in our local and surrounding areas.

We plan to hold a wide range of events that include coffee mornings, social and fundraising events. We will continue to apply for funding to deliver projects in line with our capacity to deliver and the community need.

Public benefit

The organisation's objects are clear in providing the remit for delivery of all activities carried out by the charity.

As can be seen by the wide variety of activity and services, everything we do as an organisation is done so for the benefit of the community and the people of Murton.

We carry out regular consultations with those who use the centre and with our user groups to assess what activities and services they would like us to consider ensuring that we are providing what the public in our area of benefit wants and needs.

The trustees have been relentless in their efforts to making the Centre financially sound and have worked tirelessly to put in procedures to protect the financial management and running of the Community Centre for the benefit of all.

Thanks, from the Trustees

We would like to thank those people, organisations and agencies who have provided ongoing support for the continued development of the Centre and to those who continue to help us flourish and to move forward as a well-managed Community Centre in a positive way to benefit the community.