



**NORTH WEST  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

*Dec 2022 – Dec 2023*

## Chairperson's Message

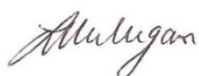
I am delighted to report on another year of achievement for North West Community Network (NWCN). The challenges for the community and voluntary sector over the last year have been significant and the environment within which we work and deliver our programmes is constantly changing. Our collaborative work and partnership approaches are needed more than ever.

To amplify the voices of our members with regard to the funding crisis for the sector we facilitated conversations with our local MLA's as well as highlighting challenges in the local media. This work is set to continue into 2024. We worked in partnership with NICVA to highlight the impact of the cost of living crisis on community and community organisations.

One of the highlights this year for NWCN was to secure £90K in partnership with Developing Healthy Communities and Ulster University to focus on strengthening collaborations between communities and researchers for the benefit of local communities. This work has come about from the learning through the Ideas Fund which highlighted the deeper, structural issues and barriers that often prevent community/research partnerships from developing. This work will contribute to change and the enablement of an improved system to shift and challenge traditional hierarchies around research. We continue to deliver our development coordinator role within the Ideas Fund. Many of these projects are having life-changing impacts in the Derry & Strabane area and communities have told us they feel valued and welcome the community-led collaboration. This type of work is at the core of the ethos of NWCN, community-led approaches and by starting with what matters to them.

We secured Awards for All (NLCF) funding this year to continue our Human Library project. This work continues to challenge stigma and our unconscious bias. It helps to widen perspectives on relevant societal issues and has a significantly positive impact on both participants and our Human Books.

Thank you to the Board of Management for all your hard work over the last year. Particular thanks also to our funders - Department for Communities, DC & SDC Community Support Fund, National Lottery Community Fund and Halifax Foundation whose valuable support enables us to work in the way we do. And thanks to our members and partners for their invaluable collaboration. Finally and importantly, I wish to thank our staff Roisin and Neola for their hard work, commitment and resilience over the last year.



Liam Milligan, Chairperson NWCN

## ***Dec 2022 – Dec 2023***

### ***Top Achievements***

*‘Our vision is of a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable community and voluntary sector in the North West region’*

- ❖ 371 participants benefiting from NWCN activities
- ❖ 9 x NWCN (stand-alone & partnership) events delivered
- ❖ 10 x Human Library Sessions
- ❖ 46 x E-bulletins disseminated
- ❖ 11 x Consultation bulletins disseminated
- ❖ 17 x groups received 1:1 support
- ❖ 6 x NWCN attendance/representation on public bodies & Cross/Sectoral forums
- ❖ Fulfilling role of Development Coordinator, in partnership with Developing Healthy Communities for the Ideas Fund (15 groups receiving support)
- ❖ Securing £90K funding from British Science Association for Infrastructure Project in partnership with Ulster University & Developing Healthy Communities

## NWCN ACTIVITIES DEC 22-DEC 23

This period saw Network involvement in the following range of activities:

### **Engagement events:**

- AGM & Hope Workshop
- Cost of Living Crisis Workshop
- Financial Training Workshop
- Funding Fair with Supp Comm's
- Good Friday Agreement Session
- Human Library Events
- Hustings Event
- MLA Funding Crisis meeting
- PHA Integrated Care Partnership Focus Workshop
- Red Cross & NW Volunteer Centre Volunteering Event

### **NWCN has productively engaged with:**

- British Science Association - The Ideas Fund
- CHOICE
- Community Development Networks Forum (CDNF)
- Collaboration for Change
- Community Dialogue
- Community Places
- Derry City & Strabane District Council: *Strategic Growth Partnership*
- Developing Healthy Communities
- DiverseCity Community Partnership
- Equality Coalition
- Forum for Ageing Better (FAB!)
- Holywell Trust
- Northern Ireland Office
- NI Anti-Poverty Network
- NICVA
- Northern Ireland Public Health Research Network
- Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) – Study Abroad Programme
- 

- REACH Across
- Red Cross
- St Columb's Park House
- The Junction
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Ulster University
- Western Trust Local Planning Group
- Youth Action NI

### **Group Support:**

*Below are some examples of local groups that NWCN has supported, this includes:*

- Clarendon Medical Community
- Compassionate Communities
- Forum for Ageing Better (FAB!)
- Fountain Street Community Association, Strabane
- Foyle Friends of Ukraine
- Foyle Women's Information Network
- Lawrence Hill Residents Association
- Strabane Health Improvement Project
- The Big Lunch

### **Through the Ideas Fund:**

- ARC Fitness
- Dennett Valley She Shed
- In Your Space Circus
- Informing Choices NI
- Parenting NI
- Sion Mills Community Forum
- The Yellow Wood Group
- YMCA

### **Policy/Surveys Submissions & Workshops:**

- DfC Infrastructure Review
- DfC People & Place Review
- EQIA Planning Advice Service
- NIPSO – Improvement & Engagement Consultation
- Response to NICVA's Cost of Living Survey

## **NWCN PUBLIC BENEFITS:**

***The public benefit requirement is defined in the Charities Act and states that purposes must be for the public benefit to be charitable.***

Below are some examples of how NWCN met the Public Benefit 2022/2023

### **The advancement of citizenship or community development**

- Advice such as Governance, Setting up a charity for the first time, Constitutions etc.
- Advice & hands-on assistance on writing funding applications
- Assistance with Interview Panels
- Monthly Consultation Bulletins
- Signposting
- Sharing of relevant information on social media
- Sharing of information such as providing Policies, Articles of Association etc. to member groups
- Strategic Growth Partnership: DCSDC
- Weekly E-bulletins

### **The advancement of health or the saving of lives**

- British Science Association – The Ideas Fund
- Ongoing assistance with the Forum for Ageing Better
- Promoting groups such as HURT & Macmillan etc. regularly
- Providing Networking opportunities through our events

### **The advancement of education**

- Consulting with members regarding training they require
- Future Leaders Mentor
- Good Governance Training
- Hope Project
- Human Library Events
- Staff Attendance at training/seminars & workshops so that our knowledge, understanding and skills can be developed & shared where needed, such as First Aid Training

### **The prevention or relief of poverty**

- Assisting groups with funding applications
- The Ideas Fund
- Active response to the Cost of Living Crisis
- Participation in the Cost of Living Reference Group
- Funding Crisis Response

## NWCN INCOME & EXPENDITURE (as at 31 March 2023)

	Unrestricted Income 2023	Restricted Income 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
<b>Restricted Income</b>				
Dept for Communities	-	60,394	60,394	54,830
Awards For All	-	7,107	7,107	1,270
Big Lottery Fund	-	-	-	620
British Science Association	-	-	-	13,057
John Moores Foundation	-	529	529	568
DCSDC	-	3,677	3,677	2,862
	-	<b>71,707</b>	<b>71,707</b>	<b>73,207</b>
<b>Voluntary Income</b>				
Membership Fees	96	-	96	475
British Science Association	26,613	-	26,613	-
Pacific Lutheran University	7,100	-	7,100	-
Other Income	6,872	-	6,872	2,125
	40,681	-	40,681	2,600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40,681</b>	<b>71,707</b>	<b>112,388</b>	<b>75,807</b>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Wages & Salaries	1000	48,626	49,626	47,748
Programme Costs	-	1,030	1,030	13,057
Programme Costs: John Moore	-	529	529	-
Programme Costs: Awards for All	-	7,107	7,107	-
Programme Costs: PLU	7,100	-	7,100	-
Programme Costs: BSA	13,037	-	13,037	-
Rent & Utilities	-	5,520	5,520	3,950
Insurance	7	1,011	1,018	895
Pension Costs	-	3,068	3,068	2,286
Printing, Posting & Stationery	211	-	211	251
Conferences & Seminars	785	-	785	1,223
Accountancy	60	900	960	840
Training and Course Fees	-	-	-	895
Computer Costs	324	-	324	757
Bank Charges	395	-	395	305
Subscriptions	60	-	60	60
Sundry	187	-	187	105
Depreciation	-	657	657	673
	<b>23,166</b>	<b>68,448</b>	<b>91,614</b>	<b>73,045</b>

### Current Liabilities

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Debtors	761	-
Grants Due	5,794	9,184
	<b>6,555</b>	<b>9,184</b>
Creditors		
Deferred Income	387	11,751
Accruals	2,733	1,657
	<b>3,120</b>	<b>13,408</b>

# NWCN BALANCE SHEET

(as at 31 March 2023)

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets		890		1,547
<b>Current Assets</b>		6,555		9,184
Debtors				
Cash at bank and in hand		46,582		32,810
		<b>53,137</b>		<b>41,994</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	(3,120)		(13,408)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>50,017</u>		<u>28,586</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		50,907		30,133
<b>Net assets</b>		<b><u>50,907</u></b>		<b><u>30,133</u></b>
<b>Funds</b>				
Restricted		10,783		7,524
Unrestricted		<u>40,124</u>		<u>22,609</u>
		<b><u>50,907</u></b>		<b><u>30,133</u></b>

### NWCN Membership 2022-2023

Ally Foyle	Lettershandoney & District Dev Gp
ARC Fitness	Lifestart Foundation Ltd
AWARE Defeat Depression	Mary O'Dwyer
Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum	Maydown Community Assoc
Bridge Accessible Transport	North West Disability Forum
Cathedral Youth Club	North West Forum for Older People
CAUSE NI Ltd	North West Methodist Mission
Derry Youth & Community Workshop	North West Volunteer Centre
Eden Place Arts Centre	Oban on the Foyle
Eliza Browning	Parenting NI
Far and Wild	Shelter NI
Focus on Family	St Columb's Park House
Foyle Friends of Ukraine	The Churches Trust
Foyle Hospice	The Playhouse
Guildhall Press	Waterside Women's Centre
Hillcrest Trust	Women's Centre Derry
HURT	YMCA
Institute Football Club	Youth Action NI
Kinship Care	Zero Waste North West

*We recently began a new membership drive, and we would like to express our gratitude to the above groups for renewing membership with us. We would of course like to expand our membership so that our voice and reach can be further.*

## **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to our Management Committee for their continued support of the organisation:

- Liam Milligan – North West Methodist Mission (Chair)
- Patricia Bray – NW Disability Forum (Treasurer)
- Donna McAnney – John Moore’s Foundation
- Martin McCartney – Maydown Community Association
- Mary Scally – NW Forum For Older People
- Eliza Browning – CAJ
- Nuala Crilly – Waterside Women’s Centre

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Vice Chair Emma Johnston for her years of service to NWCN as she moves on. Emma brought a lot of sunshine to our Committee, hard work, and support, we all miss her.

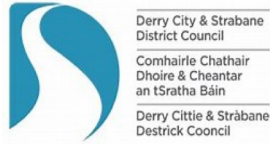
We would also like to welcome on board Eliza Browning and Nuala Crilly as recent Committee members.

We were delighted to welcome a new member of staff to the NWCN team, Ian Lennox. Ian is a student placement who is working hard with us on our new Infrastructure Project, we would also like to thank our recent intern from Denison University, Ohio through the HECUA programme, INCORE – Ricky Gutierrez who was a great help to the work of NWCN.

**During this period NWCN received core & project funding from:**



*Community Investment Fund*



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**Co-ordinator**

*Roisin McLaughlin*

[roisin@nwcn.org](mailto:roisin@nwcn.org)

**Administrator**

*Neola Nelis McCrossan*

[info@nwcn.org](mailto:info@nwcn.org)

**Accountants:**

*McGroarty McCafferty &*

*Company Limited*

*2 Carlisle Terrace*

*Derry BT48 6JX*

**Banking:**

*AIB (NI)*

*Strand Road*

*Derry*