



# ANNUAL REPORT

*Dec 2023 – Dec 2024*



## Chairperson's Message

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the resilience and commitment demonstrated by our team, our partners, and the community. This year has presented us with both challenges and opportunities that have strengthened our resolve to lobby and advocate for our members and the sector. I am excited to share our achievements with you in this report.

One of the highlights this year was our 30 Years celebration event. This was such a lovely opportunity to bring our members together to celebrate the work of the last 30 years and to engage with our members on our future priorities.

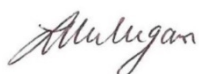
Another highlight from 2024 was our Funding Fair. This was in response to our engagement with members which highlighted the ongoing challenge of sourcing funding. This year we have frequently lobbied for the sector on our local media channels for better terms and conditions and acknowledgement for the incredible work carried out within the sector. We have continued to represent the sector on a wide range of cross-sectoral forums, local and regional.

At the core of all of our work is our collaborative approach. This has been very evident over the last year particularly in strengthening our relationship with the University through our Ideas Fund work and our Community Research Collective. We have continued to fulfil our development coordinator role with the Ideas Fund in partnership with Developing Healthy Communities. 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 had two very successful events this year in March and December to showcase the projects. We are excited as we embark on a new Evidence Building phase with this work.

We continue to deliver our Human Library sessions. 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. We have delivered many of these sessions this year in partnership with others.

Another triumph during 2024 was the work on our HOPE project in partnership with Resilio. Our year long planning culminated in a week of HOPE events at the end of April. Many community groups joined our campaign and organised their own Hope events. We ended the week with a major event in the Guildhall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, opened by the Mayor with the young people of Leap Lessons performing stage, as well as Ardnashee Choir. This was then followed by our biggest Human Library session ever!

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, 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, energy, and commitment over the last year. Let us move forward with determination and enthusiasm for this coming year.



Liam Milligan, Chairperson NWCN

## **Dec 2023 – Dec 2024**

### **Top Achievements**

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

- ❖ 437 participants benefiting from NWCN activities
- ❖ 10 x NWCN (stand-alone & partnership) events delivered
- ❖ 8 x Human Library Sessions
- ❖ 48 x E-bulletins disseminated
- ❖ 11 x Consultation bulletins disseminated
- ❖ 30 x groups received 1:1 support
- ❖ 14 x NWCN attendance/representation on public bodies & Cross/Sectoral forums
- ❖ Continuing to fulfil the role of Development Coordinator, in partnership with Developing Healthy Communities for the Ideas Fund (16 groups receiving support)
- ❖ Development of Derry/Strabane as a District of HOPE, week-long community events and cross-sector collaboration

## NWCN ACTIVITIES DEC 23-DEC 24

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

### **Engagement events:**

- AGM
- Civic Initiative People's Forum
- ComKit Workshop
- Community Leadership Forum
- Day of Hope
- Factcheck NI Workshop
- Funding Fair
- Human Library Events
- MacMillian Coffee Morning
- NW Transport Plan Session
- 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

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

- British Science Association - The Ideas Fund
- CHOICE
- Collaboration for Change
- Community Development Health Network
- Community Development Networks Forum (CDNF)
- Community Dialogue
- Community Places
- Derry City & Strabane District Council: *Strategic Growth Partnership*
- Developing Healthy Communities
- NI Equality Coalition
- Forum for Ageing Better (FAB!)
- Healthy Cities Leadership Group
- Northern Ireland Office
- NI Anti-Poverty Network
- NICVA
- Northern Ireland Public Health Research Network
- NWRC

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

### **Group Support:**

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

- African Caribbean Community Network
- Clarendon Group Committee
- Fountain Street Community Association, Strabane
- Foyle Women's Information Network
- FUSE Art
- Men's Health Improvement Project
- Strabane Health Improvement Project
- Habitat Housing, Farland Way

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

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

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

- NICVA – Concordat Framework Consultation
- Urban Villages and DfC Test & Learn involvement
- Draft Programme for Government 2024-2027 input
- DfC survey on Infrastructure Funding

## **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 2023/2024

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

- Advice such as Governance, Setting up a charity for the first time, Constitutions etc.
- Advice on sourcing funding
- 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
- Member of DC&SDC Strategic Growth Partnership
- Weekly E-bulletins

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

- British Science Association – The Ideas Fund
- Promoting groups that provide health support on a regular basis
- Providing Networking opportunities through our

### **The advancement of education**

- Consulting with members & wider sector regarding training they require
- Good Governance Training
- HOPE Project
- FactCheck NI Training
- 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
- Funding Fair
- Pathways out of Poverty event attendance
- Freeze the Cuts Campaign Group

## NWCN INCOME & EXPENDITURE (as at 31 March 2024)

	Unrestricted Income 2024	Restricted Income 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
<b>Restricted Income</b>				
Dept for Communities	-	52,631	52,631	60,394
Awards For All	-	1,385	1,385	7,107
Halifax	-	126	126	-
British Science Association	-	41,469	41,469	-
John Moores Foundation	-	144	144	529
DCSDC	-	4,000	4,000	3,677
	-	<b>99,755</b>	<b>99,755</b>	<b>71,707</b>
<b>Voluntary Income</b>				
Membership Fees	675	-	675	96
British Science Association	22,627	-	22,627	26,613
Pacific Lutheran University	-	-	-	7,100
Gasyard Wall Feile	760	-	760	-
Other Income	6,872	-	6,872	2,125
	18,250	-	18,250	6,872
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42,312</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,312</b>	<b>40,681</b>
	<b>42,312</b>	<b>99,755</b>	<b>142,067</b>	<b>112,388</b>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Wages & Salaries	-	57,652	57,652	49,626
Programme Costs: Halifax	-	126	126	-
Programme Costs: John Moore	-	144	144	529
Programme Costs: Awards for All	-	1,350	1,350	7,107
Programme Costs: PLU	-	-	-	7,100
Programme Costs: BSA	-	28,366	28,366	13,037
Rent & Utilities	-	5,520	5,520	5,520
Insurance	-	1,104	1,104	1,018
Pension Costs	-	3,068	3,068	3,068
Printing, Posting & Stationery	-	-	-	211
Programmes, Meetings & Seminars	14,964	328	15,292	1,815
Accountancy	-	960	960	960
Computer Costs	738	232	970	324
Bank Charges	275	-	275	395
Subscriptions	60	-	60	60
Sundry	15	-	15	187
Depreciation	-	552	552	657
	<b>16,052</b>	<b>99,402</b>	<b>115,454</b>	<b>91,614</b>

### Current Liabilities

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Debtors		761
Grants Due	6,012	5,794
	<b>6,012</b>	<b>6,555</b>
Creditors		
Deferred Income	30,570	387
Accruals	4,415	2,733
	<b>34,985</b>	<b>3,120</b>

# NWCN BALANCE SHEET

(as at 31 March 2024)

	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Assets		987		890
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors		6,012	6,555	
Cash at bank and in hand		105,506	46,582	
		<b>111,518</b>	<b>53,137</b>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	(34,985)		(3,120)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>76,533</u>		<u>50,017</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		77,520		50,907
<b>Net assets</b>		<b><u>77,520</u></b>		<b><u>50,907</u></b>
<b>Funds</b>				
Restricted		11,076		10,723
Unrestricted		<u>66,444</u>		<u>40,184</u>
		<b><u>77,520</u></b>		<b><u>50,907</u></b>

## NWCN Membership 2023 - 2024

ALLY Foyle	Lettershandoney & District Dev Group
ARC Fitness	International School for Peace Studies Ltd
AWARE Defeat Depression	Lifestart Foundation Ltd
Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum	Mary O'Dwyer
Bridge Accessible Transport	Maydown Community Assoc
Cathedral Youth Club	North West Disability Forum
CAUSE NI Ltd	North West Forum for Older People
Clarendon Community Committee	North West Methodist Mission
Derry Youth & Community Workshop	North West Volunteer Centre
Eden Place Arts Centre	Oban on the Foyle
Eliza Browning	Parenting Focus
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

*Thanks to all our signed-up members, we appreciate your support!  
Interested in becoming a Network Member? Email [info@nwcn.org](mailto:info@nwcn.org)*

## 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 – Committee on the Administration of Justice
- Nuala Crilly – Waterside Women’s Centre

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Executive Committee members for their hard work for another year, we really appreciate all the help and support they provide guiding us in our work.

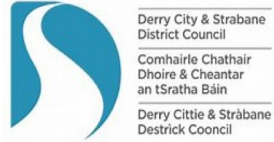
We were delighted to welcome a new member of staff to the NWCN team last year, Ian Lennox. Ian was a student placement who was working with us on our Infrastructure work with Ulster University. We would also like to thank our recent intern – Jacob Martinez, who was placed with us through the HECUA programme. We valued their work and help immensely.

We would also like to thank all of our funders who make the work we do possible!

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



*Community Investment Fund*



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Web: [www.nwcn.org](http://www.nwcn.org)

**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*

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