

Charity Commission No: 100189

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
**Trustee Annual Report and**  
**Receipts & Payments Accounts**  
**for the year: 31 December 2024**

**Star Neighbourhood Centre**  
**79-83 Hillman Street**  
**Belfast**  
**Co Antrim**  
**BT15 2FS**

### **Objectives and Activities**

**Improve the quality of the life of the residents and inhabitants of the Greater NewLodge and its environs. Provide a link between community and housing providers**

**To establish, maintain and manage the housing office**

**Promote and carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research surveys and investigations and publish the results**

### **Achievements and Performance**

The past year has witnessed an increase in our services we offer to the residents of the greater New Lodge area. We continue to work on three major projects:

1. The redevelopment of the Upper Long Streets
2. Working with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive as they attempt to implement their policy of demolishing the seven tower blocks which are situated in the New Lodge area
3. The refurbishment of the dwellings in Duncairn Parade.

There has been a delay in furthering meaningful progress regarding the redevelopment area. The resources afforded to this project by government amount to 35 million pounds and this will see the demolishing of almost 300 old dwellings to be replaced by 123 quality homes. This resource was given over 3 years ago. There has been a small number of objections and this has extended the time frame of starting the actual build. It is hoped that this objection phase will be successfully dealt with in the near future. We continue to assist tenants with their queries regarding house sales, moving grants and their housing rights in general. We ensure that any issues regarding empty dwellings are dealt with as a matter of urgency.

There will be little progress regarding the 7 Towers issue as there is simply no space in the local area for over 430 families who presently reside in the flats to be allocated new homes. We are now looking at a project that will last between 20/25 years. We are ensuring that the refurbishment schemes continue in the existing blocks, and these include new bathrooms and kitchens etc. We assist the tenants with every day issues such as plumbing, dampness and electrical problems etc.

There has been no major decision regarding the dwellings in Duncairn Parade. There is a complication as 50% of the dwellings are privately owned and plumbing, sewage and electrical connections enter both housing executive tenant's homes and those people who own their properties. There has been a small scheme where three dwellings are being refurbished. We constantly assist residents with the issues of general maintenance on a daily basis.

We continue to organise clinics which are of great benefit to all of the residents who live in our local area. They include clinics which are assisting the people who live in the redevelopment area and these take place every Tuesday during the hours of 11am and 1pm. We organise clinics for those people who live in the Tower Blocks, and these take place the second Wednesday of each month. We have a clinic for those people who are homeless, and this takes place on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We organise a clinic for those people who have issues regarding their welfare benefits,

and these happen every Wednesday night and we have added a Tuesday clinic which deals specifically with universal credit issues.

We continue to work with the Sisters of Mercy and the Haven food bank as we deliver food parcels to those vulnerable people and their families who are most at risk. This past Christmas period has witnessed a substantial increase in people asking for food hampers and toys for their children. Our committee organised a Santa Christmas event which was well attended.

We are opened daily and our office really is a hub of activity as we respond to the issues mentioned in this report.

We have been and remain financially secure as we receive funding towards the Housing Workers salary and running costs which ensures we can continue to deliver our project.

We are working with other agencies including the Police, Housing Associations, Social Services and restorative groups as we deal with issues including anti-social behaviour.

Liam Wiggins

Chairperson of the New Lodge Housing Forum

## Financial Review

We are pleased to report that we find the Housing Forum in a healthy condition financially and although we are not by any means here to make money, we do need a modest bank account to insure the future of the forum.

Our current position guarantees our healthy existence for the foreseeable future.

We started the year with a bank balance of £16,780 Secured £49,048 in funding. £35,798 from Housing Executive, £5,000 funding from Newington Housing Association and donations to the value of £8,250, from Sisters of Mercy

We had a spend of £39,139 and ended the year with a bank balance of £26,690

Approved by the Trustees on 10/02/25 and signed on their behalf by   
(Chairperson Signature)

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**  
**YEAR ENDED: 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

**NIC: 100189**

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## Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of New Lodge Housing Forum

Star Neighbourhood Centre report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 4

### Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is Star Neighbourhood Centres responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

Star Neighbourhood centre have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and an examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

### Independent Examiners Statement

Star Neighbourhood Centre have completed an examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above in connection with following the Directions of the Charity commission NI have no matters that require drawing to your attention

Name: Maria Valente  
Company: Star Neighbourhood Centre  
Address: 79-83 Hillman Street  
Belfast  
BT15 2FS

Signed: Maria Valente

Date: 5/2/25

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

NIC:100189

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Rent				
Housing Executive	34,992.54		17,496.26	17,496.26
Grant/Donation		14,056.25	14,056.25	16,469.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,992.54</b>	<b>14,056.25</b>	<b>49,048.79</b>	<b>33,965.26</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Salaries/HMRC	26,244.00		26,244.00	26,631.60
Fees		60.00	60.00	60.00
Gas/Electric/Tele/water		1,566.96	1,566.96	1,418.95
Bank Fees/Donations		10,294.86	10,294.86	6,141.29
Petty Cash		621.83	621.83	541.67
Insurance		268.27	268.27	268.27
Resources/Materials		83.62	83.62	494.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,244.00</b>	<b>12,895.34</b>	<b>12,895.34</b>	<b>35,555.81</b>
<b>Net Receipts/Payments</b>	<b>8,748.54</b>	<b>1,160.91</b>	<b>1,160.91</b>	<b>-1,590.55</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit for the year</b>	<b>8,748.54</b>	<b>1,160.91</b>	<b>1,160.91</b>	<b>-1,590.55</b>
<b>Reconciliation at 31st December 2023</b>				
Surplus/deficit this year end	8,748.54	1,160.91	9,909.45	-1,590.55
bank Balance at 31st December 2023	1,972.30	14,808.57	16,780.87	18,371.42
<b>Bank Balance at 31st December 2024</b>	<b>10,720.84</b>	<b>15,969.48</b>	<b>26,690.32</b>	<b>16,780.87</b>

**NEWLODGE HOUSING FORUM**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES - YEAR ENDED: 31 DECEMBER 2024**

NIC: 100189

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2023	Total 2022
<b>Funds Reconciliation</b>				
opening bank balance	1,972.30	14,808.57	16,780.87	18,371.42
Surplus/Deficit this year end	8,748.54	1,160.91	9,909.45	-1,590.55
<b>Closing Bank Balance</b>	<b>10,720.84</b>	<b>15,969.48</b>	<b>26,690.32</b>	<b>15,780.87</b>

**Other assets**

Computer/Laptop

Printer

photocopier

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on

10/02/2025

(Date)

and signed on their behalf by:

Catherine Cloeb

(Treasurer's Signature)

[Handwritten Signature]

(Chairperson's  
signature)

**1 Basis of Preparation**

These accounts are produced on a Receipts and Payments basis

**2 Trustee remuneration and Expenses**

Trustees received no remuneration for their services, and no Trustees were employed by the charity

3

	opening balance	receipts	payments	Closing Balance
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	14,808.57	14,056.25	12,895.34	15,969.48
<b>Restricted Funds housing Executive</b>	1,972.30	34,992.54	26,244.00	10,720.84
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	1,972.30	34,992.54	26,244.00	10,720.84
<b>Total Funds</b>	16,7808.87	49048.79	39,139.34	26,690.32

**4 Fund Purposes**

Housing Executive support salaries of the Newlodge Worker