

Short Strand Community Forum

TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 May 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 May 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Short Strand Community Forum present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 May 2023.

The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

Objectives

Short Strand Community Forums main objective is to operate a 'cradle to grave' approach of providing services and facilities to local residents. Community development is to the forefront of our work. We engage directly with the community making sense of the issues which affect their lives, setting goals for improvement and taking action through empowerment and participative processes.

We work in partnership with local people and organisations: in conjunction with a number of voluntary, statutory and community organisations. We work to collectively bring about social change and improve the quality of life. Training and education is a big need within the community and we aim to provide assistance to local people to enable them to apply for, and obtain suitable employment through a number of training initiatives.

Our local job club operates every Monday and we provide training and advice for those deemed economically active as well as providing help with application forms and interview techniques. We also provide training and apprenticeships for young people aged between 16-24. Within the community centre, there are various groups aimed at providing care and support for the children in the local area. We also operate both a pre-school and after-school club, computer drop-in centre for 16-25 year olds and a very active senior citizens group which includes a weekly lunch club. A women's group provide services such as social training, aromatherapy, crafts, computer training, keep fit, essential skills and well as a number of other training initiatives.

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

Key Staff and personnel:

Chairperson - Paul McCrory

Senior Developments Worker - Bernie McConnell

The Forum holds regular monthly board meetings which have a good attendance record. All meetings of the Forum or of the committee shall be presided over by a Chairperson or Vice-chairperson, if elected. If either the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson are present, those present may elect one of the aforementioned to take the chair of the meeting. The committee may make such regulations as they consider appropriate for the efficient conduct of the business of the committee and the Forum. They also appoint such staff as they consider necessary on such terms and conditions as they determine.

Board minutes are taken at all official board meetings in the Forum.

An AGM is held every year to discuss the accounts for the Forum and must be held within 15 months of the last AGM.

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

This year we have undertaken more partnership roles in terms of delivery of projects, these have been mainly with organisations such as Training for Women's Network and Belfast Interface Project. Further extensions of funding has also been offered through the Education Authority.

Our role in delivering the Education SIF Project has expanded our profile within East Belfast.

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Financial Review

The Impact of Covid-19 has brought many operational challenges for Short Strand Community Forum, like many other organisations we are endeavouring to build up our resources and services to resume a full programme of events.

Results and Dividends

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £26,325 (2022 - £55,613) and liabilities of £73,955 (2022 - £71,632). The net liabilities of the charity have increased by £(31,611).

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Short Strand Community Forum subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 8 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


Paul McCrory
Trustee