

SOS N.I.

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

Reference and administrative details

The charity name

The legal name of the charity is:- SOS N.I.

The charity is also known by its operating name, SOS Bus N.I.

The charity's areas operation and UK charitable registration

The charity is registered in Northern Ireland with the Charity Commission in Northern Ireland (CCNI) with charity number NIC100247

Legal structure of the charity

The charity is constituted as a a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law, all trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The principal operating address, telephone number, email and web addresses of the charity are:-

Weavers Court Business Park
Belfast
BT12 5GH

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Telephone | 028 9066 4505 |
| Email address | info@sosbusni.com |
| Web address | www.sosbusni.com |

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The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is:-

25 Shore Road
Holywood
Northern Ireland, BT18 9HX

The Trustees in office on the date the report was approved were:-

Mr M J Brooks
Mrs F Douglas
Mr J P Hughes
Mr P Loughins
Mrs S C Henderson
Miss M Dunne
Mr D J Maguire
Mr D G Mark

The following persons served as Trustees during the year ended 31 December 2022 :-

The trustees who served as a trustee in the reporting period, and, if applicable, their dates of appointment or resignation during the year were:-.

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Appointed</i> | <i>Resigned/Retired</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr M J Brooks | | |
| Mr P H Donnelly | | 22 November 2022 |
| Mrs F Douglas | | |
| Mr J P Hughes | | |
| Mr P Loughins | | |
| Mrs S C Henderson | | |

Post year end appointments:

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Miss M Dunne | 15 May 2023 |
| Mr D J Maguire | 15 May 2023 |
| Mr D G Mark | 15 May 2023 |

All the trustees are also members of the charity.

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Objects and activities of the charity

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

The Charity's objects are specifically restricted to the following:

- advancement of health or saving of lives by providing emergency medical treatment and care;
- relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage through the provision of non emergency medical care, treatment, advice, emotional support and sustenance;
- advancement of education of children and young people up to the age of 25 years old including vocational training and training in life skills;
- advancement of citizenship and community development by provision of advice, information and process of referral to professional agencies;
- advancement of education of volunteers including training in health and safety and life skills.

The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes during the year

The main activities undertaken during the year to further those purposes are detailed below.

Night Time Services: Creating Safer Streets. Volunteers provide non-judgemental, caring welfare support to anyone who is in need or feels vulnerable.

Day Time Response Team: Street based talking therapy and crisis intervention. Supporting people with complex lives who struggle to access Mental Health Services and other support networks. This was a Service introduced in 2021, which continued to develop during 2022 following a Pilot Programme designed to understand the need identified by PSNI.

Event Welfare: Part of the multi-agency health and safety team, at Concerts and other major events, SOS provides a Safe Space for mental health intervention, substance use recovery and support to get home safely.

Signposting Project: Volunteer-led initiative to ensure clients who come to the SOS Bus with complex, long-term needs receive the best possible care. Volunteers are trained to effectively signpost clients to partner organisations.

Volunteer Training & Development: Training and equipping volunteers with skills to deliver effective street based interventions. Empowering volunteers to lead the design and development of SOS services.

SOS Bus NI trains and equips volunteers to create Safe Spaces on the streets of Belfast.

SOS Bus NI is a volunteer centred organisation; we are committed to delivering services in partnership. Our programmes are co-designed, developed and evaluated with volunteers, clients and our multi agency partners.

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SOS NI Volunteers are trained to deliver First Aid, Harm Reduction, Place of Safety, Mental Health Intervention, Naloxone, Signposting and Referrals, Suicide De-escalation, Transport to A&E or to Safe Space.

SOS NI works in partnership with those agencies supporting the refugees and asylum providing transportation support to refugee and asylum seeking families being resettled in Northern Ireland.

SOS NI works in partnership with the emergency services, statutory services, other charities, and businesses, schools, universities and community groups to meet the serious social problems that our volunteers encounter, making Belfast a safer place for everyone. Working in close collaboration with the Police and Ambulance service, we are able to clearly evidence our ability to mitigate aspects of crime and lower unnecessary hospital admissions.

The main activities undertaken during the year to further the charity's purpose for the public benefit

The beneficiaries continued to be the general public living in Northern Ireland, particularly children, young people and vulnerable members of the community who are:

- Victims of assault
- Experiencing homelessness
- In fear of violence or crime
- In need of listening ear support
- Victims of substance misuse
- Injured or unwell
- Lonely or isolated
- Experiencing suicidal thoughts

The main activities undertaken during the year to further this purpose are detailed below.

SOS NI deploy the following resources to create spaces and support service delivery:

- 1 sixty foot flexi bus - providing Safe Spaces for anyone in their time of need
- 2 response mini buses SOS Volunteer Teams respond to calls from PSNI, Bars and the public to bring vulnerable people from across the city to the big bus where volunteers can provide in-depth care.

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During 2022, Night Time Response Services were delivered during the Night Time Economy each Friday and Saturday night and at other key identified times, led by a committed group of 14 Team Leaders.

This year the Team welcomed 23 new welfare volunteers and 1 new driver.

1,580 clients were supported on board the SOS Buses. 362 people were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. 178 were experiencing homelessness. 108 mental health interventions were delivered and 14 suicide interventions.

SOS NI delivered Welfare Services at 27 Concerts in partnership with PSNI, Belfast City Council and Event Medical Staff. 690 people were referred for caring welfare support. 17 minors were supported to get home safely. 575 people were given support and a safe space to recover from substance use and 139 listening interventions were delivered.

In response to increasing needs identified by PSNI, SOS NI increased our Daytime Service. SOS NI Response Teams operated a Daytime Service in Belfast City Centre from 2pm - 6pm Monday to Friday. The Programme was led by a volunteer steering group, many of whom have lived experience. The development and delivery of the Daytime Service is co-designed by the community we support; feedback is regularly sought from clients, partners and local businesses through workshops, interviews and informal conversations.

This continuing programme supports service users who struggle to access Mental Health Services and other statutory networks via traditional routes. This Response builds on the 16 years of experience SOS NI has developed through Night Time Services providing support to people, reducing pressure on A&E and Police and signposting them to long term services.

During 2022 Daytime Response Teams provided 1,970 interventions. 586 people were in need of mental health support and 62 were signposted on to a partner organisation for long term support. 640 people were experiencing homelessness. SOS Teams administered naloxone to 8 people who were experiencing opiate overdose.

This year we have continued to adapt our Safe Spaces and ways to signpost; 2022 partners include The Welcome Organisation, Extern, NEXUS, The Rowan Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Stop the Traffik, Public Initiative for the Prevention of Suicide and Harm and Alcoholics Anonymous.

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The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in managing the activities of the charity.

The main achievements and performance of the charity during the year

Results for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 are provided in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 13 of the financial statements.

A summary of the assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2022 are provided in the Balance Sheet on page 16.

The financial statements should be read in conjunction with their related notes, which appear on pages 18 to 29 and have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

In summary:

1. Total incoming resources have increased by 6% to £225,477 (2021: £212,082)
2. Total resources expended have increased by 50% to £288,141 (2021: £192,035)
3. There was a net deficit of £62,664 in the year (2021: net surplus of £20,047).

Fundraising activities during the year

The charity relies on grant aid from the donors identified in the accounts and on the generous donations from individuals and businesses, whose support is valued.

The difference the charity's performance during the year has made to the beneficiaries of the charity and the wider society

The charity's performance during the year has contributed to safeguarding the physical and emotional well being of its beneficiaries.

Wider society has benefitted as the charity's presence has helped to ease pressure on resources such as PSNI, Health Trust, NIAS and Belfast City Council.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The methods used to recruit and appoint new charity trustees

As set out in the charity's Articles of Association, the charity may by ordinary resolution:

- appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee; and
- determine the rotation in which any additional Trustees are to retire.

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No person other than a Trustee retiring by rotation may be appointed a Trustee at any general meeting unless:

- he or she is recommended for re-election by the Trustees; or
- not less than fourteen nor more than thirty five clear days before the date of the meeting, the Charity is given a notice that:
 - is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting;
 - states the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a Trustee;
 - contains the details that, if the person were to be appointed, the Charity would have to file at Companies House; and
 - is signed by the person who is proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed.

All persons who are entitled to receive notice of a general meeting must be given not less than seven nor more than twenty eight days' notice of any resolution to be put to the meeting to appoint a Trustee other than a Trustee who is to retire by rotation.

The Trustees may appoint a person who is willing to act as a Trustee.

A Trustee appointed by a resolution of the other Trustees must retire at the next annual general meeting and must be taken into account in determining the Trustees who are to retire by rotation.

The appointment of a Trustee, whether by the charity in a general meeting or by the other Trustees, must not cause the number of Trustees to exceed any number fixed as the maximum number of Trustees.

The charity's organisational structure

The charity is managed by a diverse and experienced board of trustees supported by a team of dedicated employees and volunteers.

The day to day operational activity of SOS N.I. is board led, supported by 4 employees.

The trustees' bankers and advisors

| | |
|------------|---|
| Bankers | Danske Bank Limited, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS |
| Solicitors | Edwards & Co, 28 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA |

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Financial review

The charity's financial position at the end of the year ended 31 December 2022

The financial position of the charity at 31 December 2022 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Net (expenditure)/income | (62,664) | 20,047 |
| Unrestricted Revenue Funds available for the general purposes of the charity | 219,525 | 282,189 |
| Total Unrestricted Funds | 219,525 | 282,189 |
| Total Funds | 219,525 | 282,189 |

Financial review of the position at the reporting date, 31 December 2022 .

The trustees consider the financial performance by the charity during the year to have been satisfactory, especially given the ongoing economic environment and fluctuations in the regional funding landscape resulting from Brexit, and the resulting concentration of charities seeking funding from a smaller pool of funders. Our fleet of buses was also changed. This included the scrapping of two flexi-buses which had become unsustainable.

The charity generated a cash surplus of £6,203 and adjusted further for depreciation of £2,316 and an exceptional impairment of £66,551 resulting in a deficit for the year of (£62,664).

Policies on reserves.

The Board's objective is to build reserves and hold them at a level equivalent to 6 months operating costs. The Board of Trustees keep this position under constant review.

Details of The Independent Examiner

Mr William Wilson
Member of Chartered Accountants Ireland
25 Shore Road
Holywood
BT18 9HX

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Statement of the Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities (Northern Ireland) Act 2008, as amended and The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the Independent Examiner in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no material inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

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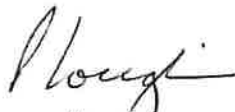
Method of preparation of accounts - Small company provisions

The financial statements are set out on pages 13 to 29.

The financial statements have been prepared implementing the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016), and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016)

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 28 November 2023.



Mr Peter Loughins
Director and Trustee