

STRABANE COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements and the report of the independent examiner for the year ended 31st March 2023. This is a charitable company limited by guarantee and accepted as a charity by HM Revenue and Customs under reference XR14992.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects are to relieve poverty, advance education and for the protection of health among people suffering from the effects of unemployment in Strabane.

The charities main activities are to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Strabane and District without description of sex, race, political, religious or other opinion by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, job training, advisory services to the unemployed and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

Achievements and Performance

The Board were encouraged by numbers enrolled on courses throughout the year. The total from April 2022 to March 2023 amounted to 171, who completed courses in various subjects.

The following Achievements were obtained:

English

6 students received level 2

5 students received entry Level 3.

Maths

5 students received Level 2

2 student received Level 1

ICT

1 students received Level 1

3 student received Level 2

A total of 22 students achieved their exams in English, Maths and ICT in September 2022.

171 students participated in various courses such as Arts and Crafts, Customer Care, Money Management, Start IT, OCN Level 2 in Digital Photography, Learn and Play, Safeguarding children and Young People, Personal Development and The Trauma Bears campaign.

During this year we settled into our new premises which had its own challenges and we also launched our New Digital Hub which will offer Digital Creative Courses to the unemployed in the Strabane District.

STRABANE COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

All achievements and performances have highlighted the need for community learning and the strengths of individual's achievements and performances have highlighted the need for community learning and the strengths of individuals to achieve and build a better future for themselves and generations to come.

National Lottery Funding

We're happy to announce that Strabane Community Unemployed Group is being offered a grant by The National Lottery Community Fund of £353,218.00 for 5 years, to support Digital Learning to individuals in the Strabane and District Area.

This funding will cover the running costs of the new Digital Hub in Strabane town, and will also allow recruitment of 2 new members of staff, for 5 years to help support the daily running of the Digital Hub.

Strabane Community Unemployed Group, will work in partnership with the North West Regional College and other Training providers, to deliver Digital Training to unemployed habitants within the local areas, to promote upskilling, in the field of Digital Technology, which will promote growth and help build new skills and qualifications to the unemployed to create change in their lives.

Strabane Community Unemployed Group will work closely with the National Lottery to oversee that all measures concerning Governing procedures, Finance, Planning, Marketing, Delivering of classes and monitoring is kept within the guidelines of the National Lottery.

Public Benefit

The objectives of the Trust are as listed. The Trust has considered the UK Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and plans to ensure that it provides public benefit and achieves its objectives as set out in the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The direct benefits to the individuals using the service include:

- Increasing opportunities for clients to gain work;
- Provide training which will allow clients to gain skills, confidence, and a sense of achievement and increased social interaction amongst the beneficiaries, by attending classes and having an opportunity of additional support networking with people who have similar experiences.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Strabane Community Unemployed Group Limited is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of Trustees

The Charity Trustees are also Directors of the company. A Trustee is initially elected by the Board in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

In the financial year no new Trustees were appointed, and none resigned. The Board as a whole was approved by the AGM and continues to monitor its membership.

STRABANE COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

Organisation

The Board of Trustees which administers the Trust meets throughout the year as required.

Risk Review

The management committee has conducted its own review into the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charitable company.

Financial Review

The Company returned a net surplus in funds of £80,539 (2022: £9,127 deficit) after other recognised gains and losses. The results for the year are shown in pages 9 to 17.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level which will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of funding has been maintained throughout the year. The Trust aims to continue to increase reserves to ensure the stability of its services, employment and everyday operations of the organisation.

Going Concern

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The principal factors underlying this judgement include:

- Current levels of financial performance by comparison with budgeted expectations;
- Continuing support from local bodies

Accordingly, the Trust continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Independent Examiners

A resolution for the reappointment of Sinead O'Doherty as Independent Examiner of the Trust is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Strabane Community Unemployed Group for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

STRABANE COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Statement of Disclosure to Independent Examiners

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information of which the company's independent examiners are unaware. Additionally, the Trustees have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as Trustees in order to make themselves aware of all relevant information and to establish that the company's independent examiners are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Board on 30/06/23 and signed on its behalf by:

Daniel J O'Hagan

Mr D O'Hagan (Director and Trustee)

Gerard Devlin

Mr Gerard Devlin (Director and Trustee)