

STRABANE COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 2024. 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 and to provide advance education for the protection of mental health issues among people suffering from the effects of unemployment in Strabane and surrounding areas.

The Charity's main activities are to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Strabane and District without description of sex, race, political, religious or other opinion 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 2023 to March 2024 amounted to 175, who completed courses in various subjects.

The following Achievements were obtained:

English

6 students received Level 2

Maths

4 students received Level 2

ICT

2 students received Level 2

A total of 12 students achieved their exams in English, Maths and ICT in September 2023. Also 8 students received accredited OCN Level 2 in Digital Skills, and 6 students received OCN Level 2 Using imaging Software & using presentation Software (Photoshop).

149 students participated in various courses and workshops such as Arts & Crafts, Customer Care, Money Management, Start IT, Learn & Play, Safeguarding Children and Young People, 3D Printing, Virtual Reality, iPad Training, Creative Writing Club, Makaton etc.

During the year, the project worked in partnership with various organisations to support and encourage inhabitants, to learn new skills and build on qualifications to enable individuals to gain employment and to help build a better future for families for generations to come.

The project introduced a new service this year to the project, Dove House Advice NI, to support inhabitants around the district with an Advice Service to enable them to receive advice on Benefits

STRABANE COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYED GROUP

and help with completing applications online, and also to support them with guidelines on repaying Debt that they might have incurred due to the cost-of-living expenses.

This service is crucial for learning, people who receive welfare advice experience lower anxiety better general health, better housing stability.

All achievements and performances have highlighted the need for community learning and the strengths of individual's achievement and growth within one-self. This new learning has increased ones confidence and has shown the project that individuals really do wish to achieve in life.

The project this year, is still working in partnership with the NWRC, and Skills North West, to deliver educational courses, and recreational courses to address the learning needs of the community. We also work in partnership with the local schools, Social Services and other community groups to prioritise those most in need, to help better one's life.

Funding.

National Lottery Funding, is still available for the next three years, up to Sept 2027, to support the project, for the educational training and needs of the community. This funding has allowed the project to employ 2 individuals, to help with the daily running of the project. And to help with running costs and Tutor fees and student fees.

This year the Sisters of Mercy has donated £10,000 pounds to help with providing additional training in educational and recreational programmes for the benefits of individuals to want to upgrade on their educational skills.

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 £37,289 (2023: £80,539 surplus) 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 1/8/2024 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)