

Survivors of Trauma Limited

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Survivors of Trauma's main objectives are to offer a support network to all those people who have been affected both directly and indirectly as a result of the 'Troubles'. Our centre acts as a catalyst for victims and survivors to continue on their journey towards healing. Through mutual understanding, friendship, education and therapy treatments, users of the centre empower themselves to reintegrate back into society.

Public benefit

Survivors of Trauma provide services for victims and Survivors of the NI 'troubles' as defined under the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

- (a) someone who has been physically or psychologically injured as a result of or in consequence of a conflict related incident.
- (b) someone who provides a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for an individual mentioned above.
- (c) someone who has been bereaved as a result of or in consequence of a conflict related incident.

The relief of those in need - The direct benefits that flow from this purpose include: improved quality of life amongst victims and survivors of trauma living in the BT14 area through greater access to high quality services that meets identified needs.

The advancement of health - The direct benefits that flow from this purpose include: reduced levels of stress and anxiety, increased level of wellbeing for victims and survivors dealing with trauma.

The advancement of education - The direct benefits that flow from this purpose include: enhanced interpersonal skills, personal and professional development.

Providing recreational facilities in the interests of social welfare - The direct benefits that flow from this purpose include: greater sense of connectedness, social inclusion and accessibility to high quality services for victims and survivors.

These benefits are demonstrated through consistent monitoring and evaluation against quality standard framework, beneficiary feedback and project evaluations. Benefits are demonstrated through feedback and assessments.

The trustees have had regard to CCNI's guidance on public benefit.

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ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Chairperson's Report

A tentative return to normal service at the beginning of 2022 meant that Our Victims and Survivors Programme (VSP) slowly reached full capacity as we closed in on our third quarter. We were then able to plan our activities for the coming year with a little more confidence which was in complete contrast to the previous two years of COVID.

It has been a busy period for therapeutic services with our CT team delivering over 500 hours of complementary therapies and a weekly timetable of talking therapies steady and consistent up to year end. Our social support programme provides opportunity for users to engage with one another helping to reduce isolation for many. Classes this term include yoga, painting, bodhran making, wood turning and bog oak carving as well as two separate genealogy workshops and jewellery making classes.

Two daytrips took place this year one to Derry and Glenveagh National Park stopping of for dinner on return leg and another fun day out at an Eden Pottery Class in Millisle. In addition to the funded activity three volunteer led projects continue to evolve and go from strength to strength. We were both excited and delighted as our candlelight remembrance evening returned as a 'live' event this year. As ever the evening was very well attended and well received with users commenting on 'how important the event is' and 'It's a great evening for everyone to come together in acknowledgement'.

We have been successful this year with a grant application made to the National Lottery Community Fund (People and Communities). We were absolutely delighted to receive the funding which meant that we could carry out important renovations to the roof which had fallen into disrepair, the funding also meant that we could install solar panels. The Halifax Foundation NI also helped us greatly this year by funding the annual cost of our cleaning service and a mandatory electric inspection. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to both the Lottery and to the Halifax Foundation for their investment in the work of the organisation which has really made a huge difference. Finally, a big thank you to management, staff, and volunteers for the dedication and hard work in helping to achieve our goals this year

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The company had net outgoing resources for the year of £5,780 (2021: net outgoing resources of £15,971), which reflected the completion of a number of projects during the year. Unrestricted funds increased by £4,631, while restricted funds decreased by £10,411.

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy is to retain a level of free reserves, which matches the needs of the organisation both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The charity has developed a plan to establish and maintain this agreed level of free reserves. The charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board will review the appropriateness of the policy annually.

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Report of the Trustees **for the Year Ended 31 December 2022**

FUTURE PLANS

As we enter the final stages of a one-year extension to the Victims and Survivors Programme we are preparing ourselves for another 'roll on' which will take us up to March 31st 2024. It is envisaged that a funding call for longer term programmes could well be on the table close to the end of 2023 and if successful it would provide us with some stability for longer term planning. However, in the absence of a fully functioning Executive and the delay with the new victim's strategy makes it difficult to plan anything beyond this current funding period. We continue to work collaboratively with all our social partners in helping to shape the future landscape of the sector and prioritise the health and wellbeing needs of victims and survivors in our community. The recent launch of the Permanent Disabled Payment Scheme (PDPS) and the UK governments Legacy and Reconciliation Bill have raised many questions amongst victims and survivors and organisations representing their needs. There are considerable challenges in regard to 'dealing with the past' and the absence of any 'accountability' in the UK L&R Bill 2022 is deeply concerning. We also continue to question the eligibility criteria of the injured payment scheme that ignores 'the bereaved'. The organisation has managed quite well demonstrating a dedicated professional approach to delivering services and as ever we are ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The method used to recruit new trustees onto the board is that of the board networking through their own contacts to find someone who fits the necessary requirement at the time.

Charitable Status and Registration

Survivors of Trauma Limited was registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19th August 2014. Its Charity number is NIC 100565.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The principles of good governance are embedded within all aspects of Survivors of Trauma Limited operations with management and staff being keenly aware of the Boards responsibility of ensuring that the organisation protects itself from financial exposure and reputational damage, A close working relationship is maintained between the Board and management to ensure that operationally staff are aware of the standards required of them by the Board and the Board are always in a position to provide guidance and support to management in the discharge of their duties. This two way relationship is the key feature of Survivors of Trauma Limited governance arrangements and is a key strength in the company.

A conscientious approach to ensuring that contractual project requirements are achieved has been maintained at all times both in the accounting period being reported on and since Survivors of Trauma Limited establishment. Very tight financial controls on expenditure and all financial commitments are maintained at all times and project staff have been trained and have become experienced in budgetary controls. In both these areas ie Project delivery and financial controls management all staff have established close working relationships with funding organisations to ensure all mandatory standards are consistently achieved. Board representatives also actively engage with funding bodies.

The Board, management and staff are fully aware that the nature of the work in which Survivors of Trauma Limited is involved can bring with it a high level of scrutiny to ensure that all activities are fully compliant with funding requirements and, therefore, beyond reproach. The Board of Survivors of Trauma Limited is, therefore, greatly reassured of the company's compliance with the highest of standards of governance on the basis that all monitoring and evaluation of project delivery demonstrates achievement of all funders objectives and that funders' audits and vouching of financial expenditure and the Independent Examiners Report confirm compliance with both probity and regularity in the use of monies received.

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Survivors of Trauma Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- 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 charitable company will continue in business.

Survivors of Trauma Limited

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14 February 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Stewart', is written over a faint horizontal line.

Joe Stewart (Chairperson) - Trustee