



Survivors of Trauma Limited

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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 2023. 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

It was business as usual as we entered January bringing to a close our final quarter in the first three months of the year and commencing a new programme of work beginning April 1st 2023. Following a two-year funding extension in 2020 we were once again presented with a further twelve months 'roll on' which would take us up to March 2024.

It can be challenging tied to a programme budget which has remained relatively the same for the third year in a row, VSS throughout the years previously have put out funding calls for additional resources which have been welcome. It is however difficult to plan outside normal activities when constrained by a fixed budget particularly with the rising cost of absolutely everything. Nonetheless we have managed to deliver a successful programme of Personal & Professional Development (PPD) and Health & Wellbeing (HWB) services achieving targets and outputs in line with workplans.

Our complementary therapies programmes as ever has been in high demand with figures set to exceed what was initially anticipated. Our counselling service delivered on a relatively small budget is also set to achieve anticipated targets. We delivered two separate daytrips this year with one group heading off to Navan and another participating on a guided tour of the Belfast hills. Classes delivered under PPD included soft furnishings, painting, genealogy, wood carving, yoga, and craft workshops.

Our end of year candlelight remembrance evening was a perfect opportunity for members and their families to come together in shared acknowledgement of all those people that we have lost. Further activities at the centre this year have been three voluntary led programmes which include virtual Pilates, guitar lessons and a gardening club. 2023 was a good year for sourcing additional grants and once again we received a successful outcome from an application made to the National Lottery (Awards for All). The grant totalling £4800 will be used to purchase new electric treatment couches, so a huge thank you to The National Lottery once again.

This year we saw the first of our financial rewards from the power generated by the solar panels that were installed with the help from the Lottery in 2022. This is a fantastic return which can be reinvested in our activities and/or additional running costs, for example, the £1162 received from POWER NI is equal to 30 counselling sessions. For the second year in a row The Halifax Foundation NI have supported the annual cost of our cleaning service and helped us upgrade our recreation room with new fitted carpet throughout.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to both the Lottery and to the Halifax Foundation for their investment in our work it really makes a huge difference. Finally, on behalf of the Board I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to outgoing coordinator Marie Close who retired this year. Marie was a founder member of the organisation a fervent advocate for victims and survivors and a tireless worker for the organisation and we wish her the very best in her retirement and for the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The company had net incoming resources for the year of £2,722 (2022: net outgoing resources of £5,780), which reflected the completion of a number of projects during the year. Unrestricted funds increased by £7,583, while restricted funds decreased by £4,861.

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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FUTURE PLANS

I can't escape the feeling of DeJa'Vu as I write of yet another one-year extension to our current funding under the Victims and Survivors Programme. However, on a much more positive note it is envisaged that a new funding call for longer term programmes could well be on the table close to the end of this year.

A solid funding structure is what we need and if successful it would provide us with some stability to plan for longer term goals. Internal developments aside it has been an eventful year ending with the imminent departure of the current Victims Commissioner, a new Victim's Strategy finally launched and currently out for consultation. Yet still in the absence of a fully functioning Executive we have many unanswered questions particularly regarding legacy and the need for redress of bereaved victims highlighted in a recent Queens University publication.

We welcome Luke Moffet and Kevin Hearty's paper an important step towards acknowledging the need for reparations for those bereaved during the troubles. We will 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.

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

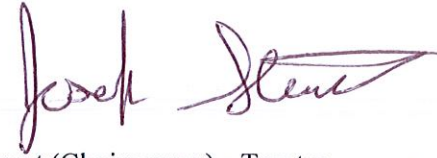
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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

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 4 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Stewart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Stewart (Chairperson) - Trustee