

## CATHOLIC GUIDES OF IRELAND – NORTHERN REGION

### TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Charity is governed by its constitution and is constituted as a charity under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The Trustees of the charity are nominated in terms of the constitution. A Trustee must be a member of the Charity or the nominated representative of an organisation that is a member of the Charity.

The Board of Trustees manage and administer the Charity. Day to day operations and decisions of Catholic Guides of Ireland – Northern Region are undertaken through regular discussion between the Trustees.

#### **Objectives and Principal Activities**

The Charity's mission is to provide a challenging Guiding programme within a safe environment, to enable all girls and young women to develop their full potential.

The Charity's vision is to be a positive, all-inclusive community movement on the island of Ireland empowering girls and women to recognise the contribution they make to society.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

The Charity made a net outflow of funds during the year ended 31 March 2024 of £31,882 (2023: £18,482 outflow).

The Charity was involved in funding charitable projects to achieve its stated objectives during the year. The Charity has assessed and is satisfied with the impact of its funding to these activities.

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

##### **1. The advancement of Citizenship or Community Development**

The Catholic Guides of Ireland Northern Region delivers a programme to girls and young women aged 5 to 25 years that aims to increase their confidence, skills and knowledge so that they become active, responsible citizens.

The programmes are age-specific, progressive and challenging. They allow the children and young people to build friendship, work as part of a team, make decisions and take on leadership roles at many levels. The programmes are delivered by a team of well trained, committed volunteers who ensure that programme delivery takes place within a safe non pressured environment where the children and young women have fun, develop their potential, and gain an understanding of their role in both home and society and also the responsibilities that these roles bring.

##### **2. The advancement of Religion**

The work of the Catholic Guides of Ireland Northern Region is underpinned by our Catholic values and ethos and our commitment to encourage our members to live their lives using the moral values of Respect, Integrity, and Service.

We take a holistic approach to develop the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual abilities and wellbeing of all our members. Although we are a Catholic organization membership is open to all sections of the community and we have a strong emphasis on cross community work, equity and diversity which is aligned with our Christian values and beliefs.

## CATHOLIC GUIDES OF IRELAND – NORTHERN REGION

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 3. The advancement of Education

The guiding programme is delivered in a way that encourages each member to do her best and strive for more. Our principals are based on learning by doing, seeing, firsthand experiences, support and encouragement. All members are listened to, their opinions respected, and their achievements celebrated. Our informal learning experience is designed to build confidence, be fun and allow the children and young women to make the choices that enable them to reach their full potential.

Our programmes and delivery methods are reviewed on a regular basis and are supported, recognized and monitored at local, national and international levels within the guiding community.

#### Financial Review

The Trustees are satisfied with the financial position of the Charity at the year-end 31 March 2024. The Charity has managed its incoming resources effectively in the year under review.

The balance of funds at 31 March 2024 is £399,544 (2023: £431,426). This is held as £12,511 in unrestricted funds and £387,033 in restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are held by the Charity to cover specific expenses during the period including an apportionment of wages costs, light and heat, insurance, and accountancy fees.

The principal funding in the year under review was derived from the Education Authority.

Catholic Guides of Ireland – Northern Region has nineteen units/sections of Catholic Guides in the Region which fall within the common trust of the Northern Region and qualify as branches as defined by the Charities SORP 2019. The accounts for the individual branches have not been included in the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 which is not in line with the requirements of the SORP. This is because the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland has stipulated that the branches cannot all be registered under one umbrella as they are considered to be separate entities and therefore each is registered as a charity individually. This process has been completed.

The last financial year has been financially stable because we were in a further one-year cycle of funding under the Education Authority's New Funding Scheme until 31 March 2024. We have continued to engage with our members and participation at events and training has continued. We have continued to take part in successful recruitment drives with our national association and have been engaging and meeting with volunteers to address their concerns and challenges.

Financial implications for the next financial year will continue to include registration and affiliation fees. However, given the economic climate and budget restrictions we are unsure about the future of our funding with the Education Authority past March 2026 and must wait and see what new funding will be available. We are also looking at diversifying our funding and grant applications. We have been successful in our application for Strategic and Development Funding until 31 March 2026 and hope that further budgets can be agreed after that date to allow stability and planning for the future.

We have no pension implications. Our debtors relate to uniform sales and we have funds to pay our creditors as they fall due.

## CATHOLIC GUIDES OF IRELAND – NORTHERN REGION

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (FRS 102).

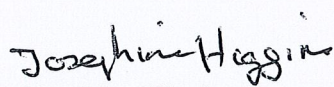
The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

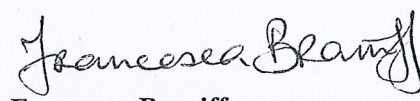
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

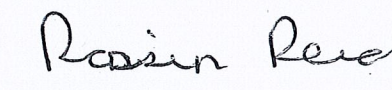
The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Trustees 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.

On behalf of the Trustees

  
Josephine Higgins  
Chair

  
Francesca Braniff  
Treasurer

  
Roisin Reid  
Secretary

Date: 4 November 2024

