

*St Peter's Youth Club
Community Sports Hall
99 North Street
LURGAN
Co Armagh
BT67 9AH*

2022/23 Summary Report for the Charity Commission NI

From: Jim Magee
Trustee/Secretary

Date: 3rd January 2024

Introduction

The status of St Peter's Youth Club Lurgan remains unchanged insofar as it operates on a part-time basis and is affiliated to the Education Authority (EA) from which it receives some financial assistance. Despite significant growth in its membership base, the level of this financial support remained limited throughout the year-ending March 2023 and required St Peter's Youth Club to fund the salaries of its volunteer youth workers-in-charge and its caretaker/cleaner from its own reserves. These payments continue to be managed and processed by Daly Park Auditors & Accountants.

Under instruction from the Education Authority, the Youth Club's constitution was updated, however, its overall aim remains unchanged, i.e., *"to provide, maintain and promote facilities and activities of a social, spiritual, educational and recreational nature with the object of improving the conditions of the lives of children & young people without distinction of their gender, political, religious or other opinions"*.

The Youth Club functions Tuesday & Friday nights, from 6pm to 9pm, 42 weeks of the year between 1st April to 31st March. Despite limited EA funding, the Youth Club continued to offer various youth-centred programmes and activities for its growing membership, including – life-skills, arts, music, dance, digital technology, sports, etc to meet its members' educational, recreational & spiritual needs.

Funding

As stated above, the Youth Club can apply to EA for limited funding, e.g., equipment should this be required. A full financial report, independently compiled by Daly Park, Lurgan, accompanies this summary report along with the Youth Club's public benefit statements.

Conclusion

Year ending 31st March 2023 was particularly challenging but by adopting a "can-do" attitude coupled with determination, creativity and fun, and by encouraging the children

& young people to propose activities they would enjoy doing within a safe environment, we have seen our membership rise to 130 with 75% attending on a weekly basis.



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St Peter's Youth Club Lurgan: Public Benefit Statement 1

Benefit Element

Purpose

To offer its members a range of programmes with particular focus on those activities which:

- Encourage healthy & positive lifestyle choices;
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of risks associated with substance misuse; and
- Support and enhance the cultural traditions of St Peter's Club.

What benefit flows from this purpose?

Benefit flows from the above purpose in a number of ways, including:

- Members of the Youth Club are advised/aware of the negative impacts of substance misuse and therefore more likely to choose healthy lifestyles and less likely to self-harm;
- There is less chance the children & young people will become involved in anti-social behaviour;
- Members are involved in a variety of positive activity, including sport, arts, drama etc, which facilitates their development, leadership & interpersonal skills.

Can you demonstrate this?

Yes. Many of the children & young people who have been members of St Peter's Youth Club have gone on to mature into excellent role models and contribute much to the health & wellbeing of the local community which has seen a significant decrease in crime and anti-social activity in recent years.

Is there any harm or possibility of harm outweighed by the benefit?

In educating our young people on matters such as substance misuse, there is potential they could go on to self-harm or opting for poor life-style choices. However, the likelihood of this happening is extremely low and therefore any such possibility is outweighed by the benefit.

Public Element

Who is the benefit for?

The benefit primarily relates to the children and young people who attend St Peter's Youth Club but it also extends to the families of those children & young people, as well as the Club's youth workers & volunteers, members of the wider St Peter's Club and people from the local community.

Is there any private benefit? Is it incidental or necessary?

By providing and sustaining the Youth Club and the range of activities therein, the Club's youth workers and its volunteers, which include its trustees, develop various knowledge & skills – leadership, financial, interpersonal and good governance that are framed within its structures, policies and procedures that meet good practice.

Signed:  _____ Date: 3rd January 2024

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St Peter's Youth Club Lurgan: Public Benefit Statement 2

Benefit Element

Purpose

To develop a partnership between young people and adults throughout the Club with support from their families and the local community.

What benefit flows from this purpose?

Benefit flows in a number of ways, including:

- Members of the Youth Club and the youth workers in charge & volunteers develop healthy mutual understanding, trust and respect that enable the children & young people to develop, grow their confidence and hone their communication, leadership and interpersonal skills;
- Greater understanding of the needs & expectations of the children & young people shared by the members of St Peter's Club who are then better placed to respond to those needs & expectations;
- Family and community engagement are at the heart of all programmes & activities that operate within St Peter's Youth Club and throughout the wider St Peter's Club.

Can you demonstrate this?

Yes. Parents & guardians of the children & young people who attend the Youth Club are required to register their children & young people; youth workers & volunteers engage the parents & guardians face to face, when they drop off & collect the children & young people; and the children & young people, parents/guardians, and members of the wider St Peter's Club are encouraged to attend information/education events facilitated by outside agencies as well as end of year award evenings that are organised by youth workers, coaches, trustees and committee members. This affords everyone the opportunity to better appreciate the collective efforts to develop and improve the children & young people.

Is there any harm or possibility of harm outweighed by the benefit?

There is low but manageable risk that the children & young people attending St Peter's Youth Club could be mistreated. However, the Youth Club, which is affiliated to the Education Service for NI, operates safeguarding practices in line with good practice and its youth workers & volunteers are vetted via Access NI. In addition, parents & guardians are encouraged to call in at any time during Youth Club activities so as to be confident the children & young people are within a safe and supportive environment.

Public Element

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St Peter's Youth Club Lurgan: Public Benefit Statement 3

Benefit Element

Purpose

- To give members of St Peter's Youth Club the opportunity to express their views and to participate in the planning and management of their own activities;
- To encourage members of the Youth Club to make a positive contribution to their local community through service to others.

What benefit flows from this purpose?

Benefit flows in a number of ways, including:

- Members of the Youth Club and the older members in particular, have a greater understanding on why one must plan, prioritise and manage resources and evaluate programmes & activities to ensure they remain fit for purpose and add value, all of which are life-skills and help them to develop individually and collectively;
- Putting forward their own thoughts & ideas to help shape the Youth Club programmes & activities leads to better outcomes and greater satisfaction shared by the members themselves;
- Local peoples' perception of the children & young people is more likely to be positive if they are seen to be doing things to improve the local community.

Can you demonstrate this?

Yes. The children & young people are regularly invited to put forward ideas for Club programmes & activities and asked to give their feedback. The older members also take part in the Club's annual remembrance service for deceased members & friends of St Peter's Club and all are encouraged to participate in fundraising activities for local good causes, which further connects the children & young people with the local community.

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