

**Downs and Proud
Trustees Annual Report**

The trustees present their report with the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity No. NI00075

Principal Office

11 Fox's Glen
Lurgan
Co. Armagh
Northern Ireland
BT67 9ER

Trustees

The following trustees served during the year:

A. Beatty
J. Bunting
C. Heaney
A. McAlinden

Accountants

Byrne McCann & Co. Ltd.
67 Edward Street
Lurgan
Co. Armagh
BT66 6DD

Bankers

Danske Bank
P.O. Box 183
Donegall Square Wes
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT1 6JS

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

To create and develop the conditions which will enable people with Down's syndrome to attain their full potential and to undertake any other charitable activities in connection with Down's syndrome in the Lurgan area.

Downs and Proud Trustees Annual Report

Down's & Proud is a public benefit as it enhances the lives of people with Down's syndrome and their families primarily in the Lurgan area but it is also available to anyone in Northern Ireland via our social media pages and telephone contact. It helps our children build friendships and allows them to grow up together. We run an annual Summer Scheme for all of the children in our group and hire qualified assistants to look after the children to ensure their safety requirements are fully met. We provide all aspects of support for our children and their families as and when required. We want to make sure the parents are happy and have adequate support and information to help with decisions they may face throughout their child's education and beyond. We also provide financial assistance for various reasons for example educational aides and speech programs. We have our own weekly Tell Takes Speech Club. We have 3 qualified co-workers which under the guidance of a speech therapist hold weekly speech sessions for the children in Down's & Proud. This gives the children the extra help they need with their speech and also encourages friendships within the group. We aim to provide support and a listening ear for those who want to share their thoughts and experiences.

Down's & Proud aim to raise awareness of Down's syndrome, as the more people are aware and educated about the condition, the easier it will be on our children. These benefits are demonstrated through positive feedback from parents and families and the actual improvements in the capabilities of children who are involved in the group. There is no harm or private benefit flowing from the purposes.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

We have achieved so much throughout the year. We have ongoing Speech Clubs on a weekly basis which has improved the children's speech and signage dramatically. We ran a very successful two-week Summer Scheme that allowed both respite care for the parents and also learning and development for all of the children. The children got to go on several trips throughout the two weeks as well as participating in many external entertainment programmes that we hire into the Summer Scheme. We split the activities so that we had activities for the younger toddlers and babies such as Blossom Mindfulness and Playaway NI and other activities for the older children e. g. football golf, Bowling and sports games. We also had joint activities and entertainment such as Wee Wonders, Fit Mind Coach and Music Therapy Sessions. We continued with Football Camp for all our members. The children attended weekly training sessions for which the Down's & Proud football team took part in football tournaments in Newry and Derry which involved teams with disabilities from all over. We also held a tournament this year at South Lakes Leisure Centre welcoming teams from Newry and Derry. It was a very successful day. We also have weekly Singing Sessions which the children enjoy so much. We had a Christmas Singing Showcase in St. Peters Church which hundreds of people attended. It was a great day all round. We have worked hard this year at creating awareness by holding fundraising events during the year and publicising these events and publicising this via social media. We also create great awareness by issuing promotional clothing and merchandise. Our main achievement throughout the year has been the happiness of our children and their families.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves remain healthy. However, this year saw a deficit of expenditure over income of £2988, and whilst it is relieving to have left the disappointing results of last year behind, there is a determination to return the charity to profit as soon as possible. Covid-19 and the Cost of Living Crisis have resulted in greater challenges in the charity sector.

The charity's policy is to hold reserves in order to continue with its aims in future periods if financial uncertainty or significant decreases in income should occur.

There are no foreseen uncertainties at the year end. Reserves remain healthy at £34,743 as at 31/01/2024.

Downs and Proud

Trustees Annual Report

Down's & Proud work hard to raise enough funds to allow the various activities, education clubs, summer scheme and purchases of educational aides to occur. Being able to spend the funds on items that aid our children to reach their potential means we are meeting our objective.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



A. Beatty

Trustee

30 October 2024