

## **New Horizons Partnership Limited** **Trustees' Report**

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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 2015).

The trustees, who are also directors for the purpose of company law and who served during the year end and up to the date of this report are as follows:

Shirley Hamilton  
Eamon McColgan  
Christine Doherty  
Bill McIntyre  
Eoin McDonald

Peter McLaughlin  
Patricia McCormack  
Kathleen O'Donnell  
Linda McIntyre  
Patricia Hegarty (resigned 5 June 2021)

### **Principal activities**

The charity's principal activity during the year was to provide training, vocational and inclusive community opportunities for people with learning/intellectual disabilities across the North West border region; developing best practice and sharing it within and outside the region.

### **Structure, governance and management**

New Horizons Partnership Limited ("New Horizons") is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status, incorporated on the 2nd January 2008, and registered as a charity in Northern Ireland in 2015. The company was established under Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the winding up of the company each member is required to contribute no more than £5.

The trustees of the charity when elected serve until the next annual general meeting at which they must be re-elected.

The management operate a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance, but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include the;-

- regular consideration by the trustees of progress reports regarding operational activities. These are carried out detailing performance indicator levels such as participant numbers and financial breakdowns. Any deviations from targets are highlighted and contingency actions are implemented.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties among staff.
- identification and management of risks to which the charity is exposed.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the charity are to provide services in order to support learning disabled clients to fulfill their vocational potential and to achieve a greater level of independence. Since 1995 New Horizons has developed a range of services to help people with learning disabilities to realise their full potential.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning for future activities and setting the policy for the year.

## **New Horizons Partnership Limited** **Trustees' Report**

The Charity focuses on four main areas of operational activity:

- Training - to equip clients with specific vocational and life skills.
- Community Opportunities - clients follow a realistic and achievable vocational path through placements with local employers, centred around the client, for the client and by the client.
- Social Enterprises - currently 1 horticultural enterprise in Strabane. Unfortunately as a consequence of Covid-19, 3 catering social enterprises:- Allstate Canteen, Derry City and Strabane District Council canteen and Café Horizons ceased March 2020. Strabane Garden Centre continues to provide vocational opportunities of our clients and this social enterprise continues to be an excellent example of how New Horizons has achieved the equality and inclusion of our service users within their placements and their wider community. Our service users have the opportunity to apply the skills and competencies they have developed on our training programmes in a supported practical work environment, as well as providing opportunities for the public to observe the real meaningful work the trainees do.
- Development of Learning resources - for organisations that provide training and services to individuals with a learning disability. These are a series of learning resources and programmes designed to teach individuals with learning disabilities essential skills in the areas of work and travel. Newhop Skills for Work consists of eight units of general work skills content and four units of vocationally-orientated content. Newhop Skills for Travel is an accredited complete travel training programme for organisations working with people with learning disabilities, who wish to teach their end users safe, independent travel.

### **Achievements and performance**

New Horizons Partnership Ltd, like so many, continued to be impacted by COVID-19 during the 2021 year. This pandemic has impacted severely on every part of our society and on our economy. In the face of such adversity, New Horizons Partnership Ltd tailored its mission statement to best support its referred individuals living with learning disability; ensuring that the appropriate skills and resilience necessary to deal with the impact of COVID-19 are taught and reinforced. Management and staff right across the organisation worked tirelessly throughout to ensure that quantity and quality of service provision remained expected levels albeit delivery in alternative ways (e.g. remotely/digitally).

The use of up-to-the-minute technology and the offering of online support enabled the measured return to blended service delivery, where service users were supported both face to face and remotely. The organisation's response had to be both creative but also careful in order to fully protect the people we support, their families, our staff and the wider community. Our focus strongly shifted to supporting mental health, to providing education on keeping safe, more fun activities and above all to keeping all of our trainees and staff team 'linked', ensuring fullest inclusion and sense of connectedness possible at all times. Staff conducted welfare calls each day, recording conversations and signposting assistance where required. Technology which had been utilised before by the charity was employed to support this connectivity.

## **New Horizons Partnership Limited** **Trustees' Report**

As the organisation continued to adapt to new ways of working and delivering its service to our trainees and as restrictions eased and guidance changed; our numbers returning in-house gradually increased. In-house service provision continued to increase in line with this demand along with continued supplementary zoom/digital sessions delivered every week. This approach ensured continuity and improved engagement and confidence; evidenced both in our trainees and in our staff team. The enhanced digital interaction for trainees who needed to access the service remotely (those who still did not feel comfortable returning physically) was invaluable. The priority in 2021 continued to be ensuring that our service users, their families, our funder and all stakeholders' expectations are met/surpassed by our committed staff team.

### **Financial Review**

During the year ended 31 December 2021 the charity received total income of £408,519 and had an overall deficit of £49,385. The deficit is a result of significant refurbishment of premises completed during the year. Income from service level agreements with Western Health & Social Care Trust increased by £8,936 to £278,299. Social enterprise income which had been greatly impacted by Covid-19 showed a recovery and increased by £15,807 to £41,061. Overall expenditure decreased by £31,164 to £457,904. Fixed assets purchased totalled £13,650 on IT equipment. The charity remains in a strong financial position with reserves of £464,315 at 31 December 2021.

### **Plans for the future**

Our strategy of spreading our reach to those we support, at a pace that is sustainable, remains the main focus of our work. Our aim is to continue with a programme of continuous improvement in service delivery through monitoring and measuring via our internal processes.

As the organisation continues to adapt to the new way of working and living as a consequence of Covid-19 the organisation will enter into the next financial year by embarking on a three year strategy which clearly sets out mission, objectives and plans to achieve further success as well as channel a more holistic approach to the delivery of our services. In addition, New Horizons Ltd will continue to explore other ideas for social enterprise activities in order to become more self-sufficient which in turn will support future growth and enhance opportunities for development.

The organisation has assessed with risk associated from Brexit and fluctuation of currency exchange markets and is confident it will be able to trade with minimal impact from both.

As New Horizons Ltd looks to the future, the key word underpinning its activities is "sustainability." The organisation has a strong base of core activities upon which to call, but, faced with an ever - more competitive environment; it is vital that the organisation consolidates its services and capitalises on its strengths. In so doing, New Horizons Ltd will ensure that it continues to provide an exemplary level of training and Community opportunities to service users referred to our services. As New Horizons Ltd continues to grow in terms of the activities and opportunities it offers, as well as in the impact it has on service users, their families and Community; the organisation will simply continue to further seek out new opportunities. New Horizons Ltd seeks to provide even more diverse experiences, to support ongoing new/creative ways to learn – all of which supports our trainees to maximise individual personal potential. This, in turn, promotes the achievement of the greatest possible level of independence for each person which enhances quality of life for everyone involved. Each individual is entitled to make their own choices (supported by our staff team) about the pathways they want to take for the future, in learning and community opportunities, as well as the pace and timing of that journey.

## **New Horizons Partnership Limited** **Trustees' Report**

In conclusion, New Horizons Ltd will endure into the future, capitalising on its experience and strengths and building upon its reputation and relationship with the funder. Guided by the WHSCT recommendations, which calls for a blurring of the boundaries between 'special' and 'mainstream' services so that people can access the support most suited to helping them put their personal plans into action; the challenge remains for New Horizons Ltd. to encourage trainees to have high expectations for themselves and of their community. This, in turn, will see greater and more positive outcomes from the organisation as a person centred, service provider.

### **Reserves Policy**

While funding for the charity's core activities is secured until 2023, New Horizons Partnership Limited needs to establish a reserves policy to have sufficient cash reserves should the company experience cash flow problems or costs involved in any potential wind up of the company and/or provision for redundancy costs.

It is recommended that reserves equivalent to three to six months' running costs for core activities together with anticipated improvements to fixed assets be retained. The target set and realised for this in the current year is £200,000. The level of reserves are reviewed by the trustees and management regularly throughout the year. The minimum level of reserves for the ongoing needs of the charity is reviewed by the trustees on annual basis.

### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit 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 in 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They 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.

**New Horizons Partnership Limited**  
**Trustees' Report**

**Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors**

Each person who was a trustee at the time this report was approved confirms that:

- so far as he/she is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- he/she has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

**Statutory Auditors**

FMC Accountants were appointed auditors to the charity and a resolution proposing their reappointment will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

**Small company provisions**

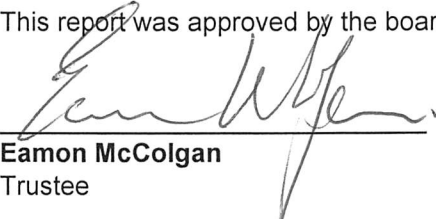
This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

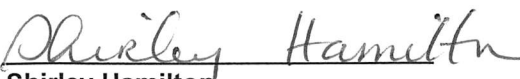
**Audit Exemption**

The directors are of the opinion the company is entitled to exemption from audit in accordance with section 475(2) and section 475(3) of the Companies Act 2006.

However we have chosen to have an audit undertaken as it may be requested in future funding applications.

This report was approved by the board on 30 May 2022 and signed on its behalf.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Eamon McColgan**  
Trustee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Shirley Hamilton**  
Trustee