

PATRICIAN YOUTH CENTRE

Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 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

The Centre operates under the auspices of the Diocesan Constitution, under review, which states that the Youth Centre is established to provide, maintain, and promote facilities and activities of a social, spiritual, educational, and recreational nature with the object of improving the conditions of life of the young people in the area of benefit. The Centre shall exist for the use and benefit of all young people in the locality of Downpatrick and environs, without distinction of sex, political, religious, or other opinion. The Centre is available to all such young people and to those of their invitees, from outside the area of benefit, as shall accept the aims of the Centre and subscribe to the rules from time to time in force therein.

Patrician Youth Centre is fully committed to the care, welfare and safety of the children and young people in its care. The Centre carries out this duty through the provision of a caring, supportive, and safe environment in which individuals are valued for their unique talent and abilities and their social and personal development are nurtured to its full potential.

Patrician Youth Centre is a full-time voluntary youth provision, purpose built and accommodates more than 600 members throughout the year. The Centre is the main youth provision in Downpatrick and the only Centre of its kind within a 25-mile radius. The Youth Centre caters for a large population spread of young people who reside in the town and in surrounding areas/villages. Patrician is in the Ballymote Electoral Ward of Newry, Mourne and Down which, according to the most recent Multiple Deprivation Measures Report is within the top 10% of most deprived super output areas of Northern Ireland. The Centre has a Parish outreach provision - St Colmcille's Youth Club at the Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre, Glebetown Drive, Downpatrick, one night weekly for a term time programme and during July for summer provision. This provision is also located in an area of social need attracting membership from the Ballymote and surrounding electoral wards. The provision delivers a generic youth club provision to the indigenous population.

The Youth Centre offers an extensive programme of activities through addressing the DENI 'Priorities for Youth Policy' (2014) and Youth Service 'Model for Effective Practice' document. Programme delivery includes the Performing and Creative Arts, Provision for Sport, Member Training, Award and Personal Development Programmes, Local Travel and Exchange Programmes, Information Technology, Outdoor Education, CRED Programme Linkages, Inclusion Programmes, After School/Extended Schools Programmes, Community Involvement and Development Education Programmes. The Centre provides for the youth service age range of 4-25 years, matching targeted programme interventions to age and needs of children and young people.

The Youth Centre is managed by a Voluntary Management Committee appointed by the Trustees. The Centre is staffed by full-time professional staff along with part-time qualified, trainee staff and volunteers.

The Centre relies heavily on the input of voluntary work at all levels. All staff contribute voluntary hours to the operation of the organisation and delivery of the programme.

All programmes delivered in the Youth Centre aim to be self-financing and the Centre continues to actively seek funds from a variety of funding sources to maintain service delivery. The Youth Centre through monitoring and evaluation processes develop new programme initiatives to respond to and target needs base of young people in area.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The Youth Centre is established to provide, maintain, and promote facilities and activities of a social, spiritual, education and recreational nature with the object of improving the conditions of life of children and young people without distinction of sex, political, religious or other opinion. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include an increase in social skills, improvement in emotional well-being, improved positive educational outcomes and increased spiritual development in the lives of local young people. This purpose will also provide improvement to overall community life. The above benefits will be evidenced through several evaluative means including observations of staff members and records of achievements; other qualitative data from parents, teachers, and community representatives; quantitative data from programme and project evaluations; data from other sources including other service providers both statutory and non-statutory. The beneficiaries of this purpose are children and young people as defined by Government policy in Northern Ireland living in Downpatrick. A private benefit could be gained by a Trustee who has a child who makes use of the facilities and activities of the centre. The child of the Trustee applies to be part of the youth centre and is given access in the same way as other beneficiaries. This benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to our beneficiaries. Volunteers may gain an increased sense of well-being through their involvement in the centre; however, this benefit is incidental and necessary to ensure benefit is provided to beneficiaries. Staff may gain opportunities to be involved in educational or recreational activities. The benefit is also incidental and necessary for the work of the organisation to take place.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Youth Centre continued to recover from the pandemic and delivery began to normalize for children and young people. The Centre delivered youth services fulfilling the requirements of EA specifications introduced, working in yet another very challenging environment dealing with further statutory funding cuts. Alongside which, the cost-of-living crisis was impacting many families, visibly present in lack of resources and need for practical interventions. In response, we continued feeding children and young people at every session, healthy snacks and hot suppers which were hugely welcomed, providing much needed sustenance for many, supporting participation and wellbeing. Delivering cookery and mini chef sessions were also well received and working in partnership with our Trust Dieticians enabled us to launch a slow cooker programme providing resources as well as skills to our young people and their families. During the year our Performing Arts returned to full live Productions, and we showcased two, a Musical and Theatre Extravaganza for our local schools and community. Our summer programme was a great success also, delivering over an eight-week period providing activities for most of the holiday period. Work with schools and other partners developed over the year also. The Centre engaged all age ranges in a variety of programme interventions and despite lack of resources managed to retain our outreach service at St Colmcille's.

Promoting inclusion remained a key aspect of work during the year hence the Centre maintained contact with agencies to ensure ongoing support and inclusion of needs-based membership. For example, our ASD programme continued for existing and new membership and after school activity programmes were maintained. The Centre continued to engage in outreach work on streets in response to needs and to support recruitment. Developing member volunteers was also a focus.

The Youth Centre worked to agreed specification with the Education Authority, part of which included quarterly 'Moderation Visits' in the organisation. During these visits by an external EA Officer, staff delivery was observed, members spoken with, and evidence collected relating to ongoing work and response to agreed targets. Moderation reports compiled during the period commended the high standard of work and practice being delivered and were graded 'outstanding' throughout the year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

Our main source of funds continues to be the grant assistance received from the Education Authority, entrance fees and associated revenue and funding generated from fund-raising activities, as well as applications to charitable trusts.

Reserves policy

The Youth Centre's objective is to maintain an operating surplus on an ongoing basis, thereby accumulating unrestricted funding reserves. These reserves are to be retained in order to meet precautionary financial requirements.

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FUTURE PLANS

Our financial objective is subject to the maintenance of a high standard of programme delivery. Our aim is to increase the amount of unreserved funds to allow the Youth Centre to continue to provide services. The Youth Centre will continue to endeavour to deliver and develop, where possible, quality programme delivery and youth services to children and young people in the locality through diversity of provision and promotion of inclusion for all.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees of the organisation are established through the Diocese. The Management Committee remains in situ with membership changing only when required to replace retiring members or those in an advisory capacity.

All staff, regardless of position, on appointment are Access NI checked through Diocesan procedures and on clearance undergo an induction programme on taking up position. New Management Committee Members on joining the organisation are briefed on all operational aspects and day to day management.

The Diocese continues to update Safeguarding Procedures and the Youth Centre implements accordingly.

Organisational structure

The Charity has a Trustee appointed Management Committee, professional full-time staff along with ancillary staff and part-time paid staff and volunteers.

Related parties

Patrician Youth Centre is affiliated to the following: Youth Action NI, Youth Work Alliance and the Education Authority.

The Centre has close working relationships with various organisations associated with the delivery of youth services as named above as well as other organisations working with children and young people. These include SEHSCT (South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust), all schools, primary and secondary in the area, Youth Services, Children and Adult Disability Services, PSNI/PCSP, Sure start, Down Hub, YMCA, Newry, Mourne and Down Council and other voluntary and statutory organisations associated with youth service delivery. The Centre continues to develop external links through programme delivery and referral processes, drawing membership from schools and other educational organisations across the community and beyond. The Centre has an active rapport with the South-eastern Health and Social Care Trust, Disability and Autism Services and Training Dieticians developing services and resource support for young people and families. The Centre continued to develop partnership working with Youth Action NI on several youth projects and staff programmes during the year, including preparing for Peace Plus launch and leadership training. The Centre continued to work with Children in Northern Ireland rolling out year two of three-year programme addressing term time and holiday hunger, resulting in the provision of food at all sessions for membership and development of mini chef classes, a much needed and successful development, forging links with other similar projects in NI.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The Centre is managed and monitored to minimise risk. The Centre adheres closely to all health and safety regulations including both building risk and activity risk and ensures that the building (a parish property) meets all European Regulations in relation to same through having an "Entertainment's Licence" in place. Child Protection & Safeguarding procedures are adhered to rigidly, in relation to the operation of the Centre, as well as programme delivery. The centre has in place a fire risk assessment certificate in line with 2010 legislation and has a number of staff team trained as fire wardens. This assessment is reviewed annually and staff undergo training on an ongoing basis.

Programmes such as Outdoor Education and the Award Programme, which would be regarded as being of high risk, are only delivered by appropriately qualified staff at designated locations. Out of Centre activities and events at outside locations, as well as travel and exchange programmes, are undertaken with all necessary procedures in place e.g. staff ratios, suitable accommodation, transport etc. Building and Activity Risk Assessments are reviewed annually.

The Centre adopted updated Safeguarding Procedures for 'Children, Young People and Adults at Risk' in February 2020 provided by Youth Work Alliance. Staff Team will be trained in content of updated document over coming months. The Centre continues to access staff vetting through the Diocesan Safeguarding Office.

The Youth Centre has in place all policies and procedures pertinent to the operation of the organisation, all of which are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

102388

Principal address

c/o The Treasurer
John Street
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6HS

Trustees

Brother John Jordan
Colin Bowd
E McGrady
Mrs Patricia Magee
John Thompson
Rev Father M Henry

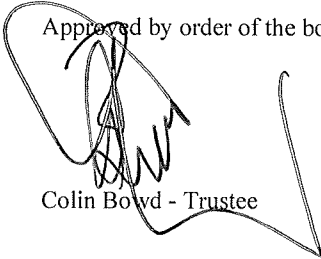
Independent Examiner

Conaill McGrady BSSc (Acc), FCA
M.B.McGrady & Co
Chartered Accountants
Rathmore House
52 St Patricks Avenue
Downpatrick
Co. Down
BT30 6DS

PATRICIAN YOUTH CENTRE

**Report of the Trustees
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Colin Bowd - Trustee