

Trustees Report

1. Northern Ireland Sikh Association

Charity No. 102407

Address: 12/16 Simpson's Brae, Derry/Londonderry, BT47 6DL

Trustees:

- Mr. Amerjit Singh Nagra – President
- Mr. Kalbinder Kaur Kular – Vice President
- Mr. James Jasvir Singh Nagra – Secretary
- Mr. Manpreet Kaur Sandhu – Vice Secretary
- Mrs. Satvir Kaur Gill – Treasurer

2. Structure, Governance, and Management

Governing Document:

The charity operates under its constitution, with decision-making involving trustee votes. The President holds a neutral final vote in case of ties. Trustees are appointed at the AGM, with nominations shared on social media platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook.

Appointment of Trustees:

Trustees are evaluated on their voluntary service, fundraising efforts, and ability to support the charity's objectives. Despite challenges in recent years, including external disruptions, trustees demonstrated resilience, ensuring the charity's growth and stability. The current Trustees were faced with extraordinary Challenges with having the previous year deal with passing away and retirement of Trustees and key people , updating the Banking and other details required by our advisors . This year after appointments and gaining some education and experience the Trustees have recovered the Charity to not Just the level of before the fire causing closure for several year and operating in a vacuum , but enhanced facilities and added value – our President has shown extraordinary commitment to ensuring that compliance both Health and safety and Financial is required has been put to the forefront by bringing in professional help.

Transparency Measures:

Financial transactions, invoices, and updates are regularly shared via WhatsApp, ensuring members are informed. The leadership emphasized educating members about the charity's activities through meetings and social media posts.

Clear records were maintained to explain how private contributions financed critical projects during challenging times.

3. Public Benefit

The charity serves the community through initiatives that include:

- Providing meals (Langar), supporting the elderly, and assisting individuals with disabilities.
- Hosting cultural and community events that foster integration among Sikhs and non-Sikhs.
- Supporting other charities through donations and fundraising efforts.
- Offering vital support for events like funerals and weddings.

4. Chairman's Report

The leadership introduced innovative strategies to overcome challenges and deliver results:

- **Cost Savings:** Key members volunteered substantial time to maintain operations and implement cost-saving measures.
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Community donations from people we know, allowed for significant upgrades, including kitchen expansion, improved energy efficiency, and the installation of accessibility features. For example due to the closure of his and family business the President donated many fixtures, fittings(stainless steel for kitchen and furniture releasing the Charity funds to spend on a much need Lift at a Cost of 30k for the elderly and disabled and raised funds through family connections to expand the kitchen . At this point we did not approach the public as we were closed and Sikhs prefer to be self – reliant and giving to those with less , a major part of their culture and faith. For example we preferred as individuals to give to the Foyle Hospice despite the Challenges in our organisation.
- **Debt-Free Operations:** Through strategic fundraising and financial management, the charity remained financially stable and free from debt.

Additionally, financial practices were modernized by eliminating cash transactions in favor of bank transfers where possible , enhancing transparency and accountability

5. Treasurer's Report

- Financial decisions are now subject to multi-level approvals, ensuring accountability and robust governance.
- Assets and surplus funds have increased, demonstrating the success of current leadership.
- Professional advice was sought to optimize insurance coverage and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

We have managed to go into next year debt free and a positive cash flow – despite not getting funds from public or grants due to closure from 21 to 23/24 – only reopening in April 24 .

Leadership has effectively balanced strategic vision with shared responsibility, ensuring efficient management of resources.

6. Outstanding Achievements

- The President, Mr. Amerjit Singh Nagra, was honored with awards for his contributions to both Sikh and non-Sikh communities, including Derry Journal's "Volunteer of the Year" and "Community Champion" recognitions. Using the Covid period and his extended families resources to the benefit of the Charity donating all expenses through our treasurer back to the Charity – leading by example – encouraging all members to do the same!
- Members have consistently provided positive feedback about the charity's progress and leadership, highlighting the dedication and vision of the trustees.
- A strong governance framework has been established to ensure sustained progress.

7. Future Goals

- Addressing key infrastructure needs, including roof repairs and repainting the building.
- Continuing essential services such as meal provision, cultural events, and support for the elderly.
- Educating and mentoring future trustees to maintain effective governance and compliance.
- Expanding community engagement efforts to build stronger partnerships with other organizations and groups.

Summary

The Northern Ireland Sikh Association has successfully overcome significant challenges through strong leadership and collective effort. Key accomplishments include:

- Revitalizing the charity after a challenging period.
- Strengthening financial stability and enhancing transparency.
- Expanding community services and impact through meal provision, cultural events, and support for other charities.

Future plans focus on infrastructure improvements, sustaining core activities, and fostering long-term growth through effective governance and community collaboration.

Approved by the Association members on

2024 and signed on their behalf by:

AGS NS
SECRET

MANAGE
SAND

President
Mr Amerjit Nagra

Secretary
Mr James Nagra



Treasurer
Satvir Gill

