

MAINSTAY DRP

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 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 2019).

Objectives and activities

Mission, Vision, and Values

Our Vision

For any individual with a profound and multiple learning disability to lead a happy, healthy fulfilled life of independence within their local community. All whilst being given choice and support, enabling them to live their best life possible.

Our Mission

To co-produce a standard of care lead by the individuals we support in an inclusive meaningful manner, no matter the complexity of their needs, within a community of opportunity.

Our Values

Inclusiveness in the Community

Mainstay have created strong connections with the local community over the 20+ years in service. The individuals we support have been able to gain new skills and widen their interests. Joining a club or attending an event can make such an impact on an individual's independence, confidence, and sense of inclusion.

A Person Centred Approach

Here at Mainstay, we focus on ability not disability. We want to help them to open doors for themselves, find new ways to enhance the lives of the people we support, all whilst pushing the boundaries of societal assumptions.

Promotion of Choice

We push the boundaries that society has assumed for the individuals in our care. We support them to make informed choices within their life. Enabling them to live a fulfilled life that is true to their wishes. All whilst keeping them safe.

Focus on Happiness

The happiness of the individuals we support will always remain a key value of Mainstay. Creating choice, enabling control, and co-producing a happy life allows individuals to lead a fulfilled life.

Mainstay at a Glance

Our History

Mainstay started in 1990 when a group of parents and carers of adults with learning disabilities and autism joined forces to create a local service that offered excellent care and support. We began as Down Residential Project, a small home for 9 service users. Over the years we have grown and adapted to meet the changing needs of our clients.

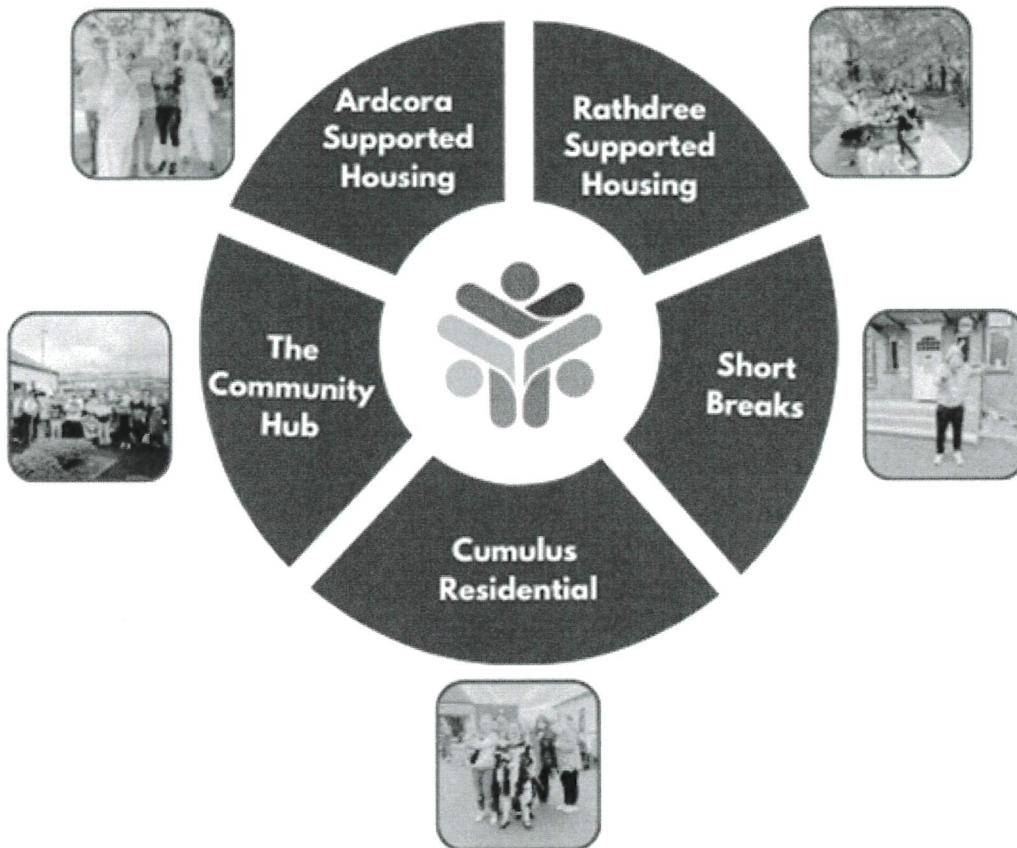
Today, Mainstay is a dynamic organisation with over 300 clients across various services in multiple locations in Downpatrick. Our dedicated team of 120, worked closely with the service users, forming one big Mainstay family.

Our aim has always been to provide safe, effective and compassionate services for people of different abilities and their families. We aim to focus on outcomes and help clients see their possibilities rather than their disabilities. Together, we create a caring community of opportunity.

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Our Services



Significant Activities

Community Hub

In our community Hub, our clients were involved in a Bowel cancer screening and Breast cancer awareness Interactive talk – these sessions promoted health, wellbeing, fun. They were informative sessions that were facilitated by the Community Team and attended by 31 service users.

The service users also had a visit from the Local Fire Station staff during the year who delivered Fun Training Days, while educating everyone on keeping safe.

43 service users enjoyed the Country & Western week which was organised. They enjoyed dance classes, dressing up in cowboy hats & shirts and singing country songs with our music therapist Eugene.

COOL FM visited the Community Hub, and 50 service users & staff got ice cream from the famous Cool Fm Ice Cream, Truck and got to say hello to the famous Pete, Palo & Rebecca & show them around our beautiful building – some of us were also able to say hello on the radio. It was such an amazing visit which the service users really enjoyed and remember fondly.

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Our clients enjoyed a Valentines Disco held at Murphys Bar & Restaurant, hosted by the Community Club staff, attended by 63 service users.

In February 2024, The Community Club hosted an Open Mic Night, where many of our service users came along to hear 16 brave members, singing their favourite songs for the live audience.

In March 24 our clients were able to take part in "Stand up, Comedy Night". 16 service users took part and told funny stories through comedic performances in an attempt to get the audience laughing. This was a confidence building exercise and had positive & interactive feedback from the audience. These evenings provided a wonderful platform for open and relaxed communication between members & staff and promoted connections and a sense of community.

Community Club

During 2023, Mainstay DRP took on the running of the Downpatrick Sports Club – now known as the Community Club. This club has many members from the local learning disability community who meet on Thursday evenings to take part in fun activities. Members come from a mixture of community based and also our residential, support housing and short breaks facilities services.

Supported Housing

During Covid, unfortunately we were unable to take any of our clients away on holiday. However, we were delighted to be able to facilitate a number of holidays for Supported Housing clients this year to a range of locations including Disney Land Paris, England, South of Ireland and more locally; the North Coast.

Staff

We were delighted to launch our Team Building days during 2023 with groups taking a day off site to take part in various fun activities ranging from Escape Rooms, archery, zip lines and clay pigeon shooting. We were also pleased to launch our Team Development fund which financially supports staff members to undertake training/ qualifications not directly linked to their job role so they can gain new skills to help enhance our clients lives.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Financial review

The results for year are set out in detail on pages 12-26. The charity had net incoming resources for the year of £407,992 (2023: £432,607). At the year end cash at bank and in hand was £1,385,063 (2023: £1,119,501).

At 31 March 2024, the total funds of the charity amounted to £1,748,705 (2023: £1,340,713) comprising of solely unrestricted funds.

Mainstay DRP receives contract funding from a range of statutory organisations including three of the Health & Social Care Trusts. Our Supported Living services also received funding from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive Supporting People Programme. We continue to operate in a challenging environment where costs are rising at unprecedented rates.

Reserves policy

The organisation has a reserves policy which ensures it has unrestricted funds (free reserves) not committed or invested in fixed assets to provide for 3-4 months operating expenditure to provide for uninterrupted services. Operational expenditure for a three-month period based on 2024 expenditure is £1.18 million. The Trustees have reviewed this policy and confirm that unrestricted reserves are sufficient to meet three-month expenditure. At the year end the charity had free reserves of £1,736,428 (2023: £1,320,736).

Plans for future periods

The charity is committed to the continued provision of current services subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

The charity is also committed to continue to meet the requirements of a range of regulatory and legislative bodies including, Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority, Residential Care Homes Regulations, Health & Safety at Work Order (1978) and accompanying regulations 1999, Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, and regulations 1995, and HTM 84 fire code regulations.

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Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association and is established as a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The charity was incorporated on 12 September 1990 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 4 July 2016. The organisation changed its name from Down Residential Project to Mainstay DRP in November 2010 to reflect the diversity of services it offers.

The charity is managed by a Senior Leadership Team, headed by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Cyril McKinney, which operates within the authorities as delegated by the Trustees.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Dr P Moore

Ms J E M Caven

Mrs R Gorman (Chair)

Mrs M McCargo

Mr C McKinney

(Resigned 11 September 2023)

Mr P Todd

Mrs A Kerr (Vice Chair)

(Resigned 13 July 2023)

Mr J E Gorman

Mr N Farrell

(Appointed 11 May 2023)

Ms J Hynds

(Appointed 24 April 2024)

Mr W C Reid

(Appointed 18 May 2023 and resigned 19 September 2023)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The governing body is the Board of Trustees whose members are also directors for the purposes of company law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the directors are elected by members of the Committee. The trustees have responsibility for ensuring that the charity is performing well, is solvent and complies with its obligations.

The Board comprises of a Chair and trustees with skills in Learning Disability services, Social Care, Health Care, Finance, Law, HR, and Planning and Business.

Organisational structure

The charity committee is made up of the trustees, who are directly responsible for the oversight of the day-to-day management of the charity. They meet on a monthly basis to review all aspects of the charity. The full committee delegates Finance & HR responsibilities to subgroups with expertise in these areas. Subgroups meet monthly and report to the full committee.

The committee is made up of both founder and more recent members with a shared vision, commitment, and passion for achieving the objectives of the organisation. Members come with a range of skills crucial to the management of the organisation.

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Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of Mainstay DRP for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and 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.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that GMcG BELFAST be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mrs R Gorman (Chair)

Trustee

Date: 26/11/24