

Trustees Annual Report

Charitable objects

The charity is established for the benefit of the community in Northern Ireland by the advancement of education and the relief of poverty, sickness and distress and any other charitable purpose and in particular, to provide in Rosemount and surrounding district legal services and welfare rights information to people, who because of their lack of means, could not otherwise afford such services.

Details of Constitution

(See Attached)

Financial Review

The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018 show total income of £289,721 (2017: £447,610) and total expenditure of £289,701 (2017: £460,669) resulting in a net surplus of £20 (2017: deficit £13,059). As at 31 March 2018 the balance sheet shows a net deficit of funds of £4,411 (2017: deficit £4,431).

We are in a stable financial position at the moment and are projected to remain so for the foreseeable future. Financial input from core sources such as DFC and renewable grant aid from other charitable bodies remain in position. On top of this we have just received grant aid to completely rebuild our existing Centre with support from DFC and DCSDC. When completed the new building will greatly enhance our ability to meet our charitable purposes.

Administrative Details

Structure, governance and management

Governance

The organisation is a charity that is governed by a written constitution. It is recognised as a charity by HM Revenue & Customs (reference X27676) and it's Northern Ireland Charity Commission number is NI102878.

Membership & Structure

All persons living in the area of benefit aged 18 or over shall be eligible for membership of the group. The membership of the group will consist of a maximum of 15 members.

Membership Fees

All members of the group shall pay a membership fee of £5 per annum payable on acceptance.

Rotation of Membership *Two members, to be determined by lot, shall voluntarily retire every 3 years. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.*

We have attached for your information a schema (**appendix 2**) outlining the activities and groups with which we are associated and an overall management structure operating under the control of our Management Committee.

Public Benefit Statement/Declaration

Rosemount & District Welfare Rights Group strive to ensure that they provide public benefit. The principle objective of the charity is to encourage the advancement of education of the people in the local area and to assist them by providing them with support and welfare and legal advice that they would otherwise not be able to afford. As well as providing welfare rights advice to the people in Rosemount, the charity also runs a number of other programmes aimed at engaging with the residents of the area and seeking to tackle the problem of anti-social behaviour that occurs locally. It does this by providing advice to the residents as well as by organising activities for the young people who would otherwise become involved in anti-social behaviour. Rosemount & District Welfare Rights Group has since its inception tried to provide an array of services and interests to benefit the local community. The charity's motto is "Unity of Purpose, Encouragement of Diversity" and it is with this as their ethos that all users of the charity work together in their own interests and in support of others in the local community. The

charity has now established itself as a thriving community hub, used and appreciated by everyone in the area. The local community now feel that they have a resource which can provide for their needs and over which they have ownership. Through the work of the charity community cohesion is redeveloping and people in the catchment area feel more secure and less isolated.

To go into greater detail we provide the Outer West Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Board, DFC and all relevant charities and statutory agencies with a breakdown of participant figures, activities and outcomes relating to all of our network groups.

Description of activities and achievements during the year that specifically relate to the furthering of the charity's purposes for the public benefit i.e. public reporting.

Rosemount District Welfare Rights Group Is based at Rosemount Resource Centre. Rosemount and wider district has high levels of poverty, unemployment and lack of economic activity. The group also rent 2 properties within 1 mile of the Centre to house a health and wellbeing project (Fitness Factory), an after-schools club (Bluegrass) and a youth at risk, parent support and community mediation project (Time 2 Choose). The Group run an additional youth project at its main Centre for youth diversional activities. The main Centre houses an advice Centre and a legal access project. These projects help to address poverty, lack of social empowerment, help regarding disability and difficulties accessing expert benefit and legal advice. We also regularly lobby for promotion of Human Rights and Economic and Social Rights for our beneficiaries. The benefits that flow from the organisational purpose/s being carried out Rosemount and District welfare rights provides a benefit to the public by the provision of a community hub (Rosemount Resource Centre). The Centre runs various projects to include a Welfare Rights Project where members of the public can have appointments with qualified welfare rights officers to seek confidential advice on social security, tax credits, employment, housing and student matters. This service benefits clients in providing sound up to date advice which may alleviate situations of poverty. The service also provides advocacy on behalf of clients who would not normally be able to seek advice elsewhere due to their disability, geographical or financial constraints. The welfare rights service is free to the public, it is only the clients themselves who may have a private benefit in the form of access to social security benefits/ adequate housing etc. The Centre runs a Legal Access project where members of the public can access a solicitor at no charge to themselves. This project is enabled by a waiver from the Law Society Northern Ireland that in turn enables a solicitor to provide advice and assistance on social security appeals, housing matters, consumer matters and debt advice. This benefits the public by giving access to expert legal advice, the community base of this project gives widespread access to justice by providing legal advice in a friendly setting. The legal access project also provides relief of poverty by helping clients to manage their monetary affairs more effectively and gives them a voice in the daunting world of law and fundamental and secondary rights. The Centre runs regular level one courses in computers/IT/Arts/Driving Theory etc to empower members of the community to increase employability and build social and soft skills. These courses as well as an IT suite are open to all members of the public and are most frequently used for courses, job search and CV and job applications. These facilities and courses are open to all members of the community. The Centre runs a health and wellbeing programme, based primarily at our community Gym, the Fitness Factory. The provision of an early years programme through Treehouse Crèche at the Centre benefits 50 under 5s and their families by providing affordable childcare and a structured programme of activities. This is monitored by the western trust early years team. Children of primary school age and their families benefit from the Bluegrass after schools club. Bluegrass provide community based after school and school holiday childcare provision through structured activities. Rosemount Youth Forum based at the Centre provides specialist youth work activities to secondary aged school children in the Rosemount area. The benefit to clients and their families include having threats lifted enabling those at risk to remain in their home city free from the threat of violence. Clients are also offered counselling and diversionary programmes to improve their prospects and increase self esteem Older people in the community benefit from 2 projects that run at the Centre, Cnoc Na Ros older men's club and Our Generation 50+ programme. Both projects cater specifically to men and women over 50 years through various programmes and meet up at least once a week for bingo and info talks. Both clubs are open to the general public. There is no potential harm related to any of these purposes being carried out. Rosemount and District Welfare Rights have both Public Liability and Employers Liability Insurances. All

staff are trained in first aid and child and vulnerable adult protection. There is no private monetary benefit to anyone in the organisation apart from grant funded staff.

The main achievements this year has been the demolition and reconstruction of our new premises together with the continuing expansion and use of all of our services. To go into greater detail we provide the Outer West Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Board, DFC and all relevant charities and statutory agencies with quarterly breakdowns of participant figures, activities and outcomes relating to all of our network groups. Our Centre has been involved in a range of activities supported by social services, peace iv, youth justice, legacy issues and issues arising from austerity and benefit cutbacks. All activities have been reported in the local media.

Appendix 1

ROSEMOUNT & DISTRICT WELFARE RIGHTS GROUP

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The group shall be called Rosemount and District Welfare Rights Group (hereinafter called the Group)

2. OBJECTS

2.1 The Group is established for the benefit of the community in Northern Ireland by the advancement of education and the relief of poverty, sickness and distress and any other charitable purpose and in particular, to provide in Rosemount and surrounding district in County Derry legal services, and welfare rights information to people, who because of their lack of means, could not otherwise afford such services.

2.2 In furtherance of the above objects but not further or otherwise the Group may:

- (i) Assist individuals and groups to understand their rights as stakeholders in society.
- (ii) Enable individuals and groups to access such support as necessary for their needs
- (iii) Provide or access classes, information, training or other appropriate learning.
- (iv) Undertake or facilitate the representation of either individual or community issues to the relevant statutory, private or public bodies.
- (v) Promote, encourage and undertake research and surveys, and publicise the results.
- (vi) Recruit. Train and employ volunteers for the furtherance of the above projects.
- (vii) Raise and accept money by way of grants, donations, bequests, legacies or other lawful method and give, donate or disburse grants of loans to such related organisations, as are by law deemed charitable PROVIDED that in the exercise thereof the Association shall not engage in any form of permanent trading.
- (viii) Purchase, take, lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and any rights and privileges necessary for the attainment of the said objects and construct, maintain and alter any buildings or edifices so necessary as fore said.
- (ix) Employ and pay any person or persons organise and carry out the work of the Association and make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of remuneration to employees.
- (x) Co-operate to such extent as may be necessary with statutory authorities and voluntary organisations in the furtherance of the above objects or any of them.

- (xi) Establish a centre or centres in furtherance of the above projects.
- (xii) Encourage, facilitate and assist development, co-operation and co-ordination of such interest groups, projects and organisations, as may be furtherance of the above objects.
- (xiii) Do all such other lawful things that are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 All persons living in the area of benefit aged 18 or over without distinction of nationality, religion or political affiliation shall be eligible for membership of the Group.
- 3.2 The committee referred to hereafter shall by regulation prescribe the conditions for membership and shall make regulations for the admission to and termination of membership PROVIDED THAT any member effected by a proposal to terminate their membership shall have the right to state a case against such proposal.
- 3.3 The membership of the Group will consist of a maximum of 15 members.
- 3.4 All members of the Group shall pay a membership fee of £5.00 per annum payable on acceptance.
- 3.5 Rotation of membership: Two members, to be determined by lot, shall voluntarily retire every 3 years. Retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.
- 3.6 New members: Any eligible persons wishing to forward themselves for election to the Group must be proposed and seconded by a member of the existing committee or by 1 or both of the members voluntarily standing down.
- 3.7 No application for membership will be valid unless submitted in writing to the secretary, clear 60 days before The Annual General Meeting.
- 3.8 At all other times an application in writing for membership should be submitted 14 days prior to The Management Committee Meeting.

4. MEETINGS

4.1 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time not being more than 15 months since the previous Annual General Meeting, and place as the committee shall determine.

4.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- (i) To receive and approve reports on the activities of the past year from the members of the committee.
- (ii) To receive and approve the audit accounts of the Group.
- (iii) To appoint accountant
- (iv) To elect the officers and committee according to such nomination and voting procedure as the Group may from time to time determine.
- (v) To deal with resolutions and such other matters as the committee and members shall have notified.

4.3 Other meeting of the Group shall be called General Meetings (or in the case of alteration of the constitution or dissolution of the Group) Extraordinary General Meetings, and shall be called not less than 14 days notice to members.

4.4 Extraordinary General Meetings

The committee shall have the power to call a General or Extraordinary General Meeting, and shall be bound to do so 21 days of receiving notice in writing signed by not less than 10 members. The business to be transacted must appear on the AGENDA, and no other business discussed.

5. MANAGEMENT

5.1 Except as provided otherwise in this constitution, the Group shall be managed by a committee, consisting of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer and Training Director to be elected by and from amongst the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.

5.2 The committee so constituted shall have the power to co-opt further members PROVIDED THAT the number of co-options shall not exceed 1 third of the total membership of the committee.

- 5.3 The committee shall meet for the conduct of business, as they see fit, but in any event shall meet not less than twice a year.
- 5.3 The Committee members shall serve for one year and shall stand down at the Annual General Meeting. They shall be eligible for re-election to the committee.

6. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee may inter alia:

- (a) make such regulations as they consider appropriate for the efficient conduct of their and the Groups business.
- (b) appoint all such staff as they may consider necessary, and on such terms as to duties and remuneration as they may determine. Employees of the Group shall not be eligible to serve as members of the Committee.
- (c) Establish subcommittees, consisting of members of the Group or other persons and shall determine their terms of reference, membership and duration. All such sub-committees shall make regular reports on their work to the Committee.

FINANCE

- 7.1 All income of the Group, wheresoever derived, shall be applied to the charitable purposes of the Group and to no other purpose PROVIDED THAT nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment of legitimate out-of-pocket expenses to members of the Group engaged upon the approved business of the Group.
- 7.2 The financial year of the Group shall run from 1st April to 31st March.
- 7.3 The Committee shall open a bank account or accounts in the name of the Group and shall specify those members of the Committee (being not less than two members of the Committee) authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Group.
- 7.4 The Committee shall authorise the keeping of proper books of account, and shall designate responsibility for the preparation of an annual Statement of Account for submission to an Annual General Meeting.

8. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution shall be altered only by a majority of two thirds of members of the Group present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting called at not less than 14 days notice

to members for that purpose. PROVIDED THAT no alteration shall be approved which would cause the Group to cease to be a charity at law.

9. DISSOLUTION

9.1 If on the grounds of expense or otherwise the Committee shall decide upon the dissolution of the Group, a resolution to dissolve shall be considered by an Extra-ordinary General Meeting called at not less than 14 days notice to members for that purpose.

9.2 The Group shall be dissolved only by a majority of two thirds of members present and voting at such a meeting.

9.3 Following a decision to dissolve, the assets of the Group shall following satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, be transferred to one or more charitable associations having objects similar or related to those of the Group, as determined by simple majority at such meetings.

Adapted. 12 November 1998

Signed by: Chairperson: Sean Young

Secretary: Seamus Harkin

