

Depaul Northern Ireland

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees (who are the directors of the company) are pleased to present their Annual Report and audited Financial Statements of Depaul Northern Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2022. Depaul Northern Ireland has prepared its Financial Statements in line with the Companies Acts and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice ("Charities SORP") applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102").

The Trustees have not prepared the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 as the company qualifies as small under section 383.

OUR HISTORY

Depaul Northern Ireland is part of a group of charities (the "Depaul Group") that works across the world with a mission to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it. The ultimate parent company is Depaul International. The Depaul Group of charities came about as a joint response by three organisations to the rise of youth homelessness in the late 1980's in London. These were the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, the Society of St Vincent de Paul and the Passage Day Centre. All three owe their vision, mission and values to the life and work of St Vincent de Paul, a great social and spiritual reformer in 17th century France. They are part of a global network of charitable and religious organisations known collectively as the Vincentian Family. St Vincent de Paul believed in action rather than words, in taking risks to help the poor, and in finding new ways to deal with old problems. Although Depaul International is independent of these founding organisations, it continues to work closely with them and other members of the Vincentian Family globally. The Depaul Group is recognised as being part of the Vincentian Family in its own right, working inclusively with homeless and disadvantaged people of all faiths and none, which is reflected in the makeup of its employees, volunteers and Trustees. Depaul International now operates in Ireland, United Kingdom, USA, Ukraine, Slovakia, Croatia and France.

Depaul came to the Republic of Ireland in 2002 on the invitation of both the Irish Government and the Vincentian Family in Ireland. There was an unmet need at the time, in particular for those with very complex needs who found it difficult to access and maintain accommodation service due to their lifestyle. Depaul Ireland developed pragmatic responses to work with these groups and opened many services that were the first of their kind in Ireland. Depaul Northern Ireland was established in 2005 as a subsidiary undertaking of Depaul Ireland. In 2016 Depaul Ireland established a second subsidiary company, Depaul Housing Association ("Depaul Housing") which is an Approved Housing Body. Together these three charities form the Depaul Irish Group.

In 2015 the Depaul Group became known simply as "Depaul". At this time 'Homelessness has no place' was adopted as the international expression of the Group mission. Depaul International works under a Board and Assembly governance structure, which provides oversight while recognising and respecting the individuality of each subsidiary charity within the Depaul Group.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our Vision, Mission and Values

Depaul works to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Our Vision is of a society in which everyone, across the world, has a place to call home and a stake in their community.

Our Mission is to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

Our Values are:

- We celebrate the potential in people.
- We put words into action.
- We take a wider role in civil society.
- We believe in rights and responsibilities.

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Review of Activities

During the year the Depaul Irish Group provided support for 7,455 (2021: 3,670) people including single people, couples and families across all our services throughout the Depaul Irish Group. The total number of people supported in the Republic of Ireland was 6,454 (2021: 2,658) and in Northern Ireland was 1,001 (2021: 1,012). In addition, Depaul Housing provided 32 (2021: 16) tenancies during the year.

Key Achievements in the Year

Depaul Northern Ireland achievements included:

- Restructured our Northern Irish services to ensure they continue to deliver according to government strategy and deliver value for money.
This restructuring involved management restructuring, role redesign and allowed an increase in the number service users supported.
- Fully reopened our Foyle Haven Day Centre as Covid restrictions eased.
Our Derry based Day Centre, which celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2022, was able to reopen and welcome service users back in person. Other emergency Covid services were unwound during the year.

Charitable Activities

The Depaul Irish Group strategic plan, "A Path Home", builds upon the foundations of our traditional **Low Threshold** approach to service provision by engaging in **Specialised Services** centred on meeting unique needs and building permanent solutions in our **Housing-led** approach to services. The plan sets out a strategic direction which builds on Depaul's significant success achieved to date.

Our strategy is centred around five main themes each of which represents an area within the organisation which will drive change during the lifetime of this strategic plan. This plan is accompanied by key performance indicators that will outline actions we will take and how we will monitor our progress.

Theme 1: our services and housing

Theme 2: our people

Theme 3: our organisation

Theme 4: our service users

Theme 5: our voice

Depaul's mission is to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it. We believe that the experience of homelessness affects people in a myriad of ways and therefore requires different approaches. People who are homeless are not a homogenous group and the manner by which Depaul organise its services reflects this complexity. Our response to service provision is organised into 5 service pillars: Prevention, High Support Accommodation, Families and Young People, Health and Rehabilitation, and Housing. This approach allows services to be tailored and modelled specifically for the needs of the households served.

Prevention

Depaul's prevention services work in communities across Northern Ireland, ensuring families and individuals are able to maintain their tenancies and live independently within their own communities. These services are designed to intervene at a community level to help prevent people entering homelessness and assisting people who have a history of homelessness gain roots in their communities.

Depaul's prevention service encompasses a Harm Reduction Floating Support service and Depaul's Foyle Haven Day Centre in L/Derry. The Floating Support service in L/Derry supported 52 (2021: 43) individuals with a history of drug and alcohol abuse to remain in their own homes. The Foyle Haven Day Centre continued through 2022 and was able to welcome people back into the centre as Covid restrictions on the numbers allowed in the Centre at any one time were lifted. The Day Centre worked with 403 people (2021: 244 people).

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High Support Accommodation

Depaul's origins lie in its ability to provide low threshold accommodation for men and women with significant drug and alcohol difficulties. Our High Support Accommodation services are structured to offer supported accommodation to those who have the greatest difficulties and complexities. They are designed to offer emergency support and case management supports to tackle such issues and support people to move to longer term more independent living arrangements.

Stella Maris, an alcohol managed service in the docks area of Belfast, supports men and women who are homeless with alcohol difficulties. The Covid limitations which prevented room sharing and curtailed access to communal areas were eased during 2022. During the year Stella Maris worked with 38 people (2021: 47 people).

The Castlehill Service in Dungannon faced similar challenges to Stella Maris, but was assisted by the self-contained nature of the accommodation. Again Covid protocols were eased during 2022 as the pandemic waned. During the year Castlehill accommodated 62 people (2021: 60 people).

Families and Young People

Depaul Northern Ireland provides vital accommodation and community supports for vulnerable families and young people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness.

Our Belfast based Family Floating Support service provides support to families moving on from temporary accommodation into the community and supports families at risk of homelessness. The Family Floating Support service worked with 93 adults and 157 children through the year (2021: 136 adults and 193 children).

Mater Dei in North Belfast and Cloverhill in Twinbrook are our temporary accommodation services designed to provide families with the best possible support to deal with the experience of being in temporary accommodation and assist them to move into permanent housing as soon as possible. Both Services offer 24-hour support and are assisted by the Childcare Support service funded by Children in Need. In 2021 significant support was received from the Smurfit Kappa Foundation which funded a much needed upgrade of the furniture and fittings in both of these services. Mater Dei accommodated 34 adults and 32 children (2021: 42 adults and 41 children) while Cloverhill accommodated 47 adults and 56 children (2021: 43 adults and 52 children).

Housing

Depaul considers that housing is ultimately the solution to homelessness. Depaul Northern Ireland operates a number of services within the community, providing housing solutions for very vulnerable people. Foremost amongst these are the Housing First services in L/Derry and Belfast. Housing First is an approach based on the philosophy that all individuals, despite their background, can live independently once the proper supports are provided. Depaul have been pioneers of this approach in Northern Ireland. During the year this service worked with 56 people (2021: 77) people across the two cities.

Health and Rehabilitation

Depaul provides vital onsite healthcare supports while working closely with other agencies to ensure those experiencing homelessness have access to the healthcare they require. 2020 saw the establishment of a structured relationship with the Western Trust to provide nursing services to individuals attending our Foyle Haven Day Centre which remained operational through 2022. This vital intervention plays a key part in supporting the health of some of the most vulnerable individuals in L/Derry.

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Volunteers

Depaul has a strong culture of supporting volunteering. We believe that people should have a way to tangibly demonstrate their care and compassion, and that the experience should be as beneficial to the volunteers as it is to those we serve. Volunteers are given a comprehensive induction programme and supported through ongoing review and training.

The ability of Volunteers to be involved with our service users was significantly curtailed during the year due to the risks associated with Covid-19. Nevertheless, we remain grateful for the unstinting efforts of our volunteers who provide such valuable benefit through a wide range of activities designed to engage, support and befriend our service users. During 2022 35 (2021: 42) volunteers contributed 366 (2021: 120) hours of volunteering across our services in Northern Ireland.

FUTURE PLANS

Depaul is committed to continuously improve and develop its services and is focused on a number of key developments for the next year as follows:

- Appointing a sustainable development manager for the next two years to review the services offering in Northern Ireland.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Depaul Northern Ireland is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and registered with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland. Depaul Northern Ireland files its annual accounts and annual monitoring report with the Commission.

The Trustees

The strategic direction and governance of the company is the responsibility of the Trustees. The Nominations Committee seeks people with suitable skills to serve on the Board of Trustees and manages the process for the recruitment, appointment and rotation of Trustees. Depaul International, the ultimate parent company, approves the appointment of any new Trustees. Newly appointed Trustees receive a letter of appointment and an induction programme covering responsibilities and involvement outside of formal Trustee meetings.

The following were Trustees of the company, and unless indicated otherwise, served for the entire year:

John Murphy, Chairperson
David Lane
Jennifer Lee
Mary Leonard
Fr. Joseph Loftus
Yvonne McWhirther
Sean Megahey (appointed 20 July 2022)
Michael Murphy (resigned 5 February 2022)
Sr. Margaret O'Donovan
Paul O'Malley (appointed 24 October 2022)
Paul Stanley
Paul White

The Company Secretary was Laurence J Tuomey.

Throughout the year, the Trustees did not receive any loans or remuneration from the company. The company does not have a share capital.

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In order to ensure that Depaul Northern Ireland is managed efficiently and effectively, the Trustees have delegated a range of day-to-day decision making powers to executive management. The Trustees have established appropriate controls and mechanisms to ensure that the staff team operate within the powers delegated to it. The Executive Leadership Team is responsible for the overall management of the Depaul Irish Group, incorporating Depaul Ireland, Depaul Northern Ireland and Depaul Housing. This team is supported by a number of senior managers and each service has a local management team.

Trustee Committees

The Trustees have established five sub-committees to support the work of the Board of Trustees:

- Services, Quality and Development committee
- Finance, People and Organisation, and Risk committee
- Fundraising and Communication committee
- Remuneration committee
- Nominations committee

Each committee is governed by a Trustee approved terms of reference and may have co-opted other members when appropriate. Most of the Trustees are a member of at least one of the sub-committees of the Board. The Nominations committee also supports the appointment of committee members. Other than the Remuneration committee, which meets as needed, committees meet a minimum of four times per year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of results

Total income for the year amounted to £4.4m (2021: £4.2m) with the increase reflecting additional statutory support for service users housing benefit. Depaul Northern Ireland depends on a high level of statutory income, with nearly 85% (2021: 84%) of our income coming through various government departments for a range of services. We continue to invest in our fundraising activities in order to raise the profile of the organisation and to increase our ability to maintain services with this much-needed additional income.

Our fundraising income for the year amounted to £0.68m, reflecting the continued generous response from individuals across the community. Our supporters understand that Christmas and the winter months are a particular vulnerable time for homeless people and contributions from the public are concentrated in the last months of the year.

The impact of the additional non-statutory income has meant Depaul Northern Ireland ended the financial year with an unrestricted reserve of £1.2m (2021: £1.0m).

Reserves

Depaul Northern Ireland's reserves fall into two types:

- *Restricted funds*: these are generated when the donor stipulates how their donation must be spent or as a result of an appeal that has been run for a specific project or activity.
- *Unrestricted funds*: These are generated when the donor does not stipulate how their donation must be spent. Unrestricted funds include designated and other funds where the Trustees have set aside money for a specific purpose or to cover possible risks.

The Trustees adopt a reserve policy which they consider appropriate to ensure the continued ability of the company to meet its objectives. Consideration is given to assessing the risk, probability and likely impact on our ability to meet financial obligations or reduce expenditure in the short term due to a decline in income.

The Trustees reviewed their reserves policy during 2022 and set an unrestricted general reserve minimum target of 6 weeks annual operating costs to cater for short term working capital needs and an additional unrestricted

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reserve target of between 6 weeks and 20 weeks annual operating costs to cater for longer periods of disruption that might arise due to unexpected future adverse events.

At 31 December 2022 the company had sufficient reserves for the general reserve target of 6 weeks annual operating costs and held an additional 11.3 weeks (2021: 8.5 weeks) for the unrestricted reserve target which is within the policy range of 6 to 20 weeks. The Trustees consider there are sufficient unrestricted reserves at year end to avoid an unacceptable level of disruption to the organisation in the event of a downturn in future income.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the company, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to these major risks. The Trustees maintain a risk register, which they review regularly.

- *Cost Inflation risks:* the rate of cost inflation experienced in 2022 was significant and adversely impacted the Group. Statutory funders responded to these events as did a number of corporate donors. The medium term impact remains uncertain and Depaul Northern Ireland continues to monitor the risk of further inflationary pressures.
- *Reputational risks:* the Trustees are conscious of the importance of its reputation as a well-run organisation delivering public benefit and have undertaken steps to ensure Depaul Northern Ireland's governance and management structures are robust and give confidence to all stakeholders and operate in line with our values.
- *Financial risks:* the organisation exposes itself to a variety of financial risks including a reduction in statutory income or in community support to fundraising appeals. Measures to mitigate this risk include strong budgetary management and cost control and proactive negotiations with key stakeholders on appropriate service budgets designed to cover direct and indirect costs. The Finance, People and Organisation, and Risk committee monitors financial risks and on a quarterly basis.
- *Health and Safety risks:* the Trustees recognise the importance of health and safety in all of our services. Depaul Northern Ireland implements robust systems and structures to ensure all health and safety regulations are complied with. There is quarterly reporting on compliance to the Services, Quality and Development committee and annual reporting to the full Board.
- *Legal and Regulatory risks:* the company is required to comply with a wider range of legal and regulatory obligations. Policies and procedures are in place to ensure compliance with these obligations, however, there inevitably remains a residual risk of an operational failure resulting in a breach of these obligations.
- *Insurable risks:* the organisation incurs exposure to employer, public and property damage liability by virtue of the nature of its operations. While a strong emphasis is placed on health and safety and risk management practices to avoid liability arising, insurance cover is maintained to mitigate the financial impact from such events.
- *Performance risks:* there is a risk that the high quality of our services may not be maintained and we perform below the expectations of our funders as set out in their service level agreements. The Trustees monitor performance on an ongoing basis and have implemented annual service audit programmes as well as employee and service user surveys to provide them with assurance in this regard.

GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies to the financial statements.

EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There were no significant events affecting the company after the end of the year.

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BOOKS OF ACCOUNT

The measures taken by the Trustees to ensure compliance with the requirements regarding proper books of account are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The books of account of the company are maintained at 449 Antrim Road, Belfast.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

Each of the Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Annual Report was approved has confirmed that:


- so far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- the Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

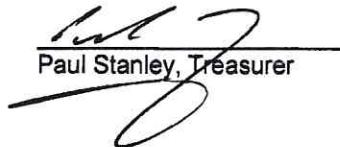
AUDITORS

The Auditors, Crowe Ireland, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 485A (7) of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



John Murphy, Chairperson



Paul Stanley, Treasurer