

Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group

Financial Statements for Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023


*WJ Johnston & Company*  
Certified Public Accountants  
190 Duncairn Gardens  
Belfast BT15 2GN

Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

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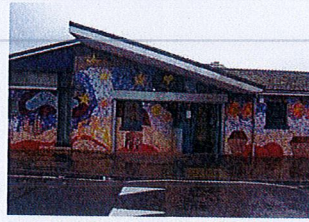


MANOR STREET /  
CLIFTONVILLE  
COMMUNITY GROUP

# Cliftonville Community Centre



2001



2023

## **A little bit of History**

For over 50 years, a very popular youth facility, known as the Manor Street Boys' Club, played a crucial role in the provision of youth activities, in the Manor Street/Cliftonville area. Unfortunately, however, this much-needed facility was closed down, due to fire damage, in 1989.

In 1991, a group of individuals came together, to try to re-establish a youth provision for the youth of the Manor Street/Cliftonville area. This group became The Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group

A needs assessment was carried out in 1997, which identified that, not only was there a need for youth provision in the area, but that there was also a need for a much broader range of provision, in order to meet the needs of the Manor Street/Cliftonville Community as a whole.

The needs assessment proposed that funding should be sought to construct a purpose-built community Centre, to be sited in Manor Street.

After many years campaigning for the Centre, building work began in 1999/2000 and came to a conclusion in November 2001. The Centre has been in operation for 18 years now and offers a range of quality services to over 1,000 households in the Manor Street/Cliftonville area and beyond. The Cliftonville Community Centre is managed by the **Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group**.

# Cliftonville Community Centre



## Vision Statement

Working towards a new bright future together, by tackling the needs at the heart of our community and helping to rebuild trust, confidence and pride in our area.



## Mission Statement

To become a beacon of hope and opportunity in our community, where local people come to address their needs, and gain support and advice that will help to ensure a better quality of life for them



## Strategy

### Overarching Aim 1

To address the needs and concerns of young people nearing their teenage years through creative learning, personal development and social based activities.

### Overarching Aim 2

To provide priority services that will ensure that the youngest in our community have the best start in life.

### Overarching Aim 3

To offer our most vulnerable young people the practical support, guidance and training needed to ensure a smooth transition from childhood to adulthood.

### Overarching Aim 4

To create a supportive network where adults can communicate their needs and desires and take the active steps to achieve these.

### Overarching Aim 5

To raise the profile of the Centre among the elderly residents of the community and to offer a variety of services that meet their needs.

Learning Sharing Caring together in the ♥ of our community

## Public Benefit

Our organisation meets the public benefit requirement by having the following purposes:

- The advancement of education by providing quality training placements in the Cliftonville Community Centre

The benefits which flow from this purpose are that young people and adults will be learn new skills in a safe, secure and easily accessible environment, supported by qualified staff.

These benefits will be demonstrated by the participants having an increase in their competences, gaining qualifications and being better equipped to gain employment.

A private benefit would be to the training providers, who need partners such as ourselves, in order to enable their trainees to gain the practical experience that they need, but this is necessary and incidental in advancing the charity's purpose because without the support of these training organisations the trainees would not be able to achieve the qualifications.

The beneficiaries of these purposes are young people and adults from Belfast.

- The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation in the interests of social welfare, such as a purpose-built community centre, 3 G football pitch, community garden, sports hall, training suite, games room etc. in the heart of the Cliftonville community, within which the following would be provided: carer and toddlers groups, afterschool programmes, youth programmes and adult education programmes and groups.

The benefits which flow from this purpose are that toddlers, children, young people and adults will avail of activities and resources and opportunities for social interaction and structured physical activity, in a safe and secure environment, in their community, which will help to improve their physical and emotional-being and conditions of life.

These benefits will be demonstrated by the number of people accessing the services and the quality of the resources.

A private benefit flowing from this purpose would be the employment of staff to manage the centre resources and to run the activities within but this is necessary an incidental in advancing the charity's purpose.

The beneficiaries of this purposes are people from North Belfast of all ages who choose to avail of the services.

- The advancement of citizenship or community development by providing opportunities for local people to volunteer in the centre

The benefits which flow from this purpose are that local people will be able to use their existing skills, learn new skills, engage in meaningful activity and interact with others in a safe and secure environment, at the heart of their community, which will help to improve their well-being and conditions of life and also those who attend the centre.

These benefits will be demonstrated by the number of people volunteering in the centre.

A private benefit flowing from this purpose would be the employment of staff to support these volunteers but this is necessary an incidental in advancing the charity's purpose. Another private benefit would be the unpaid hours that the volunteers would be working for the betterment of the Centre but this is necessary an incidental in advancing the charity's purpose and the volunteers would not be replacing staff.

The beneficiaries of these purposes are people from North Belfast and beyond and those who chose to become volunteers.

- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement by providing green spaces/growing spaces for the local community to use and reclaiming the derelict land and having a Men's Shed allotment project in the Manor Street area.

The benefits which flow from this purpose are that local people will enjoy a better quality of life through participation in the Men's shed project and by the improvement in the physical environment.

These benefits will be demonstrated by the number of people participating in the Men's Shed project and by physical changes to the Manor Street areas.

The beneficiaries of these purposes are people from North Belfast and beyond.



Learning Sharing Caring together in the ♥ of our community.

2022-2023

## **Core Centre activity**

We have 3 full-time and 3 part-time members of staff and 30 + volunteers of all ages.

This Year the Centre has been able to offer a full range of services to the community. We facilitate 2 Sure Start programmes, A 2 year old programme, 4 days per week and 'Stay and Play' programme once weekly. We have a Carers/Toddlers group that meets twice weekly.

A daily Afterschool project for 4-11 year olds.

A Youth Project which is opened 4 evenings Monday-Thursday from 6-9pm for young people age 12-25 years.

We also have a mentoring programme for children and young people age 6-18 years.

We also continually updated the Youth and Afterschool's Facebook pages with relevant information provided to us by outside organisations (such as the Belfast Trust, The Public Health Agency, Children in Need, The Department for Communities, Family Support Hubs, the Children and Youth Peoples Mental Health Services (CAHMS), Aware Defeat Depression, Age NI, Youth Action, Lifeline, etc). We supported families referred to us by the Family Support Hub by phone also sign-posting those to relevant services in addition to our mentoring project.

Age NI, Victim Support, Nexus, New Life Counselling, Jigsaw Counselling, Pips, Lighthouse, CCRF, Saint Vincent De Paul, Sure Start, North Belfast Senior Citizen's Forum, Cliftonville Men's Shed, Wolfhill Food Bank, Aware Defeat Depression, Springboard, Bryson Future Skills, Cruse NI, Workforce, Lifeline, Rainbow NI, Here project, Core Ashton Centre, Ashton Breakthrough Project, Cara Friend, Streetbeat, Bridge of Hope, The Vine Centre, Probation NI and PSNI etc.

## **The promotion of Healthy Living**

As detailed above, all staff signposted both young people and adults to relevant Mental Health services, where needed, on an on-going basis. Because of their wide knowledge of available services, centre staff also can make the initial contact with service providers, on behalf of local residents/parents, which increases the likelihood of them accessing these services. In addition to receiving support from organisations promoting positive mental health, the opportunities for social contact (albeit virtually by phone or online this year) helped to reduce isolation and improve mental and physical health overall, volunteers and service users and provides relevant and up-to-date information where needed.

The 2 year old programme run in the centre encourages parents to come out of the house and connect with programme staff thus reducing isolation and the participating children connect with their peers at such a crucial stage in their development. The toddlers engage in creative play thus increasing opportunities for emotional and social development. Research shows that early intervention is key to encouraging positive mental health and emotional resilience so any provision that encourages positive engagement between carer and child is to be supported.

Parents commented that the service gives their children an opportunity to socialise with other children outside the family home.

## **Work/training placements**

The centre works in Partnership with training organisations such as Workforce, Springvale Training, Bryson House and various schools, universities and colleges, to provide quality work placements for trainees, school pupils, university students and adults on a variety of training and work placement schemes. While on placement or volunteering with us, young people and adults work towards qualifications such as Childcare, Playwork, Administration, IT and Youth Development. Since the centre opened in 2001, we have provided placements for 350+ young people and adults.

All our Childcare Staff are fully qualified and have all mandatory training as requested by BHSCT. 2 of our staff team are qualified to Level 5 as they are in a supervisory position (Minimum standards in Childcare 2018).

5 out of the current 6 centre staff (who all live locally) started with the centre as centre users, progressing on to becoming volunteers, trainees and ultimately paid employees. We feel that this is a clear example of how we have encouraged local residents to play an active part in economic life as well as making an invaluable contribution to the life of the local community. These staff are now very positive role models for others in the community, encouraging them to follow the path that they have taken, especially those who might otherwise feel that there is no possibility of their ever getting paid employment in their community.

## Partnership working

Throughout the year we have been active member of our Local Crumlin/Ardoyne Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership, working with other organisations from the community, voluntary and statutory departments to maximise existing resources in the Neighbourhood Renewal area, highlight gaps in provision and look at ways of meeting those gaps through partnership working. We have also been working with these organisations to develop an Outcomes Based framework for our work, to increase the partnership's overall accountability and advance the likelihood of attracting more funding.

Women from the Cliftonville area, who meet weekly in the centre, are involved in a Peace Walls Project. They meet as part of a joint project with Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum and Lower Oldpark Community Association and meet at least once weekly in Cliftonville Community Centre.

We provide administrative support to the established men's shed adjacent to the centre. In addition, we have contract the Men's shed to carry out a variety of maintenance works to the centre such as: painting interior and exterior of the centre, carrying out repairs, fabricating and installing shelving to the interior of a storage container and cleaning and maintaining the grounds around the centre. The funding from this work has enabled the Men's Shed to pay for essential bills.

Our organisation has been working with/referring to community/voluntary/statutory groups such as:  
CCC Women's Group

PSNI	Workforce Training
Rainbow LGBT	Bryson Future Skills
North Talks Two	Springvale Training
Jigsaw Counselling	Ashton Core Project
Bridge of Hope	New Lodge Arts
Disability Sports	Disability NI
CAMHS Service	Lighthouse
The Vine Centre	Education Authority
Action Mental Health	YEHA Ardoyne/Shankill Youth Initiative
Let Youth Lead	St Vincent De Paul
Ardoyne Youth Providers	Cash for Kids – Cool FM
New Life Counselling	Ligoniel Improvement Association Food Bank
Inspire Mental Health	Belfast Met
Community Arts Partnership	Belfast City Council

## **Cliftonville Men's Shed**

Since 2012, when the Centre facilitated an All-Ireland Mens' Shed Association Event to encourage the growth of the Men's Shed initiative in Northern Ireland, the Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group, in partnership with the North Belfast Senior citizen's Forum, have been working towards the installation of a 'Men's Shed' style allotment and Joinery project (known as the Cliftonville Men's Shed) on vacant land adjacent to the centre and along the Manor Street Peace Wall interface. We secured funding for the project, initially from the Department for Communities and subsequently from the Housing Executive and the Mens' shed opened to the public in October 2017 and was officially launched in February 2018 by the Lord Mayor of Belfast. The men's shed has 3 containers - fitted out for social activity, joinery work and storage, a large poly tunnel for planting and a large area with raised beds. We support the group in any way that we can. The men also avail of the facilities in the centre such as computers, our pool room and the large hall as needed.

Due to the high visibility of the project, statutory, voluntary and community organisations which deliver services to men, including the promotion of health awareness initiatives etc, promotes reaching a traditionally hard-to-reach population of service users (Men 18 +).

## **Family Support Hub Referrals**

*“Family Support Hubs are local groups of voluntary, community and statutory organisations who meet every month to match requests for family support to the most appropriate services. The organisations involved have good knowledge of the support services available to families in the local area and work together to identify what service is best suited to each family referred for support.*

*Each Hub is made up of different early intervention family support providers depending on the area, as it's important that all members have a strong understanding of the local community and the services available”. (Niacro 2019).*

Our organisation is a member of the Lower North Belfast Family Support Hub and takes referrals from both the Lower and Upper hubs for activities such as: mentoring, football coaching, afterschool and youth programmes. The family support hub provides early intervention family support services to vulnerable families and children in Partnership with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and the Belfast Trust. We take referrals from all areas of North Belfast and during the financial year ended March 2023 we took direct referrals from the hub, delivering mentoring sessions to children, aged 6 to 18 years.

## **Christmas Events**

### **Christmas Gift/Food Parcel Distribution**

Staff worked in partnership with, Cash for Kids Cool FM to apply for and distribute 150 children's gift parcels (approx. 2,000 toys) to 100 local families in need.

### **Cash for Kids**

Over the last year we collected and distributed over 8,000 nappies (200 boxes) to local families (Donated by Cash for Kids).

### **A Shared Community that respects everyone (+ Section 75)**

We have posters up throughout the centre written in many languages and also have LGBT friendly posters and "No Hate Crime Here" art work and posters designed by the young people who use the centre in partnership with the PSNI and Rainbow, to let people know that they are welcome and shown respect right from their very first contact.

We have a display/information board for families and ensure that all types of family group are represented by putting pictures up of single parent families, couples, same sex parent families, families of many nationalities, and families with children with disabilities, parents with disabilities, adults with no children etc.

We also aim to let people from all backgrounds and cultures know that they are all welcome in the centre, through care that we take in keeping the centre well maintained, through the friendly approach of staff and volunteers show them and by providing access to excellent facilities and resources.

We take referrals per year (for mentoring and CYP services) from the Local Family Support Hub from all area of North Belfast - thus attracting people from a rich mix of cultures, traditions and ethnicities. People will come to an area that they would normally not feel safe in, in order to access much needed services for their children. When they are reassured that their children will be well looked after, adults will then be more likely to also access services in the centre for themselves in the long run.

**Overall:** We consult and engage with participants, involve stakeholders in evaluation and planning and hold ourselves to the highest standards in the delivery of programmes and services to the local North Belfast community. We collaborate, innovate and ensure that employees have sustainable development skills. We are an ethical organisation, committed to equality of opportunity and delivering a range of programmes and services under our organisational themes of

*"Learning, sharing, caring in the ♥ of our community".*

We design programmes and deliver services that help children, young people and their families play a more positive role in their communities. We seek to build social capital, encourage volunteering and enhance participation.

*"I feel safe in the centre and it is always there for me".  
(Local resident aged 15)*

And finally . . . . A very Big **Thankyou** to all our funders

who supported us in 22-23 including:

**The Department for Communities**

**Children in Need**

**Belfast City Council**

**The Education Authority**

**Cash for Kids**

**The Irish Youth Foundation**

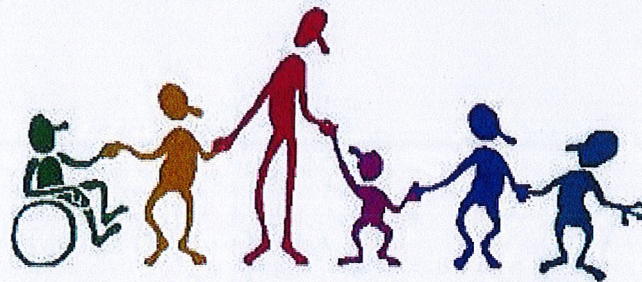
**The Belfast Health and Social Services Trust**

We could not have achieved all that we did achieve in 2022-2023

without your support ☺

## Cliftonville Community Centre

(at the ♥ of the Cliftonville community)



**C**onnecting people with others ♥

**C**onnecting people with services ♥

**C**onnecting people with their own potential ♥

Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group  
60-64 Manor Street  
Belfast BT14 6DU

## Independent Examiner's report to the charity trustees of Manor Street / Cliftonville Community Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, which are set out on pages 17-18

### Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters 1-4 listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention

*W J Johnston & Co*

W J Johnston & Company  
Certified Public Accountants  
190 Duncairn gardens  
Belfast BT15 2GG 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group**  
**Statement of Receipts & Payments for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Receipts</b>				
Grants	-	182,998	182,998	167,932
Donations	1,706	-	1,706	2,411
From Charitable Activities:				
Fees	4,576	-	4,576	5,470
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	6,282	182,998	189,280	175,813
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Payments</b>				
Cost of Fundraising	4,284	-	4,284	3,079
Cost of Charitable Activities	-	179,267	179,267	163,339
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>4,284</b>	<b>179,267</b>	<b>183,551</b>	<b>166,418</b>
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Net Receipts/(Payments)</b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>3,731</b>	<b>5,729</b>	<b>9,395</b>
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>3,731</b>	<b>5,729</b>	<b>9,395</b>
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>				
Cash at Bank & in Hand 31/3/2022	5,220	45,771	50,991	41,596
Surplus/(Deficit) Y/e 31/03/2023	1,998	3,731	5,729	9,395
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cash at Bank & In Hand 31/03/2023	7,218	49,502	56,720	50,991
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**Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group**  
**Statement of Assets & Liabilities for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>				
Cash at Bank & in Hand 31/3/2022	5,220	45,771	50,991	41,596
Surplus/(Deficit) Y/e 31/03/2023	1,998	3,731	5,729	9,395
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cash at Bank & In Hand 31/03/2023	7,218	49,502	56,720	50,991
	-----	-----	-----	-----

**Bank & Cash Balances**

Bank Current Accounts	56,606	49875
Cash in Hand	114	1,116
	-----	-----
	56,720	50,991
	-----	-----

**Other Assets (Unrestricted Fund)**

3G Football Pitch & Floodlights	87,000	87,000
Office & Computer Equipment	6,400	6,400
	-----	-----
	93,400	93,400
	-----	-----

**Liabilities (Unrestricted Fund)**

Nil

Approved by the Trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Paul A. Little

PAUL LITTLE