

Carrickfergus Young Mens Christian Association
(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)
TRUSTEES' AND OTHER INFORMATION

Trustees	Julie Patterson Samuel Crowe Wenda Gray (Appointed 9 October 2023) Steve Ames Andrew Macquarrie Robert Connor Ryan Moffett Andrew Hanley (Appointed 9 October 2023)
Company Secretary	Karen Elizabeth Graham
Charity Number in Northern Ireland	103155
Company Registration Number	NI049989
Registered Office and Principal Address	30-34 Irish Street Carrickfergus Antrim BT38 8AT Northern Ireland
Auditors	Daly Park & Company Ltd Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 4 Carnegie Street Lurgan BT66 6AS Northern Ireland
Principal Bankers	Danske Bank P.O. Box 183 Donegall Square West Belfast Co. Antrim BT1 6JS Northern Ireland
Solicitors	James J Macauley 2 North Street Carrickfergus Antrim BT38 7AQ Northern Ireland

Carrickfergus Young Mens Christian Association

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the charity are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the charity's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Carrickfergus Young Mens Christian Association present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 March 2024.

The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

Mission Statement

To provide or assist in the provision of education, for people of all ages and in particular young people, with the object of developing their physical, mental and spiritual capacities.

To promote healthy living including emotional, mental and spiritual well-being through the provision of information, education and activities.

To promote community engagement and citizenship, for young people, their families and other adults for the purpose of family support, community relations and active citizenship.

To relieve or assist in the relief of need experienced by people of all ages and in particular young people, who are in conditions of hardship or distress by reason of their social, physical, emotional, spiritual or economic circumstances

Objectives

Mission of Carrickfergus YMCA

To put Christian principles into practice through programmes that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Carrickfergus YMCA wants to provide support and development opportunities for young people and their families across Carrickfergus, as well as Outreach across Mid and East Antrim.

We want the YMCA to be a place of hope, a place of safety, a place of learning, a place of trust, a place of support, a place of acceptance, a place of diversity, a place of challenge, and a place of opportunity for children, young people and families.

Carrickfergus YMCA will embed co-production as we listen to and respond to the needs of children, young people and their families.

We want the local community to value the work of the YMCA and that the YMCA will be a place where they can find opportunities to share their time, resources and passion for building an inclusive community where all can belong, contribute and thrive.

Vision of Carrickfergus YMCA

We believe that all young people deserve to have a safe place to live and the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our vision is of an inclusive Christian Movement, transforming communities so that all young people truly belong, contribute and thrive.

Values of Carrickfergus YMCA

BELONG, we believe in creating an inclusive, fun and welcoming environment that encourages a sense of belonging. We are committed to celebrating our diversity, building strong relationships and treating each other with compassion and respect.

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CONTRIBUTE, we recognise the contributions of all, and value their opinions. We are committed to being an organisation built on trust, honesty and openness.

THRIVE, we know our success comes from the passion, skills and dedication of our staff and volunteers which is why we strive to nurture and empower them to grow and achieve.

These values are achieved through activities which promote youth development, healthy living and community engagement.

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

Governing document

The Association is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status granted by the Northern Ireland Charily Commission. The company was incorporated on 12 March 2004 and took over all assets and liabilities of Carrickfergus YMCA, an unincorporated Association. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In accordance with its Memorandum of Association the members have undertaken to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of it being wound up, an amount not exceeding £1 each.

Recruitment and appointment of Management Committee

The directors of the company are known as the Board of Management. They are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds. Due to the nature of the Christian aspect of our work and ethos, the members of the Board of Management are thought to reflect the diverse community of the Christian faith that exists within Northern Ireland. There is a wide skills base which exists amongst the Board of Management with members from a number of differing occupational backgrounds. In the event of the members identifying particular skills or individuals that would be of benefit to the Board of Management, an individual may then, with agreement from the Board, be approached to join.

Organisational structure

Carrickfergus YMCA has a strong Board of Management who meet monthly from September to June and who are responsible for the strategic direction, policy, finance and main decision making of the company. The Board has currently eight voting members from a variety of professional backgrounds. The Executive Officer (Company Secretary) also sits on the Board of Management but has no voting rights. A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Executive Officer of the organisation in conjunction with other staff and Board members. The Executive Officer undertakes the supervision of the staff team and ensures that they develop their practice and skills in line with the organisation's procedures.

Trustee Induction and Training

Most directors are already familiar with the practical work of our organisation, having been encouraged to speak to one of the other directors or the Executive Officer before fully accepting directorship. Additionally, directors are offered governance training through the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) and the National Council of YMCA's which will focus on the policy, strategy and direction as and when necessary.

Governance

Affiliation

Carrickfergus YMCA is one of the 15 YMCA's in Ireland affiliated to the National Council of YMCA's in Ireland. Through the National Council of YMCA's in Ireland, Carrickfergus YMCA is linked to the European Alliance of YMCA's and the World Alliance of YMCA's with over 58 million members in 120 countries. Carrickfergus YMCA has adopted the operating standards introduced by the National Council of YMCA's in Ireland and is reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with these standards.

Public Benefit

Public benefit

Carrickfergus YMCA meets the public benefit requirements as outlined in the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland guidance. It is a Christian organisation and while the advancement of religion is not an expressed purpose, all purposes are an expression of Christian principles through 'social action'. The YMCA offers a comprehensive range of opportunities to its beneficiaries and meets the public benefit requirement as follows:

PURPOSE 1 : To provide and assist in the provision of education. The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include improved educational attainment and social inclusion through 'informal' education. As a result, the physical, mental and spiritual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding of the beneficiaries are improved. These benefits are tangible and can be demonstrated, for example, through support for learning developmental activities for children, the gaining of leadership skills, engagement in active learning in early years, development of thinking skills, life skills, and employment skills. These outcomes link directly with Youth Club and PAKT provision but are evidenced in all aspects of the work. Evidenced by the feedback from participants, data collected on progression and impact and independent evaluations. The beneficiaries are potentially any member of the public but in particular children, young

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people and their families.

PURPOSE 2: To promote healthy living. The benefits that flow from this purpose include the reduction of personal harm to individual participants, reduction of risk taking behaviour through improved personal knowledge, health awareness and personal self-confidence and control which results in improved life choices. The benefits are primarily evident in improved health and wellbeing, reduced risk taking activities and in the positive engagement by young people in the wider community, school and recreational activities. This work is delivered in Carrickfergus YMCA through the Youth Engagement Service and Get Active but also in local schools, through detached youth provision and one to one support by the Outreach Team. Partners who see the day-to-day evidence of change in behaviours include local schools, Education Authority, MEA Council and Public Health Agency and well as the local PSNI. Evidence of the change is recorded through wellness web, outcome star, practitioner and participant feedback as well as interagency review. The beneficiaries are young people and their families.

PURPOSE 3: To promote community engagement and citizenship. Carrickfergus YMCA recognises that young people do not live in isolation from family, community and other institutions in society therefore the benefits from this purpose consist of increased opportunities for volunteering and active citizenship, increased support for community activities, improved community relations and racial harmony and reduced sectarianism. PAKT works to create a sense of community within the Carrickfergus area, particularly in areas of disadvantage, through its family activities. The Outreach Team responds to local antisocial behaviour, providing detached youth work with intervention and diversionary opportunities. The Welcome Centre and Independent Living Programme encourages a sense of welcome to asylum seekers, allowing integration into the local community. Every aspect of YMCA work links with this purpose with strong emphasis on volunteering throughout the association. The tangible benefits are demonstrated by increased family and community activity, increased dialogue across community divides, the recruitment and training of volunteers as well as feedback from local stakeholders. The beneficiaries of this purpose are young people, families and local community, particularly from communities or groups which have a history of division.

PURPOSE 4: To relieve or assist in the relief of need. The direct benefit secured by this purpose entails the opening of new opportunities for individuals who have had difficulty in the areas of health or addiction, physical or educational disability, those at risk of criminal engagement or other sorts of disadvantage. PAKT and the Outreach Team project clearly demonstrate purpose four through the tangible outcomes which include better academic performance, improved social activity, increased employability and stable relationships. These outcomes lead to improved life choices and skills of independent living and reduced dependency on others. The Welcome Centre and Independent Living Programme were developed in response to this purpose and the significant need of the asylum seeker population in Carrickfergus. While the Get Active programme responded directly to the need around food poverty, with improved health and wellbeing outcomes demonstrated. This purpose benefits members of the public, usually individuals, referred to Carrickfergus YMCA, through the support and activities provided or links with other agencies. No harm arises from any of the purposes and neither is there any private benefit which is more than incidental or necessary.

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

In April 2023 there were six main programme areas providing the delivery mechanism for our work: Youth Club, Youth Engagement Service, Parents and Kids Together (PAKT), Outreach Team, Welcome Centre and Independent Living Programme.

Our main premises in Carrickfergus provided operational and/or programme space for a number of organisations and community groups on a daily and weekly basis. St. Nicholas Nursery and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) have continued to use the premises with occasional room bookings from other organisations such as Action Mental Health

Through the delivery of 66,517 contact hours, working in the areas of informal education, health promotion and community engagement, we provided opportunities for and engaged with 960 individuals over the year. A further additional 6,138 young people engaged through Outreach in local communities and local schools across Mid and East Antrim.

The Youth Club continued with its provision of 48 weeks per annum; 18 hours of face to face youth work was delivered over 5 evenings weekly. The Youth Club provided personal and social development opportunities for young people aged 8-18 in our premises in Irish Quarter West, Carrickfergus. Youth Club outcomes were linked with those within the Education Authority and sought to develop thinking life and work skills, enhance personal capabilities, improve health and well-being, develop positive relationships with others, independence, increased participation.

Funded by the Public Health Agency who identified issues young people faced when accessing appropriate health services, the Youth Engagement Service provided a safe space for young people across East Antrim, aged 11-25, to gain access to appropriate information, support and referral on a range of health-related issues.

Working in response to the needs of children and their families across Carrickfergus, Parents And Kids Together (PAKT) delivered a range of afternoon activity clubs for children aged 6-12, as well as training and family activities for the whole family unit. PAKT sought to help children develop positive relationships with others, show improvements in emotional

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and physical wellbeing.

The Right to food 365 campaign with Children in Northern Ireland (CINI) was developed with National lottery funding secured in September 2021. The Get Active project worked to tackle inequalities around food poverty through provision of food, cookery programmes and youth advocacy work.

The Outreach Team was funded by the Education Authority and Police and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) through the Tackling Paramilitarism Project, local project funding and Youth Diversionary and Intervention Programme. These projects worked together across Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; with young people at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour and risk-taking activities. The Outreach Team engaged young people aged 11-25 through the medium of detached youth work, schools drop in, informal education, as well as one to one support. The funding for the drug and alcohol training was ceased at the end of July, reducing the Outreach Team by one full time member of staff.

The Independent Living Programme started in 2021 to house unaccompanied minors for the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. At the beginning of 2023 we purchased a second property in Carrickfergus, registration as an HMO is still in progress.

The Welcome Centre provided weekly social and recreation space, English classes, clothing, additional food and opportunities to explore Northern Ireland until June 2023, staff shortages and a lack of sustainable funding meant that this programme was no longer viable.

There were 8 full time staff, 9 part time workers and 12 sessional youth workers, as well as 1 Job Start post by March 2024. The volunteer team remained steady with 43 volunteers by the end of March 2024.

Financial Review

This year saw growth in the company income and subsequent expenditure. The rise in cost-of-living expenses had an impact on the YMCA with increased electricity, heating and insurance costs.

There were no cash flow issues encountered during this year,

In the year there was a surplus of income compared to expenditure, shown in the Statement of financial activities on page 13. This has been added to the reserves brought forward.

We are committed to ensuring the work of the Association continues, recognising the importance of donations and assistance from our supporters and sponsors to our future work.

Income

Principal Funding Sources

The Association has several funding sources for its work. Most of the financial support comes from outside agencies/organisations that provide funding for specific projects and programmes or to fund specified staff. These include: Education Authority, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (SPOD), Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, National Lottery, Public Health Agency, Children in Need as well as a number of smaller grants from other grant making bodies.

Financial Results

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £1,583,296 (2023 - £1,590,174) and liabilities of £5,621 (2023 - £21,747). The net assets of the charity have increased by £9,248.

Reserves Position and Policy

The company has built up some reserves over the years and the directors aim to have between three and six months expenditure in unrestricted reserves at any point in time.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Risk management

The Board of Management conducts regular reviews of the major risks to which it will be exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the organisation faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects.

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety, safeguarding and financial regulations, which reduce the risk to staff, volunteers, young people, families and children in our care as well as in the financial context as stated above.

These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the organisation and relevant legislation.

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The organisation will continue to develop the activities outlined above in the forthcoming year subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

The Youth Engagement Service and Youth intervention and diversionary work contracts were renewed in 2023-24, offering 3-5 years funding, positive news considering the reduced grants and financial instability in the government and grants. Core grant funding from Children in Need has been helpful in mitigating against the reduction in grants seen across the Education Authority funding.

Questions about the on-going sustainability of St. Nicholas Nursery may impact income generated by the building during 2024-25. There will be a review of the building usage and look for new future partners; partners that will not only generate income but ensure added value to the public benefit and link with the values of the organisation.

There were challenges in staff recruitment and retention during 2023-24 which impacted the capacity to deliver services, this will be addressed as the organisation reviews its Human Resources management practices and policies over the coming year, with a focus on wellbeing.

Potential financial cuts impact sustainability therefore the purchase of our second property and expansion of the Independent Living Programme in 2023-24, will allow better return on investment of reserves while fulfilling the charitable objectives outlined in its public benefit statements.

Trustees

The trustees who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Julie Patterson
Samuel Crowe
Wenda Gray (Appointed 9 October 2023)
Steve Ames
Andrew Macquarrie
Robert Connor
Ryan Moffett
Andrew Hanley (Appointed 9 October 2023)

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The secretary who served during the financial year was:

Karen Elizabeth Graham

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards


The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Carrickfergus Young Mens Christian Association subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

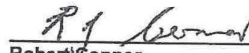
- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

The Auditors

Daly Park & Company Ltd, (Chartered Accountants), were appointed auditors by the trustees to fill the casual vacancy and they have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 8th July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Ryan Moffett
Director


Robert Connor
Director

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
for the financial year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also directors of Carrickfergus Young Mens Christian Association for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees as the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A (Small Entities). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:


- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; 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 are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 and. 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.


In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the charity's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the charity's auditor is unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 8th July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Ryan Moffatt
Director



Robert Connor
Director