

# FOYLE WOMENS INFORMATION NETWORK

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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The members present their report and the unaudited Financial Statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

<b>Registered charity name</b>	Foyle Women's Information Network
<b>Charity registration number</b>	NIC103218
<b>Principal office</b>	Foyle Women's Information Network Diverse City Community Partnership Holywell 8-14 Bishop Street Derry-Londonderry BT48 6PW

### The trustees

The members who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Marie Coyle (Chairperson)  
Niree McMorris (Vice Chair)  
Lorraine Bobby (Treasurer)  
Rosie Doherty (Secretary)  
Eileen O'Doherty  
Ann Sherrard  
Mary Mackinnon  
Julie Ann Coll  
Victoria Neely  
Jean Gormley  
Helena Downey  
Emma Burns

<b>Secretary</b>	Rosie Doherty
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Noel Crossan F.C.A 8 Columba Terrace Derry BT47 6JT
<b>Bankers</b>	Meadow Bank House 143 -145 Strand Road Derry BT48 7TN

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### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### Governing Document

Foyle Women's Information Network is an unincorporated organisation and accepted as charitable under reference NIC103218. The charity was established under a constitution which sets out the objects and powers.

#### Recruitment and appointment of the Executive Committee

All members of the Committee shall retire annually but shall be eligible for election or appointment again. Nominations from members of the organisation for membership of the Committee must be in writing and must be in the hands of the designated officer at least seven days before the AGM.

#### Organisation Structure

The Committee consists of fifteen members. The Executive Committee are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the organisation. Committee members are from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Committee as a whole was approved by the AGM and continues to monitor its membership.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Principal Activities

The principal activity of the charity is to offer encouragement, support, and information to women in the Foyle area. Our main objective is to increase the capacity, visibility, and voice of women throughout the North-West. The strategy used to meet the objective includes working closely with local women's organisations and developing relationships with women's organisations regionally, nationally, and internationally. We review our aims, objectives, and activities each year to ensure that they remain focused on their stated purposes.

#### What we do

At Foyle Women's Information Network, we aim to:

#### Educate

Working with local organisations and individuals, we provide educational facilities so that all our stakeholders have an equal opportunity to develop their full potential.

#### Support

We provide individual and community support to our stakeholders, offering the opportunity for women to make a brighter future for themselves.

#### Develop Partnerships

We work together with a wide range of groups to maximise our ability to realise our mission.

#### Deliver Quality

We aim to deliver services that are of the highest quality, which are well planned and managed. We aim to be effective, efficient, and accountable in all our work.

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### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

FWIN was established in 1994 by Derry City Council who recognized that women were working away in their local communities however there was no cross over or engagement between or across the divide and thus the network was established to bring women together to build relationships and begin the road to reconciliation.

The focus of the charity's work is to provide a supportive place for women and women's groups to meet from all the different neighbourhoods' and venues over Derry/Londonderry. Such gatherings have provided opportunities for women to discuss health issues, educational matters and politics. Women are also given the platform to try new ideas, make new contacts and friends and to offer and exchange information.

This year has seen FWIN work in a hybrid method - using both online and face to face activities I would like to thank our tutors for continuing to work and make the change with us.

Our tutors have been delivering the following:

- Dance and movement
- Cookery
- Exercise
- Yoga
- Meditation
- Well-being
- Make up
- Music
- Crafts
- Flower arranging
- Lecture series
- Around the world
- Quizzes
- Bingo
- Book Club

We did have a live Chatty Women Programme on our Facebook page every Thursday with chat on topical issues, banter and an inspirational speaker every week unfortunately this has come to an end and I would like to thank all our guests who took part.

### Inspirational Women's Events

We held two of these one with Janette Warke and the other with Arlene Foster both events were well attended.

### Women Involved in Community Transformation Programme:

This programme is funded by Department for Communities via the Fresh Start Programme B5 and it aims to increase the participation and influence of women in community development / community leadership and in tackling community issues. The executive programme for women in community development designed to enable women's organisation's to continue to carry out transformative community development work in our communities but also to ensure that women are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to take on more leadership roles in public decision-making. This program of work is being delivered in 26 areas across Northern Ireland with our partners TWN, INTERCOMM and Cooperation Ireland.

One area of focus in the North West has been developing women in the justice system partnerships with local women's groups and organisations within the justice system for example the Prisons, Courts, probations service etc.

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## **RISP -Consortium for regional support for women in areas of disadvantage and rural areas.**

FWIN are one of the 7 partners involved in the consortium which engages with a range of key decision makers and funders on behalf of the women's sector, provides support to groups and distributes information and provide bespoke training, carry out research and have better evidence of issues which impact women. RISP Conference via zoom was held with great input from the Pink Ladies in the North West talking about the role and strength of campaigning.

**Information, communication and engagement** is a big part of this programme

FWIN send out weekly information bulletins every Friday to over 900 women online.

If any organisation has information they wish to circulate please contact us on [bethanyfwin@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyfwin@gmail.com)

## **Christmas Appeal**

FWIN supported over 250 children this year in our campaign and we would like to thank those involved for their support and generosity during these most difficult times. We partnered with Downtown Radio Cash for Kids Christmas Mission.

## **Other Activities**

We held a very successful Networking day in September; we held two summer splash bus trips one to Antrim Castle Gardens and the other one to Portstewart and Portrush followed by a beautiful meal in the Royal Court Hotel.

FWIN also became a partner on the Ukrainian Appeal and worked with the YMCA to send out help and support to those in need.

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### FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total incoming resources for the year were £161,281 (2021: £159,751), of which approximately 99% (2021:99%) was generated from grants and contracts and 1% (2021: 1%) from donations and fundraising activities. Total resources expended by the charity were £155,042. (2021: £158,402). Approximately 99% (2021: 99%) of this was expended on direct charitable activities and 1% (2021: 1%) on governance costs.

### RESERVES POLICY

The Executive Committee consider it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event that unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the future of its employment capacity, users' well-being and general charitable work in jeopardy.

A formal policy on reserves has been agreed by the Committee members which stipulates that free reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that the charity's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. Free reserves are defined by the Committee as those funds freely available for use as the charity so determines and thereby excludes any restricted or designated funds.

The Committees' policy is that the amount of free reserves should reflect six months expenditure plus any additional core costs. Based on 2021/22 expenditure (excluding depreciation) of £154,660 that amount would be £77,330. Free reserves at 31st March 2022 are £55,883 (72% of the target level). The Committee continues to strive to build a general level of reserves that has six months of expenditure in reserve so that they will be able to continue the current activities of the charity. In the short term, the Committee have also considered the extent to which existing activities and expenditure should be curtailed, should circumstances arise.

### PLANS FOR OUR FUTURE PERIODS

The focus of the charity's future work is to provide a supportive place for women and women's groups to meet from all the different neighbourhoods and venues over Derry/Londonderry. Such gatherings have provided opportunities for women to discuss health issues, educational matters, and politics. Women are also given the platform to try new ideas, make new contacts and friends and to offer and exchange information.

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### TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The trustees, who are also committee members, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.)

Charity trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period,

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 applicable Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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 legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking the reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Noel Crossan F.C.A has been re-appointed as the independent examiner for the ensuing year.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Rosie Doherty  
Charity Secretary

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