

## **Shopmobility Omagh**

### **Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The trustees present their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.  
The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report

Hazel McGuigan Chairperson  
Jim Sharkey Secretary  
Conor Keys Treasurer

Colin Kerrigan  
Louise McCrory  
Nicola Mullin  
Geraldine Keys  
Annie McElhatton  
Margaret McElhatton

#### **Objectives**

Shopmobility Omagh meets the public benefit requirement detailed in the Charities Act under the relief of those in need. The main benefit of our service is that it enhances the independence of our service users, increasing their ability to integrate into the community and take part in activities that others take for granted. Shopmobility Omagh aims to provide equipment and advisory services that help those who are socially excluded through restricted mobility to re-integrate back into the community. By providing equipment designed to aid mobility, users are able to access shops, leisure and commercial facilities they otherwise would not be able to avail of. The provision of mobility equipment and advisory/signposting that Shopmobility Omagh offers, provide comfort to those who are sick or convalescent. In many cases the provision of equipment has been life changing. Shopmobility Omagh assists people with mobility difficulties to help make Omagh and surrounding areas more accessible. It promotes social inclusion by providing a means for those with mobility restrictions to access social, cultural and commercial facilities in the area. The scheme actively promotes volunteering, by providing to users, a volunteer befriending guide to assist users around shops and local facilities. The scheme is actively promoting equality to all by providing a means for those people with mobility restrictions to access facilities that others take for granted such as shopping, visiting friends or attending medical appointments. The scheme promotes the human rights of those who have mobility difficulties to be able to access these services whilst also encouraging freedom of movement and independence throughout the area. Although Shopmobility services are open to anyone of all ages, it is noted that over 70% of the users are aged 60 years plus. With an aging population there is inevitably going to be more mobility related issues and Shopmobility Omagh works to address these. The specialist care provided allows older and disabled equality of opportunity by the provision of specialist equipment and advice to aid their mobility.

The service also provides respite for carers and helps to alleviate the often heavy burden on families and friends. The service is free to join and free to use, allowing members greater freedom to become regular visitors to local facilities. It is also a great add-on to the district of Omagh helping to attract visitors from outside the area.

The demand for the service in Omagh can be demonstrated by the collection of statistics from usage. These continue to grow and with an ever aging population, anticipate that demand

The Main Beneficiaries are:

- " Those with mobility issues within our community.
- " The care givers and family members that have their independence when those with mobility issues can have a break from the constant support they give.
- " Those persons in our society that could not otherwise be able to use the service for monetary reasons.
- " Many users have undergone recent operations in hospital, chemotherapy, sickness such as MS or Muscular deteriorating illnesses

## **Shopmobility Omagh**

### **Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### **Achievements in the year**

Financially, the scheme continues to experience significant challenges, particularly with the rising cost of living, which shows no indication of decreasing in the near future. This has placed additional pressure on our resources and overall sustainability.

We have also seen an increase in people contacting the scheme, either wishing to hire equipment or seeking guidance on where items can be purchased. As a result, there has been a notable rise in the level of signposting required to ensure individuals receive the appropriate support and information.

A further concern is that many of those now registering with the scheme are presenting with illnesses that went undiagnosed during the Covid period, some of which, regrettably, cannot be reversed or cured. This has highlighted the ongoing importance of the scheme in supporting individuals and families at times of great need.

We remain extremely grateful to DFI for their continued financial support, which is vital to the running of the scheme. However, the ever-increasing costs of essentials such as electricity and heating present an ongoing challenge. We are hopeful that these additional financial pressures will be taken into consideration when the next Letter of Offer is issued.

Despite these challenges, the trustees remain committed to ensuring the scheme continues to provide essential services to those who need them most. Through careful management, collaboration with partners, and the dedication of our staff and volunteers, we will continue to adapt to changing circumstances and strive to safeguard the future of the scheme.

#### **Funding received in 2024/25**

DFI £18,808 core running costs

FODC £300 Community and Wellbeing

Urban Events Ltd £220 St Patrick's Day

#### **Reserves**

The Trustees would have set a reserves policy which requires:

- Reserves are built to a level which ensures that 6 months (50%) of organisation's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. This amount will be saved over a 3 year period

-Reserves take into account potential redundancies and equipment replacement. However due to the rising costs of living, the Trustees are continuing to review this policy and amend accordingly.

## Shopmobility Omagh

### Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

#### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. 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 Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; 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 proper accounting records which 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 Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. 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.

The trustees have complied with the duty to have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on public benefit.

The TPPD grant has been used solely for the purposes intended and in accordance with the terms and conditions of grant.

On behalf of the board



**Jim Sharkey**  
Secretary

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11th November 2025