

Report of the Trustees

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Structure, Governance & Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in on 27th January 2004 and registered as a charity on 27th January 2004, charity number XT18194. The company was established by a Memorandum of Association and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of one year after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

Risk Management

The Management Committee has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Organisational Structures

North Belfast Alternatives has a Management Committee who meet 6 times per year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. At present the Committee has ten members from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The secretary also sits on the Committee but has no voting rights. North Belfast Alternatives falls under the umbrella of Northern Ireland Alternatives Ltd.

Objectives and Activities

The company's objectives and principle activities are to promote a non-violent restorative community response to justice issues in North Belfast. North Belfast Alternatives will identify needs, often in partnership with local communities and other voluntary and statutory bodies, relating to safety and conflict within communities, and will attempt to heal relationships in a restorative way. At the same time, it hopes to raise community awareness on the issues affecting young people and adults who are deemed at risk.

The main objectives and activities of the company are:

To organise within the community non-violent alternatives to issues of community justice. To help and work with young people in order to resolve the problems affecting their lives. To direct young people away from destructive and dangerous practices and towards healthy and constructive activities. To enable young people to personally reflect on the potentially damaging consequences of risky behaviour. To address areas of weakness and failure within the formal criminal justice system. To heal relationships within the community and to promote better relationships between the statutory agencies. To work towards a sustainable model of delivery for as much of the company's services as possible

Report of the Trustees (continued)

Achievements and Performance

Our achievements and performance over the past year have included 18 community relations programme with 124 people participating whilst 563 young people involved in youth intervention and prevention programmes alongside 1-2-1 support alongside family support, Detached Youth Work. NBA provided training and support to 93 volunteers/social connectors who participated in organised events such as Detached Youth Work in Ballysillan Park, Cavehill Country Park, Fun Days and Lantern Parade. NBA provided 148 people with crime prevention and community safety information sessions, mediations and furnished 243 people with safety items such as alarms, night lights and safety cans. 63 people accessed accredited training ranging from CSR Cards, OCN Level I Grass Roots Football. NBA continued to build, partnerships and share learning with 52 groups, 18 across North Belfast and continued to support and deliver 1-2-1 support and mentoring and Introduction to Restorative Practices in schools such as Boys Model, Girls Model, Hazelwood, Glengormley Integrated, Loughshore, Ballysillan Primary School.

Financial Review

NBA successfully applied for small grants to run programmes and deliver essential packs to 80 families under extreme pressure due to cost of living, organised Summer Interventions which included a Summer Scheme with assistance from Belfast City Council £2,500 and engaged young people locally. Delivery and design of other programmes such as Ballysillan Lantern Parade supported by Belfast City Council £2,800 and was widely attended by local communities across Ballysillan and surrounding areas.

Services

North Belfast Alternatives delivers a wide range of services for the public benefit, but all of them are underpinned by the principles of restorative practice. In essence this involves the healing, repair of broken relationships to the individual, family and community relationships that lead to crime, anti-social behaviour and community conflict. Services available include: Intensive Youth Support (for individuals), Family Support, Victim Support, Counselling, Prevention/Intervention work with Young People, Mediation and Community Support on behalf of the Housing Executive and PSNI, Detached Youth Work, Schools Work across North Belfast both primary and secondary schools, delivering training in restorative practices to a wide school and community base.. NBA works in partnership with 4 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships alongside statutory agencies, two Family Support Hubs in North Belfast and TEO Urban Villages.

Report of the Trustees (continued)

Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of its financial position at the end of that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any 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 company will continue in business.

The Directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Statement of Disclosure of Information to Examiner

So far as each of the Directors in office at the date of approval of these financial statements are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the examiner are unaware; and
- They have taken all the steps they ought to have taken as Directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner are aware of that information.

Examiner

In accordance with Article 382 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing that HMCI Limited be appointed as independent examiner of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Registered office
252-256 Ballysillan Road
Belfast
BT4 6RB

Signed by order of the trustees



Tom Winstone
Secretary

Date: 12/12/2024