

Donaghadee Youth For Christ – NIC103400–Annual Report to 31 December 2023

The trustees of Donaghadee Youth For Christ are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period of 1st January to 31 December 2023.

Purposes

Donaghadee Youth For Christ is a youth organisation, established in Donaghadee in 1995, and based there to provide opportunities for young people in Donaghadee and the immediate area to learn about Christianity, embrace it for themselves and ultimately become members of local churches. It is chartered centre to the national body, Youth For Christ Northern Ireland, which in turn is a chartered programme of Youth For Christ International.

Donaghadee Youth For Christ runs a 'drop-in' centre at 11 High Street, Donaghadee where young people both from church and non-church backgrounds can encounter the Gospel in a relevant way, be given the opportunity to explore it more for themselves, with the view to them becoming members of one of the local churches. Staffed by one full-time and one part-time staff member, along with a team of trained volunteers, the centre is normally open for 10 hours each week and offers a range of activities, games, structured programmes, Bible study groups, prayer meetings and worship events for all young people in the Donaghadee area, alongside the traditional 'drop in' type facility. The centre also runs education/training courses for young people looking at citizenship and lifestyle issues such as drugs and alcohol awareness, knife crime, sexuality, teen pregnancy and road safety, facilitated by both staff members and external providers. Donaghadee Youth For Christ offers a counselling service to any young person on a wide range of issues. It also provides activities for young people outside the centre including trips, camps and sporting events. Donaghadee Youth For Christ carries out outreach work from the centre, which may include visitation of schools, street evangelism, summer teams work and events of all kinds designed to present young people with the Gospel. Donaghadee Youth For Christ runs evangelistic events, participates in church services and engages in such activities as are deemed necessary or desirable for the attainment of the purpose. Donaghadee Youth For Christ runs a charity shop in the town of Donaghadee, the proceeds of which go towards supporting the work of the centre. Donaghadee Youth For Christ cooperates with the churches in Donaghadee and other organisations, the aims of which are similar in character, in promoting evangelism particularly among young people.

The Centre also seeks to enable young people in Donaghadee to grow up in a spiritually enlightened environment, irrespective of their background or degree of church involvement and offers programmes and events to allow the practical outworking of the Christian faith through the promotion and demonstration of a strong, moral, ethical lifestyle, equipping young people to make better lifestyle choices and to give them a better understanding of Christian citizenship.

Beneficiaries

The charity's beneficiaries are primarily children aged 8-13 and young people aged from 14 and up, those young people on the margins of the Donaghadee community, and those with whom the established churches find difficulty reaching.

Activities/Achievements

The core activities of Donaghadee Youth For Christ are:

- Delivery of weekly, age-specific, after-school programmes providing teaching and greater understanding of the Christian faith for children and young people;
- Delivery of drop-in based, evening youth work sessions for children and teenagers;
- Partnering with schools, churches and like-minded organisations to increase the standard of professional youth work within the local area;
- Providing an outreach programme within the local area.

The structured programme includes a range of age-specific small groups and includes:

- Monday: SU group in local primary school for P4-P7 boys & girls (age 7-11).

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| | Drop-in session for the Year 8-10's group (age 11-13) working through practical topics such as drugs, alcohol, bullying, peer pressure, internet safety. |
| Tuesday: | Kids Bible Bizz P7 (age 10-11). |
| Wednesday: | Kids Bible Bizz P6 (age 9-10). |
| Friday: | Evening – Teenagers' group (age 13-17) - small group sessions, lots of fun trips, group work sessions with organisations such as A.C.E.T, Love For Life, EXTERN, PSNI, Youth Justice Agency and link ups with our local police constables to build important relationships of mutual respect & tackle anti-social behaviour issues. |
| Saturday: | Morning football sessions for older teenagers. |

In addition to the weekly programme above, the centre also conducted "Time to Move" style lessons for P7 pupils in local primary schools making the move to secondary school; "Mum & Daughter" group work sessions; assemblies in local primary schools, and facilitated group work sessions and residential weekends to places such as Todd's Leap Outdoor Activity Centre, Jungle NI and the The Surf Project.

In addition to the structured programme, Donaghadee Youth For Christ also provides mentoring and detached street work in the community, and offers services to local primary and secondary schools as well as helping provide training and support to the churches and running one-off events, trips, workshops and residential weekends.

Fundraising activities, like sponsored football on Boxing Day and in June, and the coffee afternoon are run on an annual basis and enjoy very encouraging support from the majority of businesses in the town, local churches and many individuals and parents of the children/young people.

Restrictions

As the large majority of the Centre's offering is funded by personal donations, grant funding, proceeds from the charity shop and some fundraising events, no charge is usually levied for the regular weekly programme activities other than a nominal annual registration fee. Some exceptional aspects of the programme may require a contribution from young people, for example a residential weekend, but as far as possible the Centre endeavours to operate at a very affordable level giving priority instead to increased opportunities for participation.

There were no issues of access to facilities to report as the centre is based entirely on the ground floor, includes level access from the street entrance, wide corridors and includes the provision of an accessible toilet.

Harm

There were no issues in respect of harm to report. Harm is mitigated by ensuring that staff and volunteers undergo regular training which included child protection, first aid, mental health awareness and GDPR. Support is provided for continued professional practice to aid the development of the work standards of staff, volunteers and trustees. Through its chartering to Youth For Christ Northern Ireland, the Donaghadee YFC Drop-In Centre also has to comply with certain 'best practice' requirements of its chartering agreement.

Private Benefit

There was no known private benefit to the public.

In setting the objectives and planning the activities of Donaghadee Youth For Christ for the year, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

Financial Review

The financial performance for the year to 31st December 2023 was satisfactory and as expected, considering the ongoing recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was very pleasing to the trustees. Income for the year in the general account of £78,866 was up 12.5% on the previous year, whilst expenditure was up 1.4% to £74,825, reflecting a return to full operations after Covid-19. The charity finished the year with a modest surplus overall of £4,041, which counterbalanced the deficit of £4,238 reported in the previous period. In addition to careful ongoing financial management, the trustees have also retained a reserve of £12,000, equating to 16% of annual expenditure, in line with its policy on reserves.

Detailed accounts can be found attached.

Funds Materially in Deficit

As at 31st December 2023 the organisation had no funds in material deficit.

Details:

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| Charity Name: | Donaghadee Youth For Christ | |
| Northern Ireland Charity Number: | NIC103400 | |
| Principal Address: | 11 High Street, Donaghadee, Co Down, BT21 0AA | |
| Charity Trustees as at 31.12.21: | Gordon Currie | Chairperson |
| | Stuart Hamilton | Treasurer |
| | Paul Bowers | Secretary |
| | David Duncan | |
| | Reta Pollock | |
| | Janice MacArthur | |

Governance

The organisation is governed by a constitution, adopted in January 1994 and last amended in April 2016; this can be made available upon request. The organisation is directed by the board of trustees, who receive guidance from Youth For Christ Northern Ireland through which it is affiliated by charter. The day-to-day running of programmes and the drop-in centre itself is managed by the staff and volunteers, with oversight from the Centre Co-ordinator.

Trustee Selection and Management

As outlined in the constitution, the Board of Trustees is made up of no more than 14 members. For the year to 31st December 2023 the board consisted of 6 members, with a representative range reflecting a range of vocations and a balance of age, gender, churches and denominations. The National Director of Youth For Christ Northern Ireland is an ex-officio member of the board of trustees of Donaghadee Youth For Christ.

The Board is elected by secret ballot every year at the Annual General Meeting, where current board members are able to put themselves forward as well as receiving nominations for new prospective members to stand for election. Outside of this, up to three board members can be co-opted onto the Board at any time, providing they are approved by a majority vote of the existing Board.

The Board of trustees meets typically monthly throughout the year, with a break in July and August. The trustees met 8 times during the year to 31st December 2023, with all meetings being held in person. At each meeting the Treasurer presents the latest financial report on the accounts and these are reviewed against budgets and forecasts; spending is discussed and approved. The Centre Co-Ordinator presents an overview of recent activities within the programmes and outlines forthcoming events. The Annual Report

and Statement of Accounts are approved by the trustees and then presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting, which took place on 27 November 2023.

Prepared for the Board of Trustees on 6 September 2024 and signed on their behalf;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Stuart Hamilton (TRUSTEE)