



**BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**Company No: NI035853
Charity No: NIC103691**

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Table of Contents
Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Page
Company Information	2
Report of the Trustees	3 - 25
Independent Auditors Report to the members	26 - 28
Statement of Financial Activities	29
Balance Sheet	30
Statement of Cash Flows	31
Notes to the Financial Statements	32 - 40

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Company Information

Trustees	Colette Kane (Treasurer) Graeme Maclaughlin Victoria Caddy Paula Kennedy Tara Leathem Claire Sullivan (Chairperson) Mary Kitson Sarah Moon (Deputy Chairperson) Clodagh O'Brien Deborah McClinton Stuart Harkin (Appointed 15 August 2023) Orlaith McGibbon (Appointed 15 August 2023)
Secretary	Joseph McVey (Resigned 1 February 2024)
Address for correspondence	5c Stirling House Castlereagh Business Park 478 Castlereagh Road Belfast BT5 6BQ
Registered Office	5c Stirling House Castlereagh Business Park 478 Castlereagh Road Belfast BT5 6BQ
Auditor	AAB Group Accountants Limited Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors 1-3 Arthur Street Belfast BT1 4GA
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Belfast City Branch 4-8 High Street Belfast BT1 2BA
Registered Charity No.	103691
Registered Company No.	NI035853

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Brain Injury Matters (NI) was formally established in July 2013 as an independent regional Charity. The purpose of Brain Injury Matters (BIM) is to provide direct benefit through the development and provision of a range of services to children, adults, families and carers, affected by acquired brain injury (ABI) in Northern Ireland to help them to rebuild their lives and achieve their full potential in community life. As set in the current strategy "Looking to the Future 2023-2026" our Vision and Mission is "To support promote and advocate on behalf of all those impacted by Acquired Brain Injury to rebuild their lives and live beyond ABI".

Public Benefit:

To advance education concerning brain injuries among people in Northern Ireland and in particular to benefit those affected by:

1. Providing facilities and services including Arts, Sports, Education and Therapy designed to rehabilitate and provide relief from their disability persons' resident in the area of benefit who have suffered head injuries and / or related brain damage and to counsel and otherwise assist their relatives, dependents and friends.
2. Educating the public and promoting knowledge in the area of benefits about brain injury and its effects, and the problems suffered by brain-injured people and their families.

The benefits which flow from our purpose are improved mental, emotional and physical well being, enhanced inclusion of brain injury survivors and their families, increased independence, improved quality of life outcomes and reduced dependence on other health and social care services. An additional benefit is improved awareness amongst the general public of the challenges faced by those living with brain injury, reducing social exclusion. Set out below is a summary of our achievements, performance and benefits to our beneficiaries.

The Trustees of BIM (NI) have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance in relation to the public benefit in producing this report and as required by the Charities legislation commission we can confirm that:

- BIM (NI) purposes are not harmful; and
- Where there is private benefit, it is incidental including a sense of well-being to those who volunteer and as appropriate training to enable volunteers. e.g., Charity Trustees and Centre volunteers, to effectively carry out their roles in delivering public benefit.

Summary: Achievement and Performance

The provision of services in 2023-2024 continued to be delivered using a hybrid model (of face-to-face and virtual appointments) as we transitioned into the recovery phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This model of delivery supports our value of inclusion and has been shown to enhance choice and access for our beneficiaries as set out below.

BIM's performance scorecard captures the outcomes and impact of our work in four areas:

Accessibility: The who, what, where and when.

Effectiveness: How do we know we help people with brain injury?

Acceptability: What are we doing to monitor and improve people's satisfaction with BIM (NI).

Engagement and partnership working: How effective are our partnership arrangements?

These areas will now be discussed across Children and Youth Services, Adults Services and the organisation as a whole.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Children and Youth Services

BIM Children and Youth Service (CYS) supports children and young people 0-18 years and their families with ABI. We are a regional service, funded in part by The National Lottery Community Fund, Children in Need and other smaller funds. The service is delivered in partnership with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSC), Children's Acquired Brain Injury Consultation Service (CABCS) and Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT; Mentoring programme only).

The CYS Service has 3 main elements:

- The Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP): Therapeutic support and mentoring for those aged 12-18 with the aim of empowering families. The programme harnesses the expertise of lived experience whilst increasing resilience and self-reliance.
- Child and Family Advocacy service (ADV): One-to-one practical support for parents/carers of children and young people aged 0-18. This service assists family identified needs related to health, education, training, finances or housing. Parents/Carers can also join a peer support network where they can share knowledge and experiences and gain more information on available ABI support(s).
- Regional steering groups and social activities: Steering groups meet approximately once every six weeks. The young person steering group provides opportunities for children with ABI and their siblings to support the planning and delivery of the YEP. Each young person is given a designated role within the group e.g., Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer. Similarly, the parent/professional steering group provides opportunities for parents/carers to co-produce all aspects of YEP service delivery and planning. Finally, regional events planned at multiple time points throughout the year aim to maximise independence, connection, and interaction; whilst simultaneously fostering a family's social skills and confidence.

YEP Outputs

In 2023-2024, at least 192 people were supported by the YEP programme. Five families are currently on the waiting list for YEP support. Specifically, the programme delivered:

- A total of 302 therapeutic sessions (562.25 hours of support) and 13 mentoring sessions (13 hours of support) to 22 families referred (17 young people, 5 mentees, 2 mentors, 26 parents/carers and 23 siblings). Additionally, 164 hours of input were provided to the team/professionals supporting these families (8 multidisciplinary professional meetings and 8 school meetings).
- Seven family events with over 81 family members in attendance.
- 2 ABI-related psychoeducational workshops to 40 allied health professionals ("AHPs") and healthcare professionals.

YEP Referrals

- Over half referrals were received from families themselves (52.4%), over a third of referrals were from trust partners (37.2%) i.e., paediatrics, emergency departments, clinical psychology, social work, and allied health professionals. The remaining referrals were from educational or community organisations (11.0%).
- Most families (32.5%) were referred from the Western HSCT, followed by the Belfast (25.5%) and Southern Trusts (18.6%). Slightly over a tenth of families were referred from the South Eastern Trust and Northern Trusts respectively (11.5%).

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Impact of the YEP: Benefits and Outcomes Achieved

Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP: 12-18 years):

This programme offers therapeutic support for children and mentoring for children within the Southern and Belfast Trust areas. Therapeutic programme delivery is based on a secondary prevention model, which aims to empower and enable youth and their families to have greater knowledge and skills to live their best possible lives post ABI. The Peer Mentoring Programme, provided in partnership with the Southern and Belfast Trust Community Brain Injury Teams, provided a "dual" impact. For 13–18-year-old mentees with an ABI: growth and psychosocial development and for young adult mentors: a chance to build leadership skills, gain self-confidence and share their lived experience of ABI. The learning outcomes/goals of the mentoring sessions were determined by the young people.

The therapeutic and mentoring aspects of the Youth Empowerment Programme between April 2023-2024, have been reported to be:

- *Accessible:* People can access the YEP easily – 85.71% of families reported they were comfortable with the location of the service provided and that sessions were arranged at *suitable times "most of the time"*.
- *Effective:* the YEP makes a difference – For all young people involved, the programme facilitated a) *fewer difficulties with conduct* e.g., ("I get very angry") average percentage decrease of 25.0 b) *fewer difficulties with hyperactivity* (e.g., "I am easily distracted") average percentage decrease of 25.0; c) *fewer emotional symptoms* (e.g., "I worry a lot") average percentage decrease of 37.5; d) *fewer peer problems* e.g., ("other people pick on me") average percentage decrease of 25.0; e) *increased prosocial behaviour* (e.g., "I am considerate of others") average percentage increase of 40.0 and *fewer total difficulties* (average percentage decrease of 28.12). These improvements were measured by the standardised Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire (Goodman, 1997).

Similarly, all young people involved reported: a) improved confidence and optimism about coping with/managing their ABI (e.g., I know how to take care of my emotional or mental health; average percentage increase of 25.0); b) improved confidence and capacity to work with service providers to select and optimize services and supports (e.g., When a service or support is not working for me, I take steps to get it changed; average percentage increase of 12.5); and c) improved confidence and capacity to help providers improve services and to help other youth understand the service system (e.g. I have ideas about how to improve services or supports for young people with an ABI; average percentage increase of 12.5).

These improvements were measured by the standardised Youth Empowerment Scale (Walker et al., 2010).

For parents, the programme facilitated: a) improved family empowerment (e.g., "I feel my family life is under control"); average percentage increase of 25.0, b) improved empowerment around service use (e.g., "I am able to make good decisions about what services my child needs"); average percentage increase of 12.5 and improved empowerment around in the community (e.g., "I understand how the service system for children is organised"); average percentage increase of 12.5.

These improvements were measured by the standardised Family Empowerment Scale (Koren et al., 1992).

- *Acceptable:* the YEP meets people's expectations – 81.63%⁴ of families suggested they were "extremely likely" and 18.36% "likely" to recommend the YEP programme to friends or family in a similar situation.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

YEP, Steering Group and Social Activities:

All the families referred to the YEP programme can attend online/community social activities which are organised by staff and the members of young person and parent/professional Steering Groups. Social events are additional to other services that are presently available regionally. Between 2023 and 2024, seven activities were held including glass crafting, chocolate tasting and family quizzes. Quizzes are typically held each quarter and are organised by the "Brain Teasers" quiz committee of young people with an ABI.

The Impact of YEP:

- The programme is collaborative, innovative and participant-led. This is an excellent 'fit' with Brain Injury Matter's empowerment approach as well as funder expectations.
- The therapeutic aspects of the programme have supported young people to understand and cope with the impact of their brain injury, articulate their family needs & improve their overall needs and improve their overall community involvement. This is particularly evident through goal attainment. Goals were self-selected and grouped in accordance with the International Classification of Functioning and Health (ICF, WHO, 2002). Goals supported and reached by young people and their families, most commonly related to the domains of *body functions* ("Mental Functions"; 86% of families); activities and participation ("Interpersonal Interactions and Relationships"; "Major Life Areas"; "General Tasks and Demands and "Community, Social and Civic Life"; 77% of families²), and *Environmental Factors* ("Support and Relationships" and "Attitudes" and 36% of families).
- The mentoring aspect of the programme offered a cost-effective and inclusive approach to addressing social exclusion and related psychosocial dysregulation for those living with an ABI in NI. The programme built on a young person's existing knowledge and experience and supported them to develop relationships within their community and local healthcare trusts. Unfortunately, due to the regional nature of the service and the travel commitments involved for families, mentee recruitment proved challenging. So, this aspect of the programme closed in December 2023. All Peer Mentoring families reported they were saddened by the closure and extended positive feedback regarding this programme. Mentors commented on the positive changes they observed for the young people involved and how much they themselves had gained from the sessions.

YEP Case Study

Sophie, a 17-year-old female, was referred to the YEP in April 2023 by her occupational therapist for "family support and to meet other young people with a brain injury". Sophie wanted to work on three goals: improved sleep, improved memory and improved emotional regulation. Sophie's parent/carer also wanted support for her brother, sister as the former was experiencing bullying in school, and the latter was experiencing challenges related to her ASD diagnosis. During her time in the YEP programme Sophie began a college course in animal behaviour & a volunteer opportunity at a local animal sanctuary. This helped Sophie's confidence develop and her social circle expand. The YEP programme supported with her ABI related learning needs and changing friendships circles throughout these transitions. Sophie was also supported with memory and fatigue strategies related to her interests e.g., "Harry Potter" and "Fortnite". Sophie was signposted to our advocacy service for partnership working with other counselling and trauma supports. Sophie's siblings were supported with visual schedules and sleep hygiene and association strategies. Sophie's brother was provided with school liaison to discuss ongoing bullying.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Family comments after receiving support from YEP:

"The service provided by the YEP has been so important and valuable to our family as other services just didn't listen. The YEP staff have [given us] strategies, skill and resources which has helped this journey no end. They talked with us and checked that we knew how to use the strategies. We would have found this so difficult without support". (Parent)

"It is the best community service that we have ever had after [young person's] ABI. The YEP programme is the only one that listens to our needs and acts on them and stays involved over a longer period". (Parent)

Young person's comments after receiving support from the YEP:

"I liked getting the chance to talk".

"I learnt about my brain and how to look after myself more with my injury and all".

"I feel less paranoid. I still know how I can do things in a different way".

"The mentoring group provided a safe space to share things with others who got it".

Additional testimonies from social care and educational professionals:

"...the information regarding trauma and its effects on behaviour and children has been so useful and informative and [YEP practitioner] provided this in an easy way with great use of relevant examples". (Social Worker).

"I have so appreciated you coming out to visit us and being able to show us how to modify the environment to enable [young person] to feel more at ease and less anxious. You really helped us all see things differently. Using music to help connect and remember routines has been so helpful. It really helped us consider how we can not only support him but others in his class". (Teacher)

"BIM have been a valuable resource to the children and families that I work with, offering a selection of important activities and interventions that aren't available within the statutory sector. The stories that families create after a traumatic medical event are fundamental in helping them cope and move on. It has been my experience that the support, advice and relationships they access through contact with BIM is often a useful part in facilitating a compassionate narrative about their child's injury, and how they as a family navigate forward". (Occupational Therapist)

"BIM offers a unique service for children who have experienced an ABI, and their families. They offer individualised and practical support for children to maximise their independence. They also offer invaluable support to siblings and care givers in terms of managing changes and difficulties post ABI. Furthermore, they offer advocacy and advice to families to navigate complex processes following an ABI such as return to school, housing issues and making benefits applications". (Clinical Psychologist)

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Comments from young people involved in the Youth Matters Steering Group and social activities:

[Regarding Young Person Steering Group] *"I like hosting and having a role...it gives me a chance to talk and now I'm not as shy"*

[Regarding Parent/Carer Steering Group]: *"It was a feeling of being brought into the fold. No longer was I the outsider within a professional hierarchy but I was an expert (though still always learning). An expert in my lived experiences, my child's condition and an expert who could help shape the path for other families. The steering group allowed me to widen my support network and be happy in the knowledge that we were not alone and that with this group today's problem might not exist tomorrow..."*

[Regarding Crafted Glass event] *"Your day trips have been brilliant, really interesting places and new for us to visit and experience"*

[Regarding Quarterly Quizzes] *"We had so much fun and laughed so much. Thank you!"*

Child and family advocacy service (0–18-year-olds):

Co-created with family's resident in NI, impacted by an ABI, the programme has two key elements: 1) one-to-one family advocacy (whereby an advocacy officer assists family identified needs; and 2) peer advocacy (whereby families support one another within a Parent-Carer Empowerment Group and a private social media page).

Advocacy Outputs

In 2023-2024, at least 764¹ people were supported by the advocacy service and six families are currently on the waiting list for support. Specifically, ADV delivered:

- A total of 1089 pragmatic advocacy sessions (1227.25 hours of support) to 34 families referred (34 young people, 52 parents/carers and 12 siblings). Additionally, 384 hours of input were provided to the team/professionals supporting these families(111 professional contacts /meetings).
- Nine parents/carers attended the parent/carer empowerment group and 20 families are participants in the private social media support group within which 268 supportive resources were posted. The most common resource theme engaged within related to education and health.
- Thirteen tailored workshops supporting 440 health and social care professionals.
- Eleven training sessions supporting 197 clinical psychology students, educational and health and social care staff.
- Fourteen guidebooks were created to support families – topics included finance support, activities and programmes for parents, activities and programmes for children and young people, appeals and complaints, managing appointments and life admin, campaigning and having your voice heard, respite & breaks, education, ABI Information (hormones, alcohol etc.), careers, additional support (statutory & voluntary, carers assessments, text a nurse), parenting strategies and skills, emotional support for children & young people, emotional support for parents.
- Twelve monthly newsletters.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Advocacy Referrals

Nearly two thirds of referrals were received from families themselves (61.76%), just over a quarter of referrals were from trust partners (26.0%) i.e., paediatrics, emergency departments, clinical psychology, social work, GPs and allied health professionals. The remaining referrals were from educational or community organisations (11.76%).

Over a quarter of families (26.47%) were referred from the Western HSCT, followed by almost a quarter of the referrals being received from the Northern and Belfast Trusts respectively (23.52%). Slightly over a tenth of families were referred from the Southern Trust (14.70%) and Southern Eastern Trusts respectively (11.76%).

Impact of Advocacy: Benefits and Outcomes Achieved

Families using the Advocacy Service between April 2023 & April 2024 self-reported that they found ADV to be

- **Accessible:** People can access it easily – 88.09% of families reported they were comfortable with the of the service provided *and* that sessions were arranged at suitable times "most of the time".
- **Effective:** the YEP makes a difference. Both quantitative and qualitative baseline measures collected when when families start the advocacy service highlight how families presented with a sense of isolation (55.5%), feeling unheard (44.4%) and frustration that the impact of ABI was not understood (55.5%). Additionally, families wished to have a greater knowledge of available services (55.5%) and more provisions for siblings (83.3%). A focus group at the beginning of the peer advocacy identified that families wished to share experiences "have someone who understands you" and receive relevant support "get advice at different stages and ages...not go on a fact-finding mission". Advocacy outcomes are complex, dynamic and not always self-evident early in the advocacy process. Further, BIM's family and peer advocacy service may also vulnerable to bureaucracy, funding and public attitudes around ABI. However, quantitative and qualitative measures six months into the service suggest families reported feeling less isolated (60.0%), heard (60.0%), that they had greater knowledge of ABI and related services (80.0%) and that siblings were receiving entitlements met more appropriate support (80.0%). These findings suggests families through ADV still have their rights and thus are not more vulnerable to health inequality and exclusion. Families also reported that they were "listened to and taken seriously", "getting a result" and "grow[ing] as a family". Additionally, a focus group six months into the peer support showed the cathartic nature of shared experience "you know other people have been through it and they can say, this is what we did".
- **Acceptable:** The number of families supported (34) has surpassed referral targets requiring *the* support of 20 families a year. Significantly, all families would also recommend this service to another family with an ABI.

Impact of Advocacy:

Empowering families with the skills of advocacy equips them with knowledge they can utilise across the lifespan, and thus programme benefits may not be solely limited to the programme's timeframe.

A service like this is particularly vital post ABI. This is when families are navigating cognitive, behavioural, and psychosocial challenges, not present pre-ABI as well as the resulting increased healthcare, educational /vocational and financial needs.

Certainly, in a healthcare climate where services are more and more limited, advocacy services are increasingly vital to ensure those impacted with ABI still have their rights and entitlements met and they are not more vulnerable to health inequality and exclusion.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

Quotes from people after using the Advocacy Service:

"[Advocacy Officer] has been a godsend and has helped so much with school...she took the burden of finding out information [and] has been vital in helping [our] meetings be more productive..."

"[Advocacy Officer was] only a phone call away [and] always there to offer support, guidance and help"

"[Advocacy Officer] listened to the needs of myself and my family, [she] actively worked to help us very quickly [and] continued to help until each problem was resolved. [She] kept me up to date with progress of [and it was] easy to communicate worries/questions with."

Advocacy Case Study

Alistair is a 16-year-old who sustained a traumatic brain injury after a road traffic collision. Following this, Alistair and his family's life was totally transformed. Elements of his personality and behaviour had changed in ways that were "unpredictable" to those who knew him; due to balance and motor issues, he experienced frustration as previous interests were difficult to reclaim. He was impacted by injury-related fatigue compounded by issues with sustaining attention in school and remembering what had been taught in class. Alistair's mum, who left her job to support Alistair, describes the first few months' post-injury as "a haze they were just trying to get through". Alistair's family needed support through this haze. They needed to get a clear picture of what support they were entitled to, how to access it, and what sibling support was available. Furthermore, they wanted someone "by their side" to provide information and guidance regarding upcoming changes, such as school transitions, that may feel overwhelming to tackle alone. Their Advocacy Officer met with Alistair's mum at their home and discussed their needs and created an action plan. As with many other families on the Advocacy service, the focus of these needs was less on Alistair (as he was engaging with various therapies to aid his physical recovery), but more on other issues which his parents had not had the capacity to fully address. This included guidance around communicating the needs of his siblings, signposting to social groups, future careers information, and financial and benefits applications. This was completed through visits, external meetings and school/service follow-ups, letter-writing, form-filling and collaboration with other professionals. Now, Alistair and his family continue to avail of the service and their Advocacy Officer is now helping them to secure a much-needed respite break. Of the support they have received, Alistair's mum has highlighted, "I cannot tell you how grateful I am for your support, you have been so willing to help us. Some professional people come into your life, and you can't relate to them, but I feel with BIM, you are all so non-judgmental and warm. I would be lost with you."

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

Adult Services

Service delivery is guided by adherence to the relevant recommendations of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Guidelines on ABI and Stroke, the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD, 2006), and the Health and Social Care Northern Ireland Brain Injury: Service Standards and Quality Indicators. This service, open to those aged 18 and over, has 4 main elements:

- *The Arts*: The Arts service provides the opportunity for people to explore their creative potential through participant-led projects in our Studio Space with professional artists. The projects range from visual arts, photography film, creative writing, poetry animation, drama, physical theatre, creative gardening as well as combined media. These are then published, exhibited, showcased or at exhibitions, events and festivals throughout Northern Ireland and beyond. The Arts seeks to deliver on Article 30 of the UNCPRD "...to enable persons with disabilities to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society".
- *The Sports*: The main Sports focus is 'Pedal Power' partnered with Sustrans. People cycle using bicycles, recumbent trikes or a side-by-side trike to explore their local greenways. People are able to complete national standard cycle training and take part in Triathlon Ireland relay events. This provision of appropriate instruction, training and resources is to allow people to participate on an equal basis with others in mainstream as well as disability-specific sporting activity as per article 30 of the UNCPRD. This work has been disseminated to a global audience by the BBC, Sporting Events and national and international conferences.
- *Counselling*: This service is the foremost provider of counselling throughout Northern Ireland for adults with all types of ABI, and their families. Depending on the nature and location of the brain injury, people with an acquired brain injury (ABI) can experience a range of problems affecting physical function, cognition, behaviour, emotions and loss of self-image (RCP, 2003). In addition, an ABI affects the whole family. This impact on siblings, parents, grandparents and wider family can be utterly devastating. Accordingly, this service offered via telephone/video, is for individuals with ABI as well as for the family members of people affected by ABI.
- *Advocacy*: This service "Carers Matter" offers support to carers, partners and parents of adults with an ABI. It aims to help families across Northern Ireland as they access local services for health, education, training, finances or housing. The advocacy service also provides volunteering opportunities, skills development and well-being opportunities. The latter two services align with Article 25 of the UNCPRD, this service aims to provide "persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons... [providing] services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities... and [providing] these health services as close as possible to people's own communities, including in rural areas".

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

Adult Service Outputs

This service supports participants who attend regularly over a long-term basis. In 2023-2024, 3451 people and their families were supported by adult services. Specifically:

- 30 people attended 2,099⁽⁷⁾ sessions within The Arts Service – 24 with an ABI and 6 family members.
 - 15 people attended 298 sessions within the Sports Service – 10 with an ABI and 5 family members.
 - 27 people attended 147 sessions within the Counselling Service – 8 with an ABI and 19 family members.
 - 273 people attended 468 sessions within the Advocacy Service – 39 with an ABI and 103 family members.
- This service held a programme of yoga sessions of 6 carers and also supported 125 professionals.

For the whole service in this period, there were 24 referrals, 21 new starts/first appointments, 9 discharges and 16 people remaining on the waiting list. The latter is being addressed through staff recruitment and increased support with self-directed payments/direct payments service funding. ⁽⁸⁾

Adult Referrals

Most referrals were received from trust partners (41.67%) i.e., Community Brain Injury Teams, allied health professionals and social work. The remaining referrals were from the individual/family themselves (33.33%) and third sector organisations (25.0%).

Most people (45.83%) were referred from the Belfast Trust, followed by the Northern Trust (25.0%), South Eastern Trust (16.66%), and Southern Trust (12.5%). There were no referrals from the Western Trust.

The Arts





Our 'Arts (Studio), Sports (Hub) and Wellbeing service provides long-term community support and rehabilitation for adults living with an ABI in the community through the Creative Arts, Sports and Physical Activity, Leisure and Self-care/management and Counselling. The aim of the service, led by a team of clinicians and specialist staff, is to support people to come to terms with life post ABI: rebuild a meaningful life and create a renewed sense of achievement and purpose as creatives, artists and cyclists. Within this service, considerable emphasis is placed upon supporting people to achieve their full potential in community life. Our approach to this is to encourage people to see beyond their perceived limitations and engage fully in promoting their skills and talents, challenging themselves and society. This is best reflected in the work submitted to exhibitions and festivals in 2023/2024 and in the work undertaken during this period which will be showcased in 2024/2025.

⁽⁷⁾ This is the number of sessions attended over a week i.e., maximum of 7 a week per person attending over the 48 weeks a year the programme runs.

⁽⁸⁾ The traditional way to access support provided at Brain Injury Matters has been through referral, but the advocacy service is unique. Instead, it provides ad hoc practical support and information to those who are being inducted into the service. It was not possible for this aspect of this support to be comprehensively captured in the above numbers



BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Arts Events	Link(s) to find out more
<p>"Reconnected" (April 2023)</p>	<p>https://x.com/BrainInjMatters/status/1650889578310512640</p> 
	<p>https://x.com/nimhafest/status/1658949530803400704 https://x.com/nimhafest/status/1659119645561966602 https://braininjurymatters.org.uk/events/2023-05-17/a-songbook-of-stories-myths-and-legends-from-the-enthusiasts https://braininjurymatters.org.uk/events/2023-05-13/re-telling-the-tales</p>  <p>https://braininjurymatters.org.uk/events/2023-05-16/into-another-world https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cz_Py-3DQeU</p> 
<p>"Moving Forward" (September 2023)</p>	<p>https://x.com/JonnieMcC/status/1705327010665365588</p> 

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

<u>Arts Events</u>	<u>Link(s) to find out more</u>
<p>"Ulster Orchestra", "Bounce Festival" and "Untraced Finds" (October 2023)</p>	<p>https://www.qub.ac.uk/News/Allnews/2023/Queens-and-Ulster-University-collaborate-with-inclusive-ensembles-for-Ulster-Orchestra-Performance.html</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-67271867</p>  <p>https://crescentarts.org/events/bounce-festival-2023-broken-bodies-but-we-can-</p>  <p>https://www.nvtv.co.uk/shows/the-round-up-friday-27th-october-2023/</p>
<p>"Alternative Christmas" (December 2023)</p>	<p>https://x.com/JonnieMcC/status/1735737878091555254</p>
<p>"I Am" and "Don't Forget to Write". (January 2024)</p>	<p>https://universityofatypical.org/gallery/whats-on/i-am-exhibition/</p> <p>https://x.com/JonnieMcC/status/1761006114701705443?s=20</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/100064778346160/posts/782024177300187?mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=7zGOaovyU2wKyawe</p> <p>https://x.com/JonnieMcC/status/1763614924268274099?s=20</p>
<p>"Broken Bodies" (April 24)</p>	<p>https://x.com/jonniemcc/status/1772667640684667368?s=46&t=kHP9bjXDZKk53KoEIFT1SA</p> <p>https://lyrictheatre.co.uk/whats-on/roqueencountersshowcase-</p> <p>https://x.com/BrainInjMatters/status/1794365374563311989</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrM131YeqB4</p>

People's comments following participation in The Arts:

"I never would've painted a picture before in my life before coming here".

"...painting, anything we do in here, I would never have done that before. All I did was work. That was my life, up in the morning, out to work, back, done the dishes, done the cleaning, then same again. It's completely changed my life".

"It has given me an awful lot, an awful lot of confidence as well".

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Sports

Current timetable: Pedal Power every Friday.

Sports Events	Link(s) to find out more
"Legend of the Lough" (September 2023)	https://x.com/BrainInjMatters/status/1704136064128958819 https://x.com/BrainInjMatters/status/1709179045420609710
"Ice-Zwift" (October 2023)	
Triathlon Ireland SERE Lisburn Triathlon Club National Series Duathlon (March 2024)	https://www.triathlonireland.com/news/gallery-race-report-sere-lisburn-duathlon/ https://x.com/JonnieMcC/status/1772325368831037488?s=20 https://x.com/tri_ireland/status/1771870592548868402?s=20 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ejdt13ldouA

People's comments following participation in The Sports:

"For an hour every Friday it's all about me...you don't feel alone you can kind of go, "Oh, same for me".
 "I'd say I'm a bit fitter since starting...[my] strength, I can feel the progress".
 "BIM is just out of this world. I would recommend it to anyone with a brain injury. It's the most fantastic place, and the people in it are just fantastic. I couldn't be in a better place. And then PP is outstanding"

Counselling

The Brain Injury Matters counselling service is the foremost provider of counselling available to Health & Social Care Professionals throughout Northern Ireland for adults with all types of ABI, and their families. Depending on the nature and location of the brain injury, people with an acquired brain injury (ABI) can experience a range of problems affecting physical function, cognition, behaviour, emotions and loss of self-image (RCP, 2003).

In addition, an ABI, affects the whole family - The impact on siblings, parents, children, grandparents and wider family can be utterly devastating in both the short and long term. Accordingly, Brain Injury Matters counselling service, offered via telephone/video, is for individuals with ABI as well as for the family members of people affected by ABI. This service:

In the year 2023 – 2024, a person's average Core[9] reduced from 21 at the start of the service to a score of 9 when leaving the service. This means those attending counselling experienced improvements from moderate to high levels of distress, to low levels of distress.

Comments from people after Counselling:

"I didn't think counselling would work, I came to prove it was pointless but ended up feeling better and being equipped with tools to continue to improve."

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

*"It really helped to be able to talk about how I was feeling with someone who wasn't family or friends".
"It has been a privilege for me to provide counselling sessions alongside Brain Injury Matters. I've felt very honoured to work with the clients and have learned so much from each client and their story. I have grown as a practitioner and I'm so grateful for the opportunity". (Counsellor)*

⁹The "Clinical Outcomes in Routine Evaluation" outcome measure (CORE-10) is a session-by-session monitoring tool with items covering anxiety, depression, trauma, physical problems, functioning and risk to self. The CORE system monitors change/outcomes within psychological recovery, health, and wellbeing. Scores on the CORE-10 can be divided into categories of distress: Healthy (0–5), low (6–10), mild (11–14), moderate (15–19), moderate-to-severe (20–24), and severe (25 and above).

Advocacy - "Carers Matter"

The "Carers Matter" service has enabled families to access a responsive, needs-led service, which aims to empower them and support them in the ways that are most meaningful and impactful to them. The development of this service's peer support network has enabled carers throughout different communities in Northern Ireland to build relationships, whether virtually or in person. It brings together people of a range of different ages, experiences and reasons for becoming a carer in a safe and supportive environment. An additional and added benefit of adult services is its indirect advocacy. Certainly, individuals with an ABI attending our other adult services is its indirect advocacy. Certainly, individuals with an ABI attending our other adult services can act as a form of respite for their carer /family member. The carer knows that not only are they happy when participating in an event or activity but also that they are being looked after properly by someone who knows what they are doing. Carers are more comfortable leaving their loved ones knowing this support is there. Carers are also supported to develop carer connections during day opportunity drop off and pick up times, resulting in some carers coming earlier in the afternoons to chat with their peers. Five carers have also signed up as volunteers with the organisation. Thus, giving carers the opportunity to access volunteering training e.g., accredited First Aid training.

Advocacy Case Study:

SD cares for his wife MD who has an ABI. They are based in the Northern Trust and MD attends our Arts & Sports sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays this provides SD with respite and on Fridays he joins as a volunteer on our Pedal Power programme. SD commented that *'I get as much out of the cycling as MD, I really enjoy getting out on the bike.'* SD also attends the weekly yoga sessions on Wednesday evenings and has availed of Advocacy support to complete paperwork. SD recently completed First Aid training with Brain Injury Matters and said this made him feel more confident in his role as a carer for his wife MD.

Comments after people have received advocacy support:

- "...opportunities to speak with other carers has been a lifeline".
- "I was so isolated before this"
- *"There's something for both of us [within the support]... it always gives me such a lift".*

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Impact of Adult Services: Benefits and Outcomes Achieved

The Arts and Sports:

Accessibility – people can easily access The Arts and Sports:

- 100% reported they were comfortable with the location of the service provided "most of the time"
- 94.73%⁵ reported sessions were arranged at suitable times "most of the time".

Effectiveness – people think The Arts and Sports make a difference:

- 100% reported being with others allowed them to be social, make friends and participate with others.
- 100% reported meeting others with an ABI helped their mood and wellbeing.
- 93% reported meeting others with an ABI helped them understand and adjust to life after ABI.
- 93% reported having their creative work displayed at exhibitions and festivals helped their confidence and self-esteem.
- 93% reported that by attending the Wellbeing Service they discovered new interests and skills in creative and leisure activities.
- 86%(10) reported that attending the Wellbeing Service enhanced their independence.
- 86% reported that the Brain Injury Matters Wellbeing Service offered them long-term support as they lived life beyond ABI.

Acceptability – people's expectations are met by The Arts and Sports:

- 100% reported they were treated with courtesy, respect and care by staff "most of the time".
- 94.73% reported their agreement was sought before any activity proceeded "most of the time".
- 100% of participants reported they would recommend the service to someone else with an ABI.

Impact of the adult services:

This innovative model of evidence and human rights-based practice delivers long-term engagement in physical activity, peer support and biopsychosocial benefits. Our Creatives & Athletes (formerly known as patients/clients) demonstrate that people with significant physical, cognitive, behavioural & emotional conditions can take part in mainstream Arts exhibitions, festivals & Sports events.

The Arts Service, supports people in finding out who they are now post ABI. Initially, this service allows exploration of identity and self-expression. However, a unique aspect of the long-term nature of this service means more complex challenges of grief, loss, and trauma can also be supported.

The Sports Service, this physiotherapy led service provides guideline recommended "ongoing physical activity" allowing people with significant impairments (including wheelchair users) to use recumbent trikes starting "with low-intensity physical activity...increasing to moderate levels" including Triathlons.

The Advocacy Service ensures the needs of carers of those with ABI are no longer overlooked and ignored. This service not only aims to promote wellbeing and quality of life. The service recognises and endorses the finding that "66% of unpaid carers suffer mental ill health" (Carers NI, 2002) but uniquely, it also acknowledges the additional emotional stressors that can accompany ABI and disability in mid to later life. These extra considerations are often not fully understood by general advocacy supports.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Counselling Service overcomes the barriers of distance, accessibility, time and cost of travel. Significantly, it also provides a degree of anonymity, reducing the intimidation some may feel in a face-to-face session, therefore promoting engagement and support for those impacted by an ABI.

[10] 7% did not provide an answer to this question

Governance

The strategic direction of Brian injury Matters is set out in the current strategy "*Looking to the Future*," our Vision statement "Living beyond Acquired Brain Injury", our Mission Statement "To support, promote and advocate on behalf of all those impacted by ABI" and our Outcomes statements to guide our work over the period 2023-2024.

Board Members who served during 2023-2024

Claire Sullivan: Appointed Chair Oct 2022	Appointed 16/10/2019	
Sarah Moon Deputy Chair	Appointed 28/07/2021	
Cofette Kane: Treasurer	Appointed 23/6/2015	
Joseph McVey Secretary	Appointed 1/1/2019	Resigned Jan 2024
Victoria Caddy	Appointed 6/2/2018	
Paula Kennedy	Appointed 30/7/2018	
Tara Leatham	Appointed 30/5/2019	
Graeme MacLaughlin	Appointed 4/7/2016	
Mary Kitson	Appointed 5/5/2021	
Clodagh O'Brien	Appointed 21/1/2022	
Deborah McClinton	Appointed 22/5/2022	
Orlaigh McGibbon	Appointed 15/8/2023	
Stuart Harkin	Appointed 15/8/2023	

As a part of its ongoing commitment to succession planning efforts were made to attract potential Board members from specific areas including legal, the health sector and finance. New Trustees who joined the period participated in a governance induction programme which introduces members to their roles & responsibilities as directors of the company and provides an overview the strategic plan, governance arrangements and financial position of the charity. When appropriate, Board Members were encouraged to participate in governance training and development opportunities offered by CO3.

Board Meetings and Oversight

The Board continued to meet on a regular basis every quarter, with additional Board meetings arranged as appropriate or necessary, in response to changing circumstances. The Board continued to pay particular attention to the ongoing service delivery, the welfare of the staff team, financial stability, and fundraising.

The Board paid close attention to the question of risk with the risk register considered as a standing item at each Board meeting. The Board continued to receive regular reports on operational performance against targets agreed in the operational plan. The Board was supported in turn by the Finance and HR subcommittee and the Marketing & Funding working groups. During this period the Board also continued to support the Board Room Apprentice scheme with Edel McCusker as the BIM (NI) "apprentice".

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

During this period, The Board supported a review of all BIM policies to ensure all policies were up to date. The revised Policy Manual was developed in tandem with a new Employee Handbook and have developed a review timeline to ensure policies are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Thirteen internal policies & processes period and Cyber Security Essentials accreditation with IASME was successfully obtained. Staff attended First Aid at Work Training in December and SharePoint Training in January. Our Engagement Officer completed Keeping Adults Safe and Designated Officer training in January and our Research and Policy Officer attended "Measuring Impact" CO3 training with Roger Courtney in November which provided reassurance that our current evaluation framework is sufficient. Future considerations may include social value.

Marketing, Awareness Raising, Advocacy and Lobbying

Marketing Planning for 23/24 progressed well. Social media has continued to develop our online presence with a series of marketing and content strategies designed to boost engagement. In this period, Facebook had 65 new pages likes and a reach of 22,471; Instagram had 182 new followers and a reach of 2736; Twitter had 14 new followers and 12,529 post impressions; and LinkedIn had 8385 engagements and 7 new connections. We focused on building on the successes of 2022-2023's with "Shine A Light" (e.g., illuminations of civic buildings across Northern Ireland for ABI Week) and "Volunteer Week" and developed an organisational wide Marketing calendar to promote a programme of activities across all our services. Deliberate efforts were made to showcase our services and the people attending them by sharing their creative outputs and sporting achievements. This involved producing art works for numerous local festivals (Bounce, Belfast Exposed and the Mental Health Arts Festival), "Enthusiast" choir performances at local venues (The MAC Theatre, Crescent Arts Centre and 2 Royal Avenue) and multiple media features (local and national BBC channels and NTV). We also successfully launched our rebrand in September unveiling our new logo and strategic plan for 2023-26. The new website was launched in January 2024 with updated copy, images and content. Plans to ensure our website meets accessibility laws is now a priority.

As part of our commitment to raising awareness, there was significant increase in staff involvement in national and international conferences throughout the year. These included the Welsh Stroke Conference, the UK Stroke Forum, The International Brain Injury Association's 14th World Congress on Brain Injury, and the International Conference on Integrated Care. Presenting to international professionals working within brain injury validated the significance and value of the work Brain Injury Matters, allow new avenues of service delivery/outcomes to be considered and facilitated new connections/networks. Moreover, our presentations were published in scientific journals meaning additional dissemination to appropriate audiences. We also continue to feed into policy groups to ensure the voices of those impacted by ABI are appropriately heard, represented and included in all aspects of healthcare and society. These include the Child Health Coalition; NI Neurological Charities Alliance and NI Neurological Charities Alliance Policy Officer Group; The Long-term Health Conditions Alliance and the Mae Murray Advisory Group. Key achievements from these groups have included the "Young person's hospital fund" (Child Health Coalition); the GE24 Carer's manifesto (Carer's Coalition) and meeting with the NI mental health champion to highlight the mental health needs of children with neurological conditions. 7 key asks will now be included in the Mental Health Strategy (NI Neurological Charity Alliance Policy Officer's Group) and a guide to accessible playgrounds (Mae Murray Advisory Group). Equally, we continue to promote BIM services through engagement with the SPPG, Health Trusts, CBIT, CABCs, Headway, Disability Action and DPOs.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

Brain Injury Matters are also keen to drive for inclusive healthcare, policies and laws, which better support and protect all those impacted by ABI. Accordingly, we have been involved in a number of consultation responses (the NI Equality and Disability Action Plan 2023-2028, the 2023-2024 Disability Action Plan, the NI Restrictive Practices Consultation, the RCP consultation on Stroke Guidelines and we contributed to a letter for the permanent Secretary for Health in NI on the hospital parking charges consultation. We were also delighted for our work in adult services to be included with Triathlon Ireland's Inclusion Training and we hope to feed into other ABI and disability awareness training in the future. Brain Injury Matters were also the NI co-ordinators for the IMPACT Network's "Remodelling the Front Door" project which is a £15 million UK centre for implementing evidence in adult social care. Significantly, continuous considerable efforts are made to engage with the DoH to highlight the need for adequate support for our children's service and the long-anticipated review of ABI services contracts and consequently funding.

Partnerships

The Bar of NI selected the Organisation as Charity of the Year. The successful opening event took place on the 21st March with an art installation, presentation and fundraising afternoon. The Bar has participated in the Belfast Marathon and a choir evening and will host various other fundraising events. They also aim to arrange an installation of service user artwork for the duration of the partnership. The BIM fundraising committee is also a priority to be addressed in the next quarter. We also became Charity Partner with "Leaders for Accessibility". Leaders for Accessibility is a new member network enabling companies to create more inclusive and accessible products and places of work. By joining, BIM get access to strategy sessions, accessibility specialists and solutions to enhance our employee and stakeholder experience for greater productivity, growth and compliance.

As our staff team includes AHPs, clinicians, researchers, academics and professional artists we are able to collaborate and partner across the sectors of Health/Social Care; Academia/Research; the Voluntary /Community Sector, and; Arts Organisations.

This uniqueness allows us to bring our model of Human Rights based Practice through our direct involvement and roles, to health and social care partners within Trusts, Community Rehabilitation Alliance (NI), Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Northern Ireland Neurological Charities Alliance, Royal College of Speech and Public Health Agency allowing them to reconsider the role of their professions and the expectations they might now have for their patients/clients. Partnering with the Sonic Arts Research Centre, Queens University we have brought performers and performances into the academic space where their world leading 'Sonic Lab' was probably the first to host a performance composed and performed by people with ABI.

We have positive relationship with the Arts Council and collaborate and partner with a range of local arts organisations and facilitators including the University of Atypical, Open Arts, Rogue Encounters, Natasha Cuddington, EastSide Arts Festival, the Imagine Festival and the Bounce Festival.

These collaborators and partners across these sectors have joined with us in our vision to inspire others with an ABI and other disabilities that excellence in The Arts is possible by challenging society and raising awareness of what people can achieve. This further delivers on the UNCRPD Article 8, to "...promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards persons with disabilities."

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

Volunteering

BIM (NI) works with a core team of 15 volunteers per year and there were five volunteers onboarded in this period with a further five applications received. These individuals support across our adult services and are an essential part of service delivery. There has been a sustained interest in volunteering opportunities with BIM; many of those coming from a Physio background with a keen interest in supporting our Pedal Power project. The focus for the coming year will be on retaining our current volunteers, offering more opportunities for training, and flexibility within roles. A key achievement this year through our "Carers Matter" Project was supporting 5 carers to become volunteers for the organisation and these volunteers were able to attend the First Aid Training in December 2023. BIM are also undergoing assessment for our Investing in Volunteers Standard. As part of this a volunteer database was developed and reviews with all volunteers of their roles and training needs are ongoing.

Support from Funders

BIM (NI) would like to acknowledge the support and generosity of funders including families and friends who have assisted us in sustaining service delivery during this period. Support has been received from a range of Trusts and voluntary bodies that are acknowledged on the BIM (NI) website (11). The proactive and flexible approach taken by a wide range of funders was critical to our ability to respond to the needs of our beneficiaries and ensure the organisation's financial viability given the impact upon funding and fundraising. The Board was pleased to have received support from the Halifax Foundation, The National Lottery Community Fund People's Projects and to have had support to successfully relocate funds from the Peer Mentoring Project to Advocacy. Equally, the Board & Organisation wish to thank Enthuse for adding Brain Injury Matters to the official platform for Discover as well as those fundraising in the community e.g., Runs/Marathon, Triathlons and Pub Quizzes.

Staff

We would wish to acknowledge & thank all the staff team for their contributions and dedication over this period. We were delighted to welcome new team members and we were saddened to lose some excellent colleagues who have gone on to senior roles within the voluntary and community sector.

Looking Forward 2024/2025

Service Development: Arts and Sports: Adopting a Human Rights Based Practice

We seek to inspire and lead societal change and enrich people's lives by creating models of delivery and best practice, which are highly regarded and disseminated regionally, nationally and internationally. Led by allied health professionals, BIM has a reputation for developing & delivering a range of innovative evidence-informed and human rights-based programmes for children, young people, adults and their families. Over this period, we have developed a model of Human Rights Based Practice, which envelops Evidence Based Practice and bridges the 'evidence gap' between research and peoples' lives.

[11] <https://braininjurymatters.org.uk/>

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

The key underpinnings of our Human Rights Based Practice model, are the:
UN Charter (1946) – Dignity, Worth & Rights
UNCRPD – disability is largely caused by the attitudes and barriers in society which hinder full & effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

UNCRPD – Article 26 – Habitation and rehabilitation – “States Parties shall take effective and appropriate measures, including through peer support, to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational ability, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life”.

UNCRPD – Article 30 “...develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society ...to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure & sporting activities”.

We present our work at academic conferences, subjecting it to the critical peer review process. We will be presenting at the International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury in Glasgow in September 2024 to discuss the impact of our Advocacy Service Pilot Programme.

We reflect on our work, have developed bespoke outcome measures based on the Royal College of Physicians Guidelines on Stroke and ABI; the Health and Social Care Northern Ireland Brain Injury Service Standards and Quality Indicators; and UNCRPD articles.

Our participants are fully engaged in this academic process and at the recent International Conference on Integrated Care, two of our participants and their parents attended as delegates, where their art was displayed on the main stage, attended our oral presentations and spoke to an international audience of delegates about our work and its impact on their lives and that of their families.

Key to our learning, reflection and evaluation is our participants and their families input and consideration as Health and to how we support, empower and advocate on their behalf and promote their dignity, worth and right in Social Care, the Arts and wider society.

We have agreed support from local Health and Social Care Trusts, to provide long-term sustainable funding for participants to attend our Arts and Sports services. Statutory health and social care staff will carry out assessments of need for support, through self-directed support, for participants to attend BIM. This will allow participants social needs to be met through meaningful, high quality and 'long-term engagement' in the Arts, Sports and Leisure.

The Advocacy Service

Since its launch in January 2023, the Advocacy Service has gone from strength to strength, starting initially as a service for families of young people with an ABI aged 0-18 and then expanding into our Carer's Matter programme for families of those aged 18+ with an ABI. The significant number of people impacted by this needs-led responsive service demonstrates the need to continue delivering and growing this service. Due to staffing changes we are currently operating with one Advocacy Officer, supported by their manager to deliver this service. We aim to secure further funding to enable another member of staff to join the team.

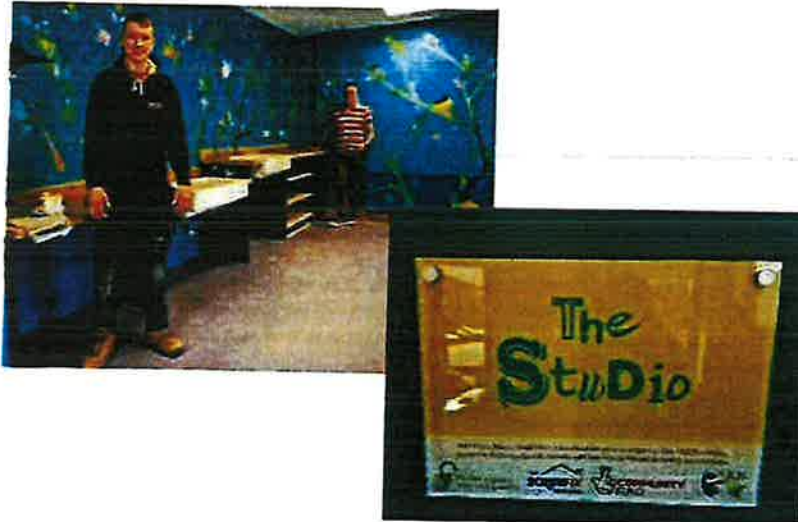
BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees
Year Ended 31 March 2024

New Space: Studio Space Launch

Responding to need has also encouraged us to develop and enhance our existing premises. Our success in gaining support from a range of sponsors allowed us to redesign our premises, creating a larger, inclusive, & accessible space for our Adult Service participants. This reimagined Studio space launched in May 2023 allows us to welcome a greater number of participants. This increase in numbers has also contributed to greater financial stability.

Our space was designed with accessibility in mind and is a bright and welcoming environment where our participants can enjoy creative arts workshops and other wellbeing sessions. Everyone who visits our wellbeing space remarks on how welcoming it is and how impressed they are by our participants' artwork, create, which is displayed proudly around the room. We have developed a functional space for our service users to perform and inspire others. We have also been able to utilise the space to host events for Carers of those with an ABI.



Conclusion

Brain Injury Matters was heartened by the restoration of Stormont but ongoing cuts to health, education and community budgets combined with the loss of European funding will have a significant detrimental impact upon the voluntary sector and specifically on those organisations such as ourselves providing services in the community. Consequently, we will need to proactively pursue funding opportunities offering corporate sector and community funding opportunities. Overall, we will continue to face many challenges particularly financial, yet, working closely with our participants and clients, families and carers will ensure that we continue to deliver on our core purpose, whilst developing and adapting our services to meet evolving needs.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

Financial review

During the year, the charity had a net deficit before transfers of 23,249 (2023: £65,304). The total funds of the charity were £119,900 (2023 £143,149). Of these funds, £9,810 were classified as restricted and not available for general purposes.

Going Concern

The Directors have reviewed the appropriateness of the preparation of the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis. Informed by an ongoing review of detailed financial information and scenarios discussed at additional Board meetings we have reviewed the level of reserves at the year-end date and the financing secured for the next year and we are content that these are sufficient albeit represent a challenging financial environment. We therefore conclude that it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements.

As many voluntary organisations, will have seen there are continued funding pressures as the Government seeks to recoupe the costs and ensure statutory services can be resourced as a priority. Consequently, we will need to proactively pursue funding opportunities offering corporate sector and community funding opportunities.

We continue to build on the work of 22/23 as set out in our Vision 2025 document to foster a more sustainable , resilient organisation supported by Dormant Accounts that continues to focus on the needs of our beneficiaries and deliver on behalf of those individuals and their families libign with an acquired brain injury offering confidence and renewed hope.

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy is to maintain a minimum level of 4 months' free reserves which meets the needs of the organisation both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. Free reserves are its total funds excluding restricted funds, contingent liabilities, designated funds or income funds which can only be released by disposing of fixed assets held for charity use. Brain Injury Matters Northern Ireland needs reserves to ensure it can fulfil and complete the charitable obligations and commitments it enters into and the level of reserves held is reviewed each year. The Board agreed to amend the reserve policy during 2019/20 to 4 months in light of the financial environment and will be maintaining this position in the coming year subject to review. At 31 March 2024, the charity has £110,090 of free reserves (9.7 months).

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)

Report of the Trustees Year Ended 31 March 2024

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Board of Directors (who are also the Trustees of Brain Injury Matters NI for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Board of Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Board of Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Board of Directors 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 charitable company and the income and expenditure of the charitable company 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 Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Board of Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as to disclosure to our auditors:

In so far as the Board of Directors are aware at the time of approving our trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow directors and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

By order of the Board of Trustees


C Sullivan
Director

Date

11/9/24

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Year Ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Brain Injury Matters (NI) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprises the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cashflows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at year ended 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Year Ended 31 March 2024

material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees Report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and

- the Trustees Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Year Ended 31 March 2024

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company through enquiry of management, sector research and the application of cumulative audit knowledge. We identified the following principal laws and regulations relevant to the company – Companies Act 2006, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

We developed an understanding of the key fraud risks to the entity (including how fraud might occur), the controls in place to help mitigate those risks, and the accounts, balances and disclosures within the financial statements which may be susceptible to management bias. Our understanding was obtained through review of the financial statements for significant accounting estimates, analysis of journal entries, walkthrough of the key controls cycles in place and enquiry of management.

Our procedures to respond to those risks identified included, but were not limited to:

- Enquiry of management, and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of management to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>.
This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are 'required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Teresa Campbell

Teresa Campbell (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
AAB Group Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants &
Statutory Auditor
1-3 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GA

11/9/24

Date

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	23,702	-	23,702	40,623
Charitable Activities	3	122,244	398,679	520,923	438,931
Other trading activities	4	7,672	-	7,672	4,157
Investments	5	330	-	330	47
Total Income and endowments		153,948	398,679	552,627	483,758
Expenditure on:					
Charitable Activities	7	(135,799)	(440,077)	(575,876)	(548,786)
Raising Funds	8	-	-	-	(276)
Total Expenditure		(135,799)	(440,077)	(575,876)	(549,062)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year before transfers		18,149	(41,398)	(23,249)	(65,304)
Transfers between funds		(10,731)	10,731	-	-
Net movement in funds		7,418	(30,667)	(23,249)	(65,304)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		102,672	40,477	143,149	208,453
Total Funds Carried Forward	15/16	110,090	9,810	119,900	143,149

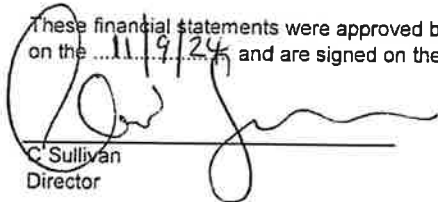
All income derives from continuing activities, therefore no statement of recognised gains or losses is given.

The notes on pages 32 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	47,593	49,761
Current Assets			
Debtors	13	10,500	11,695
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>121,327</u>	<u>146,455</u>
		131,827	158,150
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	59,520	64,762
NET CURRENT ASSETS		72,307	93,388
NET ASSETS		<u>119,900</u>	<u>143,149</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Funds	15	110,090	102,672
Restricted Funds	16	9,810	40,477
		<u>119,900</u>	<u>143,149</u>

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee and authorised for issue on the 11/9/24 and are signed on their behalf by:


C. Sullivan
Director

Company Registration Number NI035853

The notes on pages 32 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Cashflows
as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<i>Cash used in operating activities</i>	20	(13,037)	(39,300)
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>			
Payments to acquire fixed assets		<u>(12,091)</u>	<u>(44,645)</u>
<i>Net cash flow from investing activities</i>		(12,091)	(44,645)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the year		<u>(25,128)</u>	<u>(83,945)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		146,455	230,400
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</i>		<u>121,327</u>	<u>146,455</u>

The notes on pages 32 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
as at 31 March 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Brain Injury Matters (NI) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Taking account of the risk review undertaken by the directors they do not consider there to be a risk to the going concern status of the charity or the group. The Directors will review the financial position on a regular and frequent basis, taking any action needed to ensure that charity remains fit for purpose and on this basis the assessment of the directors is that the charity is a going concern.

c) Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

General funds may be transferred to designated funds where Trustees wish to use these funds for a specific purpose. Such funds may be transferred back to general funds once the criteria for the designation have been met or are no longer applicable.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of restricted funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Restricted funds may only be transferred to general or designated funds once the criteria for restriction have been discharged or no longer apply.

d) Income Recognition Policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the item of income has been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

e) Donated services and facilities

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of supporters is not recognised.

f) Interest Receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
as at 31 March 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of supporting refugee families and activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities.

i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening the deposit or similar account.

j) Tangible Fixed Assets

Individual fixed assets are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Asset Category:	Annual Rate
Leasehold improvements	25% Straight Line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% Reducing balance
Office equipment	33.3% Straight Line
Gym Equipment	20% Straight Line

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment when events or circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discount due.

l) Creditors and Provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m) Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
as at 31 March 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

n) Taxation

The company is a registered charity and the charitable tax exemptions are therefore being claimed to the extent that income and/or gains are applicable and applied to charitable purposes only. These exemptions will remain in place as long as income and expenditure is applied to charitable purposes only.

o) Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, the net amounts are presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instruments are measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

p) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements
as at 31 March 2024

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations	23,702	-	23,702	7,036
Government Grants	-	-	-	33,587
	<u>23,702</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,702</u>	<u>40,623</u>

The 2023 total of £40,623 was split between £18,447 unrestricted and £22,176 restricted.

3 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
CFNI	-	8,500	8,500	-
Big Lottery Fund NI: Reaching Out Supporting	-	86,134	86,134	42,700
Big Lottery: Empowering Young people	-	81,790	81,790	80,869
Arts Council of NI	-	29,500	29,500	26,730
Garfield Weston	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Ulster Garden Villages	-	12,000	12,000	-
Henry Smith	-	46,500	46,500	17,650
Benefact	-	-	-	2,000
Edward Gosling	-	25,000	25,000	25,000
Belfast City Council	-	-	-	3,824
BBC Children In Need	-	-	-	30,100
LFT Trust	30,000	-	30,000	9,500
D'oyly Carte	-	4,000	4,000	-
ARN Foundation	-	-	-	15,000
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	-	24,823	24,823	-
P Harrison	-	8,000	8,000	8,000
TNCLF Awards for all	-	33,200	33,200	-
Public Health Agency	-	3,264	3,264	2,000
Cash for kids	-	-	-	2,035
Groundwork	-	-	-	2,000
RTE Toyshow Appeal	-	9,602	9,602	38,409
Barclays Bank	-	-	-	12,616
Screwfix	-	-	-	5,000
Trust Donation	75,000	-	75,000	84,054
Halifax	-	4,355	4,355	-
Other	17,244	2,011	19,255	11,444
	<u>122,244</u>	<u>398,679</u>	<u>520,923</u>	<u>438,931</u>

The 2023 total of £438,931 was split £126,060 unrestricted and £312,871 restricted.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements (cont)
as at 31 March 2024

4 Income from Trading Activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	7,672	-	7,672	4,157
	<u>7,672</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,672</u>	<u>4,157</u>

The 2023 total of £4,157 was all unrestricted.

5 Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Receivable	330	-	330	47
	<u>330</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>330</u>	<u>47</u>

The 2023 total of £47 was all unrestricted.

6 Results for the year

The results for the year has been arrived at after charging the following:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	14,259	6,460
Auditors Remuneration	3,250	3,900
	<u>17,509</u>	<u>10,360</u>

7 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs (see Note 9)	123,623	433,225	556,848	534,322
Governance Costs (see Note 10)	12,176	6,852	19,028	14,464
	<u>135,799</u>	<u>440,077</u>	<u>575,876</u>	<u>548,786</u>

The 2023 total of £548,786 was split £228,276 unrestricted and £320,510 restricted.

8 Analysis of expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	276
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>276</u>

The 2023 total of £276 was unrestricted.

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements (cont)
as at 31 March 2024

9 Analysis of direct costs:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Recruitment expenses	356	10,256	10,612	139
Heat and light	4,110	4,110	8,220	7,622
Telephone, printing and stationery	6,400	5,237	11,637	7,564
Repairs	-	432	432	1,869
Cleaning and premises expenses	7,555	6,182	13,737	5,862
Insurance	1,684	270	1,954	4,216
Bank interest and charges	380	50	430	346
Staff training	3,992	325	4,317	6,636
Sessional Counselling	-	-	-	8,715
Rent	26,269	16,879	43,148	45,397
Project costs	-	113,605	113,605	100,089
Evaluation	697	-	697	16,550
IT Costs	-	-	-	11,644
Staff expenses	6,134	3,907	10,041	4,051
Wages and salaries	47,254	238,521	285,775	260,673
National insurance	2,894	14,603	17,497	27,415
Pension cost	3,388	17,099	20,487	19,074
Depreciation	12,510	1,749	14,259	6,460
	123,623	433,225	556,848	534,322

10 Analysis of governance costs

	Charitable Activities	Total 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	3,250	3,250	3,040
Accountancy fees	2,705	2,705	1,680
Governance	-	-	4,465
Legal and professional fees	13,073	13,073	5,279
	19,028	19,028	14,464

11 Analysis of staff costs:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	285,775	260,673
Employers National Insurance	17,497	27,415
Other Pension Costs	20,487	19,074
	323,759	307,162

The average monthly number of employees was 10 (2023: 10) and the average monthly number of employees during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows (including casual and part time staff):

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Charitable activities	10	10

No employee has emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2023: 0).
Remuneration received in the year by the Charity's key management amounted to £55,000 (2023: £57,358).

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements (cont)
as at 31 March 2024

The charity Trustees were not paid nor did they receive any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2023: £nil). No charity Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £nil).

12 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold improvements £	Fixtures, fittings and Office equipment £	Office equipment £	Gym equipment £	Total £
Cost:					
As at 1 April 2023	68,314	33,022	65,912	29,339	196,587
Additions	-	7,316	4,775	-	12,091
As at 31 March 2024	68,314	40,338	70,687	29,339	208,678
Depreciation:					
As at 1 April 2023	37,721	29,114	61,349	18,642	146,826
Charge for the year	7,648	790	3,209	2,612	14,259
As at 31 March 2024	45,369	29,904	64,558	21,254	161,085
Net Book Value					
As at 31 March 2023	30,593	3,908	4,563	10,697	49,761
As at 31 March 2024	22,945	10,434	6,129	8,085	47,593

13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	3,972	4,716
Other Debtors and Accrued income	4,366	5,229
Prepayments	2,162	1,750
	10,500	11,695

14 Creditors; amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Creditors	43,021	34,857
Other Taxes and Social Security Costs	3,495	1,252
Accruals and Deferred Income	13,004	28,653
	59,520	64,762

Movement in deferred income

	£
As at 1 April 2023	24,150
Resources deferred during the year	-
Amounts released from previous years	- 16,150
As at 31 March 2024	8,000

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements (cont)
as at 31 March 2024

15 Analysis of Movements in Funds

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General funds - all funds	102,672	153,948	(135,799)	(10,731)	110,090
Restricted funds					
Restricted funds - all funds	40,477	398,679	(440,077)	10,731	9,810
Total	143,149	552,627	(575,876)	-	119,900

16 Analysis of Movements in Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery: Empowering Young people	-	81,790	(75,530)	-	6,260
Arts Council of NI	-	29,500	(28,398)	-	1,102
Garfield Weston	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Henry Smith	-	46,500	(46,500)	-	-
Belfast City Council	-	-	250	(250)	-
Public Health Agency	-	3,264	(3,264)	-	-
Cash for kids	592	-	(592)	-	-
CFNI	-	8,500	(8,500)	-	-
RTE Toyshow Appeal	18,380	9,602	(27,982)	-	-
Ulster Gardens Villages	-	12,000	(12,000)	-	-
Screwfix	4,662	-	(1,597)	-	3,065
LFT Telephone Counselling	676	-	(4,760)	4,084	-
Groundwork	-	-	(987)	987	-
Other	-	2,011	(1,749)	-	262
D'oyly Carte	-	4,000	(2,489)	-	1,511
Big Lottery Fund NI: Reaching Out Support	-	86,134	(86,134)	-	-
P Harrison	2,292	8,000	(12,682)	-	(2,390)
TNCLF Awards for all	-	33,200	(33,200)	-	-
The Clothworkers Foundation	1,177	-	(1,443)	266	-
Halifax	-	4,355	(4,611)	256	-
Clear Project	-	-	(5,388)	5,388	-
Community Foundation NI	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Trust Donation	7,698	-	(7,698)	-	-
Edward Gosling	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
BHSCT	-	24,823	(24,823)	-	-
	40,477	398,679	(440,077)	10,731	9,810

BRAIN INJURY MATTERS (NI)
Company Limited by Guarantee
Notes to the Financial Statements (cont)
as at 31 March 2024

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	38,718	8,875	47,593	49,761
Current assets	122,892	8,935	131,827	158,150
Creditors due one year	(51,520)	(8,000)	(59,520)	(64,762)
	<u>110,090</u>	<u>9,810</u>	<u>119,900</u>	<u>143,149</u>

18 Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2024 the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Within 1 year	20,036	30,054	20,036	30,054
Between 2 and 5 years	-	-	-	-
After more than 5 years	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>20,036</u>	<u>30,054</u>	<u>20,036</u>	<u>30,054</u>

19 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2023 £Nil).

20 Reconciliation of net cash movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds	(23,249)	(65,304)
Depreciation charge	14,259	6,460
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	1,195	(2,028)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	<u>(5,242)</u>	<u>21,572</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(13,037)</u>	<u>(39,300)</u>