

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT for SWEDES (South West Enabling Deaf Encouraging Sign) for the year ended 31 December 2017**

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report prepared in accordance with Charities SORP (effective January 2015) and the independently examined statements for the year ended 31 December 2017

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

SWEDES is governed by its Constitution that was adopted on 12 January 2016. The trustees at the date of this report and those who served during the financial year together with the dates of any changes are set out are listed below.

#### **Trustees / Directors**

The trustees who served during the year are as follows:

Jennifer Magee  
Joan Thompson  
Catriona Johnston  
Guy Wilkinson  
Leo Murphy  
Michael McHugh

SWEDES is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland since 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016, under reference number NIC103751

#### **Public address**

Aisling Centre  
37 Darling Street  
Enniskillen  
Co Fermanagh  
BT74 7DP

### **Objectives and Activities**

#### **Objectives**

The Charity is established to provide support for people, from a variety of cultures, who are deaf, hard of hearing and hearing and signing through:

- alleviating social and rural isolation through provision of educational, recreational and leisure time activities.
- raising awareness amongst the public of issues affecting people who are deaf both generally and in relation to their equality and issues of social exclusion.

#### **Key Activities in this Year**

- Monthly meetings for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, hearing and signing using BSL and ISL and learning new signs to communicate better
- Drama workshops by Exit Does Theatre using funding secured from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The workshops looked at ways to tackle isolation of the deaf and hard of hearing community and exploring new ways to make the community aware of the deaf culture

- Games night – an evening of fun with the group helping the members communicate more easily while enjoying the games
- Arts and crafts night - making birthday cards for family and friends, the group worked together to learn new skills
- Pancake tossing on Shrove Tuesday, members learned new signs for terms and words involved with cooking
- American themed games and food night on 4<sup>th</sup> July learning together while signing
- Signed talk and slide show by local historian on Enniskillen's past and discussion about old times
- Summer trip funded by Black Santa, Belfast Cathedral Sit-out, to Cultra Folk and Transport Museum, a first for most of the deaf hard of hearing members of the group, this included a dinner together to finish off the day. This activity brought the group into contact with a wide range of people that we do not normally meet. It enabled our members to meet and interact with new people who may not have encountered people who use sign language and raise the general public's awareness deaf culture
- Christmas Dinner with invitations to family members and friends who joined the group to celebrate the season and the successful year achieved by the group

Trustees have considered Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our objectives and in planning our future activities to ensure that these achieve the association's purposes and provide a benefit to beneficiaries.

### **Financial Review**

#### **Review of Business**

SWEDES (South West Enabling Deaf Encouraging Sign) is non-profit making with net income and resources in this year of £852.50. The trustees continue to manage resources in an efficient and sustainable manner.

#### **Reserves Policy**

SWEDE SWEDES (South West Enabling Deaf Encouraging Sign) have a Reserves Policy, which requires that reserves are built or maintained at a level which ensures that the organisations core activities could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty and that the organisations known liabilities will be paid should the organisation cease to trade.

#### **Future Plans**

SWEDES (South West Enabling Deaf Encouraging Sign) plan to continue to focus on controlling costs, while maintaining the high standards of service to our beneficiaries.

### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

for the year ended 31 December 2017

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with all appropriate regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant information (information needed by the charity's independent examiner in connection with preparing the independent examiners report) of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant independent examiner information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

**On behalf of the Trustees**



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**Joan Thompson**

**Trustee**

**Date: 9 January 2018**