

DOVE HOUSE COMMUNITY TRUST

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTORS' REPORT)

(continued)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, 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 applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments 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 charity will continue in business.

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

Auditor

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 20th December 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Ms E Allen
Trustee



Mr P McGroarty
Trustee

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Know it, Change it, Live it

The Know it, Change it, Live it Project supports low-income families with advice on financial inclusion and money management. We do this through building financial confidence by using budgeting techniques, money maximisation by ensuring that the client is getting the appropriate amount of money they are entitled to, and through conscious food waste by monitoring the amount of money lost on the disposal of food. Forty six families across the urban Villages area are being supported and outreach programmes are held on a regular basis.

We have engaged 56 families through this period, delivered 6 "cooking on a budget" 4 week programmes offering practical low budget cooking skills, money saving tips for shopping and saving tips on utility bills etc. Each client that completed the programme received a free airfryer allowing them to continue what they had learned at home and continue saving using a low cost and energy efficient means of cooking.

Main achievements

The Covid-19 pandemic presented challenges to all of us since March 2020, with challenges continuing to be evident in our communities but Dove House staff and volunteers, in partnership with other groups across the area rose to the challenge and ensured that our services were made available to as many people as possible.

Financial Review

The Trustees consider the financial results to be satisfactory. The net outgoing resources for the year amounted to (£296) of which (£3,375) was restricted income and £3,079 was unrestricted. (2022 - net incoming resources £26,885 of which £3,490 was restricted income and £23,395 was unrestricted).

The total reserves at the year-end amounted at £184,971 (2022 - £185,267). The trustees aim to have a reserve covering at least three months expenditure and redundancy costs in the event of cessation of funding.

Plans for future periods

Despite the challenge and difficulties, there are opportunities for Dove House, the local community we serve and other groups in the area. The Urban Villages Programme presents us all with the opportunity to make the most significant difference and transformative change to the area and to people's lives since the 1990's. Dove House has continued to work in partnership with other stakeholders and statutory bodies to bring about the much-needed redevelopment of the Meenan Square Complex. The site was demolished in August 2021 and it is hoped that further progress for transformation will be made in the year ahead.

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YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Skills North West

This community action employability/training project helps local adults most removed from the labour market, traditionally excluded and isolated and caught in a historic cycle of worklessness and poverty. We assist people into employment, education and training and enhance their levels of motivation and confidence in applying for work or entering further or higher education.

Main Achievements in this period include the following:

Starter Stats:

Number of registrants - 168

Exits Stats:

Exited to Employment - 18

Exited with a Qualification - 167

Supported into further education - 18

Training stats:

Level 1 qualifications gained - 97

Non Accredited/Industry specific qualifications gained – 52

Level 2 qualifications -18

The Advocacy Project

The Advocacy project provides essential support to survivors of coercive control to enable them to reach a more positive safe and healthier future for themselves and their family. The project supports men and women impacted by domestic and sexual abuse. Within the project peer support fortnightly coffee mornings takes place from last June for clients to support each other in a safe environment.

Wellbeing courses and self-care courses are run to help clients with their mental health and trauma responses.

Sewing and arts and crafts courses are run to build skills and help people feel less isolated following domestic violence and more involved and positive.

One to one sessions support takes place daily in Dove House and this can involve support with legal issues, social services meetings, and community safety issues regarding housing and linking in with the PPS, the PSNI, Victim Support and other criminal justice agencies. These interactions are led by the client's unique support needs.

Over the past year, the project has facilitated the domestic abuse subgroup in Dove House. It has partnered with Surestart and liaised with organisations such as Ashmore House and Action Mental Health. Clients have been referred onto and signposted to speciality support such as counselling and cancer support via the Pink Ladies. Information sessions have been facilitated by the Advocacy officer and volunteers in Pilots Row, Foyle New Horizons, CNP, the Gasyard and Ashmore House.

Referrals come from GP surgeries, Dove House Advice, Ashmore House, Surestart, Action Mental Health, drop ins and self-referrals due to word of mouth.

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YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Methods adopted for the appointment and recruitment of new trustees

The Directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. People can make an application to the Committee to become a director in the company. Every application for admission shall be considered by the directors at their first meeting after it was made, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. There shall be no discrimination between persons by reference to politics, religion, race, sex, age, physical or mental disability.

Objectives and activities

Dove House Community Trust exists to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Bogside and wider area of Derry City and Strabane District Council without distinction of sex, race, religious or other opinion by relieving poverty, sickness, distress and disablement, advancing education and providing facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

The trustees have had due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

Achievements and performance

A summary of the main achievements of Dove House during the year ended 31 March 2023,

Advice Services

During the year Dove House Advice Service has met the needs of over 3,774 individual clients and had 10,451 contacts. The project has generated £3,757,104 for clients during the year.

The Advice Centre has seen an increase in Clients who require additional support due to the cost of survival crisis brought about by rising food & energy costs. We are also aware that as the Welfare System moves all Claimants onto Universal Credit and away from the established legacy benefits further hardship will be experienced by more.

The Advice Centre has also seen many "working poor" families seek advice/assistance over the last 12 months. Funding continues from Derry City Council as per previous years.

Youth First & Youth Engagement Service

Our youth projects have helped to ensure children and young people are happy, secure and safe, and are reaching their full potential. Despite the ongoing impact of Covid-19, youth services' outcomes for all projects were met and most cases exceeded.

Despite the challenge of smaller premises, at Lecky Road, Youth First has ensured that children have the ability to make healthier choices, have a greater sense of involvement in their community and feel included. They are also more able to engage in learning, play and social activities.

Youth Engagement Services (YES) remain based at their city centre location on Shipquay Street. The project ensures that young people are supported and educated on the issues that affect them on a daily basis, they gain confidence to gain employment or to apply for courses, and push their boundaries. They also gain a sense of pride in themselves and their community and have access to a safe welcoming space to call their own, which is open to all.

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Structure, governance and management

Dove House Community Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 22nd October 1996. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and power of the charitable company and is governed under the articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1. Dove House Community Trust registered with the Charity Commission for NI on 22nd November 2015.

Reserves Policy

Dove House Community Trust receives funding from a number of different sources. The funding is normally provided for an agreed period, usually one, two or three years or as one-off grants.

Dove House Management Committee believe it is important to hold as financial reserves the funds necessary to ensure an ordered and proper closing of Dove House Community Trust. The Management Committee only wish to have these financial reserves at a minimum level and will therefore review the funds required annually.

Current Policy

The Management Committee has set a reserves policy, which requires that:

- Reserves are maintained at a level, which ensures that Dove House's core activity could continue for a minimum period of 3 months during a period of unforeseen difficulty.
- Reserves are built up to ensure that Dove House core activity could continue for a period of 6 months, to provide sufficient opportunity to develop and implement fund-raising activities whilst providing a sustainable service to the community.
- A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's planning, budget and forecast cycle. It takes into account:

- 1) Risk associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted.
- 2) Planned activity level.
- 3) Dove House Community Trust's commitments.

The reserves policy will fund:

- A) Any redundancy payments due to employees.
- B) Terminating services contracts such as office rent and equipment.
- C) Contingency sum for outstanding liabilities.
- D) Accountancy, audit and other professional costs.

Designating further funds

As part of their annual planning and budgeting cycle, Dove House Management Committee will establish a designated redundancy fund at a sum approximately equating to three months payroll costs for staff and an additional designated fund to cover further costs associating with winding-up the organisation. The remainder of Dove House's reserves will be made available to cover shortfalls in Dove House's fund-raising as necessary, subject to Management Committee approval.

It may be necessary from time to time for Dove House Management Committee to designate funding in Dove House's accounts to cover operational costs occurring in a subsequent year. Designated funds will be reviewed and recommended by Dove House's Finance Sub-Committee and ratified by the Management Committee. The strategy is to continue to build reserves through operating surplus.

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COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTORS' REPORT)
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Dove House Community Trust

Charity registration number NIC103791

Company registration number NI031478

Principal office and registered office 32 Meenan Square
Bogside
Derry
BT48 9EX
N Ireland

The trustees

Ms A Doherty
Mr P McGroarty
Mr C McMenamin
Ms E Allen
Ms O Drummond
Mrs A McMonagle – *Appointed 8th June 2023*
Mr D Nelis – *Appointed 8th June 2023*

Auditor Claremount FM Limited
Chartered accountants & statutory auditors
43 Clarendon Street
Derry
BT48 7ER

Bankers Bank of Ireland
27 Culmore Road
Derry
BT48 8JB
N Ireland

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COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI031478
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC103791

DOVE HOUSE COMMUNITY TRUST
Company Limited by Guarantee
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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CLAREMOUNT FM LIMITED
Chartered accountants & statutory auditors
43 Clarendon Street
Derry
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