

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT LISBURN RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

For the year ended 31st August 2024

Charity No. NI104484

Lisburn Riding for the Disabled Association is a charity constituted under a trust deed and is also known as RDA Lisburn. The principal address of RDA Lisburn and contact for the Charity Commission is Mr Christopher Stephen Graham, Lusk Equestrian Centre, 48 Knockany Rd, Lisburn BT27 6YB.

The Trustees of the group at the date of this report are:

Mr Christopher Stephen Graham (Chairman)

Mrs Carole Quinn

Mr Samuel James English

Mrs Lilian Connor Hampson

Mrs Anne-Louise Stoupe

Mr Robert Hampson

The purpose of RDA Lisburn (or 'The Group') is to promote the objects of the Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving (Company No 5010395) a charity registered in England and Wales under Charity No 244108 ('the Company') by providing disabled people with the opportunity to ride and /or to carriage drive to benefit their health and well-being in the Lisburn area.

The public benefit of RDA Lisburn is to enhance the health and well-being of people with disabilities through the delivery of effective and life enhancing therapy (in terms of greater mobility, balance, core strength and self-confidence); the opportunity to learn new skills and achieve personal goals and ambitions; and the chance to enjoy taking part in a social activity that promotes general well-being. This benefit is demonstrated by the outcomes achieved for the beneficiaries, (which is backed by clear research evidence that shows the positive physical and psychological impact of the activity for the participants. In addition to this, there several secondary benefits which the charity delivers – particularly the improved communication and learning ability of school-age beneficiaries and the sporting success achieved by some beneficiaries.

The Group only works with people with disabilities, although we act to ensure that no person is excluded from our activity where there is space for them within the Group and the appropriate equipment and support is available. Most of our beneficiaries would be unable to access this activity if this Group did not exist to provide the service and support them to do so.

Our riding activities take place during school term times and between 20th September 2023 and 19th June 2024 we were able to hold forty-nine rides. Up to

four adults attended each Wednesday and up to nine children each Thursday. Adverse weather conditions, staff shortages at Dairy Farm Adult Resource Centre, staff strikes at Parkview Special School, and important maintenance work at Lusk Equestrian Centre caused rides to be unavoidably cancelled on several occasions.

All lessons took place at Lusk Equestrian Centre, Lisburn where the Group was able to hire facilities and horses suitable for the participants and we are grateful to Denise Neill and her team for their help and support during the year.

Every effort is made to ensure that the sessions are conducted safely by using suitably qualified coaches and trained volunteers. Each coach and volunteer must go through an Enhanced Access NI check as well as providing two references. A qualified First Aider is always in attendance and the First Aid box is reviewed periodically to ensure the contents are in date. A defibrillator is also held on site and checked frequently.

Our principal source of income during the year arose from donations from the public, including generous sums received following the deaths of two former members, both of whom we remember with affection and respect. Money was also collected from members for tea and coffee and voluntary contributions were made by the adult riders. Our main costs arose from hire of the riding school, insurance, membership of the RDA parent body and First Aid training. This year, 2023/2024, our income exceeded our expenditure.

The Group's reserves, (all of which are unrestricted and held in bank and deposit accounts) are adequate to ensure that the Group can continue to operate in the coming year.

We consider that we have had regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit and have fulfilled our obligations in this respect.

Signed.....
Mr Christopher Stephen Graham
(Chairman)

Dated.....20/11/2024.....

On behalf of the Trustees of RDA Lisburn