

Trustees Annual report.

Riding for the Disabled Downpatrick Group.
Charity No. NIC104544

The Charity exists to provide Therapeutic Riding and associated activities for the pupils of Knockevin Special School, Downpatrick and the adults of Mountview Adult Centre, Downpatrick. who all have learning disabilities.

The Principal Address of the Charity and Contact for the Charity Commission is: Mrs Miriam Hamilton, 9. The Nursery, Killyleagh, Co. Down. BT30 9UQ.

The Group meet on a Wednesday and Thursday mornings for the pupils of Knockevin School and a Friday morning for the adults of Mountview Adult Centre. We have a total number of volunteers in the group of 49. We delivered a total number of 524 activities, during the period 1/04/2023 to 31/03/2024.

We are fortunate to be able to hire excellent facilities and equines suitable for our riders needs from Mrs Marion Turley, Tullymurray Equestrian Centre, 145 Ballydugan Road, Downpatrick. BT31 9HD.

As can be seen in the Treasurer's Report, balances as at 31st March 2024.

Current Account	£16,285:04
Business Account	£52:15
Grant Community Account	£25 43
Total	£16,362:62

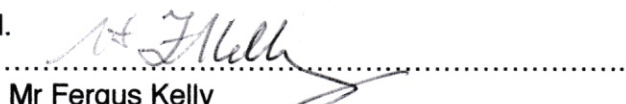
Our main expenditure was Membership and Insurance of RDA National £681:00, Total expenditure is itemised in the Statements.

Principal sources of income during the year came from Donations, totalling £4,360:72. A full break down of Grants and Donations are in the Treasurer's Report. Total balance for the year ending 31st March 2024 is £16,362:62

The Public benefit delivered by Downpatrick RDA Group is in terms of achievements and participation in events by our riders. Less easy to quantify but equally beneficial is the opportunity provided by having close contact with a horse and the sense of achievement and enjoyment which can be observed in many participants who have profound and multiple learning difficulties and children with severe Autism, also those riders who are initially nervous or unwilling to take part. Other physical benefits of improved posture, balance and co-ordination are also apparent.

We make every effort to ensure that the sessions are conducted safely by using suitably qualified Coaches and trained Volunteers. All have to go through an Enhanced Access NI check as well as providing two references. The Group has a Safeguarding Officer and Policy which is reviewed annually. A qualified First Aider is in attendance at all our Rides. We consider that we have had regard to the Commission's guidance on public benefit and have fulfilled our obligations in this respect.

Signed.


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Mr Fergus Kelly
Chairman.

Date: 24-10-24

On behalf of the following Trustees of the Group:

Mr Keith Willis.
Mrs Miriam Hamilton.
Mrs Barbra Gibson.
Mrs. Lesley Gillian Thomason.
Ms Sandra Martin.
Mrs Jill Lindsay.

Attachments:

1. Copy of Accounts and list of Assets.
2. Copy of Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees.