

WATERSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Management Committee present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Constitution, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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).

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the Waterside Women's Centre is to create learning opportunities that are geared towards meeting women's needs and aspirations. Help women gain the confidence and skills needed to participate in social, family, educational, community and economic life. Support women and children by providing quality onsite childcare.

Waterside Women's Centre is managed by the Trustees who are responsible for the management of the charity. The Trustees meet monthly to oversee the management of the Centre. The Management Committee employs two Centre Coordinators who share the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Centre.

Public benefit

The Management Committee have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

In 2023/24 Waterside Women's Centre continued to focus on the needs of the community to ensure woman and children received support to enable them to build their lives and make their community better. This continues to be a challenge with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. The work of the Centre is focused on women's empowerment and having access to opportunities to shape their lives and the lives of their families. We meet our aims by providing access to a holistic range of activities including education, training and skills with support provided through our on-site creche with those women requiring childcare.

Staff training and development was promoted and encouraged. And we continued our successful partnership with a range of tutors and organisations who provide programmes and activities. We continued to offer opportunities for women to achieve goals for their future.

Training, Education and Women's Empowerment

Our courses and empowerment programmes continue to provide high quality capacity building programmes for women in a safe and welcoming space. The range of accredited and non-accredited courses on offer reflect our responsiveness to members surveys and consultations.

Health and well-being remain a core part of our programme and we offered a range of sessions supporting women's physical and mental well-being when we celebrated International Women's Day.

We delivered a range of courses to 952 women. We believe this figure demonstrates our capacity to work with our funders in delivering a wide range of courses and services to women to continue to support them through the ongoing difficult times we all face and prepare them for the future.

With the on-going support offered by our Child Support Worker we have developed relationships with community groups in Curryneirin, Newbuildings, Lincoln Courts and Clooney and with the women and children in Shepherd's View. These connections are vital to continue to grow the reputation of the Waterside Women's Centre in the City and surrounding areas.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Childcare

Our creche staff provided 2,588 places for children to support their development and allow their mums / carers opportunities to attend training and development sessions. We welcomed 56 new families and 103 children throughout the year. We are still working hard to deliver the services needed by families with pre-school children who have had quite a difficult start due to the circumstances of COVID lockdowns and lack of interactions possible in those times.

Financial review

Total income for the year was £187,063, of which £178,151 represents grant funding received for projects and £8,542 was generated from user contributions to course fees. The balance of income represents small donations from users.

Total expenditure by the charity was £181,837, of which £155,414 related to direct charitable activities, and £23,835 related to management and administration costs.

The charity had net assets at the year-end of £116,991, of which £32,189 were held as restricted funds, £45,000 were held as unrestricted funds designated by the Trustees to cover costs in the event of a shortfall in funding, and £39,802 were unrestricted in nature.

Reserves policy

The Management Committee consider it prudent to hold monies in reserve in the event unforeseen circumstances should lead to financial difficulties which might put the future of its employment capacity, general charitable work and property in jeopardy. The organisation is currently working to meet unprecedented challenges created by the pandemic and the emerging cost of living crises.

The Management Committee consider that reserves should be equivalent to 3 months of operating costs calculated annually. Reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding they will be able to continue the charity's activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. The Management Committee assess that three months of operating costs amounts to approximately £45,000 and have set aside this amount within a designated fund. This is to ensure sustainability and growth of our support services, investing in the maintenance of the facilities required to meet our aims for women and children. The Management Committee will review the appropriateness of the policy annually.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is an unincorporated organisation governed by its Constitution which sets out the objects and powers of the charity.

The Management Committee who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Geraldine Compton (Chairperson)	(Appointed 21 June 2023)
Hilary Hamilton (Vice Chairperson)	(Appointed 21 June 2023)
Christine McIvor (Secretary)	
Marian Kerlin (Treasurer)	
Bernadette Duddy	
Emma Johnston	(Resigned 1 May 2023)
Monica Sherry	
Cheryl Wannell	

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The Management Committee manages the process of recruitment and appointment of new members in accordance with the provisions of the charity's Constitution. The charity shall be managed by a Committee consisting of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and not less than 2 members of the charity elected by and from amongst the members present and voting at the AGM. The Management Committee has the power to co-opt further members provided that the number of co-options does not exceed one-third of the total membership of the Committee.

The charity provides new members of the Management Committee with specific details of what their role entails and also their responsibilities in terms of governance within the organisation.

Statement of Management Committees' responsibilities

The Management Committee are responsible for preparing the Management Committees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Management Committee are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Management Committee are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that 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 Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

Independent examiner

We thank Moore NI LLP for their work in completing the independent examination, and understanding the complexity of the range of funding we've been successful in securing to deliver our aims.

The Management Committees' report was approved by the Board of Management Committee.



Geraldine Compton (Chairperson)

Committee member

29 January 2025