

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of Thomas Doran Parkanaur Trust (the company) for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 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 2015).

Since the company qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

Reference and administrative details of the charity, trustees and advisers

Thomas Doran Parkanaur Trust is a company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The reference and administrative details of the charity, trustees and advisers are listed on page 1. Charity status was achieved on 29 April 2016 with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland in addition to charitable status previously held with HM Revenue and Customs.

Objectives and activities

Policies and objectives

The objectives of the charity are to provide or make arrangements for the provision of education and training on any matter or discipline for individuals with special needs or disabilities; and to provide facilities for recreation and other leisure occupation for such individuals in the interests of their social welfare.

Strategies for achieving objectives

To achieve these objectives the charity delivers college-based classes to support, educate and train individuals with special needs or disabilities with skills for the workplace.

Activities for achieving objectives

The charity delivers a range of activities to support, educate and train individuals with special needs or disabilities with skills for the workplace.

The college promotes a mixed economy of provision for these young people that broadens their choice, supports their aspirations and represents their best interests, enabling them to become valued and active members of society and providing a social return on investment. At the college we offer personalised learning programmes and multi-disciplinary specialist support and expertise to enable students to make a successful transition to adult life. We encourage and support learners to be ambitious, to realise their aspirations and to develop the skills to make progress towards their goals. Our vision is that all young people with learning difficulties or disabilities can access appropriate quality education and training, which meets their individual needs and supports their aspirations for skills, work and life.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (cont'd)

Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit

Public benefit is achieved through the improved mental, emotional and physical well-being of beneficiaries; the enhanced social inclusion of both individuals with special needs or disabilities; increased independence, improved life outcomes and reduced dependence on other health and social care services. An additional benefit is improved awareness amongst the general public of the challenges faced by those living with special needs or disabilities, thereby reducing social exclusion.

Achievements and performance

Review of activities

Residential care

During the year we have provided residential care to 19 individuals. Our highly trained and experienced staff have ensured that residents' physical, mental, emotional, and social needs are addressed. Activities curtailed in recent years have been restored including outings, Special Olympics both athletics and swimming, drama classes, walking club, animal care, volunteering, Art Competition, Donaghmore Credit Union, Christmas shopping, working in the garden and college's kitchen,

Feedback received from residents, their parents and professionals is always very positive, which reflects in the monthly Trustee reports and in RQIA inspection reports.

One report includes:

B, L's father is delighted with the "heartwarming" progress made. He said all staff were working extremely well with L, but the Care Manager had been particularly good...including implementing a number of things to improve sleep pattern. This had in turn improved motivation, led to more exercise and general activity.

Supported living

We now have a supported living tenant in an apartment in the College.

Short breaks

We have been able to increase provision of short stay breaks, formerly 'respite' and recently curtailed by Covid-19 constraints. We accommodated 11 individuals. It is clear that there is much unmet need for this service and we plan to increase provision.

Day opportunities

Much focus has been on the development of our Day Opportunities service. In the year 2022-2023 we had 6 users, all of whom enjoyed and derived great benefit from attending. Feedback from users, families and professional including social workers has been very good. One parent stated, "We are greatly indebted to Parkanaur for the wonderful, positive opportunity that it provides M". Another parent commented, "C loves his day at Parkanaur. For him it is a day of work. For me it is a placement where I know he gets instruction and the support he needs to carry out meaningful tasks that improve his range of skills. There is a spirit of cooperation between the residents and the day opportunity guys. I know he is treated as an individual and given time and space to develop an interest in a range of practical duties. He likes being helpful and useful and particularly likes being outdoors. He would like to develop his horticulture skills. He has matured and become a little more independent. He is able to undertake more projects at home and is practised in taking instructions. He has also made friends and been welcomed into the Parkanaur community".

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (cont'd)

Our position at the cusp of three Health and Social Service Trusts gives us the potential us to offer provision to many more service users. Our rural location in a beautiful Forest Park and our facilities allow us to offer interesting, meaningful and enjoyable activities including caring for plants in our garden centre - potting up, watering and feeding plants, weed control, collecting and bagging up firewood in our woods, care of our chickens and rabbits, walks in the forest including the deer park and much more.

Throughout the year we have consulted widely exploring the needs and views of those with learning and other disabilities, their families, Health Trusts and Special schools. There is widespread agreement on the need for more provision and support for our plans for further expanding Day Opportunities. Significantly Sperrinview Special School report a recent 35% increase in numbers of pupils, many of them with complex needs, highlighting the need to urgently address the current under provision. We have benchmarked with other providers and been inspired by the possibilities.

The outcome of our consultation and exploration has been the birth of a project named "Growing Together". This has two key elements working in combination. The first is the provision of Day Opportunities to those with a range of disabilities - including Learning Disability, Autism, Mental health problems and physical disability. The second element is of a Community Shed, both elements initially based in our large Walled garden. This will build on our existing provision to local users and our residents. The Community shed element is in response to much evidence of the benefits of involvement in such projects to the physical and mental health of participants, addressing isolation and including those adversely affected by Covid-19. It fits with our shared use of the walled garden with Castlecaulfield Horticulture Society, who continue to make a very important contribution to the care and development of the walled garden.

Development of buildings

Another focus of the year 2022-2023 has been on the need to preserve our listed buildings, which are an important part of the built heritage of Northern Ireland. We have consulted widely on the possibilities of bringing back into use outbuildings which are currently derelict. There has been progress on plans to bring these buildings back into use to meet the identified needs of those with disabilities.

All our work benefits from the involvement and support of the local community. This includes Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society, Speedwell who are our neighbours on site, local politicians and local residents who use the forest park for recreation and are very supportive of our work. We are very grateful to have a team working 2 days per week maintaining our extensive grounds. This freely given work greatly enhances our environment.

Financial review

Going concern

The trustees have reviewed the appropriateness of the preparation of the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis. We have reviewed the level of reserves at the year-end date and the financing secured for the next year and we are content, that these are sufficient albeit represent a challenging financial environment. We therefore conclude that it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (cont'd)

Reserves policy

The charity's policy is to maintain an appropriate reserves base which is essential for to manage risk and continue to deliver services in line with its charitable objectives. The Trustees wish to build and maintain a general level of reserves (excluding tangible fixed assets) that has a target equivalent to six months unrestricted expenditure.

This level of reserve is required to manage risk in the following areas.

- Cashflow to assure amounts due to creditors and fulfilment of contracts and leases;
- Gaps and loss in funding provision;
- Organisational wind up and redundancy payments;
- New development plans for future service delivery.

The general reserves of the charity at 31 March 2023 were £534,389 (2022: £446,882) and represent unrestricted funds which are available for general use.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The company is constituted under a memorandum of association.

Method of appointment or election of trustees

The management of the company is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the articles of association.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of trustees

A trustee induction programme introduces members to their roles and responsibilities as directors of the company and reviews the strategic plan, governance arrangements and financial position of the charity. It may also identify training and development needs.

Organisational structure and decision making

The trustees have ultimate legal and financial responsibility for the affairs of Thomas Doran Parkanaur Trust, although the management of the organisation is generally delegated to staff, through the Chief Executive. The Board meets quarterly, and delegates certain functions to sub-committees which operate under specific terms of reference: i.e. The Finance Committee and the Fundraising Committee. Trustees are either elected or co-opted and the total number of trustees may not be less than 3.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

Principal activities

The trustees review the strategic direction and principal activities of the charity at regular intervals and set strategic goals for the charity in three year periods.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (cont'd)

Environment

The charity recognises its responsibility to carry out its charitable operations whilst minimising environmental impacts. The trustees' continued aim is to comply with all applicable environmental legislation, prevent pollution and reduce waste wherever possible.

Health and safety

The charity is committed to achieving the highest practicable standards in health and safety management and strives to make all sites and offices safe environments for employees and visitors alike.

Human resources

The charity's most important resource is its people; their knowledge and experience is crucial to meeting charitable objectives. Retention of key staff is critical and the charity has invested in employment training and development.

Plans for future periods

Future developments

The charity is planning to extend the further education and social skills provision to meet a growing demand and need. It is hoped to develop various complementary provisions over the next 3 – 4 years. The development will include supported living, day opportunities and up to 9 additional residential accommodations.

Members' liability

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of the members is limited to the sum of £10 per member.

Taxation status

Thomas Doran Parkanaur Trust is a charity recognised by HM Revenue & Customs, and, as such, is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of its primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (cont'd)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The trustees are responsible for preparing the accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business, in which case there should be supporting assumptions or qualifications as necessary.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the accounts. The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the SORP and the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. 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.

Statement of disclosure of information to auditors

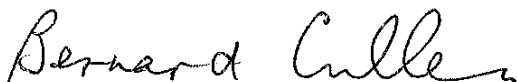
So far as each of the trustees in office at the date of approval of these accounts is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, ASM (D) Ltd, have indicated their willingness to accept office, and a resolution concerning their appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the board of trustees



Prof Bernard Cullen PhD - Trustee

3 October 2023