

## **Trustees' report**

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 2024. 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 (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

Our charitable purpose is "The relief of those in need by reason of disability".

We are proud to report progress in the development of our Day Opportunities provision through our Growing Together Programme. This is designed to meet the needs of two groups. Firstly, our service users who are adults with disability, learning disability, physical disability, autism spectrum conditions, sensory loss, mental health problems - often a combination. Secondly a Community Shed in which local volunteers who work in or use the facility of the Walled Garden benefit from being in a beautiful green space, contact with plants and nature and being part of a community. It particularly addresses isolation and the ongoing effects of Covid 19.

This project received funding from Mid Ulster Council, Garfield Weston, and Big Lottery.

In the year 2023-2024 the project ran 4 days per week. We had 9 service users who greatly benefitted from their attendance. Feedback from users, families and professionals is highly complimentary. It is clear that this is a vital service.

*"We are especially pleased to see our son getting so much enjoyment and fulfilment from going to the Day Opportunity programme."*

*"He needs to have this kind of activity so much in his life and has enjoyed it immensely."*

*"He is so enthusiastic about going and tells me how much he enjoyed his day when he comes home."*

*"The staff who are involved in the Day opportunity programme are very helpful and kind to him and allow him to take things at his own pace."*

*"He likes the way they assign him a specific task at times as it helps his self-esteem and his 'ownership' of the job that they've asked him to do."*

*"It has all been very good for his mental health."*

*"We are hoping to send him along two days each week as it has really worked out well."*

## Trustees' report (cont'd)

### *Residential care*

During the year we have provided residential care to 20 individuals who make Parkanaur their permanent home. Our very committed and highly trained staff ensure that residents' physical, mental, emotional, and social needs are addressed. Activities include outings; to Balmoral Show, Belfast Christmas Market and Dublin Zoo being particularly valued. Shopping trips locally are also enjoyed. Local forests and parks, Explorius Aquarium, Special Olympics both athletics and swimming, Fit4You and the physical wellbeing programme offered in Dungannon Leisure Centre are all popular. Drama classes in Cookstown included being part of a production of "Happy ever After" in the Burnavon theatre. On site the walking club continues to be well attended, walking mostly in the forest park which surrounds our property. Options include gym and games room, animal care looking after our chickens and rabbits, volunteering including helping in the kitchen, being involved in maintenance duties and office or working in the Courtyard garden growing vegetables and flowers.

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

*"Parkanaur is a very special place. There are just so few places like it that cater for adults with special needs."*

Quotes from RQIA inspector who carried out a recent care inspection:

*"It was evident that staff had a good understanding of residents' needs and treated them with kindness and respect. Residents looked well cared for and said that living in the home was a good experience. Staff spoke positively of their experiences working in the home and of the support provided by the manager."*

*"Residents told us they were happy living in the home, they felt well looked after and listened to by staff and management. Residents' comments included "staff are fantastic", "staff are like my family" and "staff are kind and caring."*

*"Staff told us that the residents' needs and wishes were very important to them. It was observed that staff responded to requests for assistance promptly in a caring and compassionate manner. Staff told us there was good teamwork, communication is good, and they enjoy working in the home."*

### *Supported living*

We continue to have a supported living tenant in an apartment in the College. We have a second apartment identified as suitable to be refurbished for another tenant.

### *Short breaks*

We accommodated 10 individuals. It is clear that there is much unmet need for this service which is deeply appreciated by those who stay with us and their families. The setting, range of activities available, excellent food and outings create an enjoyable stay while allowing some respite for families. We are constrained by lack of space and hope in the future to include this service in our ongoing plan to increase provision by bringing unused buildings back into use.

*"We want to do our best for our son while we are able to do so and have been delighted at how he has adapted."*

*"He loves going to Parkanaur and we appreciate the break so much."*

## **Trustees' report (cont'd)**

### ***Cooperative working***

Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society who share the Walled garden with us are an important part of our Growing Together project. We value the excellent working relationship we have with them which we believe benefits our service users, members of the society and the wider public who deeply value Parkanaur

We also enjoy cooperation with Speedwell a charity for children promoting cross community understanding through shared outdoor activity. Our joint working included running a very successful Christmas Fair.

A new development is that on one day each week senior pupils from Sperrinview School attend the walled garden where they receive instruction and practical experience in every aspect of caring for plants. This is valued by the pupils and staff of Sperrinview.

### ***Development of buildings***

Throughout 2023-2024 we have continued to work on the need to preserve and develop 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. At the end of the 2023-2024 year we have secured grants to allow us to undertake a Phase 2 viability study in the next financial year. This is an important step in our plans to bring these buildings back into use to meet the identified needs of those with disabilities and will culminate in the production of detailed plans for our proposed development. We are grateful for the expertise and work of Stephen Mathews in his capacity as Business Consultant to the Trust.

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 (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 2024 were £652,910 (2023: £534,389) 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 (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 (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**

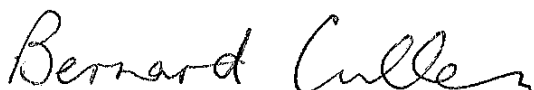
So far as each of the trustees in office at the date of approval of these accounts is aware:

- 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**

29 November 2024