

Croí Éanna TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Croí Éanna present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 December 2023.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015), the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

Mission Statement

In order to achieve a cohesive way forward for Pobal Éanna, the vision and mission of all four individual organisations were synergised in the 2017 Pobal Éanna development plan to create one voice going forward. The new overarching vision and mission of all of independent but interdependent organisations within Pobal Éanna are:

Vision: A confident, vibrant, inclusive and prosperous Irish language community located in the townland of Ballybought.

Mission: To provide developmental support to meet the sporting, educational and community development evidenced needs of the growing Irish language community in the townland of Ballybought.

The overarching vision and mission developed successfully captures the aspiration of the Croí Éanna to deliver strong transformative community development outcomes.

Objectives

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

Ballybought, a townland on the north side of the Cave Hill, is home to a small, thriving Irish Language community whose needs are currently met through the services provided by Pobal Éanna, an umbrella concept which consists of the four independent, but interdependent, organisations as shown below:

- Pobal Éanna
- CLG Naomh Éanna
- Naiscoil and Gaelscoil Éanna
- Croí Éanna
- Cumann Óige Éanna

CLG Naomh Éanna is the original and largest organisation within Pobal Éanna. It was established in 1956 by a small band of committed Gaels who, right from the beginning, considered the development of the Irish language to be of high importance, despite living in a very hostile environment. Naomh Éanna has gone from strength to strength and now boasts almost 1000 members, 700 of whom are under the age of eighteen.

As a second generation of Gaels reached adulthood and considered raising their own families, the commitment to Irish medium education of the site developed and in September 2004 Naiscoil Éanna opened its doors with Gaelscoil Éanna following in September 2007. The staff and volunteer board of Naiscoil and Gaelscoil have developed the academic and pastoral reputation of both to the point that they now collectively educate 250 pupils.

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In 2008 it became apparent that if the Pobal Éanna was to succeed it would be necessary to provide developmental support to the growing community needs of the children and parents involved with Naomh, Naiscoil and Gaelscoil Éanna.

As a direct response to these emerging needs, Croí Éanna was formed to deliver a range of community development services to the growing Irish Language Community.

Croí Éanna is established to establish and support the growing Irish Language Community in its locality.

Croí Éanna also advances and disseminates knowledge of the Irish language and culture through extra-curricular classes and events. These are held usually during evenings and weekends.

Croí Éanna is not politically motivated or influenced and does not provide scholarships for named individuals or founder's kin.

The benefits of Croí Éanna's purposes are intended for the public in general. Although we can identify that the section of the public that can benefit from the charity is the section of people who intend to learn more about the Irish language and culture. A common characteristic shared by the interest in delivering community led and based services through the medium of Irish.

The individuals we engage with mainly come from the immediate North Belfast and South Antrim area, although it should be noted that because of the emphasis Croí Éanna places on developing cross-community linkages, we have participants from a range of community backgrounds and from a wide geographical catchment area including Larne, Carrickfergus, Portrush, Hollywood and Newry.

The benefit flowing directly from the charity's purposes is demonstrable to and beneficial for the general public. The families and individuals who take part in Croí Éanna activities are directly affected by those activities, (for example language classes and hearing spoken Irish at cultural events), in a positive way.

Their disposition to the Irish language is changed, their general education is improved and their appreciation of Irish language and culture is increased. This in turn has a beneficial and secondary effect on future generations and on the section of public who have not directly been involved in the relevant events and activities.

There is a direct, indirect and wider benefit resulting from the charity's work. The benefit is measurable by:

- the number of attendees at classes and events
- statutory statistical data,
- the standard of Irish used by its users.

Non-measurable direct consequences of the charity's objects include the sense of community and identity that is anecdotally returned to the charity.

Private benefit is incidental. Some tutors and teachers for example receive compensation for their work. This is a necessary transaction to support the charity's service to the public. There may be an incidental enhancement of the reputation of said tutors and teachers as a result of them carrying out the work of Croí Éanna.

The additional outcomes, the things that have changed as a result of the work undertaken by the organisation are:

- The advancement of capacity through informal and formal community led education projects
- An increased sense of place
- The advancement of citizenship or community development
- The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement

The charity's beneficiaries fall into the following five main categories

- Pre school (0-5)
- Children (5-13 year olds)
- Youth (14-25 year olds)
- Language community
- Older people

Our services are run through five main themes:

Theme One: Language Development

- weekly introduction to Irish taster outreach sessions
- weekly bunrang classes, two each week over three academic terms
- weekly manrang classes, one each week over three academic terms
- weekly adrang classes, one each week over three academic terms

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- 4 quarterly Dianchúrsa each with 4 class levels and Irish Language child carer provision
- 24 Parent and toddler classes
- 50 weeks of wraparound school provision
- 30 day (6 weeks x 5 days) long summer scheme running from 9am-2.30pm daily

Theme Two: Arts and Culture Development

- 1 month of Seacht na Gaellge events
- 1 annual Fests involving 10 local bun/Gaelscoil and English Medium Primary schools
- Developmental support provided to Naomh Éanna in their Scór na nóg preparations
- Developmental support provided to Naomh Éanna in their Scór Sinsir preparations

Theme Three: Health and Wellbeing

- 3 (1 each academic term) mental health and wellbeing awareness event
- 3 (1 each academic term) physical health and wellbeing awareness event

Theme Four: Community Inclusion

- 3 large scale (over 500) seasonal community cohesion events
- 3 school sports events, ensuring developmental engagement with a minimum of 10 bun/Gaelscoil.
- 9 (1 per month) working lunches held in a city centre location
- 4 family events
- 3 cultural expression events

Theme Five: Environmental Protection and Enhancement

- 30 weekly gardening classes, one each week over three academic terms
- A minimum of one annual project undertaken with Belfast Hills Partnership. The great outdoors was the theme of 2021
- A minimum of one annual project undertaken with the woodland trust. The project involved the planting of native species trees.
- 30 (weekly weather and holidays permitting) hill walks

16 Partnership Working

Croí Éanna are committed to collaborative working and to that end actively undertake regular engagement with a range of statutory and community partners. During the past year we have engaged with the following external organisations:

- Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
- The Department for Communities (DFC)
- The Executive Office (TEO)
- The Department of Education (DE)
- The Public Health Agency
- Glór na Gnael
- Foras Na Gaellge
- An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaellge
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Language Forum
- Conradh Na Gaellge
- Carntogher
- Gael Linn
- Cúlúirthe Mic Reachtan
- Cúlúirteann Mc Adam ó Flaich
- Turas
- Glór na Mona

Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out on page and additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

Results and Dividends

At the end of the financial year the company has assets of £1,854,846 (2022 - £1,844,119) and liabilities of £3,029 (2022 - £3,366). The net assets of the company have increased by £11,064.

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Croí Éanna subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

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Approved by the Board of Trustees on 21 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



James Donaldson
Trustee