

**GRACE WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by its constitution and is constituted as a charity under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The Trustees of the charity are nominated in terms of the constitution. A Trustee must be a member of the Charity or the nominated representative of an organisation that is a member of the Charity.

The Board of Trustees manage and administer the Charity. Day to day operations and decisions of Grace Women's Development Limited are undertaken through regular discussion between the Trustees.

Objectives and Principal Activities

Community Resource for women and their families, advances education and training through the delivery of programmes, courses and initiatives, mentoring and guidance. Foster personal development, confidence and capacities and to prepare participants for training and employment opportunities. Promote health and wellbeing for women, giving support, advice and guidance. Promote peace, reconciliation and community cohesion. Provide family support, education of young children through childcare, provide facilities to improve social welfare, leisure, community development, forging partnerships with stakeholder agencies.

Achievements and Performance

The Charity made a net outflow of funds during the year ended 31 March 2023 of £22,809 (2022 - £25,126 outflow).

Public Benefit Statement

Purpose A

The direct benefits which flow from this purpose are improvements in the social/economic circumstances of women and their families living in the area of benefit including a reduction in food/fuel poverty, increased levels of employment, greater access to training and education programmes/guidance, more local job creation and stronger participation of all age groups. This promotes neighbourhood renewal, resilience and healthier communities. These benefits are demonstrated through member's feedback, quarterly/annual activity reports and outcomes based evaluation. This purpose does not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are all women and their families. A private benefit to trustees may arise if the knowledge they gain as a trustee to good governance and urban regeneration is transferable to another setting. These benefits are incidental and necessary to ensure the benefit is provided to the beneficiaries.

Purpose B

The direct benefit which flows from this purpose is that knowledge and skills are transferred to support women's groups in the area of benefit, increasing levels of skills and capacity to achieve their charitable aims. Evidence to demonstrate this benefit will be the sustainability of women's activity within the area of benefit. This purpose does not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are all women and their families. There is no private benefit arising from this purpose.

Purpose C

The direct benefit which flows from this purpose is that through developing a self-help model, women are supported to build their capacity and skills to identify their needs and to develop services to meet their distinct needs. The evidence to demonstrate this benefit is provided from members' feedback, increased representation on community forums/networks, quarterly/annual monitoring and activity reports. This purpose does not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are all women and their families. There is no private benefit arising from this purpose.

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Purpose D

The direct benefit which flows from this purpose is that the women's/ family centre will contribute to the development of a more inclusive, equitable and diverse society through delivery of good relations programmes. This will increase local understanding and acceptance of diversity. These benefits are demonstrated through greater inclusivity and diversity within the membership/community. This purpose does not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of this purpose are all women and their families. There is no private benefit arising from this purpose.

Purpose E

The direct benefit arising from this purpose is an increased knowledge of healthy lifestyle options through health promotion programmes, such as weight management and healthy eating programmes. Also, the reduction of stress through the provision of complementary therapies, counselling and life coaching. These benefits are evidenced through regular evaluation of the services that we provide and through the use of feedback from participants involved, and our Annual General Meeting report which captures our outcomes. With regards to harm, we try to mitigate any potential harm by using fully qualified counsellors and therapists who are fully insured for the work that they carry out. The beneficiaries of this purpose are all women and their families living the area of benefit. From time to time, a private benefit may arise if committee members who are also members and volunteers and therefore are entitled to avail of these services, but this benefit is purely incidental. To ensure fairness, they are placed on a waiting list and do not receive any preferential treatment.

Financial Review

The Trustees are satisfied with the financial position of the Charity at the year-end 31 March 2023. The Charity has managed its incoming resources effectively in the year under review.

The balance of funds as at 31 March 2023 is £2,306,150 (2022 - £2,328,959). These are held as restricted and unrestricted funds.

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Restricted funds are generated from restricted grants and donations received from funding bodies and the related expenditure. Such funds are restricted in their use as determined by each individual funding body.

The principal funding in the year under review was derived from the Department for Communities (Northern Ireland). Further funding was received from Belfast City Council, Halifax, BBC Children in Need, Henry Smith Foundation, NI Housing Executive and the Public Health Agency.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (FRS 102).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the Trustees 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 period. In preparing these financial statements, 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 financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

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The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees 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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 19/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shauneen Baker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shauneen Baker
Trustee