

**East Belfast Alternatives Limited**  
**Report of the Trustees**  
**Year Ended 31 March 2023**

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The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Structure, Governance & Management**

**Governing Document**

The organisation is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 27th January 2004 and registered as a charity on 27th January 2004, charity number XT18195. The company was established by a Memorandum of Association and is governed under its Articles of Association.

**Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of one year after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

**Risk Management**

The Management Committee has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

**Organisational Structure**

East Belfast Alternatives has a Management Committee who meet 4 times per year and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. At present the Committee has eight members from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The secretary also sits on the Committee but has no voting rights. East Belfast Alternatives falls under the umbrella of Northern Ireland Alternatives Ltd.

**Objectives and Activities**

The company's objectives and principle activities are to promote a non-violent restorative community response to justice issues in East Belfast. East Belfast Alternatives will identify needs, often in partnership with local communities and other voluntary and statutory bodies, relating to safety and conflict within communities, and will attempt to heal relationships in a restorative way. At the same time, it hopes to raise community awareness on the issues affecting young people and adults who are deemed at risk.

**The main objectives and activities of the company are:**

To organise within the community non-violent alternatives to issues of community justice. To help and work with young people in order to resolve the problems affecting their lives. To direct young people away from destructive and dangerous practices and towards healthy and constructive activities. To enable young people to personally reflect on the potentially damaging consequences of risky behaviour. To address areas of weakness and failure within the formal criminal justice system. To heal relationships within the community and to promote better relationships between the community and statutory agencies. To work towards a sustainable model of delivery for as much of the company's services as possible

## **Achievements and Performance**

Our achievements and performance over the past year have included our Restorative work in the Community and 3 projects through Communities in Transition funding looking at Raising Aspirations in our young people, engaging with the community to deliver community safety programmes and training and sharing restorative practices to a large range of both community and statutory organisations.

We now have a staff of 8 working on different programmes that all have a restorative strand.

EBA continued to work to support their referrals and clients both in person and indirect by phone or zoom.

Detached Youth Work in East Belfast, Friday and Saturday nights has continued throughout the year and is now a well-established programme. EBA provided 200 home safety packs to residents with crime prevention and community safety information 40 people accessed accredited training through a NEETS program including OCNS employability and essential skills in both Maths and English. EBA continued to build partnerships and share learning working collaboratively with local community groups as well as Statutory groups, this includes being members and attending monthly forums such as EB Race Relations Forum, EB Youth Practitioners Forum, EB Tension Monitoring Forum and Inner East Belfast Forum.

## **Financial Review**

EBA successfully applied for funding from Belfast City Council for £6000 that was utilized for English conversation classes in an informal setting within the community. Also the family support hub received £1500 from the trust for practical support for families in Inner East Belfast.

## **Services**

East Belfast Alternatives delivers a wide range of services for the public benefit, but all of them are underpinned by the principles of restorative practice. In essence this involves the healing, repair of broken relationships to the individual, family and community relationships that lead to crime, anti-social behaviour and community conflict. Services available include: Intensive Youth Support (for individuals), Family Support, Victim Support, Counselling, Prevention/Intervention work with Young People, Mediation and Community Support on behalf of the Housing Executive and PSNI, Detached Youth Work, Schools Work in East Belfast both primary and secondary schools, delivering training in restorative practices to a wide client base. EBA works in partnership with the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships alongside statutory agencies. EBA coordinates the Inner East Family Support Hub covering 9 wards in East Belfast.

## **Directors' Responsibilities**

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of its financial position at the end of that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any 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 company will continue in business.

The Directors have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.