

# LCC COMMUNITY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 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 2019).

#### **Objectives and activities**

The mission and purpose of our organisation is to add value to people of all ages and backgrounds, through meeting peoples' needs in a practical and holistic way and by creating opportunities for encouragement, mentoring, personal growth and skills development.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

#### **Achievements and performance**

##### **LISBURN FOODBANK**

This year Foodbank referrals has been steadily high after the reversal of the post-pandemic decrease in Foodbank referrals we saw in 2021/22. The ongoing cost of living crisis continues to have a huge impact on the need for all of the services LCC Community Trust provides, most notably in the Foodbank.

In 2023-24, we supported 3,858 people with emergency food support, a decrease of 1% on the previous year but still a 46% increase on the previous five years. This amounts to around 1 in 40 people in the Lisburn and Castlereagh council area. For the first time since 2015, our stock levels decreased as we gave out 72,195 kg and received in donations of 70,961 kg. It is worth noting that purchased food accounts for the 3rd largest source of our stock now.

The Foodbank continues to develop strategically, with the onboarding of a Data Insight and Development Lead in February 2023.

##### **LISBURN CITY CHURCH**

Lisburn City Church is thriving with lots of families and a diversity of nationalities within the church community. The continuation of praise and prayer nights have been an encouragement to many.

##### **KICKSTART SOCIAL SUPERMARKET**

The social supermarket saw another busy year, with 323 people from 123 households supported with their weekly food shops for an average of 20 weeks. As part of each members personal development plan including wellbeing, budgeting, housing support, employment and other advice over 964 sessions. Through this project, we continue to partner with Fareshare and Neighbourly and distributed more than 25,438 kg of food surplus in 2023-24.

We still have a weekly membership of 60 households with the average member attending the weekly shop for 6 months. We are consistently assessing need and are flexible in our approach to support to ensure we are not signing people off who have to return for help within a few weeks. This has led to us offering the option of 'magic bags' through the To Good To Go app for members signing off or for those who only need a little support but not the full wraparound.

##### **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

In 22/23 we were able to employ a Family Support worker and the development of a partnership between Bryson Care and LCC Community Trust in running our weekly Tiny Tots and After Schools sessions. In addition we were able to run multi generational family nights for the whole family to have fun and food together and learn from each other.

During the two-week 2023 summer scheme, we provided hot meals and fun activities for around 56 children each week.

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### **MORE THAN FOOD**

More Than Food encompasses our other community based projects such as craft, cookery, and ESOL (English language) classes. We also partnered with Bryson to see clients successfully complete SIA training. We also successfully ran four sets of Wednesday cookery classes (12-14 participants each time), helping our clients to develop new skills in using few ingredients and simple appliances such as airfryers and slowcookers to make nutritious meals.

### **WELLBEING @ LCCCT**

Our wellbeing ambassador & wellbeing Advocate have been running a selection of courses, workshops & one off sessions this year. During 2023-24, 6 cohorts or 26 people completed WRAP. In September 2023 we hosted a networking day in partnership with other local organisations to increase local awareness of early intervention services for those facing financial hardship and food poverty in our city.

### **NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023-2024**

- Total of 132 volunteers engaged with the charity
- Total of 4,929 hours were volunteered, which equates to £51,360 of volunteer time (based on the minimum wage of £10.42/hr)

#### *Events*

June 2023 : 10 year anniversary of Lisburn Foodbank

September 2023 : Official launch of Community Money Advice Hub

September 2023 : Networking event

December 2023 : Lisburn City Church becomes a Love Your Neighbour Hub

March 2024 : Guaranteeing the Essentials campaign

Staff attended various training courses throughout the year and attained qualifications which included the following;

- Certified Level 3 Welfare Advisor
- Community Money Advice training
- First Aid training
- Food hygiene
- Mental Health First Aid
- Community Resilience Training

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### Financial review

The results are set out in detail on pages 11 to 25. The charity returned net incoming resources for the year of £262,926 (2023 - £320,349) leaving unrestricted funds of £359,832 (2023 - £247,533) of which £153,413 (2023 - £116,712) has been designated by the Board at the year end and restricted funds of £716,616 (2023 - 565,989).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

#### Plans for future periods

##### What Next?

Looking to 2024-25, we are excited to be developing our new strategic plan.

The Pathfinders program with Trussell is coming to an end it has been good to reflect on our work and mission.

As we restructure, we are coming back to our true vision & values as LCCCT and continue to strengthen our partnerships across the city to ensure referrals work both ways so we can support as many people as possible to become self sufficient in our community.

#### Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and a registered charity for taxation purposes.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs M Agnew  
Mr B C Agnew MBE  
Mr S J Agnew  
Mr R Browne  
Mr R E Jennings  
Ms S S O Smyth

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

# LCC COMMUNITY TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of LCC Community Trust for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law 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, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and 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.

### Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that GMcG Lisburn be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

### Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

  
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Mrs M Agnew

Trustee

Date:   
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