

## L'ARCHE BELFAST

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

---

#### Report of the Trustees (incorporating the directors' report) For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

The directors of the charitable company submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

L'Arche Belfast is a registered charity (105755 with Charity Commission NI and XR 51980 with HM Revenue and Customs) and a company limited by guarantee (NI 40702). Its registered office is 54 Knockbreda Road, Belfast, BT6 0JB.

The directors of the company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the directors. The present directors and any past directors who served during the year are given on page four. The external advisors are set out on page one.

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

L'Arche Belfast is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted on 9 July 2002. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The Board of Directors are responsible for the overall governance of the company. They are recruited and appointed for the skills and experience that they can bring to the management of the charity and for their commitment to the ethos and mission of L'Arche. There are sub-committees covering development, fundraising, finance and audit. They report regularly to the Board, so that all decisions made are ratified by the full board in due course.

A Director of Services is appointed by the Board to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity and for implementing the policies agreed by the Board of Directors.

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY

The principal objective of the charity is to develop a loving and supportive community in Belfast which aims to advance the education and personal skills development of people with learning disabilities and to nurture their personal interests, employment and work opportunities, and their cultural, faith, or religious traditions. L'Arche Belfast is a faith-based organisation which is rooted in Christianity, and is open to persons of any faith background, and to those with no religious affiliation. It is founded on the principle that systems of belief—be they secular or religious - make the world a better place when they promote the dignity of all human beings, inspiring us to be open to people of different intellectual capacities, social origins, races, religions, genders, and cultures.

The Charity contributes to the quality of life of its members by expanding their horizons through the provision of specialist care and support, and by using a person-centred approach to help them take part in their own care and support planning, make a contribution to their local neighbourhood, and to work towards achievable and meaningful goals.

The L'Arche Belfast community consists of four houses on the Ormeau Road, which continue to be home for fourteen core members/clients who share their lives with each other and assist with paid staff and unpaid volunteers who have chosen L'Arche as a way of life. The community also extends itself as a place of belonging to other people with intellectual disabilities who live locally, by providing opportunities for them to get involved in social activities, or to participate in one or more of our day opportunities programmes.

#### PUBLIC BENEFIT

The directors confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance produced on Public Benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, and are pleased to report that during 2022/23 they have continued to meet the Public Benefit requirement as follows.

---

## **L'ARCHE BELFAST**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

---

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

L'Arche Belfast continues to provide a service of care and support to fourteen people who have learning disabilities (core members). This service is provided at 481, 547 and 563 Ormeau Road, properties owned and jointly managed by Choice Housing, and 1A St. John's Avenue, which is rented from a private landlord. The Belfast and South Eastern Trusts have both indicated that they would like to see our supported living service develop further, as we have a growing waiting list for these services and there is a high demand for supported living in the Belfast area.

The organisation continues to run and further develop an outreach programme throughout the greater Belfast area with a view to creating contacts and building relationships with other people with special needs, their families and their friends. It is also envisaged that those outreach activities will provide an opportunity for others who have a desire to be a part of a community to participate in a meaningful way. The outreach programme organises events such as discos, pub quizzes and nights out for people with learning disabilities. It also includes the provision of bespoke respite services to a small number of individuals who require 1:1 support to engage in activities in their local communities.

Our day opportunities programmes (previously referred to as work projects) continue to operate from our "L'Arche Village" site at 36B Manse Road, Belfast. The past year saw a reduction in Covid-19 restrictions which allowed us to fully open the site and offer a wider variety of activities to a larger number of participants. At present we offer opportunities for participants to engage in: horticulture, assisting with site maintenance, joinery and woodworking, cooking and nutrition, arts and crafts, music and dance/movement, and external trips to various places of interest in the local area. At present we offer placements to over 100 persons with a learning disability on a weekly basis, and some of our sessions are open to persons without a learning disability who are experiencing some form of isolation or difficulty in their lives – asylum seekers, pensioners, people with a mental health condition, and at-risk young people. We have also been able to provide volunteering opportunities to corporate groups, and to a group of A-Level students from Lagan College, which is adjacent to the Village site. We are currently exploring ways in which the site can generate additional income, e.g. by selling our garden produce and woodwork products, and operating a "pop up" charity shop and café.

With the end of Covid restrictions, we have been able to start up some of our day opportunity programmes in venues in the local community again, most notably horticulture/woodworking sessions at Colin Glen in West Belfast, and cookery/activity sessions based in local church halls. Due to the interest in and demand for the services provided at the Village, we anticipate further growth in both activities and participant numbers in the coming year.

#### **PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on L'Arche Belfast, as it has on most charitable organisations. In particular, we experienced an increase in staffing costs due to covering the costs of staff who have been required to self-isolate, and due to the fact that we were required to provide additional support to our residents, all of whom were required to stay home during the lockdown period, and have now found that most of their usual day activities had been closed down or curtailed. We also had additional expenses to cover, such as Personal Protective Equipment. Alongside this we experienced a loss of income due to some of our own day projects being forced to close, in particular our kitchen-based programmes and associated catering activities. As we look to the next year we are aware that we will need to change the nature of some of our activities and change the planning of some of our development. We are also taking action to review our financial situation in light of the pandemic, and to take action to ensure our financial sustainability.

L'Arche Belfast is fortunate in that to date we have been able to maintain all of our contracts with the Health and Social Care Trusts, both for domiciliary care provision and day opportunities, and were awarded additional funding to provide daytime support to our residential core members in lieu of their usual statutory day services. Our grant funding from Supporting People has also remained unaffected, and we have been able to apply for additional funding from SP to help cover Covid-related costs. Many of our direct payments clients also continued to pay us during the most recent lockdown, as we were able to continue providing a service remotely via Zoom.

#### **RELATED PARTIES**

The charity is affiliated to L'Arche Ireland and is part of the Federation of L'Arche International. There were no transactions with related parties as set out in note 18 to the financial statements.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

All those involved with the caring of the core members are vetted by the authorities and receive ongoing training in all areas of care to vulnerable adults. Risk assessments are carried out for all aspects of our work, and individual risk management plans are put in place for each core member who receives a service of care and support from us. An organisational risk register is in place, which is reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Board of Directors.

---

## L'ARCHE BELFAST

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

---

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity's income for the 12 month period ending 31 March 2023 was £1,674,770 increasing from the previous financial year (£1,492,508 in 2022). Total resources expended of £1,525,055 increased when compared to the previous financial year (£1,420,063 in 2022) with net income for the year amounting to £149,715 (2022: £72,445). Total net assets amounted to £585,510 as at 31 March 2023 (2023: £435,795).

#### RESERVES POLICY

The directors are obliged to ensure that sufficient reserves are available to allow the organisation to continue its work in the foreseeable future. The principal funding sources of the charity were Government Bodies, i.e. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and other Social Security Departments. Funding was also obtained from the Independent Living Fund. Other monies are received from private donors and by way of fundraising events. The directors endeavour to have between 12 and 24 weeks' running costs in Reserves. This is to ensure that continuity of service to our core members in the event of an emergency, and to provide for adequate contingency planning. There is a balance in Reserves relating to the charity's Unrestricted Funds of £579,935, approximately 20 weeks running costs for the organisation, of which £301,145 has been designated specifically for a contingency and continuity of service reserve.

#### DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The directors are shown below and, other than as noted, have held office to the report approval date:

Mr M Sheil  
Ms M Campbell  
Ms M Devlin  
Mr K McMahan  
Mr M McDowell  
Ms J Buchanan  
Mr C Daly  
Mr P Tynan  
Ms A McCaffrey  
Mr M Lee

#### STATEMENT OF DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors 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 company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**L'ARCHE BELFAST**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

---

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**


So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

The auditors, Baker Tilly Mooney Moore, have indicated their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning their re-appointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Tynan (Sep 26, 2023 11:12 GMT+1)

.....  
Mr P Tynan

26-Sep-2023  
Date: .....