

L'ARCHE BELFAST
REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Registered Number: NI040702
Charity Number NIC105755

L'ARCHE BELFAST

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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L'ARCHE BELFAST

**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

SECRETARY	Ms M Campbell
DIRECTORS	Mr M F Sheil (Chairman) Ms M Campbell Ms M Devlin Ms K McMahon Mr M McDowell Ms J Buchanan Mr C Daly Mr P Tynan Ms A McCaffrey Mr M Lee
REGISTERED OFFICE	54 Knockbreda Road Belfast BT6 0JB
REGISTERED NUMBER	NI040702
CHARITY NUMBER	105755 Charity Commission NI XR 51980 HMRC
AUDITORS	Baker Tilly Mooney Moore Statutory Auditors 17 Clarendon Road Clarendon Dock Belfast Co. Antrim BT1 3BG
SOLICITORS	Tughans Marlborough House 30 Victoria Street Belfast BT1 3GG
BANKERS	Ulster Bank Limited 10-20 Lombard Street Belfast BT1 1BH
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES	Mr Scott Shively

L'ARCHE BELFAST

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Report of the Trustees (incorporating the directors' report) For the year ended 31st March 2024

The directors of the charitable company submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. 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 work projects.

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 2024

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 Trust 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 based at the "L'Arche Village" site on Manse Road, Belfast, which provides a wide range of work, leisure, and social activities for people with learning disabilities in a community context. The outreach programme also organises events such as discos, pub quizzes and nights out for people with learning disabilities, and 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 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.

We also offer day opportunity programmes in venues in the local community, 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

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 who do not attend statutory day services.

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 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity's income for the 12 month period ending 31 March 2024 was £1,729,951 increasing from the previous financial year (£1,674,770 in 2023). Total resources expended of £1,739,736 increased when compared to the previous financial year (£1,525,055 in 2023) with net expenditure for the year amounting to £9,785 (2023: net income £149,715). Total net assets amounted to £575,725 as at 31 March 2024 (2023: £585,510).

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 3 and six months' 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 £518,403, approximately 17 weeks running costs for the organisation, of which £339,615 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 McMahon
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 2024**

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

Paul Tynan (Oct 21, 2024 15:47 GMT+1)

Mr P Tynan

Date: 21/10/2024