



## **DROMARA CONNECT ANNUAL REPORT**

**1st July 2022 – 30th June 2023**

### **Background**

Dromara Connect is a private company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 27 May 2016.

It was registered with the Charity Commission on 5 April 2017.

### **Objects**

The Company's objects are specifically restricted to the following:

(a) the advancement of the Christian faith within Dromara and its environs of Northern Ireland, in accordance with the Dromara Connect Statement of Faith, in such ways and by such means as the directors from time to time may think fit and, in particular, to reach out and communicate the good news of the Gospel to persons within the community who are not exposed to Christian teaching through regular church-going; and

(b) ancillary to the foregoing, the advancement of any other exclusively charitable purpose or purposes under the law of Northern Ireland, as the directors may from time to time decide.

### **Directors at 30 June 2023**

Ian Biggerstaff, Jacqueline Cromie, Andrew Dawson, Danny Roberts, Louise Skelly

### **Secretary at 30 June 2023**

David Annett

### **Membership at 30 June 2023**

All directors are members.

Other members, known as associate members, are recorded on a register of members.

### **Accountants**

Heanen, Stanfield and McKee Ltd, 30 Bachelors Walk, Lisburn, BT28 1XN were appointed as accountants for Dromara Connect.

### **Accounts**

Accounts for the above period have been completed.

### **Confirmation statement**

Confirmation statement was accepted by Companies House on June 3rd, 2023

## Meetings of Steering Group

The Steering Group met on 5 occasions during the period.

## Programme during the period

Activity	Date
Updates and Prayer Meetings	These continued, usually on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, in person, but also with an option of joining in via 'zoom'
Counselling Service	We continue to provide a free counselling service for those in the area on a 'as when needed' basis.
55+	Speaker Events were held on 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. Drop-in continued weekly except for July-August
Caring for Carers	We ran an eight-week programme during March and April each Thursday from 12 - 2 pm for those with dementia, Alzheimer's, cancer and other issues where a carer was needed. This was started with funding from the Council.
Living Room	Drop-In for primary and pre-school children with their parents/carers held once a week during term time.
Connect Mission	In June 2023, we conducted a mission for everyone in Dromara and the wider area. This included a week-long event for children, a young people's event, and two weeks of meetings for all ages who wished to come. We used a tent that was erected in a local field, that was given to us, and we had hundreds of people come along over the course of the mission
One-off events	Events are inclusive, and advertised on social media, and on the LCD screen outside the hall.

## Directors' comments

The directors wish to record their appreciation to all those who in any way helped to support the work of CONNECT during the period.

This past year has seen Dromara Connect develop, both in its capacity of what it can offer, and also in its relationship with all people in the local community. This is shown in our shortlisting to the final three, for the 2023 all Ireland community awards.

We are thankful for the opportunities that we have, and for our committed volunteers who are eager to see the work progress, and opportunities develop for all the people in Dromara, and the surrounding areas.

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘[Love your neighbor](#) as yourself.’” - Galatians 5:13-14

God Bless.

Danny Roberts (Dromara Connect Chairman)