

# YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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 governing document, 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

*YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited ('YouthAction NI') is a membership-based learning organisation that is outward and forward looking to best meet the changing needs of young people through youth work and youth arts. The organisation has nearly 80 years' experience in inspiring young people, tackling inequalities, investing in communities and transforming the lives of young people.*

Throughout 2023, our charitable vision was to support young people to create, participate and benefit from a more fair and inclusive society.

Through such intention and purpose we set out to:

1. improve their life chances;
2. inspire them as activists;
3. grow inclusive and outward looking communities; and
4. build a peaceful and shared society.

#### External environment:

The charity sector is deeply affected by an ever-changing external environment. This has included:

1. A sector that is vulnerable and struggling in many ways.
2. Having no government in 2023 and no permanent secretaries to make decisions has had a negative impact including budget constraints.
3. Decreased monies and greater competition with an expectation for the sector to deliver more with less resources.
4. A workforce that is exhausted with many leaving the sector due to job contract uncertainties and poor terms and conditions. Many charities are losing staff with an experienced skills set. Coupled with this, recruitment of new staff has been challenging.
5. Increased running costs with reduce income from many funders to contribute to this.
6. Charities dipping into financial reserves and working at risk as they constantly deal with cliff-edge funding.
7. Delays in funding and changes in funding delivery models that have made it very difficult for charities to plan.
8. A focus on fire-fighting and looking for glimmers of hope.

While operating through this precarious time of uncertainty, the charity sector and voluntary youth sector has:

1. Continued working together in a united way to lobby, campaign and influence, recognising that this all takes time and effort. This includes working with umbrella bodies across GB/UK.
2. Highlighted the social return impact of charitable inputs, efforts and outcomes to government and others.
3. Demonstrated how we contribute to the new Programme for Government and cross departmental outcomes.
4. Maintained a degree of resilience, steadiness and a sense of certainty/control in this state of flux.



# YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

YouthAction NI has played a significant role in shaping the future of the voluntary youth work sector alongside other sectoral allies, securing funds through the Dormant Assets Fund (The National Lottery Community Fund) in 2023. This development grant provides the opportunity for the voluntary youth work sector to repair and rebuild while shaping a transformational roadmap for the way forward. Through ongoing effective collaboration, we aspire to build confidence and assurance for investment across the sector to deliver on outcomes aligned to children and young people.

#### **Strategic goals:**

The new YouthAction NI 2023-2027 Strategic Plan sets out 9 high level strategic goals over 5 years.

#### **What we said we would do:**

1. Strive for a sustainable and robust financial base for our work, raising 2 million pounds each year to achieve high quality youth work and value for money outcomes.
2. Invest in 250 communities each year to embed quality youth work to support young people's development.
3. Improve the health, well-being, aspirations and opportunities of 10,000 young people aged 10-25 years each year.
4. Increase the skills, qualifications and employability of 1,000 young leaders each year.
5. Demonstrate the highest levels of governance and operational excellence within a clear constitutional and legal framework.
6. Inspire, build and nurture an effective, supportive and healthy leadership team at YouthAction NI and through our membership network.
7. Build local and strategic partnerships with charities, business sector, academia, government and civic society across the UK, Ireland and internationally.
8. Work with sectoral representatives as courageous change makers to transform how charities are recognised, valued and supported.
9. Raise quality standards in youth work through partnerships, research, training, resource development and impact demonstration.

#### **Summary of achievements (what we did):**

The achievements of the charity against the nine high level goals of the Strategic Plan (2023-2027) are commendable this year, considering the challenges presented earlier. The achievements for 2023 are summarised as follows:

#### **1. We raised £2,848,956 to achieve high quality youth work/youth arts and value for money outcomes. This included:**

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund: YouthStart project at £6m over 2 years: £935,521 YANI allocation.
- Peace Plus: 3.2 Youth Call -an €8.1m application as lead with 6 other partners (4 year project April 24-March 28) €1,640,423.76 YANI allocation. Successful in Dec 2023.
- Peace Plus: 3.1 Shared Learning Together (non-formal) Call -a €3.4m application proposal as lead with 9 other partners (4 year project April 24-March 28) €596,845 YANI allocation.
- Peace Plus: 1:3 Building Positive Relations. Concept note submitted for approx. €2.5m with 11-12 partners).
- EA Regional Strategic: successful (£150,000 per year).
- Department of Foreign Affairs: successful (£97,000 per year)
- Various sources of smaller income through Hume Foundation, Co Op Foundation, IEF, and Department of the Taoiseach (NYCI).
- Charitable fund-raising/awareness events such as Solstice walk (Armagh), Sunday Soiree (Belfast), Fashion Fundraiser, Stars in Your Eyes and 'Net-walking' Mourne Mountains event.

## YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

#### **2. We invested in 257 communities to embed quality youth work/youth arts to support young people's development.**

- In 2023, Senior Leader Sheila Morris worked alongside our Co-Ordinator of Service Shirley Moore to maintain and grow our membership base and services; 162 members supported directly throughout 2023.
- 52 eligible groups/ organisations nominated YouthAction as their designated Regional Voluntary Youth Work Organisation equating to an award of £150,000 per year to YouthAction playing this support role.
- Membership support includes:
  - Quality Assurance and Reporting
  - Safeguarding
  - HR support
  - Finance support
  - Workforce/Volunteer training
  - Curriculum and programme support
  - Governance
  - Insurance services
  - Representation and advocacy
  - Communication
  - Connection and networking
- **Governance support** included committee/board reviews, AGM support, Safeguarding Policy updates, and risk assessments.
  - 175 (114 EA participants) participants completed Keeping Adults and children Safe training.
  - 361 workers/volunteers from member groups (246 EA registered groups) had Access NI checks completed.
- **HR Support** included recruitment and induction of staff and volunteers, staff and volunteer job chats, information and advice regarding staff contracts and salary.
- **Finance Support** included support in applying for EA Funding (Local Awards, Non-Targeted Generic Funding), support with the EA financial vouching process, meet the funder opportunities and small grants opportunities.
- **Programme support** and delivery included 59 training programmes provided to EA registered groups. (PALS, LifeMaps, Altruism, Bullseye). 2 new curriculum resources were also created.
- **Accredited and non-accredited training** included 23 EA member organisations (246 staff and volunteers) receiving accredited OCN level 1-4 training
- **Connection and Networking** included 12 regional member cluster support meetings and 1 Annual Members Conference with 42 members.
- **Quality Assurance support** included 15 members availing of a new Quality Assurance workshop for staff and volunteers.

At the end of 2023, 77% of members completed a satisfaction survey with 100% reporting that they are very satisfied with the support services we offer; 94% reporting they were very satisfied/satisfied with the quality of training.

*"We are extremely pleased with the support provided by YouthAction NI. Without them we simply wouldn't be able to mobilise the team of 76 volunteers that we currently have had this academic year. YouthAction NI have helped with Access NI checks processing which is of the utmost importance in our volunteer recruitment and onboarding process." (Members Satisfaction Survey Report April 2024)*

*"Youth Action have been a life line for St Patricks Youth Club Lisburn thankyou to their wonderful support and guidance throughout the years." (Members Satisfaction Survey Report April 2024)*

## YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

- Members have been supported through UK Youth cost of living awards of up to £50,000 for local members:
  - Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues (TAMHI) £32,000.00
  - Ardoyne Youth Club £29,000.00
  - Magnet Young Adult Centre £20,000.00
  - Artillery Youth Centre £20,000.00
  - Kingdom Youth Club £17,000.00
  - Marrowbone Community Association £17,000.00
  - Aspire NI £14,000.00
  - R City Youth CIC £10,000.00
  - Dungannon Youth Resource Centre £10,000.00
  - Omagh Boys and Girls Club £10,000.00
  - On Street Community Youth £10,000.00
  - Holy Family Youth Centre £9,500.00
  - Deanby Youth Club £7,300.00
  - Clonmore Youth Club £4,000.00
  - Banbridge amateur boxing club £3,000.00
  - 3rd Portstewart Brownies £300.00
  - 92nd Belfast Brownie Unit £100.00
- 16 member groups received small grants of up to £800 each through the UK Youth Inspire awards in which young people applied and managed their projects.
- Members have been supported through the UK Youth Thriving Minds Awards grants including Monkstown Boxing Club and Reach Mentoring.
- Members have received small grants through Coca-Cola Thank you awards (IYF): €74,000 investment to local groups.
- Irish Youth Foundation (UK) support 4 of our local members with a £21,000 small grant investment.
- Funded groups through the Irish Youth Foundation grants took part in a celebration event at Belfast City Hall with the Lord Mayor (Lord Mayor's parlour, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023).
- Membership connections and celebration event held alongside AGM on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023. The EA moderation noted, standards were exceeded in two areas (engagement and of service) and met in one area (impact).
- We joined with the ACCORD voluntary youth work sector group to better co-ordinate and support local groups.

#### **3. Improved the health, wellbeing, aspirations and opportunities of 2,665 young people aged 10-25yrs.**

- Approx. 5,463 young people have benefitted from youth work and youth arts programming that has improved their health and well-being.
- Critical Thinking workshop with workers: Child Sexual Exploitation. Nested Model of Youth Work; NEXUS model of intervention to address sexual abuse.
- Critical Youth Research Hub: Ending violence against girls and young women (UU/QUB). NUS-USI results of a NI-wide student survey and the impact of poverty on young adults
- World Aids Day (1<sup>st</sup> Dec 23): raising awareness and challenging stigmas for those living with HIV/AIDs (expressive art gallery).
- Wide sharing and training of the 'Altruism through youth work' resource.

## YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

#### 4. Increased the skills, qualifications and employability of 296 leaders.

- 79% of our YouthStart year 1 targets have been achieved 1,161 young people (addressing economic inactivity). Involved in the UKSPF People and Skills evaluation through Frontier Economics and BMG research.
- Requests and support provided to members and generic groups for OCN qualifications (11 qualifications offered.) 340 people registered (44 courses registered in 2023) 280 learners completed (46 courses claimed in 2023).
- Peace Plus preparation aligned to CyberQuest (Cyber Security and other digital skills development to support young people's employment pathways). Partners include REIM training, CJH network, Advanced manufacturing, Talent Sensus, Youth Work Ireland and the Bytes project.
- Recruitment for 3 Interns through the JobStart scheme and 1 communications Intern through the Dormant Accounts Fund for the Voluntary Youth Work Sector.
- Supported 6 placement students (JU and QUB).
- 28 young leaders supported through Certificate in Community Youth Studies level 4 (JU partnership) in Belfast and Magee (incl. a residential at Corrymeela Community).
- Hosted 22 University of Maynooth youth work students who visited Belfast to learn about the context of Youth Work in Northern Ireland.
- Presentation on youth work policy to 25+ community youth work students in Dundalk Institute of Technology.
- 25 groups registered for OCN levels 1-3 in youth work and 2 groups with 22 groups completing with 166 young leaders gaining accreditation.

#### 5. We maintained the highest levels of governance and operational excellence, including: self-evaluation and quality improvement planning at all levels of the organisation from young people, staff and the board of directors.

- Board of Trustee meetings including 5 principles of good governance and action plan, and self-evaluation and continuous improvement planning.
- New quarterly reporting for Board aligned to the 5-year plan.
- Risk Register and quarterly review
- Audit complete by Harbison Mulholland with accounts prepared alongside Trustees report: submitted in September 2023 (Charity Commission).
- Harbison Mulholland auditing YouthStart (UKSPF) across all consortium partners every 6 months.
- Staff reminders and planned workshop on financial procedures and policies.
- Appointed Think People to support HR role 1 day per week.
- Policy review and update with Think People.
- Governance resource drafted and piloted with some local members.
- AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 with 40+ in attendance.

#### Workforce Development (within YouthAction):

The charitable company's most important resource is its people; their knowledge and experience is crucial to meeting charitable objectives. Retention of key staff is critical and the charitable company has invested increasingly in employment, training and development opportunities. A total of 12 collective staff training days were run in 2023, with a further 130 individual training opportunities taken up by our staff. We also invested in an overnight staff conference, our first overnight in 10 years. Staff evaluations indicated *"the staff residential needed to happen, with all the change in the organisation staff and CEO we needed time to be together and map out our direction."*

*"The staff residential gave us the chance to have a say in the future of the organisation and see our part in helping make our ideas real."*

## YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

#### 6. Investing in a healthy leadership team at YouthAction NI and through our membership network.

The organisation was awarded a Silver Standard Investors in People Award in 2023 with the report stating *"People display a high level of dedication to their work, feel empowered and want to do a good job. They have a clear understanding of their own role and know how they contribute to the bigger picture through defined objectives, tasks and priorities. Harnessing this passion and expertise is key to making the right decisions and co-creating plans for the future, aiming to continually improve and innovate to meet young people's evolving needs."*

*"Trust, empowerment and delegation are part of your culture. This is shaped by the clear understanding that your people are valued and respected, involved in decisions about the future, and are consulted and listened to."*

*"Teams share a collaborative spirit. Everyone has clarity about how they need to work together and have the right level of responsibility, freedom and autonomy to work effectively. They are proud of what they do and believe that they really make a difference to the lives of young people."*

*"Continuous learning is embedded. People are encouraged to continuously develop skills and knowledge and make best use of opportunities available. Your provision reflects a balanced use of internal experience and peer support, alongside access to external expertise and resources. There is a great deal of knowledge sharing, mentoring and coaching."*

*"You encourage engagement, which is open, honest and supportive. People are given the space and support they need to speak up and share their views and opinions. You work hard to ensure two-way, effective communication so that people not only receive the right information, at the right time in a way that is accessible to all, but are asked for their views, encouraged to provide feedback and help shape plans and objectives."*

The Investor in People 2023 Review Silver Award provide a clear indication of how staff are valued and supported. Staff feedback included.

- *"People are upbeat and happy; I love this place."*
- *"I love this organisation; it does my heart good."*
- *"Everybody works hard because we love it."*
- *"There's good positive relationships in YouthAction ... There's excitement about the future."*
- *"It felt right for me from the start ... People are brilliant, people are positive."*
- *"It's more than a job ... I'm proud to work for an organisation that has such a great reputation."*
- Investment to develop and grow the Senior Leadership Team through Manabu Learning Training and Support.
- Peer support system provided by CEO for new Senior Leaders.
- New senior leader roles having management core competencies and responsibilities (upgraded from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2023)
- New progress review system piloted with Senior Leadership Team individually. Senior Leaders will embed with staff across the organisation, including IIP survey to inform us of gaps or areas for further investment.
- New LifeMaps (for work) reflection cards that can be used for team reviews (motivation, purpose, learning etc.).
- In service training evaluation complete for 2023 with a 2024 plan drafted.
- Staff supported with membership development days and how to provide the best support/service to local groups.

## **YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited**

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

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

##### **7. We built and nurtured various local and strategic partnerships including:**

- **CROSS-NATIONS:** New 5-year strategy developed – YouthAction, UK Youth, Youth CYMRU, Youth Scotland and Youth Work Ireland. Launched on 7<sup>th</sup> September with partners online.
- **CROSS BORDER:** Formed a new partnership with National Youth Council Ireland aligned to the Dept. of the Taoiseach Shared Island Unit: Shared Island Youth Forum.
- **CROSS BORDER:** All Ireland Traveller Inclusion Youth Work Strategy (research with Nexus). Report due in 2024.
- **Lead YOUTHSTART:** Consortium of 7 youth work charities: YouthAction, Include Youth, Springboard Opps, Start 360, Bytes, Prince's Trust (£6m). Shared learning event for youth workers and managers held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (added value of collaboration exploration).
- **Lead PEACE PLUS 3.2 'AMPLIFY':** Partnership of 7 youth work charities: YouthAction, Youth Work Ireland, Foróige, Patrician YC, NIYF, Prince's Trust and Community Sports Network (€8.1m).
- **Lead PEACE PLUS 3.1 'SHARED AGENDA FOR PEACE':** Partnership of 11 youth work charities: YouthAction, Youth Work Ireland, Corrymeela Community, Bytes, Integrated Education Fund, YouthLink, YMCA Ireland, Fighting Words Ireland, Community Dialogue, YouthBank International and Peace Players (€3.4m).
- **Lead PEACE PLUS 1.3 INCLUSIVE PEACE-BUILDING:** YouthAction, Youth Work Ireland, Women's Resource Development Agency, Involve, CaraFriend, Mencap, Divers Youth and Volunteer Now.
- **Partner for PEACE PLUS 3.3 MENTAL HEALTH ('Our Generation' partnership led by Action Mental Health).**
- **Partner for PEACE PLUS 2.3 Cyber Quest (cyber security call) – application due mid-2024.**
- **Education Authority Youth Service 'LifeSkills':** partnership with Bytes.
- **BUSINESS:** Citi group, PWC, Belfast Rotary Club.
- **Queens University Belfast:** British Science Association Ideas Fund 'youth altruism' project.
- **Ulster University:** Certificate in Community Youth Studies partnership and Taking Boys Seriously 2 advisory group.
- **ARTS:** Collaboration with Capella Caeciliana to support front of house at Crumlin Road Gaol.
- **Other partnerships with Integrated Education Fund, CoOperation Ireland (TBUC), Hume Foundation, Safeguarding NI, IFA.**

##### **8. We work collectively with other sectoral representatives as courageous change makers in:**

- **The development of the Voluntary Youth Work Sector.** Dormant Accounts Fund funding secured for 1yr: £50,096. Plan to appoint an independent sectoral convener and a communications intern.
- **Securing Paul Hamlyn Foundation £8,000 for Network Youth NI.** Network sectoral event in October at 174 Trust (Duncairn complex). Planning for a sectoral online event and youth showcase in 2024.
- **Leading, managing and championing the UKSPF YouthStart 7 partner consortium (improving the economic activity of young people).**
- **Leading and partnering in a variety of PEACEPLUS consortiums/partnerships.**
- **Participating in sectoral meetings with EA/DE as a full youth work sector (June, July, Aug, Sept and Nov 2023).**
- **Joining ACCORD partnership to coordinate and enhance support services to local youth/community groups across NI.**
- **The Critical Youth Work Network, established in autumn 2020 (funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation) continued to offer non formal workforce development opportunities across the youth work sector. The Network involves training, research, resources, connections, insights and the sharing of the most up to date innovative youth work. In 2023 we hosted 16 events, including explorations of Gender-Based Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation.**

## **YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited**

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

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

#### **9. Raise quality standards in youth work/ youth arts through partnerships, research, training, resource development and impact demonstration.**

- Established and co-ordinate YouthStart employability partnership (project launched in August 2023).
- Extended the Peace Plus 3.2 Youth 'Amplify' to 2 new partners: Prince's Trust and Community Sports Network with submission of application (Aug 2023).
- Nurturing Peace Plus 3.1 'SHARED AGENDA FOR PEACE': Partnership of 11 youth work charities: YouthAction, Youth Work Ireland, Corrymeela Community, Bytes, Integrated Education Fund, YouthLink, YMCA Ireland, Fighting Words Ireland, Community Dialogue, YouthBank International and Peace Players with submission of application (Sept 2023).
- Established a new Peace Plus 1.3 'Collective Allies for Peace' consortium: YouthAction, Youth Work Ireland, Women's Resource Development Agency, Involve, CaraFriend, Mencap, Include Youth, Playboard, Diverse Youth and Volunteer Now.
- Partner for Peace Plus 3.3 MENTAL HEALTH ('Our Generation' partnership led by Action Mental Health). Application submitted.
- Partner for Peace Plus 2.3 Cyber Quest (cyber security call, 2024).
- Resource development including: building altruism through youth work, revamped pathway to peace game, updated peace coasters and the development of a governance resource.
- Critical Youth Research Hub and Critical Thinking workshops for the sector such as the impact of poverty on young adults (Prof Ann Marie Gray, July 23).
- Quality Assurance Senior Leadership role (Maria Perkins).
- Development and roll out of EA Moderations Quality Assurance Framework.

#### **Outcomes for children and young people**

Through youth work and youth art methodologies, young people will active the following outcomes:

1. Build and improve their health and well-being.
2. Increase their creative expression.
3. Improve their life and work skills.
4. Demonstrate leadership, activism and peace building.

# YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

#### Achievements and performance

##### Achievements by theme:

#### 1. Build and improve young people's health and well-being.

##### IDEAS FUND

In June 2023, we launched Phase 2 of the Ideas Fund Project a partnership with Queen University Belfast, YouthAction and The Ideas Fund. The aim of the Project is to explore altruism as a means of improving mental health, and countering the individualistic narrative around mental health and encouraging young people in communities to be "other-regarding."

By December 2023, we had recruited 2 new peer leaders in the North West to roll out work on Altruism in community and school settings. 124 young people had taken part in altruism workshops, with a further 16 young people going through an intensive Kindness Programme. This workshop was popular at the member's conference with 12 members taking part in a taster workshop, which will ultimately benefit young people in their local member organisations.

##### OUR GENERATION

In September 2023 the Peace IV funded "Our Generation" Project finished. Over the course of the project 1,435 young people benefitted from Health and Well-being sessions delivered by YouthAction NI. 98% of those said that the programme was worthwhile in their lives.

The Youth Advisory Group within Our Generation convened to ensure young people's decision making during the project was hailed as a model of good practice, and the 25 young people who lead this work, reflected on memories and celebrated their achievements.

*"It was fun. I have good memories. We all just got on. But you know some people might have had their perceptions of people and the have been smashed down."*

*"Yeah, I have become more confident because of the programme. I have more friends and feel like I can speak out."*

*"I feel like all of us got a better understanding of how people would like to be referred to and how to approach people and what kind of pronouns to use. I think that made us better at making others feel included."*

*"I believe I am more aware of mental health and how to develop strategies to overcome feeling down. I believe I am more open and better able to build relationship with people. I have a better understanding of other people."*

#### 2. Increase young people's creative expression.

##### YOUTH ARTS: RAINBOW SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

In 2023, The Rainbow School of Performing Arts continued to deliver high quality youth arts / youth work programmes for young people. 550 young people attended weekly classes for 3 terms at our youth hub College Square North. Each class took part in a mini musicals showcase, meaning every young person got the opportunity to perform to an audience.

For the first time ever we hosted 2 summer shows. For juniors a cast of 66 took part in 'Tale As Old As Time', whilst for seniors a cast of 100 staged 'Matilda the musical'. The team were supported by a team of 25 young technicians (techies).

The Pantomime this year was the 'Tale of Tink and Stink'. It was a run of 10 shows involving 66 young people in 2 casts supported by 10 Techies and 20 young Front of House Volunteers

Audience numbers for 2023 were 2,950.

The Rainbow Factory School of Performing Arts continue to bring dance and drama workshops to those who may normally have the same access to the Arts as others. Over the summer period, our longstanding partnership with Phoenix Gas meant that 'Shine Bright' for young people with disabilities continued, work with Ethic Minorities continued in Ballymena, work with the Cedar Foundation has evolved to include an environmental aspect and a new partnership has been made with UCEL. As a result of this work we no longer use the term young people with disabilities but rather young people with superpowers.

## YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

*"Jaden absolutely loved the drama lessons! He is an only child who was totally isolated during Covid and lost his confidence. Drama and the teacher Shannen brought him out of his shell & we were able to see the creative personality we had all been missing for so long. Even when he got home he was talking excitedly. He has always wanted to go to drama but most drama classes don't allow autistic people to show their true imaginative selves whereas with the Autism group he was amongst similar children & encouraged to be himself!"*

#### ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION

##### YANI CON

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023, the first-ever YANI CON was held. (Youth Comic Convention) There were 60 young people in attendance from across the region. Patron Ciaran Hinds opened the event and took time to chat and answer questions with young people. The event was used to connect young people who share a love of comics and superheroes but also to connect with the real world and real world issues related to life and social justice. For example, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby created X-Men to teach young people about racism and prejudice and how to challenge it.

*"It was nerdy and I love it!"*

##### INAUGURAL YOUTHACTION NI GOOD RELATIONS CUP

Over the Halloween break we hosted the first ever Good Relations Cup for young people from across Northern Ireland. Teams entered from Enniskillen to the Northwest. In the spirit of the Good Relations teams were made up of players from different community backgrounds and supported by coaches from Norwich FC, Linfield United FC and Enniskillen Rangers. 40 young people took part from 4 regional youth work organisations with Cormac being awarded 'Player of the Tournament.'

*"There has been an overwhelming positive reaction to the day. We plan to run similar events in the future using a variety of sports to build connections throughout the sector." (Youth Worker)*

##### FASHION FUNDRAISER

We continue to work with young people to find alternative ways to make the best use of our youth work resource at College Square North, Belfast. On 10<sup>th</sup> November we held a Fashion Fundraiser – selling preloved fashion to young people and adults. The event was run by 'The Dreamers' youth committee and a group of young women from The Falls Women's Centre. 172 people come through the doors (some new to YouthAction NI including refugees and fashion students). We raised £746.17 on the night and have lit a spark for sustainable fashion amongst young people, supporters and staff.

#### **3. Improve young people's life and work skills.**

YouthAction NI is committed to tackling youth unemployment by investing in young people, delivering bespoke employability programmes, providing qualifications, work placements and structured volunteering opportunities, with impressive results. Jobs for young people continues to be a priority of the Board of Directors.

##### YOUTH START

YouthStart was officially launched at PWC (Belfast) on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The UKSPF funded programme supports young people who are economically inactive to build their skills & aspirations towards employment. The 7 strong partnership is led by YouthAction NI.

As a collective consortium 102% of our year 1 targets have been achieved in the first 9 months period April to December with 1,161 young people on the project against a target of 1,139.

83% of our employment outcomes have been met in the first 9 months.

138 young people have progressed to employment against a target of 166.

137% of our Further Training /Further Education outcomes have been achieved

494 young people progressed to FE/FT against a target set of 360.

---

## YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

At YouthAction NI, emphasis has been placed on targeting those young people not always included in youth work particularly young refugees and asylum seekers, young mothers and trans young people. We have increasing numbers of young people at YouthAction who identify as transgender. From anecdotal evidence many trans young people experience bullying and discrimination in the home, at school and in society at large. We stand with young people and their rights to decide for themselves. We are delighted that young people who are trans see us as a safe space respecting all gender identities. We will continue to offer a safe space whilst also working with young people to challenge bullying and discrimination in youth work, in school, family and societal settings.

By December 2023, YouthAction had enrolled 148 economically inactive young people, exceeding the year 1 target which was 137 young people, 11 above our target for year 1. We had supported 23 young people into employment. 60.5% of year 1 targets had been achieved.

*"Thanks for getting me through the training and helping me get that job."* (Young Man, CSR Course.)

The YouthStart project has been selected by UK Shared Prosperity Fund to be part of an evaluation of UKSPF. This is an opportunity to showcase quality youth work and the benefits of a collaborative approach.

*"I have learnt I can do qualifications, I love how it is informal but that we get work done, in a relaxed environment, we are learning from each other like what it is like to move here from a different country, and when we leave each week I feel positive and like I have contributed."*

#### OCNNI

YouthAction NI continues to offer a wide range of OCNNI qualifications to support young people. In 2023 we built a training space "Beans and Dreams" youth café for young people training on our OCNNI Barista, Customer Care and Food Hygiene courses.

We have recently added 3 new qualifications to our repertoire: A level 2 In Sports Development, Level 2 in Creative and Digital Arts and a Level 2 Award in Social Media.

Work has started with OCNNI, to explore accreditation of Youth Achievement Awards.

YouthAction NI was nominated in 2 categories at OCNNI Learning and Innovation Awards in June 2023.

The youth café was nominated in the Learner and Innovation Awards and OCNNI Learner Jack Smyth was nominated as Learner of the Year. Jack was runner up and received £500 towards future study. 82% of learners who registered for a qualification in 2023 completed and gained accreditation.

#### INTERNSHIPS

In 2023, the charity provided paid work placement/ internships for 3 young people in growth industries (PR / communications, technical theatre and event management), supported by the government Job Start scheme and Ulster University.

#### **4. Demonstrate leadership, activism and peace building.**

YouthAction NI continues to place peacebuilding, activism and leadership at the heart of all its youth work programmes, despite the absence of funding in 2023 for this work. Strategic development investment for peacebuilding focussed on nurturing a range of PEACEPLUS consortia in preparing applications to 3.2 Youth call and 3.1 Shared learning (non-formal education).

Traditional activities such as International Women's Day, PRIDE week events, World Mental Health Day Events took place each with a social justice focus. In addition we hosted new events exploring the role of faith in the LGBT Community, A peacebuilding / storytelling event, as well as new campaigns such as Linking Generations (Intergenerational Campaign) and the '#will' campaign.

## YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

Through the '#iwill' campaign Youth Ambassadors Corin and Colt continued to facilitate workshops on the '#iwill' campaign. They facilitated workshops with the North West Islamic Association, in Strabane, Derry, with local schools and they brought their campaign to 10 Downing Street where they spoke with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Both iwill ambassadors completed their community fundraising for the local Foyle Hospice and raised a total of £12,160. Foyle Hospice stated *"these inspirational young people have shown Foyle Hospice that grassroots fundraising is being passed through generations and that a hospice that was built by the community will continue to thrive with young people like Corin and Colt."*

#### SHARED ISLAND YOUTH FORUM

YouthAction has been instrumental in recruiting for and in delivering induction sessions to the Shared Island Youth Forum. To date 80 young people have been recruited from across the Island; with sessions on YouthAction NI Peace Resources delivered to groups during the initial residential.

As a result to YouthAction's commitment to peacebuilding In July 2023, 3,503 young people reported that they were "more favourable to people from other backgrounds" as a result of taking part in their project.

#### WOMEN AND PEACEBUILDING EVENT (JULY 2023)

YouthAction Northern Ireland organise a 'Women In Peacebuilding' event which focused on women who were connected with the Design and implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and women who are involved in peacebuilding post good Friday agreement with the young people of today. The event was chaired by the Chairperson of the Board Anne-Marie Gray who chaired the two panels and took the audience of over 50 through the journey and roles that women played in bringing peace to Northern Ireland as well as how the women in today's society are contributing to peace building. Bronagh Hinds expressed a sense of encouragement to see young women entering activism and community work underlining her commitment to solidarity – *"we're still there fighting"*.

#### COHERENT TRAINING ROUTE FOR LEADERS

YouthAction NI contributes to the workforce development of the wider youth sector, by providing recognised youth work training from level 1 to level 4 (including Ulster University qualifications) and 296 youth work qualifications were achieved in 2023 through face- to-face delivery.

In building leadership, YouthAction, continues to prioritise quality youth work and leadership training. We provide a coherent training route for leaders at all ages and stages of their leadership journey. In 2023, 25 groups registered for OCN levels 1-3 in youth work (25 groups) with 22 groups completing with 166 young leaders gaining accreditation.

In addition, we continue to be the only organisation to deliver the Level 4 Certificate in Youth Studies in partnership with Ulster University. The course is a widening access vocational course targeting non-traditional learners. In 2023, 13 students graduated from the Level 4 Certificate course. This represents an 80% completion rate.

Progression routes:

- 6 students accepted onto the full time degree in Community Youth Work
- 1 student accepted onto the post-grad course for Community Youth Work
- 3 students accepted onto part-time degree in Community Youth Work
- 1 student accepted onto Dance course in Manchester
- 3 students gained new Youth work employment

For the academic year 2023 / 24 we held the course in 2 locations Belfast and Magee with a total of 22 students. By December 2023, 90% of students had completed module 1.

*"I never thought I would get to university, people like me don't go to university, but the help I got on the course made me stay, I was told I wasn't stupid I just needed support to help me learn I was able to take what I was learning straight into my youth club. It helped me see how it all connects. I'm the first in my family to graduate, the course was hard but I'd do it all again in a heartbeat "*

## **YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited**

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

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

##### **Locations**

The charity maintained the regional offices in Armagh, Enniskillen, Kilkeel, Newry and Derry/ Londonderry. College Square North continues to be developed as the leading youth venue, creating a shared space for a shared future in the heart of Belfast. It connects communities, young people and organisations to the city and has become a centre of excellence for youth work, youth democracy and youth arts.

##### **College Square North**

The charitable company plans to maximise the resources at College Square North to more effectively meet the changing needs of young people and contribute to the development of the youth work and arts sectors in Northern Ireland, following the impact of COVID-19. In 2023 our Youth Café "Beans and Dreams" went on project visits to Dublin to learn about how other youth cafés are best run.

*"We learned about the different rules that help keep the café safe. So we will add these into ours – like only certain groups in at one time, and having people responsible for certain jobs."*

*"Our café is more run by young people not workers."*

*"we need to add rules like – no class no coffee. And everyone is included – not a clique."*

*"We will use some learning including the hall of fame and the corporate sponsorship for healthy foods from the trip to Dublin."*

A building review group made up of young people, staff and senior leaders has been meeting to maximise the potential of the building and to plan for a sustainability policy throughout the organisation. Concerns and opportunities were presented to the Board of Trustees with priorities moving forward to include; recycling in the building, to install LED sensor lighting and to create a small community garden to green the city centre space for young people.

In November 2023, we secured a tenant for the smaller office on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor with the larger space remaining vacant, resulting in a loss of approximately £25,000.

Capital expenditure to 31 December 2023 on the building totalled £3,242,207 (2022: £3,235,992).

Since the building is an asset of the charitable company, the expenditure against this appears on the balance sheet. It should be noted that the income used to fund this expenditure is no longer available to the charitable company, as it has been spent on College Square North.

# YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### Financial Review

The financial statements are presented in the standard format required by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" as stated in March 2015 and covers the activities of YouthAction NI. The statement of financial activities (SOFA) shows the gross income from all sources.

### Results

The charitable company had net outgoing resources for the year, before transfers of £417,197 (2022: £99,292).

The charity had total funds of £3,561,322 (2022: £3,978,519).

The charity continues to work tirelessly to secure income from private trusts, donations and public sources to finance its ongoing activities with young people. A strategic fundraising plan is continually implemented and updated, alongside annual budgets of income and expenditure to address the challenges in the current financial climate.

The main sources of funding are grants received from various bodies as disclosed in note 6 in the financial statements. YouthAction NI sincerely thanks all donors and ensures effective and efficient use of resources.

**Key Performance Indicators** The charity's key performance indicators are as follows:

	2023	2022
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>2,848,956</b>	<b>2,778,325</b>
<b>Employee Numbers</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>41</b>

The charities achievements against its charitable objectives are set out within the "Achievements and performance" section above, and is their key measurement of success.

### 1. Financial risk management

The charity's operations expose it to a variety of financial risks that include the effects of changes in liquidity risk and interest rate cash flow risk. The charitable company has in place a risk management programme that seeks to limit the adverse effects on the financial performance of the company by monitoring levels of cash and maintaining no debt. The policies set by the Board of Directors are implemented by the charity's Senior Leadership Team. Specific meetings between the CEO and Chair also take place to assess risk. A high level Trustee Risk Register is in place to mitigate against the risks to the charity (Finance; Reputation; Governance and Management) and a report is presented in advance of each board meeting. In late 2023, the Senior Leadership Team recognised the impact of delayed funding contracts on income for 2023 and how this will affect the accounts. A specific and purposeful review was planned alongside the Treasure in early 2024.

### 2. Reserves

At 31 December 2023, the charity had total reserves of £3,561,322. Of these reserves, £379,270 were restricted by donors for specific purposes. The charity had general reserves of £3,182,052 of which the Board have designated £2,490,194.

The charitable company's policy is to retain a level of reserves which matches the needs of the charitable company both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. This also allows the charity to plan for future developments. This is estimated at a reserve level of £900,000 and general reserves are currently below this level. The reserves policy is reviewed annually. Free reserves are those unrestricted reserves not designated for, nor invested in fixed assets and which are available for general use and can be designated for future developments. The Trustees intend to designate a portion of reserves for College Square North future developments. The Trustees are striving to secure reserves (which include restricted and unrestricted funds) in the future sufficient to meet committed expenditure and the running costs for a period equivalent to 6 months annual expenditure. The Trustees believe that the period of 6 months is necessary in order that there is continuity of service and will continue to work towards the implementation of this policy.

## **YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited**

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

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

#### **3. Going concern audit**

For the year 2023, the company reported a deficit of £417k. Despite this deficit, the company still has reserves of £3,561,322 with strong restricted and unrestricted reserves.

Going forward, the company is reporting an improving picture. For the 2024, year, the company is expected to break even and in the year 2024, it has secured a number of large long term projects.

In year 2024, the company has secured a 4 year, a 3 ½ year programme and a 3 year project from SEUPB PEACEPLUS worth €1,640,425, €1,349,001 and €1,060,778 respectively.

The company is also very confident that in the later part of 2024, another 2 long term projects will be secured from SEUPB worth €900,000 and €432,412.

With these projects, the company will be able to secure the long term future of their staff to be able to continue to carry out their much needed work with young people.

The company has also strong bank balances with the main trading account sitting around £500,000 and it has kept paying off its suppliers on a timely basis and there are no long outstanding debts with any of its suppliers.

It is also up to date with all its statutory creditors e.g. HMRC, pensions and all liabilities are current and no long term outstanding liabilities.

The company has taken the necessary actions required to address the deficit in 2023 and it is in a much stronger position as of 2024 and can continue to improve the picture in the forthcoming years.

The company does not envisage any going concern issues and is able to continue as a business into the future.

#### **4. Taxation status**

The charitable company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments, and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charitable company's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes. The charitable company is not registered for VAT and accordingly, all their expenditure is recorded inclusive of any VAT incurred.

#### **5. Risk management**

The Trustees have actively reviewed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and have implemented systems to mitigate those risks. Internal financial risks are minimised by procedures outlined in the Financial Policy and Procedures document (reviewed Jan 2021) which authorises all transactions. These controls are reviewed regularly to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charitable company. A risk management strategy is in place which is aligned with the operational plans. This includes targets for working with young people, finance and governance. A review of the strategic plan takes place against an analysis of the external environment, potential sources of income and risks faced by the charitable company. A Risk Register is in place and a summary reported in advance of each Executive Committee meeting. In late 2023, delays in funding contracts raised concerns for income figures for 2023 alongside additional factors such as 5<sup>th</sup> floor tenancy and reduces unrestricted income throughout 2023. A review and plan with the CEO, Finance Manager and Senior Leadership team was put in place.

YouthAction NI has held the Investors in People quality standard award since 2004 and operates a comprehensive HR Policy and procedures (reviewed annually). A comprehensive review of the organisation's "Protecting children, young people and young adults (including Adults at Risk)" ~ policy and procedures including good practice guidelines" has been carried, fully implemented and reviewed in April 2022 by the Board of Directors. The Board is advised of all child protection training, vetting and reporting at each meeting, through the Risk Register. As a regional voluntary youth organisation, YouthAction NI also continues to provide Access NI vetting and Child Protection training to local groups across Northern Ireland, to assist in keeping young people safe in youth, arts and community environments. We have 3 designated officers (including a Board member) and 5 Keeping Safe trainers. In 2023 we vetted 369 youth leaders, through Access NI and trained 161 in Safeguarding, to protect children and young people in our local member groups.

## YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

### TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

#### Plans for future periods

The charity has begun year one year of the new 5 year Strategic Plan for 2023-2027 in extremely challenging circumstances. Performance and achievements are monitored and reported against the goals of the charity. Each year the Board of Directors hold a youth governance annual review to share achievements with young people and plan ahead.

YouthAction NI is recognised by the Department of Education as a regional voluntary youth organisation and a charity; by the Arts Council for NI as a high quality youth arts charity; the Department for the Economy as a high performing, European Social Fund provider, and the Department of Finance as a lead partner in significant Peace 4 initiatives.

To meet these functions YouthAction NI will continue to:

- Deliver direct front line services to improve the life chances of young people.
- Provide training and support to local groups to improve their services for young people.
- Maintain, support and grow our local membership services.
- Contribute to the strategic development of youth work and youth arts through publications; curriculum materials; strategic messaging; partnership working and through shared learning events.

In 2023, young people, member organisations, staff, and senior leaders approved our new 5 year strategic plan for 2023-2027 "Young people leading change for a fair and inclusive world."

The 4 outcomes (thematic pillars) to be achieved for young people, through a wide portfolio of programmes, are:

1. Build and improve their health well-being;
2. Increase their creative expression;
3. Improve their life and work skills; and
4. Demonstrate leadership, activism and peace-building.

#### Organisational / Strategic Goals for 2023-2027

1. Strive for a sustainable and robust financial base for our work, **raising 2 million pounds** each year to achieve high quality youth work/youth arts and value for money outcomes.
2. Invest in **250 communities** each year to embed quality youth work/youth arts to support young people's development.
3. Improve the health, wellbeing and aspirations of **10,000 young people** aged 10-25 each year.
4. Increase the skills, qualifications and employability of **1,000 young leaders** each year.
5. Demonstrate the highest levels of governance and operational excellence within a clear constitutional and legal framework.
6. Inspire, build and nurture an effective supportive and healthy leadership team at YouthAction NI and through our membership network.
7. Build local and strategic partnerships with charities, business sector, academia, government and civic society across the UK, Ireland and Internationally.
8. Work with Sectoral representatives as courageous change makers to transform how charities are recognised, valued and supported
9. Raise quality standards in youth work through partnerships, research, training, resource development and impact demonstration.

## **YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited**

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

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

##### **The priorities for 2024 are:**

1. To lead and co-ordinate a range of cross border PEACEPLUS consortia to further include young people in building peace and reconciliation.
2. To lead, manage, implement the YouthStart employability consortium of 7 leading youth work charities currently through the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund and to influence strategic development and funding moving forward into 2025.
3. To work alongside inter-sector allies to support young people who experience multiple barriers in their lives such as young travellers, young LGBTQ+ and young people from asylum seeker and refugee families.
4. To actively contribute to and shape wider youth work sector policy and strategy developments including strategic funding for the transformation of the voluntary youth work sector.
5. To develop a more sustainable approach to our venue at College Square North (Belfast) and to our overall practices across the region.
6. To confidently respond to meeting the needs of our local membership support services in efficient and effective manner.
7. Continue to invest in our people at YouthAction, improve policy support and to demonstrate the benefits of working at YouthAction.

##### **Public benefit**

The Trustees believe that the charitable company provides a public benefit in a number of ways to complement the twelve descriptions of charitable purposes as laid down in the Charities Act (NI) 2008(13). This includes the advancement of youth; education; citizenship and community development; the arts; reconciliation; equality and diversity; and relief of poverty. This is achieved through helping to provide support, guidance and educational opportunities to the young people of Northern Ireland and those who work with them. The Trustees are fully aware of the requirements of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are operating entirely within the legislation. YouthAction NI registered with the NI Charities Commission on 16 May 2017 (Charity Number NIC106365). Alongside the wider youth work sector, we will undertake research that promotes the economic value of youth work, demonstrating the social return on investment.

## **YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited**

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

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

#### **Structure, governance and management**

YouthAction NI is a charitable company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and the liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding £1. The charitable company, which is governed by a Board of Directors, is recognised as a charity by the HM Revenue and Customs. The Chief Executive drives the strategic direction of the charitable company and carries out the day to day management with the assistance of the Senior Management Team. 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:

Professor Ann Marie Gray - Chairperson

Mr Jim Nicholson OBE - Vice Chairperson (Resigned April 2023)

Replaced by Susan Mc Cullough.

Mr Cathal Maneely – Treasurer

Mr Liam Hannaway - Honorary Secretary

Ms Pamela Ballantine

Ms Alex Barnett

Mr John Hannaway

Ms Susan McCullough

Ms Gillian Shields

The Trustees who are also Directors of the charitable company as at 31 December 2023 and have been members for the whole year then ended, unless otherwise noted, are as outlined on page 1.

The appointment of Trustees/Directors is laid out in the constitution of the charitable company. The Human Resources Policy (reviewed annually) contains a volunteering policy and a conflict of interest policy; which apply to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors meet at least four times per year. Upon election each Trustee is introduced to the legal and operational aspects of the charitable company to ensure they have an understanding of the nature of charity trusteeship, the responsibilities and duties that go with this position and to see the role of Trustee in action.

Collectively we commit to self-evaluation and continuous improvement throughout all areas of the organisation.

# YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

### Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of YouthAction Northern Ireland Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual report in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements,

Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, 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 charitable company will continue in business.

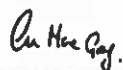
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions. In accordance with Section 418, Directors' reports shall include a statement, in the case of each Director in office at the date the Directors' report is approved, that:

So far as the Trustees' are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

### Auditor

The auditors, Harbinson Mullholand, have indicated their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

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



Professor Ann Marie Gray - Chairperson  
Trustee

Date: 28/10/24