

# **RDA CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS LTD**

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

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

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The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 2019)."

#### **Objectives and activities**

The charity's objects are to promote the objects of The Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving (registered company number 5010395 and a charity registered in England and Wales under charity number 244108) by providing disabled people with the opportunity to ride and/or to carriage drive to benefit their health and well-being in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area.

Our mission is to aid the personal development of riders. Working with horses is well documented to aid physical, mental and social and emotional development. We provide a platform for experience in working as a group, working with and helping to care for large animals, taking instruction, communicating with others, tactile development, and learning to recognise and take responsibility for another's wellbeing (horses, helpers), including safe operating practices. Riding also provides independent movement to wheelchair users – riding simulates walking.

The centre seeks to develop Clients to the extent of their ability, having riders competing annually in the RDA National Championships, Paralympics and Special Olympic events at regional, national and international levels. The overall experience promotes amazing confidence and life skills, and the achievements and developments of our riders generates respect from the wider community, as evidenced by the support the group receives.

Riding can be a dangerous activity. However, all instructors and volunteers and staff are trained, and regularly assessed to standards determined by the National Riding for the Disabled Association. In addition the centre meets the standards and is licensed as a Riding School by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, and holds both British Horse Society and Pony Club UK approval as a recognised Equestrian Centre.

One of the aims of the group is to extend the capacity of volunteers to improve services to clients, and broaden their life experience. Incidentally this helps the ability in life skills, giving experiences and confidences not likely to be readily achieved elsewhere.

All volunteers are given basic training in equestrian issues, health & safety, safeguarding and protection issues and team working. In addition, young people are given the opportunity to undertake a range of qualifications to authenticate their experience, including the Young Equestrian Leaders Award and Millennium Volunteers.

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

#### **Achievements and performance**

#### **Financial review**

The company returned net expenditure for the year of £85,614 (2022 - £124,644). As at 31st March 2023 the total funds of the charity amounted to £944,153 (2022 - £1,029,767) comprising designated funds of £600,547 (2022 - £716,785), restricted funds of £23,870 (2022 - £0) and general unrestricted funds of £319,736 (2022 - £312,982).

Of the total funds reported above, £17,482 is made up of cash at bank and in hand, with bank debt of £471.

#### **Reserves**

The Trustees endeavour to maintain sufficient funds to ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

# RDA CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS LTD

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

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### **Risk**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

### **Plans for the future**

The charity plans to continue to grow and to aid the personal development of the riders as the finances of the organisation permits.

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

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

RDA Causeway Coast & Glens Ltd registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 18 July 2017.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Ms Christine Hankin	
Mr Albert Clyde	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
Valerie Margaret Anne Stokesbury	(Resigned 16 April 2022)
Dr Susan Anne Stokesberry	(Resigned 16 April 2022)
Mr Peter North	(Resigned 12 November 2022)
Mr John Wisener	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
Ms Gail Downey	
Mrs Jennifer Campbell	
Mrs Lauryn McAleese	(Appointed 12 November 2022)
Mrs B Robertson	(Appointed 12 November 2022)
Ms Shirley Reid	

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

Mr Peter North had originally resigned on 12th December 2017 and was re-appointed on 20th January 2019

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

Mr John Wisener

**Trustee**

Dated: 19 December 2024