

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI658965
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC107406

Emerge Counselling Services
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
28 February 2021

Finegan Gibson Ltd
Chartered accountants
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Emerge Counselling Services

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 28 February 2021

	Page
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)	1
Independent examiner's report to the trustees	6
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)	7
Statement of financial position	8
Notes to the financial statements	9
The following pages do not form part of the financial statements	
Detailed statement of financial activities	19
Notes to the detailed statement of financial activities	20

Emerge Counselling Services

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 28 February 2021

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 28 February 2021.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Emerge Counselling Services

Charity registration number NIC107406

Company registration number NI658965

Principal office and registered office 18 Brambling Close
Lisburn
BT28 3PN
United Kingdom

The trustees

Mr M Chappell
Mr C Evans
Ms C Lynn
Mr I McAllister
Ms M McDermott
Ms S Walsh
Ms L Irwin

(Resigned 3 February 2022)
(Appointed 23 June 2021)
(Resigned 19 March 2021)

Company secretary Samantha Evans

Independent examiner Finegan Gibson
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South
Belfast
BT2 8DN

Emerge Counselling Services

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 28 February 2021

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Emerge Counselling Services is a company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 24th June 2019. It is a charity registered with the charity commission of Northern Ireland. Membership consists of 6 members, each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Appointment of Trustees

The company is managed by a Management Committee (Board of Directors) who are elected at the Annual General Meeting to hold office for one year and are eligible for re-election. Interim appointments can be made during the year by the Management Committee. Anyone appointed in this way has to present themselves for re-election in the same way as other existing members of the Management Committee at the Annual General Meeting.

Trustees will recruit and select new trustees as required. New trustees are recruited on the relevance of their skills and their potential to be able to make a helpful contribution to the governance of the charity and company law, the content of the memorandum and articles of association, the Committee and decision making process, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Governance training is arranged as appropriate for new trustees.

Trustees Role and Responsibilities

The Directors, who are also the charity's trustees, are the key management personnel of the charity and are responsible for directing, controlling and running the charity on a day to day basis. The Directors meet on a monthly to quarterly basis to fulfill those obligations. The organisation has no paid employees and its activities are undertaken by volunteers and where appropriate, by external facilitators. None of the Directors receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity.

Directors are responsible for the establishment of policies, systems and procedures for the good governance of the charity and for ensuring that any risk to the charity, including financial, operational and reputational risks, are identified and mitigated by having sound management processes in place.

The main risk identified is financial and as the charity continues to grow, community donations increase, however, grant income has been identified and the growing need to increase successful funding applications and corporate memberships. This risk is addressed by budget planning and control, maintaining an adequate level of reserves and by seeking ways of generating new income streams that will help the organisation to become more self-sustaining thus creating a stable future for the charity.

Operational risks are addressed by maintaining relevant policies on health and safety, safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons and ensuring that relevant volunteers follow a code of conduct which incorporates best practice in volunteering. Training is provided for volunteers on health and safety, first aid, mental health and well-being, child protection and safeguarding vulnerable persons.

Risk assessments are prepared for any activities carried out and adequate insurance cover is maintained for both public and employer liability and the protection of the organisations assets. Following the introduction of government restrictions to contain the Covid 19 pandemic in March 2020 our befriending and counsellor-in-training services were suspended. Emerge Counselling Services

Emerge Counselling Services

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 28 February 2021

opened our online and telephone service to enable qualified counsellors to continue to work with medium to high risk clients. A review of working practices was undertaken to ensure compliance with government regulations when a limited range of services were able to be resume in September 2020.

Objectives and activities

The purposes of the charity is to improve mental health and well-being, to prevent suicide and self-harm, to provide bespoke training and information, to create a safe space for people/person in crisis, and to promote good community relations, equality and diversity.

In fulfilling our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees had regard to the charity commissions guidance on public benefit for the charitable purposes in which we are engaged.

The strategies employed to achieve the charities aims and objectives are to work in partnership with other organisations to build capacity to deliver services for the benefit of local people within our community and surrounding areas. This is achieved in a variety of ways such as providing suicide and self-harm prevention training to local groups, community and voluntary organisations and businesses within the Lisburn & Castlereagh area, by accepting referrals from GP's, PSNI, community groups and other organisations and supporting local schools.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of our community events were cancelled or postponed. The team of volunteers helped the community by delivering food parcels, creative packs and befriending telephone calls to reduce loneliness and isolation. Emerge Counselling Services collaborated with other community organisations to benefit all of our community.

Our focus on Mental Health Awareness Week was to introduce some of our team over social media platforms, which involved our team sharing tips and tools to improve individual mental health and well-being. It was received well with positive comments and engagement.

We welcomed a donation from the Emerge Invitational League at their Annual General Meeting where our CEO was presented with a cheque and who acknowledged the increase in football teams joining with the focus on males aged 35-50 and the great achievements made by the League.

When the government restrictions for Covid 19 were reduced the Emerge Team collaborated with deprived areas in Lisburn to encourage fitness and exercise in children and young people to promote positive mental health & well-being. Emerge provided the equipment, the children and young people participated and engaged well.

Emerge were nominated for the Mayors Community Awards and CEO, Samantha Evans, received the runner up award in the category of Good Samaritan.

The art therapists in Emerge held a Spooky Saturday Arts Class over Halloween. Great fun was had, as the children and young people in our community dressed up, completed craft masterpieces and left with buckets of slime and goodies as a memory of the day.

The funds from a large donation that we received in November, allowed Emerge to purchase laptops and other IT equipment to provide our new online and telephone counselling. With many clients still anxious to leave their home, this service became invaluable as it allowed the counsellors to work with clients on the platform of their preference.

Emerge held a toy appeal and were successful in delivering appropriate toys and vouchers to families in need within our community.

Emerge Counselling Services

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 28 February 2021

When restrictions allowed, we provided free mental health training to community groups and organisations. We developed new training programmes such as Grief & Bereavement training and 'How did Your Lockdown Look' training. The training was developed inhouse by utilising the skills and experience of our volunteers. We received excellent feedback from the monitoring forms completed by each participant at the end of the training.

We held our annual Tree of Lights Memorial in First Lisburn Presbyterian Church. Due to Government restrictions in place at the time of holding the event, the community were asked to watch the service via social media platforms.

Our team of volunteers has grown to 34 members due to the current increasing demand for our services. Our volunteers consist of qualified counsellors, counsellors in training, art therapists, admin, fundraisers and events.

Strategic report

The following sections for achievements and performance and financial review form the strategic report of the charity.

Achievements and performance

Our operations in 2020 - 2021 were dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic and the impact of the consequential regime of government legislation and guidance to reduce the spread of the virus.

While normal services were suspended, our qualified counsellors continued to with their clients providing telephone counselling.

With funding from The Community Foundation NI we were able to provide telephone befriending to people within the community who were experiencing loneliness and isolation, with our counsellors reaching 2153 connections.

The Department for Communities provided funding to assist with overheads to cover loss earnings from cancelled events. This funding has been absorbed for rent, telephone and broadband costs.

From September 2020, following a government announcement that mental health services could reopen, we opened our doors for existing and new clients. We focused in particular on one to one counselling and art therapy for our children and young people clients.

Financial review

Total income of the charity in 2021 was £65,824, up from £34,884 in 2020, which was the first year of operation of the charity. This includes income from donations of £43,538, up from £34,684 in 2020, income from grants of £22,286, up from £200 in 2020. The surplus of income over expenditure for the year was £18,812 (2020: £7,348).

At 28th February 2021, charity held total reserves of £26,160, of which £23,920 is unrestricted and £2,240 is restricted. This is equivalent to over approximately six months expenditure, which the trustees consider a sufficient level of reserves. Total income of the charity in 2021 was £65,824, up from £34,884 in 2020, which was the first year of operation of the charity. This includes income from donations of £43,538, up from £34,684 in 2020, income from grants of £22,286, up from £200 in 2020.

Emerge Counselling Services

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 28 February 2021

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 25 February 2022 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Samantha Evans
Charity Secretary