

Seagoe Youth Group

Trustees' report For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their annual report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 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 Constitution, the Charities Act 2008 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

The objects of Seagoe Youth Group is to promote citizenship and the all-round education of its members through the spiritual, social, moral and physical development of young people from the greater Portadown area and any other area specified by the Education Authority.

The purpose is to equip young people up to age of 25 with a set of core values, skills and dispositions that will enable them to:

- feel valued as individuals and as contributing members of social groups in respectful, safe and purposeful environments;
- have an understanding and respect for difference in terms of gender, sexuality, ethnicity and religion, and be advocates of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding;
- see their place as valued members of the greater Portadown community, and be responsive to societal issues such as conservation, safe environments, abuse and addiction; and
- enhance their personal leadership qualities to take up roles of responsibility within the charity or in any other setting.

To the above ends, the charity was established to disseminate, through a team of paid and voluntary youth workers, good practice and positive role modelling appropriate to the needs and interests of young people, and to engage with them in a range of specific programmes and individual and group interactions within the setting of Seagoe Youth Group and beyond, including residential experiences.

Activities are delivered through open access youth clubs six nights a week. Drop-in sessions are targeted at three different age groups 8-11, 12-14 and 14+ years. Targeted programmes have been designed and delivered by the youth work team in the THINK model aimed at delivering on six youth work outcomes:

- improved relationships with others;
- enhanced personal capabilities;
- development of thinking, life and work skills;
- improved health and wellbeing;
- active citizenship; and
- increased participation.

After school homework support is available each Monday for primary school age children.

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

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Achievements and performance

During the year to 31 March 2023 the charity received funding from the Education Authority (EA), Armagh, Banbridge and other donations.

Membership for the 2022/23 year was 473 young people, 8-11 (168), 12-14 (142), 14+ (163).

As an approved Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centre, those aged 14-25 years, can improve skills and increase life chances and employability through the biggest youth award scheme in the UK. In 2022/23 there were 63 active participants aiming for accreditation at Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Local council funding helped to deliver a circus school programme, providing learning opportunities and personal development for 22 young people.

A three-week summer programme for juniors age 8-11 had 128 participants experiencing healthy sporting activities, crafts, games and educational trips. The ambassadors group volunteered to give a helping hand and the Exodus team joined in as part of a local youth ministry training initiative.

An Education Authority grant and some local fundraising enabled 16 young people aged 16-18 to complete a Global Service Learning programme in August 2022 which included volunteering alongside charities tackling homelessness in Washington DC, USA. This was an opportunity of a lifetime for some and has been a really positive cultural educational experience for all involved.

The Education Authority Local Area Based Funding Specification for April 2021 - March 2023 outlines a programme of targeted youth work to be delivered at Seagoe Youth Group. We have taken the six areas of action and designed our own youth work delivery model to unify the themes of targeted work set out in the EA Local Area Based Funding Specification. Seagoe Youth Group has developed the 'THINK' Programme to unify the variety of youth work delivery outlined in the EA Specification. Members in each age range gained 'THINK' Programme certification for participation in groupwork.

Quarterly moderation reports by the EA have recognized our work as 'outstanding' in all areas this year including outcomes for learners, quality of provision and leadership and management.

"The strategic vision of Seagoe has provided a focused and enthusiastic team who have undoubtedly placed the needs of children and young people at the heart of the provision. The caliber of programmes on offer provided a coherent response to the needs prevalent within the catchment area of Seagoe (Killicomaine), encompassing an outcomes framework focused on building the individual - enhancing personal capabilities through the medium of Duke of Edinburgh, providing drop-in's session to ensure safety and stability while implementing the "Think" model that supports members through targeted programmes based on need.

All safeguarding processes are visible on the wall when entering the centre, and appropriate procedures are in place when dealing with Child protection concerns. All staff have been suitably vetted and volunteers have completed the recommended introduction to child protection. Staff are aware of the safeguarding processes as this was discussed during the moderation and appropriate risk assessments are in place and filed accordingly.

Seagoe has implemented a robust reporting system that gathers evidence to complete not only the target monitor but to report on the developmental pathway for young people engaged within the provision. Critical self-reflection was discussed and evidence of this could be seen in nightly reports/de-brief with staff and volunteers. All evidence asked for in the visit notification was readily available during the moderation.

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The flavor of conversations with staff/volunteers and young people put into perspective what a valuable and much needed service Seagoe is providing within a community that has endured a long legacy and history of trauma. Seagoe is providing a safe space for children and young people to flourish and this was extremely visible on the night." Paddy Hughes – Education Authority.

Financial review

The charity's financial results are set out in detail on pages 5-12. There is an overall surplus of funds for the year of £11,111. Accumulated funds consist of unrestricted funds of £63,625 and restricted funds of £5,594.

Reserves

Seagoe Youth Group has set a reserves policy which requires:

- reserves to be maintained at a level of £50,000, which ensures that the core activity of the Seagoe Youth Group could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty; and
- a proportion of these reserves have to be maintained in a readily realisable form.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the planning, budget and forecast cycle of the charity. It takes into account:

- risks associated with the stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted;
- planned activity level; and
- commitment to beneficiaries

Structure, governance and management.

The charity is governed by its constitution dated 29 September 2020.

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19 March 2021

The trustees who served during the year and up to date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Rev T Cadden (Chairperson)
J Thornbury (Vice Chairperson)
N Turkington (Treasurer)
G Kennedy
J Ruddell
P McCusker
A Walsh
Rev S Moles
P Richardson
N Johnson

Our long standing trustee Mr George Kennedy passed away on 1 July 2023.

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For The Year Ended 31 March 2023**

Organisation

The day to day running of the charity is overseen by the trustees.

Principal address:
145 Princess Way
Portadown
Co Armagh
BT63 5EL

Charity Registration No: NIC 107573

This report was approved by the board of trustees.



Rev T Cadden
Chairperson

Date 30-1-2024