

Londonderry Bands Forum
Financial Statements and Trustees Report
For the Year ended 31st March 2024

KEITH McELHINNEY & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

CHARTERED TAX ADVISER

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Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees of The Londonderry Bands Forum are pleased to present their report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Purposes and Activities of the Charity

The Forum is established “to challenge and communicate at all levels” Going forward our aims are still relevant in the ongoing peace process and our partnerships with others has expanded our remit outside Londonderry. This is evident in our monthly Board reports and the Quarterly reports to funders.

Main Achievements in the year

The Londonderry Bands Forum has had a remarkable year, marked by significant achievements and enhanced performance across various areas. This report outlines our key accomplishments and the progress made in promoting the work of bands and their members.

Leadership Transition

- **New Coordinator:** Mr. Andrew Lynch was appointed as the new coordinator, succeeding Mr. Stephen Porter. This transition has been smooth, with Mr. Lynch bringing fresh perspectives and energy to the role.

Engagement and Outreach

- **Increased Participation:** Our meetings have seen a notable increase in attendance, reflecting improved engagement from the bands.
- **Diverse Outreach:** We have successfully engaged with groups from diverse backgrounds and cultures, promoting inclusivity and the work of bands across the community.
- **Collaboration with Authorities:** Continued collaboration with relevant authorities on parading and other issues has strengthened our position and influence.

Banding Activities

- **Return to Full Activities:** This year marked a full return to banding activities, with both new and returning members joining the bands. This resurgence has been encouraging and bodes well for the future.
- **Positive Outlook:** The end of the year has seen a positive trend in membership, with old and new members actively participating.

Funding and Development

- **Secured Funding:** We have secured funding for the coordinator position for another two years. This financial stability will support the development and promotion of the bands over this period.
- **Development Initiatives:** The secured funding will enable us to implement various development initiatives aimed at enhancing the skills and visibility of our bands.

Conclusion The period from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, has been a year of growth and positive change for the Londonderry Bands Forum. With increased engagement, successful outreach, and

secured funding, we are well-positioned to continue our mission of promoting the work of bands and their members

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees of The Londonderry Bands Forum confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 17 (5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the Society in the year to 31 March 2024.

Review of Financial position as at 31 March 2024

The Charity had excess payments over receipts for the year to 31 March 2024 of £6,616 (2023: surplus £14,001).

As at 31 March 2024 the Charity had no funds in material deficit

No funds are held by the charity as a custodian trustee

Trustee Selection and Management

The Charity is managed by an Executive Committee which consists of all the appointed trustees, and the selection of any new Trustees is dealt with by that Committee.

The following served as Trustees and Committee Members of the Charity throughout the year to 31 March 2024, and were also Trustees and Committee Members as at the date of approval of this Report

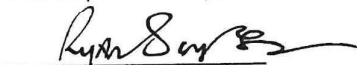
Trustees

Kenneth McFarland
Ryan Simpson
Joanne Smyth Evans
Darren Milligan

Committee members

Tim Cairns
David Campbell
Gordon Porter
Brian Dougherty

This Report was approved on 9 September 2024 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by



Ryan Simpson, Chairperson

The Londonderry Bands Forum

Principal Address and Registered Office Address: 2-4 Kennedy Place, Londonderry, BT48 6RF

Northern Ireland Charity Number: 108021