

**iAssist NI**

**Trustees' Report**

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**iAssist NI**

**Trustees' Report (continued)**

**Objectives and activities**

*Public benefit*

## **iAssist NI**

### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

At IASSISTNI, our mission is to create a compassionate and connected world through the power of friendship and support. We are a dedicated befriending charity that believes in the profound impact of human connection, recognising that loneliness and isolation can be deeply detrimental to individuals' mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Our organisation strives to address this growing societal issue by fostering meaningful relationships that uplift and empower vulnerable members of our community.

#### **Why We Exist:**

In today's fast-paced and digitally driven world, loneliness has become an alarming epidemic, affecting people of all ages and backgrounds. From seniors experiencing the loss of loved ones to isolated youth facing bullying or lack of social integration, loneliness permeates our society, leading to severe consequences for mental health, self-esteem, and overall quality of life.

#### **Our Solution:**

IASSISTNI firmly believes that human connections have the power to heal, nurture, and transform lives. We envision a world where everyone feels valued, heard, and supported, regardless of their circumstances. To achieve this, we have established a compassionate network of dedicated volunteers who act as befrienders, reaching out to those in need and offering friendship, empathy, and understanding.

#### **What We Do:**

1. **Befriending Program:** Our flagship befriending program connects trained volunteers with individuals who are experiencing loneliness or social isolation. These caring relationships go beyond casual chats, as our befrienders invest their time, energy, and hearts in cultivating genuine friendships.
2. **Community Engagement:** We actively engage with local communities to raise awareness about loneliness and its impact on mental health. Through workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns, we promote the value of human connection and encourage people to reach out to those who may be feeling isolated.
3. **Specialized Support:** We offer specialized befriending services for various vulnerable groups, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, refugees, and young people facing difficult life transitions. Our tailored approach ensures that each individual receives the support they need to thrive.
4. **Empowerment and Training:** We provide comprehensive training and ongoing support to our volunteers, equipping them with the necessary skills to build meaningful relationships and handle sensitive situations with empathy and professionalism.

#### **Our Impact:**

Through our befriending initiatives, we have witnessed incredible transformations in the lives of those we serve. Loneliness dissipates, self-esteem flourishes, and a sense of belonging takes root. We measure our success not only by the number of friendships formed but by the profound positive changes experienced by both befrienders and service users alike.

#### **Join Us in Making a Difference:**

By supporting IASSISTNI, you become an agent of change, helping to combat loneliness and create a kinder, more compassionate society. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of those who feel disconnected and bring hope and joy back into their world. Join us today, and let's build a future where no one feels alone.

Contact: 92 York Road, Belfast. BT15 3HF

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**iAssist NI**

**Trustees' Report (continued)**

IASSISTNI is a registered charity [Charity Number: 108110] committed to the public benefit and making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

**Structure, governance and management**

## **iAssist NI**

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards 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 charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity 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 corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 20 July 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

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Mr Augustine Egiomo  
Chairman