

Trustees Annual Report 2024

The Trustees of The Brian Conlon Foundation, charity reference number NI01186, hereby report pursuant to The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 as follows:-

- The Charity to which this Report relates is The Brian Conlon Foundation charity number NI01186.
- The financial year to which this Report relates is financial year 1st March 2023 to 28 February 2024.

The principal address of the Charity is 34 Bettys Hill Road, Newry, County Down BT34 2NB.

The Charity's governing document is a Trust Deed dated the 16th March 2022 appointing Trustees Juliana Conlon, Ciaran Conlon and Kathy Kearns, by further Deed of Appointment] the Trustees appointed three further Trustees as named hereafter. Therefore, the Charity now is constituted of six Trustees as named hereafter:-

- a) Juliana Conlon of 64 Dublin Road, Newry, County Down, BT35 8DD.
- b) Ciaran Conlon of 25 Ballynamona Road, Drumintee, Newry, County Down, BT35 8TH.
- c) Kathy Kearns of 34 Bettys Hill Road, Newry, County Down, BT34 2NB.
- d) Kevin Bell of 16 Drakes-bridge Road, Crossgar BT30 9EW
- e) Graham Ferguson of 15 Ballyharvey Road, Muck amore, Antrim, BT41 4SN
- f) Paul Ferris of 9 Bannview Road, Banbridge, County Down, BT32 3RL.

The Charity's purposes remain as contained in the founding document of the 16th March 2022 setting out its objects as herein stated.

The Charity's main activities are set out in the Charity's constituting document. The Charity's Objects are to promote the following purposes for the public benefit in Northern Ireland and elsewhere whether directly or indirectly by any lawful and charitable means:

- The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantage.
- The advancement of amateur sport.
- The advancement of education.
- Such other exclusively charitable purposes according to the law of Northern Ireland as the Trustees may from time to time decide.

At all times the Charity Trustees have had regard to the NI Charity Commission Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance. The Charity has worked under the aforementioned rubrics achieving the following in the current financial year and the Purposes of the Foundation were demonstrated for the public benefit during the past financial year as follows:-

a) Advancement of Education

The award of the Brian Conlon Medal and a Bursary of £1,500 per student to each nominated pupil from all local educational establishments in the Newry area. Such awards and bursaries are presented by the Trustees to the recipient at the school's annual prize giving. Please note that the nominated pupil was selected by each individual school. The Foundations nominated schools are St Paul's Bessbrook, Abbey Grammar , St. Colman's College, Sacred Heart, Our Lady's, St. Josephs and St Mary's. Such awards and bursaries are presented by the Trustees to the recipient at the school's annual prize giving.

Please note that further awards in the advancement of education are also covered in section c below.

b) Advancement of Amateur Sports

The Charity funds the annual Camlough Triathlon held in June 2023 with participation from many local community groups. The Charity also makes an annual GAA award to the nominated recipient at Queens University Belfast Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

Please note that further awards in the advancement of education are also covered in section c below.

c) Purpose - The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantage:

Cancer Research – The Charity Trustees donate to Queen's University Belfast annually a sum of money [£145,000 in the financial year to 28 February 2024] to facilitate further research into the condition of oesophageal cancer concentrating on detecting those in high risk Barrett's Oesophagus groups. This is done in conjunction with the Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research at Queen's University Belfast which is an internationally recognised research centre. The Charity Trustees attend an annual presentation from the Centre in relation to research developments throughout the current year and receive regular updates & evaluations of the research progress.

On an annual basis at Christmas the Charity makes voluntary donations to a number of Newry organisations that were dear to the heart of Brian Conlon with direct charitable Giving to the following named organisations and partners:-

- Simon Community,
- St Vincent De Paul Society,
- Newry Hospice,
- Gateway Club.
- Concern Worldwide

Benefit flowing from the donations to these charities is in the areas of health, homelessness, depression, disadvantaged families etc.

The Charity also works with the Community Foundation of Northern Ireland to invite applications on an annual basis from community organisations within the Newry geographical area for funding and support in the areas of education, sport and organisations from disadvantaged areas. The Charity then allocates funding agreed by the Trustees to those successful applicants. The amount allocated for the financial year to 28 February 2024 was £30,157.60. For each grant awarded by the Communities Foundation for Northern Ireland they will follow their tried and tested process both pre and post selection to ensure benefits are being clearly demonstrated at all time - criteria for selection, decision making and follow up to ensure funds are being utilised as agreed. All awards are open to public/organisations within Northern Ireland with an exception for the Foundation's Community giving awards where donations will be made available solely to the Newry area & for direct charity giving to five specific named charities who each will receive a donation on an annual basis.

Please note awards given by the Community Foundation of Northern Ireland on behalf of the Foundation may also benefit organisations as outlined in (i) and (ii) above.

Please note for all of the Foundation's donations and contributions in the previous financial year there is no private benefit flowing from any of the purposes.

Financial Position

The Trustees confirm that the financial position of the Charity at the end of the financial year ended 28 February 2024 shows a cash balance of £239,687.46. This balance includes a loan to the charity of £200,000 from Juliana Conlon. At the end of the financial year ended 28 February 2024 the charity's balance sheet shows a net asset position of £39,687.46

No funds are in deficit by the Charity and no funds have been in deficit throughout the current financial year.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report as above.

Dated this 5th day of December 2024

Signed on behalf of all Trustees
by Juliana Conlon

