

Annual Report



2022/23



CONFEDERATION OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

Newry & District

Annual Report 2022 / 2023

CCG Management Committee 2022 - 2023

Chairperson

David Cunningham (Retired 15/09/22)
Maureen Ruddy

Ballinacraig Community Association
Martins Lane Community Association

Vice Chairperson

Colin Hanna

Barcroft Community Association

Treasurer

Rosemarie McDonnell

Community Advice Newry, Mourne & Down

Executive Committee Directors:

Kathleen Lowry
Ewan Morgan
Anne Woods
Deirdre Shields
Rosemary Rooney
Colin Hanna
Marie-Clare Fitzpatrick

Greater Linenhall Community Association
Community Restorative Justice
Cedar Foundation
Newry Gateway Club
Davina's Ark
Barcroft Community Association
Ballinacraig Community Association

Co-opted Members :

Conor Patterson, Mickey Brady,

Company Information

Registered Office

Ballybot House,
28 Cornmarket, Newry

Solicitors

Ciaran Rafferty,
Rafferty Solicitors, 83 Hill Street, Newry

Company Secretary

Raymond Jackson

Bankers

Bank of Ireland, 12 Trevor Hill, Newry

Auditors

Malone Accounting
12c New Street, Newry BT35 6JD

Company Registration No. NI22294

Charity Commission No. NIC101359

Inland Rev. Charity Reference XR40558

Confederation of Community Groups,

Ballybot House, 28 Cornmarket, Newry, Co. Down BT35 8BG

Tel: 028 3026 1022 Website: www.ccgnewry.org Email: info@ccgnewry.org

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Chairperson's Foreward

Welcome to the Confederation of Community Group's Annual Review 2022/23.



This reporting year was particularly challenging due to the impact of ongoing funding restraints and political uncertainty whilst at the same time trying to address cost of living issues and recovery from the Covid crisis. This report highlights the essential community programmes that we delivered and provides a record of our strong partnerships with a range of statutory, private, and community/voluntary sector organisations.

We were delighted to retain core funding support from the Department for Communities, Newry Mourne & Down District Council and from the Southern Health & Social Care Trust. To the DfC, NMDDC and SHSCT I offer our sincere thanks. Core funding remains essential to support our project delivery and for our overall sustainability.

In December 2022 Marian Shields retired from her position as Finance Officer after more than 45 years with the Confederation – a remarkable achievement! Marian's long dedication and unswerving commitment was commendable, and I would like to record our sincere thanks, and to offer our best wishes, in her well-earned retirement.

I would like to personally thank my fellow Board members, staff and volunteers and our wider membership for all their support and co-operation throughout the year. Thanks, are also due to our many funders who provide the vital financial support necessary for our work.

Maureen Ruddy
CHAIRPERSON - October 2023.

Chief Executive's Report



The 2022-23 period has been an extremely demanding and busy time for both the Confederation and wider Com/Vol sector. Throughout (and since) the pandemic the sector, and in particular its local volunteers, ensured "on the ground" support to those most in need in our local communities. Our established partnerships have enabled effective coordination and a quick response when providing advice and support, adapting services, and delivering programmes to meet emerging needs.

We worked with local communities, with funders and with our colleagues in the sector in a varied range of programmes and were able to support groups in areas such as governance, policy & procedures, charity registration & reporting, training, operational planning, and sourcing of funds.

Through the Neighbourhood Renewal programme, we continued to provide practical support to local communities in areas of disadvantage throughout Newry City and have assisted them with community activities, funding applications and vouching processes.

We provided training programmes whilst contributing to social policy development working with strategic partnerships, attendance at seminars/conferences and by responding to consultations. We contributed extensively to the Community Coordination Hub and Strategic Stakeholders Forum strengthening engagement between statutory and com/vol sectors in relation to covid recovery and wider societal issues.

Our Volunteering & Older Peoples Programme remained a central strand of service delivery and we worked with our Health partners to ensure continuity of service throughout. We continued to provide affordable office accommodation, day care, venue hire and back-office support resulting in generated income equating to approximately 52% of "normal income".

Finally, I want to personally thank all of our staff, volunteers and board members for their hard work throughout a difficult year.

Raymond Jackson.
Chief Executive - October 2023

Neighbourhood Renewal Project

Within the Newry City Neighbourhood Areas the CCG continued to act as Lead Partner for NMDDC in delivering the Capacity Building & Support element of this programme for nine Community Associations. CCG staff attended bi-monthly NR Partnership meetings, sub-group meetings and the Partnership's Action Plan review in Sep 2022 . Key outputs of the project have included :

Volunteering

Overall recruitment of volunteers was above target with almost twice the target being achieved. CCG staff in particular supported MARCA and Three Ways CAs in addressing issues in recruiting new volunteers and the challenges of maintaining existing volunteers while avoiding burnout.



Forward Planning

All groups coped well with emerging from the pandemic and engaged in positive forward planning for their communities. In areas such as Drumalane , Ballybot and Derrybeg this proved somewhat more

difficult but CCG staff and local volunteers worked collaboratively to surmount these problems. A good part of this was continuous assistance with good governance practice.

Sharing & disseminating Information

All the NR CA's received ongoing support and advice from CCG to ensure information was being consistently disseminated around each NR Area. CCG ensured all relevant information was sent to each NR CA. Individual support was provided to assist with designing posters/flyers/Facebook posts as required. CCG also launched a new section on our website to assist with the wider circulation and advertising are upcoming events, activities and opportunities across Newry NRA's.

Guidance on community Activities

CCG staff provided ongoing advice on health and safety matters to all NR groups throughout the year which was of considerable assistance to them in keeping their activities going and their centres operational. All NR groups have delivered a combination of summer, Halloween and Christmas activities and new committees were assisted to develop new activity plans for 2023. The work of new committees in Drumalane & Ballybot is promising and they required considerable effort from CCG staff in supporting them.



Training and / development support

CCG Staff completed Training/Skills Audits across NRA's to assist with benchmarking current skills levels and highlighting areas that require support and further training. Each CA has access to its own audit as a tool for analysis and development of its work.

All NR group committee members received informal training in Charity Compliance and the role of Charity Trustees; roles and responsibilities on the Committee; understanding your constitution; accounts and financial management. This informal training is required, on an ongoing basis, especially for those Committees with new members elected as it is a steep learning curve. A pro-forma Training Needs Analysis was provided to each committee member to help ascertain their individual training needs.

Financial Support / Funding Support

Groups were supported to complete feedback and returns for CCG EoI Scheme, where appropriate informal training was provided to all new committees regarding financial management and with preparation of accounts for AGMs. Groups were very busy in the last quarter of the year with preparing accounts & records in readiness for the Councils Call 1 & 2 for Financial Assistance.

Groups were supported with grant applications & returns to Children in Need, NMDDC (general grants), Awards for All, NAMES (Extended Schools), NMDDC(FMA), NR Running Costs, Community Foundation, Brian Conlon Foundation, Education Authority, HSCNI, ARCS, NIHE, John Moores Foundation, Peace Plus, Public Health Agency and NMDC (Financial Assistance).



Good Morning & Good Day Projects

The key outcome from our Good Morning project in the last 12 months has been the development of a new system that has drastically improved the way in which our project operates.

CCG has developed a fully functional cloud- based volunteering platform that allows volunteers to have an identical experience in the building or at home. We have paired our new more user-friendly interface with a telephony agent called 8x8 which is reliable, secure and offers the same integration with our Newry landline as before, offering Good Morning users' peace of mind when answering calls.



The system is easier to operate and offers more accessibility, allowing us to draw from a wider potential pool of volunteers. The option to volunteer from home provides more security and consistency of service, and also offers volunteers a chance to volunteer who may not have previously been able to do so. Its ease of use is a key factor in increased enjoyment in the volunteer role and allowing for more consistent volunteer turn-out. The system offers better tracking of issues through its client management tool, and graphical displays on call schedules for the volunteer to view on the homepage.

Motivating a remote workforce is a challenge for all sectors, and 2023 will see us operate a new model that will fully harness the advantages of hybrid volunteering, while trialling and experimenting with new approaches to retain the same sense of team, encouragement and camaraderie that is so important to offer volunteers doing this type of role.

Within the project we work with three different areas of volunteer commitment and our graphic highlights the number of volunteers hours completed under each of the areas as well as the total :

- **Good Neighbour :** 1,340 hours
- **Good Morning :** 1,875 hours
- **Training :** 350 hours
- **Total :** 3,565 hours

Summer Scheme

In 2022/23 the project also helped deliver the Millennium Volunteer programme locally in partnership with VNOW in schools with 29 participants actively engaged in a Summer Scheme. Volunteers also attended workshops on the BeCollective platform and how to generate a social CV and find other opportunities. Schools have benefited by having the summer scheme on offer to their students while volunteers have benefitted from the experience they received in working with children with special needs. Children with special needs have had enhanced opportunities during the summer . Volunteers have improved their CVs which will assist them in applying for courses or jobs in the future.

Good Day Project

Within the past year The Good Day Good Carer Service volunteers made a total of 6628 calls to older carers. At an average of 15 minutes per calls, this equates to just over 1657 volunteer hours spent engaging with and supporting older carers.

Through our events calendar we were able to offer clients a wide range of online courses, initiatives, and events. These were wide and varied in subject and content and were beneficial to the service users in their day to day living. Within the Out-Bound Telephone Service from its inception 151 service users have received a Carers Assessment and 103 were placed on the Carers Register

There are many innovative aspects to our new IT system which have led to a more transparent operation, one of the outstanding attributes of the new system is that it enables volunteers to remote work from their own home with the same degree of security and confidentiality.

Capacity Building, Advice & Support

CCG provided a wide range of groups with advice and support including :

Kilkeel COI Seeds of Hope who have been working at developing a new community garden project on ground owned by the local Church of Ireland

Moneydarragh Community Hub who have acquired an old national school premises and are developing it as a community hub

Support to **Caring Coins Association** with a very successful Christmas Appeal for 2022 – assisted with establishing community partnerships and referral systems, establishing fundraising streams and ideas, networking and ensuring all charity work was embedded in good governance

Newry Shamrocks Youth Group were provided with development support and funding support

The FIT Club which is a local CIC developing services for young people to address physical and mental wellbeing

Well Lane Warriors a mixed ability / disability football team operating across Newry were provided with support to draft a new Constitution and to submit their application for Charity Status. The group was also assisted with completion of funding proposal to Radius for Football Tournament in February 2023

Newtownhamilton Men's shed which is developing a number of grassroots activities aimed at addressing mental health & wellbeing.



U3A – Governance Training provided to Board in July 2022 and template policies & procedures provided. Provided HR advice re the recruitment of an Admin Officer.

HR advice also provided for **Rural Health Partnership** and **MARCA**

Enhanced Access NI checks carried out for **Davina's Ark, Silvery Light Sailing, Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency and Forkhill pre-school Playgroup.**

On going support for **Newry & Mourne Community Transport** (including issues with DfI strategy and funding) and recruitment.

CCG staff continued to work with **Autism Families CA**, to provide advice and governance support.

Assisted groups at their AGM's : **Newry Gateway Club** (August 2022) and **Autism Families** (September 2022) and **Larchmount Residents group.**

Derramore Men's Shed group were provided with development support and guidance on group governance.

CCG assisted Brookvale Youth club in developing a plan to address their need for a home pitch & base.

CCG staff provided basic governance support to young LGBT people who are in the early stages of setting up a network group for other young LGBT people from throughout the Council area.

CCG provided basic governance support and training to SNAP (Special Needs Autism Project) which is a new providing social activities for young people with special needs.



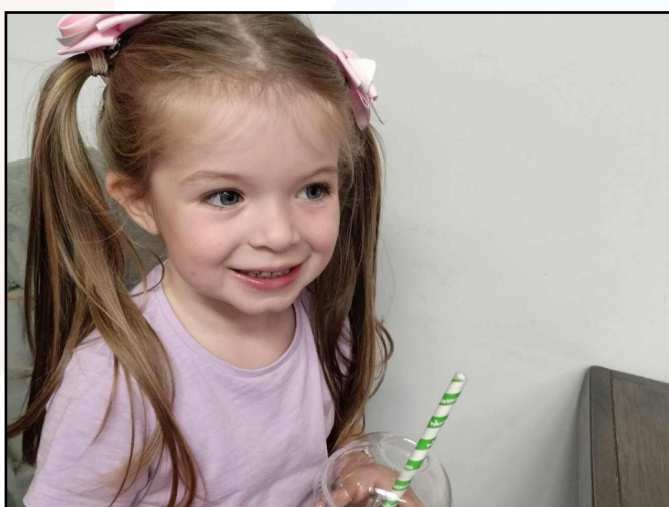
Support for Rathore School Parents & Friends Association



School Principal Caroline Currie, staff, pupils and supporters at the launch of the new bus

This year saw the fruit of a number of years' hard work by the Rathore School Parents and Friends' Association . Announcing the award of £25,000 from the Clothworkers Foundation committee

members Ann Mc Cann and Ann Mc Elmeel paid tribute to The Confederation of Community Group's Laurence Bradley for his help and support in getting the application successfully over the line. The school Principal paid tribute to the community groups and businesses who contributed to them acquiring their very own school bus.



Cross-Border Circle of Learning Project

In early 2023 the Confederation of Community Groups began the delivery of the Cross-Border Circle of Learning project; this innovative project was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund and project managed by Co-Operation Ireland. The Confederation of Community Groups were appointed as one of four Hubs involved with the project, the other Hubs included Clones Family Resource Centre, Dundalk Youth Partnership and County Armagh Community Development.

The purpose of the project was rooted in the thematic pillars of the Reconciliation Fund – repairing and building:

- Repair those issues which lead to division, conflict, and barriers to a deeply reconciled and peaceful society;

and/or

- Build a strong civil society that encompasses all communities, through the continued implementation of the Agreements and promoting a rights-based society, political stability and respect for all.

To work towards these goals, each of the Hubs involved were asked to support and mentor four groups with the aim of building their individual capacity and providing them with opportunities to network with groups in their own local area and with groups in the other three geographical areas, focusing on both cross-border and cross-community engagement.

As part of the project CCG identified four groups that would benefit from involvement in the Cross Border Circle of Learning Project and provided mentoring support to them. These included:

**SWAGATH Indian Families Association, New Town
Together, SNAP and the Crisis Café.**

CCG assisted each group with the completion of a Baseline Skills Audit and Action Plan which helped us chart where the group was, at the start of the project, what issues each group would like help with and what the group would like to do for its Social Action Plan.

CCG then assisted them in addressing key development issues and offered them a chance to design a social action project which was financially supported by the project funding. Each social action project which was delivered complimented the thematic pillars of the Reconciliation Fund enabling groups to address issues of peacebuilding, networking and growing connections.

We also then ran a local networking event for the groups providing them with an opportunity for the groups to come together and share their experience and learning with each other. Our photos show the groups enjoying the networking held as part of the project in the Crisis Café, Newry.



Training , Charity Regulation and Good Governance

The CCG's training provision remained mainly focused on the delivery of zoom technology / video conferencing technology to help groups maintain their governance capabilities. This was achieved with small groups of 4/5 people per course and topics have included:

- Committee meetings / procedures via zoom / teams
- Completing returns to Charity Commission & Funding bodies
- Basic First Aid

We also delivered two face to face courses in Safeguarding Training for more than 30 people from 4 separate groups and this has been a welcome return to normality for people.

We delivered 10 Community Development courses focusing on good governance and compliance issues to 15 groups / 60 participants including : Derrybeg CA, Three Ways CA, Linenhall CA, Barcroft CA, Meadow & Armagh Road CA, Martin's Lane CA, Drumalane CA, Carnagat CA, Martin's Lane CA, SWAGAT , SNAP(Special Needs & Autism Project) , Rathore Parents Group, Young LGBT Group, New Town Together , Autism Families Group .CCG staff also facilitated an Emergency First aid training on the evenings of 10th 17th and 24 January for 20 community participants from across the Newry & Mourne Area

CCG's GM /GN volunteers undertook the following training in this period:

- RNIB – on adaptations and awareness X 10 volunteers
- Autism experience Bus – CD Team S Trust - 4 volunteers
- Basic Awareness safeguarding or children and vulnerable adults X 12 volunteers
- Dementia Awareness – Alzheimer's Society and CCG X 28 volunteers
- IT Training on new system X 30 volunteers
- Volunteer Now Be Collective website training X 14 volunteers



Charity Regulation

The following groups were assisted in engaging with the Charity Commission and in complying and reporting to fulfil their legal requirements under Charity law:

- Barcroft CA
- Martin's Lane CA
- Carnagat CA
- Ballybot CA
- Linenhall CA
- Meadow & Armagh Road CA
- Greater Linenhall Area CA
- Three Ways CA
- Drumalane & Quayside Close CA
- Meigh CA
- Dorsey CA
- Caring Coins
- SNAP
- Ballinacraig CA

Health & Wellbeing / Ethnic Minority / Good relations

CCG co-chaired Wellbeing Action Partnership (WAP) quarterly meetings and represented WAP at meetings of the South Down Homelessness Local Action Group (in partnership with NIHE and others) with particular emphasis on tackling chronic homelessness, including rough sleeping, whilst addressing housing supply.

We promoted and attended a public meeting organised by Daisy Hill Hospital Futures group in relation to the proposed transfer of Emergency



Surgery to Craigavon Area Hospital (March 23). Following this we encouraged WAP members to respond to the consultation. We attended Sinn Féin's "All Island Health" seminar at WIN in April 2022.

SWAGAT - Indian Families Association - CCG provided support to members of the local Indian community, who live across Newry City, with members in a number of NRA's, to formally adopt their Constitution for Swagat Indian Families Association. Meetings have been facilitated with CCG, NMDDC and SHSCT to provide ongoing support with development needs. CCG provided support to develop plans for a Diwali Festival which was held on Sunday 6th November 2022. Representatives from the group have availed of support with governance and funding advice as well as attending Safeguarding training facilitated by CCG. Supported Swagat Indian Families Association to participate in NMDDC Arts & Culture Festival, arranged for participants from Carnagat CA to attend event in Hall for All for Indian Culture Day.

CCG Staff:

- Facilitated further meeting with SHSCT Traveller & Ethnic Support worker and a number of NRCA's.
- Attended meetings of Victims of Conflict Arriving Locally (Vocal) to provide community linkages and development support.
- Attended launch of NMDDC Newcomers programme at Town Hall, promoted same around NRA's. Further meeting with Andrew Kernaghan re same programme and Clara (Volunteer Now) re engaging volunteers to support engagement with newcomers, and linking with VOCAL/Ukrainian support.



Partnership Working

We continue to work on a range of partnerships / groups including:

- Newry & Mourne Community Transport (NMCT)
- Community Development Network Forum (CDNF)
- Volunteer Now
- NMDDC Traveller Forum
- Community Sector Training
- Mental Health Forum
- Children & Young People's Partnership (CYPSP)
- Housing Community Network
- N&M Orana Surestart
- NMDDC Age Friendly Initiative
- Community Co-ordination Hub (CCH)
- Strategic Stakeholder Forum (SSF)
- Wellbeing Action Partnership (WAP)
- Newry Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership
- Greater Newry Vision Partnership
- Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade
- Surestart Partnership
- NMD Intercultural Forum
- Southern Area Locality Planning Group
- John Moores NI Advisory Group
- SHSCT Community Sector Training

Events Attended:

- Attended Family Health Fair at Altnaveigh House in conjunction with Community Armagh Community Development Board.
- Attended NICVA Launch of revamped DIY Committee Guide
- Attended meeting with Inspire Outreach workers
- Engaged with Youth Action NI regards Barcroft Youth Club
- Met with CAWT staff regards its new Outreach programme
- Met with Radius HA to develop ideas for Good Relations projects across Newry NRA's.



Community Planning & engagement

CCG Board & staff attended regular meeting of the Community & Voluntary Strategic Stakeholders Forum (SSF), Community Coordination Hub (CCH), Greater Newry Vision Partnership and Newry Chamber of Commerce & Trade council throughout the period.

We attended “Empowering Newry, Mourne & Down” conference in Slieve Donard (June 22) and were nominated as SSF representative to the DfC “People & Place” review programme (attended meetings in Castlewellan (Jun 22) and Newry (Sep 22)).

Together with our SSF colleagues we helped coordinate Norbrook’s “We Care at Christmas” programme (including distribution of cooked food, food hampers and toys) over a six week period up to Christmas. We also coordinated Norbrook’s staff food donation in the Jan – Feb 23 period via our Trusted Partner scheme.

We attended a SSF engagement meeting (Dec 22) in Newcastle as part of NMDDC Community Plan consultation process and made a response to same

We attended quarterly Newry City DEA Forum meetings throughout the period, and supported representatives to participate in the Slieve Gullion and Crotlieve DEA Forums.

We attended a stakeholder engagement event at MARCA as part of a consultation for a proposed multi-purpose play park at Newry Leisure center (Dec 22).

We agreed a pilot Social Supermarket (SSM), which was lead by Clanrye Group on behalf of SSF, for the period Oct 22 to Mar 23.

We contributed to the redrafting of the “Living well together” document – a plan for recovery and renewal.

We attended meetings of the NMDDC/DfC Newry City Centre OBC Regeneration working group (May 22). Issues included stakeholder consultation, communications, Civic Center, public realm, Theatre/Conference center, Office development and Albert Basin park. We also attended the Albert Basin/ Newry City park stakeholders forum (Jun 22 and Nov 22) and the inaugural revised “Stakeholder Group” (Mar 23).

Partnership Working in our Neighbourhood Renewal programme

CCG liaised with Community Sector Training to facilitate Safeguarding training courses in both the Meadow/Armagh Road Community Centre and Derrybeg Community Centre.

Carnagat and Greater Linenhall & other CA’s : CCG have been working closely with the Education Authority at Newry Youth Resource Centre to promote programme opportunities for children/ young people in NRA’s – with participants from Carnagat and Greater Linenhall attending the TBUC Mega Roots programme this summer. Sure Start Management Group -CCG staff attended meetings as required providing community development advice and encouraging greater engagement with NRA’s. Sure Start have recently delivered programmes in both Derrybeg and Drumalane/Quayside with plans for more to follow over the Autumn/Winter periods 2023.

- Attended Community Development workers Forum meeting March 23
- Facilitated number of Pride Inter-Agency meetings to establish Pride weekend in Newry for June 2023
- Attended Invisible Borders – Arts Conference with Sticky Fingers on March 23 – looking at ways to engage with the arts to transcend borders.

Covid / Emerging Issues

CCG continued to act as com/vol sector representatives on NMDDC's Community Coordination Hub (CCH) and have engaged with statutory departments and others to help coordinate the response to the Covid 19 recovery and more recently the cost-of-living crisis.

CCG, together with SSF colleagues, were able to coordinate more than £600k DfC Covid Recovery funding in the previous period. We were able to coordinate an additional £100k DfC Covid Recovery / Cost of Living crisis funding in this period. This funding was allocated via trusted partners in the com/vol sector, and targeted at the most disadvantaged in our community. With SSF colleagues, we also coordinated an £80k pilot Social Supermarket scheme which was delivered by our partner Clanrye Group.

The sector was able to demonstrate the capacity to deliver quickly "on the ground" and the ability to deal with emergency situations as they arise.

Groups benefitted from the partnership working built up over a long period of time. Struggling households and Individuals benefited in the form of food, food vouchers and wrap around services (re EOI scheme and SSM scheme).

We continued to engage with the com/vol sector in the Newry, S Armagh and S Down area including food banks, SVdP etc and agreed to coordinate a £25k funding programme for people struggling to pay utility bills (funded by Newry Credit Union) which started Jan 23.

Civic policy and wider engagement initiatives

- CCG staff attended "People & Place Review" meetings on behalf of NR partnership in Dungannon (October 22) and meeting of 36 NR Partnerships at Maghera November 22. Also attended meetings of the 36 NR Partnerships on February 23 and March 23 regarding review of regional support programmes and NR review
- We chaired Board meetings of Community Places (who provide independent advice and

support to individuals and groups in relation to planning, participatory budgeting, engagement and community planning). As part of a Com Places delegation we met with DFI Minister John O'Dowd (July 22) to highlight issues re loss of funding and programme delivery.

- We attended Community Development Network Forum (CDNF) meetings throughout the period and attended meetings with Sharon Russell DfC (January 23 and February 23) to discuss Cost of Living (COL) crisis and issues affecting com/vol sector.
- We also attended Newry & Mourne Community Transport Board meetings throughout the period.
- Met with DTNI to discuss Community Wealth Building (August 22).
- Met with Brandon Lewis, Secretary Of State (SOS) May 22 and Chris Heaton-Harris (new SOS) at NIO office (December 22) in relation to Protocol, Brexit transition and further meetings with NIO officials re "Windsor Framework" and Windsor "Brake" (Mar 23) as part of a reference group.
- Ongoing discussions with NIO Engagement Team. Provided evidence to the House of Lords Committee on Brexit & Protocol Bill in October.
- In July we held a zoom call meeting with North West migrants Forum re Common Travel Area and movement of people in Ireland – and discussed possibility of a public meeting in next period.
- We hosted Public Interest News Foundation (PINF) at BBH (November 22) – event attended by approx. 60 participants re "local News Plan



Seminars, Events and Consultations

- Attended CYPSP Locality meetings through out the period at Newry Youth Resource Centre
- Attended Chamber of Commerce meetings and AGM December 22.
- We attended a Participatory Budgeting event at Ballybot House (May 22) when 20 groups presented their work via funding received from PB.
- We attended a wrap-up meeting of the “Digital Poverty working group” (June 22) highlighting digital disadvantage in the NMD area. This work has established a need for greater funding and co-ordination in the future.
- We attended the New “Peace Plus” seminar (including formation of a new Partnership Board (May 22) and DEA Peace Plus consultation in Crossmaglen Community Centre on December 22 .
- Attended a “Levelling up” seminar (April 22).
- We attended the first meeting of DfC’s “People & Place” review (June 22) at Castlewellan and follow up meeting in Newry (September 22).
- Attended NMDDC Traveller Forum meetings throughout
- CCG staff attended the cross – sector Newry Community Development Workers Forum meetings in October, December 23 and March 23 – encouraging partnership working and collaboration across the Newry area.
- We attended an Adult Safeguarding Champions engagement event at Armagh (November 22).
- We hosted NI Public Service Ombudsman (NIPSO) at BBH November 22 and invited com/vols sector reps from across DEA’s to attend.
- CCG staff attended NMDDC Inter-Cultural Forum meetings in November and December 22.

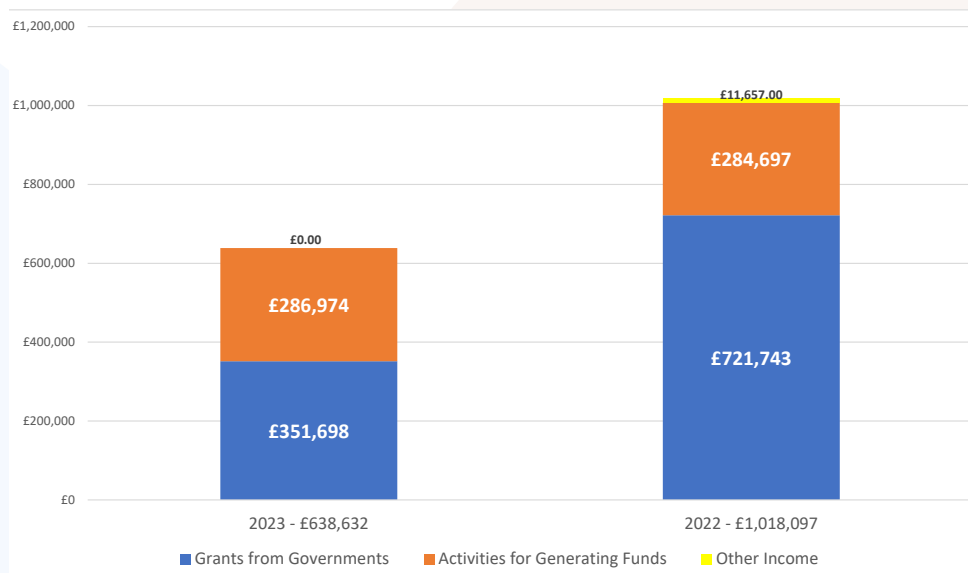
- We responded to VNOW’s Safeguarding survey (Nov 22).
- We attended NMDDC’s “Housing Needs” consultation (Jan 23) and follow-up workshop (Mar 23).



Finance & Services 2022 / 2023

Total income for the year ended 31st March 2023 was £638,632. This was £379,465 less than the comparative figure (£1,018,097) for the period ended 31st March 2022. However £98,900 of this year's (and £456,256 of last years) income related to Covid 19 recovery / Cost of living intervention programmes.

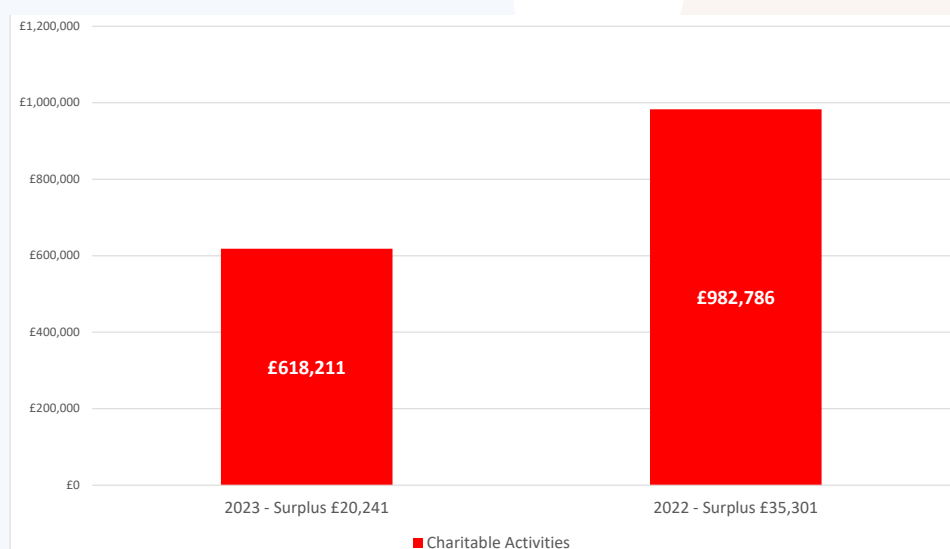
Income



We experienced a significant increase in Generated income from rental income and, in particular, venue hire facilities. There returns were boosted by a return to more “normal” conditions and increased usage of Ballybot House/ An stóras as we moved into the “recovery” period from Covid and removal of meeting restrictions.

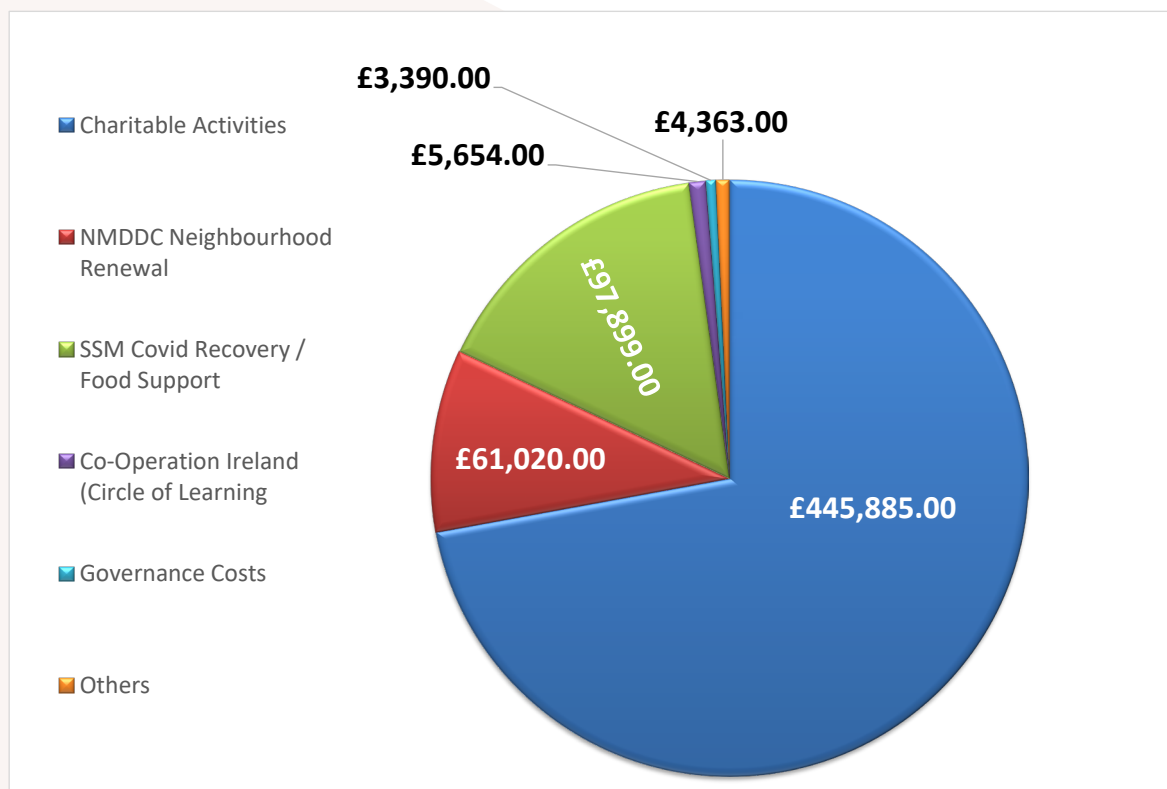
Income streams derived from office and day-care accommodation, venue hire, back-office support and resource centre equated to more than 52% of total income (when Covid recovery / Cost of Living money removed), with surplus income used to offset deficits within the General Management Account and the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme.

Expenditure



Total Expenditure decreased from £982,796 last year to £618,211 in this period (again a significant fall in expenditure related to Covid Recovery funding). The result of this was an overall surplus of £20,421 for the year

2023 Expenditure - £618,211



Despite significant increases in utility bills and general running costs we were able to reduce expenditure on our Ballybot House & An Stóras premises and benefitted from DfC funding in the shape of an Energy Grant. All non-essential expenditure was restricted resulting in a positive cash-flow throughout the period without the need to seek any loan or overdraft facilities.

The Finance & Services team continue to discharge their duties in strict accordance with accounting policies and our audit has been prepared in line with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 FRS 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland” and Accounting & Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). Our Financial and Governance Controls continue to be deemed “Robust” (this is the lowest risk status as certified by the DfC’s Voluntary & Community Division).

Conference, Retail, Day-care and Office Accommodation at Ballybot House & An Stóras

Retail, Day-care, Office accommodation, Venue Hire and Conference facilities remained a vital source of income throughout the year. We were sad to lose long term tenants Community Restorative Justice (June 22) however CRJ’s “Safer Stronger Communities” programme remained. We were delighted to offer additional office space and storage facilities to both Homestart and Cedar Foundation. We continued to use all additional space for our own programmes, for storage, distribution of foodstuffs and for additional venue hire facilities.

Finance & Services cont'd

2022 / 2023

Statement of Financial Activities for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

Incoming Resources	Notes	Total 2023 £	Total 2022£
Charitable activities			
Grants from governments	4.1	351,698	721,743
Activities for generating funds	4.2	286,974	284,697
Other income	4.3	-	11,657
Total income		<u>638,632</u>	<u>1,018,097</u>
Expenditure			
Charitable activities	5.1	618,211	982,796
Net income/(expenditure)		20,421	35,301
Transfers between funds		-	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		<u>20,421</u>	<u>35,301</u>
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds beginning of the year	15	2,429,416	2,394,115
Total funds at the end of the year		2,449,837	2,429,416

Extract from Audited Accounts

Balance Sheet

	NOTES	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	9	2,094,432	2,098,163
Investments	10	1	1
		<u>2,094,432</u>	<u>2,098,164</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	80,057	324,362
Cash at bank and in hand	12	445,785	411,239
		525,842	735,601
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(170,437)	(404,349)
Net Current Assets		<u>355,405</u>	<u>331,252</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>2,449,837</u>	<u>2,429,416</u>
Funds			
Restricted trust funds		(89,122)	(94,232)
Unrestricted designated funds		1,265,219	1,265,219
General fund (unrestricted)		<u>1,273,740</u>	<u>1,258,429</u>
Total funds	15	<u>2,449,837</u>	<u>2,429,416</u>

Extract from Audited Accounts



CONFEDERATION OF
COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Confederation of Community Groups Funders 2022 / 2023



Department for
Communities

Community Investment Fund
Covid-19 Grants / Recovery Scheme /
EOI Scheme / Energy Grant/ SSM Food
Crisis



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**

**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Neighbourhood Renewal Grants
Core Fund
Community Investment Fund
Covid-19 Grants / Recovery Scheme / EOI Scheme /
Energy Grant/ SSM Food Crisis / PCSP - Home Secure



**Health and Social
Care Board**

Out-Bound Telephone Support



**Southern Health
and Social Care Trust**

Older People
Volunteer Student Recruitment Scheme
W.A.V.E. Programme



Community Work & Education



**NEWRY CREDIT UNION
LIMITED**

Utilities Fund



**COMMUNITY
FUND**



co-operationireland

Circle of Learning

