

Company Registration No. NI31418 (Northern Ireland)

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)
(Company Limited by Guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

COMPANY INFORMATION

Trustees	Raymond Craig Patsy O'Hanlon Frances Spence (Hon Secretary) Arnold Hatch Nicholas Moore John Waddell (Chairperson) Noelle Donnell (Vice Chairperson) Rosemary Forde Aidan Bunting Eimear Montague Philip O'Kane Karin Eyben Hugh Hastings (Appointed 26 November 2020) Ruth Montgomery (Appointed 26 November 2020) Ian Patterson (Appointed 26 November 2020) Denise Kelso (Appointed 26 November 2020) Liam Campbell (Appointed 26 November 2020) Alan Poots (Appointed 21 January 2021)
Corporate Management Team	Kate Clifford (Director) Kathryn Kerr (Finance & IT Officer)
Company number	NI31418
Registered office	38a Oldtown Street Cookstown Co Tyrone BT80 8EF
Auditor	David Lyttle + Co Ltd Station House 46 Molesworth Street Cookstown Co Tyrone BT80 8PA
Bankers	Bank of Ireland 32 James Street Cookstown Co Tyrone BT80 8LU
Solicitors	PA Duffy & Co 14 Molesworth Street Cookstown Co Tyrone BT80 8NX

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

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RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, submit their Annual Report and the externally independently examined Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 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 2015), in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Trustees

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

Raymond Craig	
Patsy O'Hanlon	
Paul Dinsmore	(Resigned 26 November 2020)
Frances Spence (Hon Secretary)	
Arnold Hatch	
Nicholas Moore	
John Waddell (Chairperson)	
Fergus Cooper	(Resigned 26 November 2020)
Noelle Donnell (Vice Chairperson)	
Rosemary Forde	
Gary English	(Resigned 21 August 2021)
Aidan Bunting	
Eimear Montague	
Philip O'Kane	
Karin Eyben	
Hugh Hastings	(Appointed 26 November 2020)
Ruth Montgomery	(Appointed 26 November 2020)
Ian Patterson	(Appointed 26 November 2020)
Denise Kelso	(Appointed 26 November 2020)
Liam Campbell	(Appointed 26 November 2020)
Alan Poots	(Appointed 21 January 2021)

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Structure, Governance and Management

Rural Community Network (NI) was set up in 1991, as a company limited by guarantee constituted under the Companies Act 2006 and is a registered charity, number XR17297. Rural Community Network (NI) is registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland as a Company Limited by Guarantee, number NIC100009. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The principal office of the company is located at 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown, Co Tyrone, BT80 8EF.

The trustees of the company are its directors for the purposes of charity law and are collectively referred to as trustees. The number of trustees must not be less than 5 or more than 23. Rural Community Network (NI) is managed by voluntary trustees elected every two years and there are also a number of co-opted positions. The elected trustees include two community representatives from each of the six counties in Northern Ireland, two affiliate members from regional voluntary organisations and one representative from the statutory authorities. The co-options can be representatives from agriculture, disability and cross border sectors.

After each election an induction is held for the trustees. Areas considered at the induction include an explanation of the major areas of activity (including the current programmes of work), guidance on the governance aspects of a trustee's role, an introduction to the strategic aims over the two-year period and an examination of the main threats and opportunities facing the charity.

The day to day management of Rural Community Network (NI) is delegated to a management team headed by Kate Clifford (Director) which reports to the Board of Trustees 6 to 7 times per year. The Finance and Human Resources sub-committee oversees major areas of work and reports from the sub-committee are presented at each Board meeting. Written policies and procedures detail the decision making powers which are delegated to the staff and those which are retained by the trustees. The current Finance and Human Resources sub-committee has committed to working with the Board on an ongoing programme of review of policies which are used within the organisation.

Risk management

The trustees have undertaken a detailed review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A major risk is around cash flow and the ability of Rural Community Network (NI) to meet payments due to delays in payments from funders. The trustees have considered this risk and have made provision under the Reserves Policy. Systems and procedures have been established to mitigate risk identified and strategies are being developed to minimise the impact on the community, should any of the risks materialise.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Objectives and Activities / Public Benefit

In ensuring that the activities of Rural Community Network (NI) provide a public benefit, all our activities are related to one or more of the following charitable objects:

- The advancement of citizenship through the promotion of voluntary activity, using a community development methodology;
- The prevention or relief of poverty, by actively encouraging the participation of the most disadvantaged and excluded groups in our programmes;
- The advancement of education by providing training to support voluntary organisations; and
- The advancement of human rights through work designed to promote reconciliation and resolve conflict.

In shaping our activities and objectives, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

During the reporting period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, Rural Community Network (NI) carried out its operations under the following five strategic aims and associated objectives.

Strategic Aim 1: Empowering the Voice of Rural Communities

- 1.1 To advocate on behalf of and with rural communities.
- 1.2 Provide leadership on rural policy issues and provide a challenge function, where required to both regional and local government on rural policy issues.
- 1.3. To build community capacity to enable communities to identify issues and advocate on behalf of themselves.
- 1.4 To promote rural proofing and monitor how statutory agencies deliver policies and programmes to meet the needs of rural communities.
- 1.5 To build partnerships with relevant organisation on rural needs and issues.
- 1.6 To network rural stakeholders across Northern Ireland and build effective collaborations on policy issues.
- 1.7 To communicate with stakeholders on policy issues that impact on rural communities.
- 1.8 To develop credible research and a robust evidence base to mitigate poverty and deprivation in rural communities

Strategic Aim 2: Promoting, supporting and celebrating community development practice in rural communities

2. To support and develop the role of the volunteer, paid worker, organisations and agencies in the promotion, sharing and development of community development practice, skills and knowledge.
- 2.2 To acknowledge and celebrate the role of volunteers, paid workers, organisations and agencies in their community development practice.
- 2.3 To contribute to learning and professional development initiatives relating to community development practice.

Strategic Aim 3: Actively working towards an equitable and peaceful society

- 3.1 To support and encourage peace and reconciliation work throughout rural communities.
- 3.2 To support and encourage those who are most disadvantaged to address social and economic needs and to reduce inequalities.
- 3.3 To support the capacity and confidence building of rural Section 75 groupings in attaining equality of opportunity.
- 3.4 To collaborate with, and offer support to, other agencies / organisations in their work to meet this aim in a rural context.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Strategic Aim 4: Supporting rural communities to realise their potential and ambitions

4.1 To promote and encourage equitable service delivery and investment in rural areas, informed by the needs of the rural community.

4.2 To actively work with other agencies to ensure that rural organisations and rural people have access to local service provision to improve their quality of life.

4.3 To support communities to maximise the usage of local assets.

4.4 To develop areas of work, in partnership with other agencies, to ensure the best possible services are developed and delivered to rural communities.

Strategic Aim 5: Developing staff systems and resources, ensuring continuous improvement and development of RCN services.

5.1 To create an organisational plan to achieve all of the strategic aims.

5.2 To invest in Board and staff to ensure adequate support processes and structures are in place.

5.3 To ensure strong corporate governance and accountability

5.4 To work in collaboration with others to ensure we meet our strategic aims.

Grant making policy

When applicable: in administering programmes with grants, Rural Community Network (NI) develops a written assessment criterion which reflects the expectations of the funders. All applications are assessed for eligibility to ensure that they meet the programme aims and a scoring grid may be used to assist the grant making decision process.

Achievements and Performance

The external independent examination of Rural Community Network accounts presented in this report comprise its results for the year ended 31 March 2021, detailed on page 13.

Key achievements under each Strategic Aim are listed below.

RCN continues to be in a consortium with NICVA and CO3 in the extension period of the Generic strand of the Regional Infrastructure Support Programme (RISP) funded through DAERA and DfC to deliver key services to community and voluntary sector groups throughout Northern Ireland with a strong rural presence.

Rural Community Network (NI) currently uses the RISP funding to part support a Director's post, a Policy and Public Affairs post, a Community Learning and Skills post and a Finance and IT post. Rural Community Network (NI) currently has three staff employed through a Community Relations Council Core funded programme. In addition, RCN has secured significant contract and tender work through bids to undertake work in relation to facilitation, housing, community education and peacebuilding.

Given the volume of work which we undertake and the cross-cutting nature of a number of our activities the information reported below is a snapshot of the achievements of Rural Community Network (NI) during the reporting period. It should be noted that where many of the achievements cut across a number of strategic areas of work within the organisation, they may only be given a single reference. It should also be noted that this is only a sample of our work and it is written to illustrate how we are meeting our targets across the aims and objectives of our strategic plan. While staff were working from home during the Covid pandemic the work continued and changed to take account of the current needs of our membership.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Strategic Aim 1: Empowering the Voice of Rural Communities

- Representation on Emergency Leadership Group NI - these meetings have a cross section of statutory and community partners advising and supporting the work that provides support with food distribution, advice service provision, mental health and wellbeing, volunteering and pharmacy delivery for example.
- Support for the Charity Sector – working with DfC and Dept of Economy to allow staff to be furloughed and highlighting the need for an emergency funding package to smaller charities. RCN's Membership Survey found that many of our groups are acting and responding to the crisis, and many are worried about their future sustainability.
- Brexit - have continued to push NIO on the Brexit proposal which focuses on civic leadership, civic voices, women's voices and border people proposals and have linked with Centre for Cross Border Studies in relation to the North South East West relations. Meetings held with NIO, Cabinet Office, Dept of Foreign Affairs as well as Government Departments to push for civic dialogue, advice services and policy engagement for ordinary citizens.
- Ad Hoc group - Supporting North South East West relations. Met with Secretary of State, DFA and Irish Government officials and EU presidency of Portugal, to talk about the impact of Brexit, funding for All Island projects and support for groups and individuals in border regions highlighting the challenges of new arrangements on the community and voluntary sector and more marginalised groups.
- ARD Committee – spoke to Committee on anti-poverty strategy, rural isolation and rural development.
- Rural Residents' Forum - supporting the Forum through Zoom presentations to Housing Associations and Housing Executive staff to raise awareness of Rural New Building targets, Personal Independence Payment, Rural Needs Act. Successful in accessing funding to get members digital devices to enable greater participation of all members. Met various MLAs on issues of missed targets for rural social housing new build. Part of organising and delivering # RuralHomesNI social media campaign.
- HSC - Integrated Care Partnerships. RCN sits on this partnership supporting the commissioning of services at a local level and the management of long term conditions on a regional basis and the rural proofing of those.
- Member of RDP Monitoring Group – sit on Equality sub group to raise issues of underspend and the Leader Approach being lost in implementation, women, disabled people and young people remaining underrepresented as the beneficiaries of the funding streams.
- Public Procurement and Social Clauses - Working with Social Value UK and SENI to support local legislation and preferences for social clauses and a Social Value Act for NI. Supporting DTNI in its call for Community Wealth Building and how that can be used in the NI context.
- Rural Evidence Base looking at data from NINIS and a local profile to give a better understanding of the local area. Supported 5 villages in North Antrim to see if area profiles approach will benefit them in lobbying for need in their area.
- Coalition of the Unexpected Project - project funded by CFNI in partnership with Garvagh People's Forest and St Columb's Park House looking at issues surrounding well-being, climate change and environment in two communities and lessons for policy development.
- Rural Needs Impact Assessment – discussed issues with Department of Health and Health Trusts, CAJ, DAERA and delivered Rural Needs Awareness sessions.
- Consultations responded to included 2021-2022 Draft Budget Consultation Department of Finance; DAERA Discussion Document on a Climate Change Bill; Ad Hoc Committee on Bill of Rights Call for Evidence (2); Programme for Government Draft Outcomes Framework; Draft Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031; Housing Executive Draft Older People's Strategy Consultation; DAERA consultation on FE Support and Charging Policy CAFRE; Department for Communities further consultation on the definition of affordable housing.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Strategic Aim 2: Promoting, supporting and celebrating community development practice in rural communities

- Series of Zoom webinars for members on 'Building Back Better? Lessons for the Community and Voluntary Sector from the Pandemic' with CFNI Director Andrew McCracken; 'Assembly Explained' with Assembly Community Connect; 'Rural Sustainability Issues'; 'Rural Digital Exclusion Issues'; 'The Bill of Rights Call for Evidence'; 'Community Responses to the Pandemic'; 'Draft PfG Outcomes Framework'; 'Draft Budget Consultation'; 'Health, Social and Economic Impact of Covid 19'.
- DAERA Social Economy Investment Fund Animation Workshops – for delivery of a Social Economy Investment Fund Animation Tender.
- Provided direct contact for community development, governance and advice support to groups over the year.
- A wide range of other meetings to promote rural living in Northern Ireland with NIO, Party leaders, broadband companies, media, environmental groups and rural support networks.
- 5G New Thinking Project has begun as part of a UK wide roll out of better connectivity for rural regions and addressing not spots. The project is a best practice guide for areas of little connectivity and will focus on trying to use 5G technology to solve an ongoing connectivity / technological solution to an ongoing issue.
- Digital Inclusion - joined with Participation and Practice of Rights to highlight the issue of digital exclusion.

Strategic Aim 3: Actively working towards an equitable and peaceful society

- Beyond Belfast practitioners support group – ran support meetings for practitioners who are largely working in isolation in their communities at this time.
- RCN has worked to connect with migrant support groups, to highlight where essential public health information, rights information and access to benefits etc in a variety of languages can be found and shared.
- 'In this Together' project – celebrating the good work that is going on in many regions in response to Covid. Groups are making videos, sending in pictures and stories of how they are acting locally.
- CRC – RCN was one of only four groups in NI to get multiyear funding from CRC and there are now 3 part time workers employed under this contract.
- Organised a series of programmes including Shared History, Ordinary Women in Extraordinary Times, State of Northern Ireland, Decade of Centenary, Brownlow House Talk on Americans and WW2, Get Real project, Williamite Wars and United Irishmen.
- Training with Tides on dealing with difficult conversations online.
- Worked with Confederation of Ulster Bands to discuss Covid 19 and the way forward for the band community.
- Involved in Good Relations week events – with a seminar on 1920 – 1922, launched a peace quilt and held a talk on the polish community in WW2.
- SELFIE programme with women from across the Mid Ulster District Council area.
- Courses completed include 'Ulster Scots' OCN Level 2, 'State of NI', 'Knowing me knowing you' programme on cultural identity, 'Walk in Her Footsteps'.
- Information session on a conflict transformation programme with the Bloody Sunday Trust.
- Contributed virtually to International Summer School.
- National Lottery Heritage Fund Shared History Fund successful application for '100 Years of Change in NI'.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Strategic Aim 4: Supporting rural communities to realise their potential and ambitions

- Covid – one to one support was given for groups applying for financial support from the DfC/DAERA Coronavirus Community Fund Faith Based, National Emergencies Trust or DfC Community Arts Culture and Heritage Fund. We also circulated information on foundations and independent funders to our membership.
- DAERA Coronavirus/NET New Needs Funding - RCN partnered with CFNI, DAERA and DfC to act as a conduit for this emergency response funding for 34 faith-based groups which CFNI could not fund.
- Community Arts Culture & Heritage Fund - further grant funding from DfC under the Community Arts, Culture & Heritage Fund were distributed to 7 faith-based organisations.
- New Needs Fund secured £15k from the Fund to support RCN during Covid. This enabled us to increase sanitation and cleaning of the building and to build a new more dynamic communication system for our membership with a new website and greater social media support.
- Cross Hardship fund - worked with Red Cross on the delivery of hardship funds to rural individuals impacted by Covid.
- Children in Need – worked with Children in Need to support more research in rural child poverty issues and rural vulnerability issues.
- Faith groups – RCN has linked the faith sector into the work of the bereavement and grief co-ordination.
- Rural Brief produced a special edition which focused on Covid.
- Social Media: Facebook, Twitter and blog posts - these feeds have proved to be invaluable for our membership. Many groups have received funding as a result of their contacts with our Facebook fundraising pages. Promoted our social communication with Facebook Page including an RCN Members Funding page, Twitter Feed & Blog posts and radio and TV interviews.
- Sexual Orientation Strategy Co-Design Working Group - member of the Sexual Orientation Strategy Co-Design Working Group.
- Covid Recovery Fund – DfC money through Cooperation Ireland and RCN gave grants to charities to help reopen premises.
- Halifax - Secured a two year £20k investment from Halifax for a community group mentoring programme to be run out with eight groups across rural NI specifically looking at sustainability and succession planning for member groups.
- Social Value Engine – funds were received from Halifax Foundation to further develop the Social Value Engine to help community groups and statutory agencies measure their social return on investment (SROI). This work is also being tailored for groups in the South of Ireland. Impact Cards are designed for successful groups. Online demonstration of the new Social Value Engine with 45 organisations across the British Isles.
- Lottery Heritage Fund gave 2 year investment to support diversity of interest in the Heritage Sector in Rural NI and involves RCN giving out £80k of grants to groups interested in heritage and history projects next year.
- Leadership in the Rural West – NLCF with Fermanagh Trust and Holywell Trust to revive training and support in community development and leadership in the rural West.
- Charity Commission compliance work for groups 'West of the Bann' in default.
- Supported the faith sector through a series of webinars and online training. Faith Training included sessions on: Social Media & Faith: Facebook: Twitter, Instagram & Canva; Faith & Fundraising-Unrestricted Funding; Faith & Fundraising-Grants and Foundation.
- Provided training on Funding Applications; Lobbying & Campaigning; Succession Planning; Return to Work Premises; Social Enterprise COVID-19 Fund; Facilitating Effective Meetings; and Fundraising for Schools & PTAs.
- Dealing with ongoing membership support requests on funding, governance and training.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Strategic Aim 5: Developing staff systems and resources, ensuring continuous improvement and development of RCN services.

- Staff support - staff have been resourced to work from home with the purchase of laptops, and enabled to take equipment home with headsets.
- We held our AGM in November via Zoom. We had 5 meetings of the Board over the year and sub-committee meetings for Finance & HR, Shared Future / Beyond Belfast, Membership, Strategic Planning, Building, Policy and Lobbying.
- We updated our website and branding.
- Ongoing reviews of corporate policies and procedures take place at each Board meeting as the law / governance/ charity laws change

Financial Review

For the year, income is £574,786 (2020: £276,728), an increase of £298,058 coming from funding received. Expenditure has increased on last year by £221,031. Both of which is due to RCN administrating grants to groups during the COVID pandemic.

The Trustees of RCN have met with our appointed Auditor to discuss the surplus in last year's accounts and are aware of the implications for the organisation. The Trustees of RCN acknowledge and understand the current financial situation and are confident of the performance of the organisation for the coming 12 month period but will keep a watching brief on the accounts in these austere times.

Rural Community Network (NI) receives funding from a range of government and charitable organisations and discharges these funds in pursuit of its charitable objectives and the particular programme funding targets.

Reserves Policy

Rural Community Network (NI) has a Reserves Policy which details why reserves are held and the level of reserves appropriate for the charity. The trustees review the level of free reserves required (that is those funds not tied up in fixed assets, designated and restricted funds) on an annual basis to ensure continuity of charitable operations.

In the event of Rural Community Network (NI) being wound up there is a legal requirement to store documentation for seven years and the associated costs would need to be met from reserves. The actual free reserves at 31 March 2021 are £78,935. The charity is looking at ways of increasing funding to meet this shortfall over the next few years and the policy is reviewed annually.

Designated reserves for other purposes are detailed in note 16. A cash flow fund is held to bridge any potential shortfall in fundraising targets and to underpin viable programmes that are experiencing cash flow problems. A staffing fund is held to enable Rural Community Network (NI) to cover sickness, maternity and meet redundancy costs. A development fund is held to facilitate the development of new programmes and to provide for restructuring of existing activities. A capital fund exists to hold funds received for the purchase of fixed assets.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

The charity holds no funds as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Plans for future periods

We continue to operate under our existing Strategic Plan 2014-2020 with our Board and membership.

The work of Rural Community Network (NI) during 2021/2022 will be set within the COVID-19 pandemic which is an ever-changing picture. This along with an uncertain political and economic environment, budgetary constraints give us a very uncertain work path. But it is vital to note that through this uncertainty the purpose and objects of the organisation remain firmly fixed on challenging the issues which cause rural poverty and create disadvantage for those living and working in rural areas.

In the coming year we will be working on issues of how rural communities cope with COVID-19, while involved in Emergency Leadership Group NI about food distribution, hot food delivery and coordination, rural proofing, peace-building, social exclusion and how the BREXIT negotiations may well look to support rural development across the region. We will also be keeping a watching brief on the impacts of welfare reform and poverty in our rural communities and working to highlight issues of hidden rural poverty.

As an agency with a limited staff resource we have worked hard to develop and sustain working relationships right across the community, voluntary and statutory sectors. RCN is actively working to collaborate and co-ordinate services in a way that builds value for money and reduces duplication of services.

RCN is committed to ensuring groups and individuals living and working in rural areas have access to the necessary skills and training which will enable them to run local development groups and organisations to improve their local communities. We have developed a comprehensive menu of training provision and continue to be an OCN Accrediting Centre. In the next year we will deliver high quality education and training in good practice, good governance and community development across the region.

Governance of community groups and changes in how charities operate within the context of the Charity Commission has caused a degree of uncertainty among our member groups. We will endeavour to work to address these issues for those who need support.

RCN hopes to continue our work on issues relating to the social economy in rural areas. In a time of constrained resources and cuts in government spending we are aware of the need for communities to respond to a lack of service provision in their localities and to find ways to sustain their activities which reduce reliance on central funding streams. As a networking organisation we take seriously our role in disseminating best practice and sharing experiences so that communities can learn from each other.

Policy influence and policy consultation are key features of the work of RCN, and we hope to respond to consultation opportunities including the Mental Health Strategy, Integrated Care Systems NI, Programme for Government Draft Outcomes Framework and Dept of Finance Draft Budget Consultation.

The organisation takes very seriously its role in building a peaceful and equitable future for rural Northern Ireland and is committed to working with rural communities to address the legacy of the conflict in the region. RCN is actively engaged in the development of work to remove interfaces and will lobby at all levels of government to have rural contested spaces recognised as being of equal importance and worthy of similar consideration as the physical peace walls which divide many urban regions.

RCN believes strongly in the concept of dialogue and education for peace building and will bring training opportunities in leadership, community development and good relations to rural communities. In the past number of years, we have successfully lobbied a range of agencies to partner with us to work with groups in a variety of rural locations, increasing rural communities' access to bespoke and quality training. We aim to expand this element of our work to ensure rural areas have equity of access to this type of experience.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

As we are in the rollover year of an existing service delivery contract many of the targets set for the organisation last year remain relevant in this future period.

Some of the main areas of work during the next financial year are as follows:

- Support our staff and members during the current pandemic.
- Provide advice and support on general governance issues including compliance requirements.
- Keep stakeholders informed of key issues and best practice and provide access to resources through all communication channels.
- Produce 10 Rural Brief newssheets, Policy Link and social media posts
- Working with faith sector to support them to make a contribution to policy issues and community responses in their areas.
- Develop leadership skills and knowledge through Leadership in the West training.
- Deliver seminars / workshops with a focus on discussion and networking for rural groups.
- Support the VCS to make a valued contribution to policy development and to lead and represent the interests of the VCS on key policy issues.
- Undertake policy campaigns as issues emerge and the need arises.
- Provide written responses to consultations on behalf of rural groups.
- Engage with a minimum of five councils to share best practice, support their understanding of the rural needs agenda and provide awareness into rural challenges in relation to providing service delivery to rural communities.
- Work with NILGA, TEO, NIHE, Government Departments and VCS on developing greater awareness of the rural needs act and rural service delivery and rural proofing within their remit.
- Provide a support service to groups to ensure the rural voice is considered in their engagement with statutory bodies and local councils in all aspects of community planning, service delivery, community relations, peace plans and rural development.
- Engage with Council officials to ensure that VCS views are represented and that councils are aware of developments within the sector.
- Continue to meet with NSEW Ad Hoc Group to discuss impact of Brexit, Protocol and Community Relations.
- Continue to support rural peacebuilding practitioners in their self-development, networking and practice improvement through Beyond Belfast.
- Continue to support faith groups.
- Take part in International Summer School.
- Deliver Shared History Courses.
- Support Rural Residents' Forum to advocate for rural voices in policy decision making in NIHE, DFC and other statutory bodies.
- Develop the Coalition of the Unexpected project looking at environmental issues and climate change.
- Provide support to improve knowledge and understanding of impact practice on outcomes based measurement.
- Provide support to four rural groups in the application of the Social Value Engine (SVE).
- Deliver 'good group' diagnostic toolkit and development of bespoke support to 4 groups.
- Provide organisations with access to resources and signposting to other sources of information through websites and other communication channels including social media.
- Develop the 5G New Thinking project through research and familiarisation with the digital connectivity situation in rural NI.
- Develop National Lottery Heritage Fund programme – Ours to Share Project - celebrating heritage from a wide range of people to share the many stories and experiences that will be uncovered on the project.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Statement of disclosure to auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

On behalf of the board

John Waddell (Chairperson)

Director

2 December 2021

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees (who are also directors of Rural Community Network (NI) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board

John Waddell (Chairperson)

Director

2 December 2021

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE PREPARATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Rural Community Network (NI)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 14 to 26.

Respective responsibilities of directors and examiner

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Commission under section 65 (9) (b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity Trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Erica Convery
for and on behalf of David Lyttle + Co Ltd

2 December 2021

**Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors**

Station House
46 Molesworth Street
Cookstown
Co Tyrone
BT80 8PA

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	3,570	152,893	156,463	102,614
Investment income	3	38	-	38	123
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Charitable projects income	4	57,299	353,738	411,037	164,578
Other incoming resources	6	7,248	-	7,248	9,413
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Total incoming resources		68,155	506,631	574,786	276,728
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	7	28,756	491,267	520,023	297,928
Governance costs	8	50	2,286	2,336	3,400
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Total resources expended		28,806	493,553	522,359	301,328
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		39,349	13,078	52,427	(24,600)
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2020		434,813	6,522	441,335	465,935
Transferred to/(from) Capital Fund		2,456	(2,456)	-	-
		_____	_____	_____	_____
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2021		476,618	17,144	493,762	441,335
		=====	=====	=====	=====

The statement of financial activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those passing through the statement of financial activities.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		317,819		322,743
Current assets					
Debtors	14	866		1,102	
Cash at bank and in hand		177,691		120,300	
		<u>178,557</u>		<u>121,402</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(2,614)</u>		<u>(2,810)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>175,943</u>		<u>118,592</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u><u>493,762</u></u>		<u><u>441,335</u></u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	18		17,144		6,522
Unrestricted income funds	18				
General funds			78,935		32,206
Designated funds			397,683		402,607
			<u>476,618</u>		<u>434,813</u>
Total unrestricted income funds			<u>476,618</u>		<u>434,813</u>
Total charity funds			<u><u>493,762</u></u>		<u><u>441,335</u></u>

For the financial year ended 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 2 December 2021 and are signed on its behalf by:

John Waddell (Chairperson)

Company Registration No. NI31418

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Rural Community Network (NI) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 38a Oldtown Street, Cookstown, Co Tyrone, BT80 8EF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Rural Community Network (NI) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accountancy policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.2 Income and expenditure

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

- **Voluntary income** - Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.
- **Investment income** - Investment income relates to bank interest receivable.
- **Charitable projects income** - Charitable projects income is received by way of grants and is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.
- **Other incoming resources** - Fees and other income are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when due.
- **Grants** - Grants for the purpose of capital expenditure are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable and transferred to unrestricted funds on purchase of the asset. Revenue grants are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received, unless they relate to a specified future period in which case they are deferred.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

All expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to supply them. Support costs are allocated to their relevant activity based on the number of staff on the project.

- **Charitable activities and grants paid** - Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to supply them. Support costs are allocated to their relevant activity based on the number of staff on the project.
- **Governance costs** - Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of its assets which are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.
- **Pension costs** - The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.
- **Operating leases** - Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease terms.
- **Fund accounting** - The charity has various types of fund for which it is responsible and which require specific disclosures. A definition of the various types of funds is as follows:
 - General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees for furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.
 - Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.
 - Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

1.3 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	not depreciated
Leasehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	10% straight line
Computers	33.3% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to surplus or deficit.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting period end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.6 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as fair value hedges are recognised in profit or loss immediately, together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability that are attributable to the hedged risk.

2 Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
DAERA / DFC	-	152,893	152,893	97,049
Membership fees	3,570	-	3,570	5,565
	<u>3,570</u>	<u>152,893</u>	<u>156,463</u>	<u>102,614</u>

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Interest receivable and similar income	38	-	38	123
	<u>38</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>123</u>

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4 Charitable projects income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Total charitable trusts and other bodies				
Community Relations Council	-	39,887	39,887	49,307
ABC Council	-	485	485	670
Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)	-	18,459	18,459	-
Halifax Community Grants Programme	-	20,000	20,000	10,000
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	-	-	9,200
The Executive Office	-	-	-	726
DfC/DAERA Coronavirus Community Faith Based Fund	-	101,906	101,906	-
CFNI New Needs Fund	-	14,450	14,450	-
National Emergencies Trust	-	87,123	87,123	-
DfC Community Arts Culture & Heritage Fund	-	66,006	66,006	-
NI Housing Executive	-	5,422	5,422	-
Total charitable trusts and other bodies	-	353,738	353,738	69,903
Fee income	57,299	-	57,299	94,675
	<u>57,299</u>	<u>353,738</u>	<u>411,037</u>	<u>164,578</u>

5 Fee income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Fee income	57,299	-	57,299	94,675
	<u>57,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,299</u>	<u>94,675</u>

6 Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Miscellaneous income	7,118	-	7,118	5,647
Meeting income	130	-	130	3,766
	<u>7,248</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,248</u>	<u>9,413</u>

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7 Charitable projects

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Cost of general projects	28,756	491,267	520,023	297,928

8 Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Professional fees and board expenses	50	2,286	2,336	3,400

9 Net movement in funds

	2021 £	2020 £
Net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
Staff costs (Note 10)	209,445	210,729
Other operating leases	-	984
Depreciation	7,380	7,362

10 Trustees' remuneration

The Trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year (2020: £nil).

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Employees

Average monthly number of persons employed during the year, excluding trustees, by activity:

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Charitable activities	4	4
Management and administration of the company	2	2
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	180,357	180,413
Social security costs	17,286	18,244
Pension costs	11,802	12,073
	<u>209,445</u>	<u>210,730</u>

Employees falling in the emoluments band over £60,000 is Nil (2020 : £nil).

Key management compensation

Key management included the trustees and members of senior management. The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown below:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Key management compensation	<u>92,083</u>	<u>89,536</u>

Trustees

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
The number of trustees at the year end was	18	15
	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

12 Taxation

The company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives if these profits and surpluses are applied for charitable purposes.

The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly, all its expenditure is recorded inclusive of any VAT incurred.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Plant and machinery etc	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	450,531	37,415	487,946
Additions	-	2,456	2,456
At 31 March 2021	450,531	39,872	490,403
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2020	128,750	36,453	165,203
Depreciation charged in the year	6,158	1,222	7,380
At 31 March 2021	134,908	37,676	172,584
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2021	315,623	2,196	317,819
At 31 March 2020	321,781	962	322,743

14 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	866	1,102

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	2,614	2,810

16 Members' liability

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding £1.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

17 Contingent liabilities

There is a contingent liability to repay all grant monies should they not be distributed under the terms of the various initiatives. The trustees do not anticipate any repayment falling due under the terms on which the grants were received.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

18 Statement of funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
General reserve	32,206	68,155	(21,426)	-	78,935
	<u>32,206</u>	<u>68,155</u>	<u>(21,426)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,935</u>
Designated funds					
Capital fund	315,964	-	(7,380)	2,456	311,040
Cash flow fund	30,838	-	-	-	30,838
Staffing fund	55,000	-	-	-	55,000
Development fund	805	-	-	-	805
	<u>402,607</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,380)</u>	<u>2,456</u>	<u>397,683</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>434,813</u>	<u>68,155</u>	<u>(28,806)</u>	<u>2,456</u>	<u>476,618</u>

General reserve

The general reserve represents the funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

Capital fund

The capital fund consists of funds received for the purpose of fixed assets which are transferred to unrestricted funds when expended and then released from designated funds over the related assets' useful life. £7,380 represents the depreciation charge in the current financial year.

Cash flow fund

The cash flow fund has been designated by the trustees to ensure that sufficient reserves are available to bridge any potential shortfall in fundraising targets and to allow sufficient time for additional funds to be secured. This fund also allows for a temporary transfer of funds while funding claims are being processed.

Staffing fund

The staffing fund has been set up to cover the cost of employing locum staff as well as covering the cost of contractual obligations to staff including provision for redundancy costs, training for the re-deployment of staff and good employment practice.

Development fund

The development fund was established to allow Rural Community Network (NI) to invest in the development of new programmes where a need is identified and to restructure existing functions where required.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

18 Statement of funds

(Continued)

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Community Relations Council	-	39,887	(39,887)	-	-
ABC Council	-	485	(485)	-	-
Halifax Community Grants Programme	1,092	20,000	(11,092)	-	10,000
DFA	-	18,459	(11,315)	-	7,144
XChange/CO3	5,430	-	(5,430)	-	-
DAERA/DFC	-	152,893	(151,316)	(1,577)	-
DfC/DAERA Coronavirus Community Faith Based Fund	-	101,906	(101,906)	-	-
CFNI New Needs Fund	-	14,450	(14,450)	-	-
National Emergencies Trust	-	87,123	(87,123)	-	-
DfC Community Arts Culture & Heritage Fund	-	66,006	(66,006)	-	-
NI Housing Executive	-	5,422	(4,543)	(879)	-
	<u>6,522</u>	<u>506,631</u>	<u>(493,553)</u>	<u>(2,456)</u>	<u>17,144</u>

Regional Infrastructure Support Programme

The Regional Infrastructure Support Programme funded by DAERA and DfC to a consortium of groups provides generic infrastructure support to enable the voluntary and community sector to operate effectively and efficiently across Northern Ireland in both urban and rural areas.

Community Relations Council

This programme funds a Community Relations programme of activity by providing funding for a Community Relations Officer and a part time administrator and seeks to improve and promote community relations and a 'shared future' regionally across rural Northern Ireland.

The Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland

Social Value Engine looking at social return on investment developing on from the first round of funding with 15 groups across Northern Ireland. The project aims to give community groups the ability to calculate their social return on investment in their local area.

Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade – Reconciliation Fund

The DFA funds were received for OCN Level 2 in understanding different types of commemorations and developing good practice in relation to ethical remembering.

DfC/DAERA / National Emergencies Trust / Community Arts Culture and Heritage Fund

Funding to RCN to act as a conduit for emergency response funding for faith-based groups.

NIHE

Funding for 'In this Together' project - celebrating the good work that is going on in many regions in response to Covid.

ABC Borough Council

This fee income was received from ABC Borough Council for community relations projects within its Council area delivered by RCN.

RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (NI)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

19 Directors' transactions

The trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments during the year (2020:£nil).

20 Professional indemnity insurance

Professional indemnity insurance of £279 (2020 : £279) has been paid to indemnify trustees and staff providing technical advice to community groups.

21 Events after the reporting date

The financial statements were approved in the midst of the on going COVID-19 pandemic. The trustees believe that there will be an impact on the charity's operations in the short term. The charity has sufficient resources to meet its ongoing financial obligations and the medium to long term impact of the pandemic is not expected to be significant. The charity is continuing to work with its suppliers, members and employees to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the operations of the charity.