



**Greater Shantallow
Area Partnership**



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 / 25

***Celebrating 30 years of
Community Development***



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OUR MISSION

The Greater Shantallow Area Partnership (GSAP) is a core community support organisation which seeks to bring together and support local residents, community/voluntary sector groups and statutory/private organisations that have an interest in or involvement with improving the social, community, economic and physical environment within the Greater Shantallow area thus helping to create sustainable communities that are:

Active, Inclusive and Safe; Well Run; Well Designed and Built; Well Connected; Thriving; Well-Served; Fair for Everyone; and Environmentally Sensitive;

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OUR VISION

“To develop and sustain a vibrant community & voluntary sector in the Greater Shantallow area in which well-informed people enjoy high quality, sustainable and appropriate services in an accessible, well-managed environment.



CHARITABLE PURPOSE & PUBLIC BENEFIT

1

RELIEVING POVERTY

2

ADVANCING EDUCATION

3

PRESERVING HEALTH

4

PROVIDING FACILITIES



CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

As Chairperson of the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership, (GSAP), it gives me great pleasure to present to you all our 30th Annual Report and to share with you a brief overview of a number of the key events and achievements that the GSAP team, supported by the Trustees of the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership completed during the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present the 30th Annual Report of the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership for the year 2024-25. Reaching this milestone is a testament to three decades of collective vision, unwavering commitment, and the enduring spirit of collaboration that defines our community – **THE GREATER SHANTALLOW AREA**.

Over the past year, we have faced both challenges and opportunities. Yet, through resilience and cooperation, the Partnership has continued to drive sustainable development, foster social inclusion, and enhance the quality of life for all residents in the Greater Shantallow area. Our initiatives this year—from community revitalisation projects to skills development programs and environmental sustainability efforts—reflect our steadfast dedication to building a stronger, more vibrant region.

To reflect on this past year a number of key events need special mention. These include:

Since purchasing the Community Building, Northside, an ongoing refurbishment programme of works has been undertaken supported by funding packages from both the Department for Communities and the Shared Island Fund (administered by Donegal County Council) which to date includes improved lighting within and without the building, new IT / video conferencing facilities in the board /conference room, and the installation of new doors and windows, throughout the community building. In addition funding has been secured from the Department for Communities to replace the outdated and inefficient roller shutters. In addition funding has been secured from the Lottery's Sustainable Community Buildings Fund which will see a range of energy efficient / climate action saving items installed throughout the building, including 85 solar panels, smart heating controls, and much needed roof insulation.

Our relationship with APEX Housing Association continues to prove very beneficial to the GSAP and in particular the Skeoge community and the team at the Skeoge Hub. This includes the continued financial support from APEX that affords us the opportunity to employ staff to open, close and oversee and manage the numerous play parks in the area.



CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

Again, and with the financial support of both APEX Housing Association and the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, resources have been secured to continue the employment of a full-time dedicated Family Support Worker for the Skeoge area. Housed at our Hub in Skeoge this worker is there to support local residents and in particular tenants of APEX – support which is critical given the current financial / cost of living crisis.

Additionally with a successful application to PeacePlus, administered by Derry City & Strabane District Council, the GSAP now employs a programme officer who has been responsible for the roll out of a two-year outreach programme - Skeoge United, across the City, and border region, and the GSAP has recently purchased a new community mini bus to benefit the participants of this programme.

Work on the new GSAP website is now finalised, and it is hoped that the launch of new site – www.shantallow.net will happen in April 2026 which will enable the GSAP to “better promote” itself to the wider community, and allow the community to ‘see’ the ongoing activities that GSAP supports within the area.

Of significant note again this year has been GSAP's determination to be at the forefront of partnership working. We again have taken the lead in a Citywide bid to the Department of Education's RAISE Programme, which has levered in an additional £303k for schools & community based programmes over the next 18 months.

This year has also seen the positive benefits that employment with GSAP affords as we have seen a number of staff move onto employment in many different key roles and sectors. This year, staff that have left the GSAP family include Tina Doolin our Projects Development Officer, and Amanda Clarke our Community Support Officer. I want to take this opportunity to thank them all for their years' service to the GSAP and the wider Greater Shantallow community, and to wish them all the best for the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome on board a number of new staff who have joined us in recent months, including, Michelle Simpson, as our Projects Development Officer, Jeannie Curran, as our Project Support Worker, Skeoge, Ellie Dunne as our Project Support Worker, Skeoge, Amanda Lavy as our Cafe Links Worker, and Laurence McDaid as our Caretaker.



CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

This year the GSAP was also able to secure funding that will enable it to develop a new 5 year strategic development plan, setting out GSAP's vision and mission over the next 5 years, with associated detailed actions and priorities. Funding has also been secured for a vital upgrade to our ICT infrastructure across the entire organisation.

I've already mentioned our purchase of the Community Building, Northside in March / April 2024. Staff have worked quickly to maximise the income potential of this community resource, having agreed long term leases with both a private enterprise (employing local people), and the Derry Traveller Group.

The community is still living in unprecedented times in relation to the cost-of-living crisis and the continued huge rise in prices of both fuel and food. There are clear challenges for the GSAP and others to continue to maintain high levels of performance in the coming years. We can achieve this by working together, sharing skills, knowledge, and resources thus continuing to make a clear commitment to involving local people in community affairs and local decision-making including influencing service delivery.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to praise local organisations for their continued responsive and unseen work, be it the women's sector, the youth sector, sporting organisations, community playgroups, the 50+ sector, early year providers, community arts organisations, and resident associations. This work represents the backbone of our sector and continues to create opportunities and enhance the quality of life for so many of our people, especially our most vulnerable.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to extend our thanks to all those organisations, service providers, facilitators, and individuals we have worked and engaged with over the last year.

Furthermore, I would like to extend a sincere word of gratitude to all those funding bodies who have invested and continue to invest in the GSAP, and who have contributed to the ongoing support work carried out by GSAP staff on a daily basis. Finally, I would like to extend thanks to all my fellow Trustees and our staff for their hard work, commitment, dedication, and endeavours throughout the past year.

CHARLIE MCDAID, CHAIRPERSON



THE POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We at GSAP are delighted to be hosting our 30th AGM. Over the years GSAP has continued to deliver a high-quality 'community support service' to local individuals and organisations who in themselves are working hard to improve the area and the quality of life for residents locally. Despite the cost-of-living crisis, fuel poverty, and cuts in public expenditure, the loss of significant EU funding, and the uncertainty for the sector as a result of sustained core government funding intervention, GSAP has been able to sustain all our services.

Notable achievements by GSAP throughout the 2024/25 year include;

Substantial capital investment at the Community Building, Northside, including installation of new windows and doors, with additional funding secured to install new solar panels, roof insulation, and heating controls throughout the building, and the landscaping improvements around the building.

The GSAP continued to protect 13 key existing integrated local services, including the Outer North Community Support Project, the ETHOS Family Support Hub, the Outer North Neighbourhood Partnership, the Talking to our Babies Project, the ASPIRE NI Project, the Families Connect Project, the Success North West Programme, the Skeoge Community Hub, the Extended Schools Programme, the GSAP Foodbank, and Babybank, and the DENI WRAP Early Intervention Programme;

This year the GSAP was able to develop 4 new local, integrated community-led projects, including the Family Support Service, Skeoge, the Skeoge Play Parks Management Scheme, the on-going development of the new Skeoge Health Action Research Project – SHARP, which included the launch of the Health Inequalities Research Project in the Guildhall, "Slainte na Sceitheoige, and the continued role out of the Ballyarnett Consensual Grant Making Programme 2024/25.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The on-going support to the Boomhall Trust in their efforts to realise the restoration of the Boomhall Mansion House and Stables. The GSAP continues to forge ahead in partnership with Boomhall Trust to realise this ambition. We continue to work with Derry City & Strabane District Council – the land owner, the Shared Island Fund, and the Heritage Lottery Fund;

The continued investment from the WHSCT in the ETHOS Family Support. A new three-year recurrent funding package has now been secured, which gives the project a semblance of security, which allows the project team to ‘better plan’ interventions and programming during the year

The continued investment of DC&SDC in the Skeoge Community Hub, via the Community Venue Fund. Again, a three-year funding package is in place which allows the Skeoge Hub to better plan service provision in the area;

Among the other stand-out highlight for 2024/25 resulting from our integrated local services included:

165 Adults & **277** Children / Young People were able to access intervention/treatment services through the family support hub, and **214** young people were able to access specialist support to address their needs;

A total of **1,500** referrals were made during the year by our Family Support Service to 70 local service providers;

268 people engaged in parenting skills / development programmes during the year;



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

307 Year 8 pupils attending St Brigid's College in September 2024 accessed a range of personal/social development and health programmes and resource packs;

190 local residents participated in healthy lifestyle programmes such as Tai Chi, Chair Aerobics, Walking Club, Personal Development, Swimming, Minding Me Programme, Restore Nutrition, Outdoor Boot camp, Yoga etc...; - reducing social isolation and improving their overall health and well-being;

870 young people attending local schools accessed a range of extended school programmes and services such as counselling, speech therapy, outdoor environmental education programmes and literacy and numeracy tuition etc..;

256 food (week supply) parcels donated by the four local Churches were distributed by GSAP to families in need across the area thus helping to reduce the impact of poverty and improve their quality of life;

2,710 local residents availed of a range of programmes, interventions & initiatives at our Hub in Skeoge, as part of the Catalyst Project, which includes our Café Links, SAFE and STAR Programmes, providing a total of **7,317 interventions** - **(1,408 – Café Links, 5,402 – STAR, & 507 – SAFE)**;

50+ external service providers engaged in service provision at Skeoge Community Hub during the year;

164 new start on the Success North West – Employment & Training Programme during the year;

55 people gained employment following participation on the Success North West Programme;



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 289 **QUALIFICATION GAINED** (188 accredited & 101 non-accredited qualifications achieved) by participants on the Success North West Programme during the year;

A total of **5 cross community / good relations programmes** were completed during the year, including the Heart of the Community Festival, Merhaba (Welcome) Festival, Traveller Support Service, the Skeoge Health Fair, & Africa Day;

A total of **37 community organisations** supported during the year;

95 local people received training in community development / capacity building during the year – including good governance training, first aid training, child protection training, and financial training for community groups;

A total of **7 local charities** were supported with their Charity Commission NI annual returns;

54 ACCESS NI applications were completed on behalf of 12 organisations;

The GSAP maintained links with / was represented on **14 citywide groups / initiatives**;

Purchase of a new Community Mini Bus as part of our PeacePlus - Skeoge United Programme;

The completion of a comprehensive organisation review being carried out by Enterprise North West, setting out a number of key recommendations for the Trustees and Senior Management Team, along with GSAP staff to implement;



THE POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The GSAP assumed the lead role in **12 local projects** to support the physical and social regeneration of the area. These have included the local PEACEPLUS programme, the Ballyarnett Consensual Grant Making Programme, the Skeoge Health Action Research Project - Sláinte na Sceitheoige, the Boomhall Estate Restoration Project, the continued roll out of the Healthy Living Centre Alliance – Shantallow, the Community Climate Action Programme, and RAISE;

A total of **£323,000 of Funding** was applied for during the year, with a total of **£237,000 secured**;

A total of **163 local people** benefitted from the DENI WRAP Programme 2024/25 – including **44 adults & 119 young people**;

650 interventions provided as part of the DENI WRAP Programme 2024 / 25 along with our project partners Rainbow Child & Family Centre, and Shantallow Community Residents Association;

35 volunteers recruited / supported at the Skeoge Community Hub during the year, as part of the Catalyst Programme;

11 staff employed to provided a range of support services / interventions from the Skeoge Community Hub;

534 meals provide to 196 local people during the winter months at Skeoge Community Hub – Café Links;

Skeoge Baby Bank Scheme set up and operating out of the Skeoge Community Hub, in partnership with Foyle Network Foundation;



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GSAP staff and Trustees will work hard to remain at the centre of local development. This will be achieved by working even more closely with local residents and community & voluntary groups in the area, remaining actively involved in the delivery of the new Ballyarnett Community Plan, the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area Strategic Growth Plan and the delivery of the Outer North Regeneration Plan, continuously identifying the need and putting forward sound cases for investment and grasping opportunities that may arise from new Government policies and initiatives such as the City Deal.

Overall, there have been many positive and significant achievements throughout the past year, detailed within the body of this report, which would not have been possible without the commitment of our dedicated Trustees and also of course our funders, -without whom we could not function. Details of our funders are found at the back of our report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our affiliated groups, service providers and partner organisations for their continued support and for the positive, outward-looking contribution they have made in the last year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff members for their continued support during the year. I would also like to welcome to the GSAP Team Michelle Simpson, as our Projects Development Officer, Jeannie Curran, as our Project Support Worker, Skeoge, Ellie Dunne as our Project Support Worker, Skeoge, Amanda Lavy as our Cafe Links Worker, and Laurence McDaid as our Caretaker.

RORY MCPARLAND, MANAGER



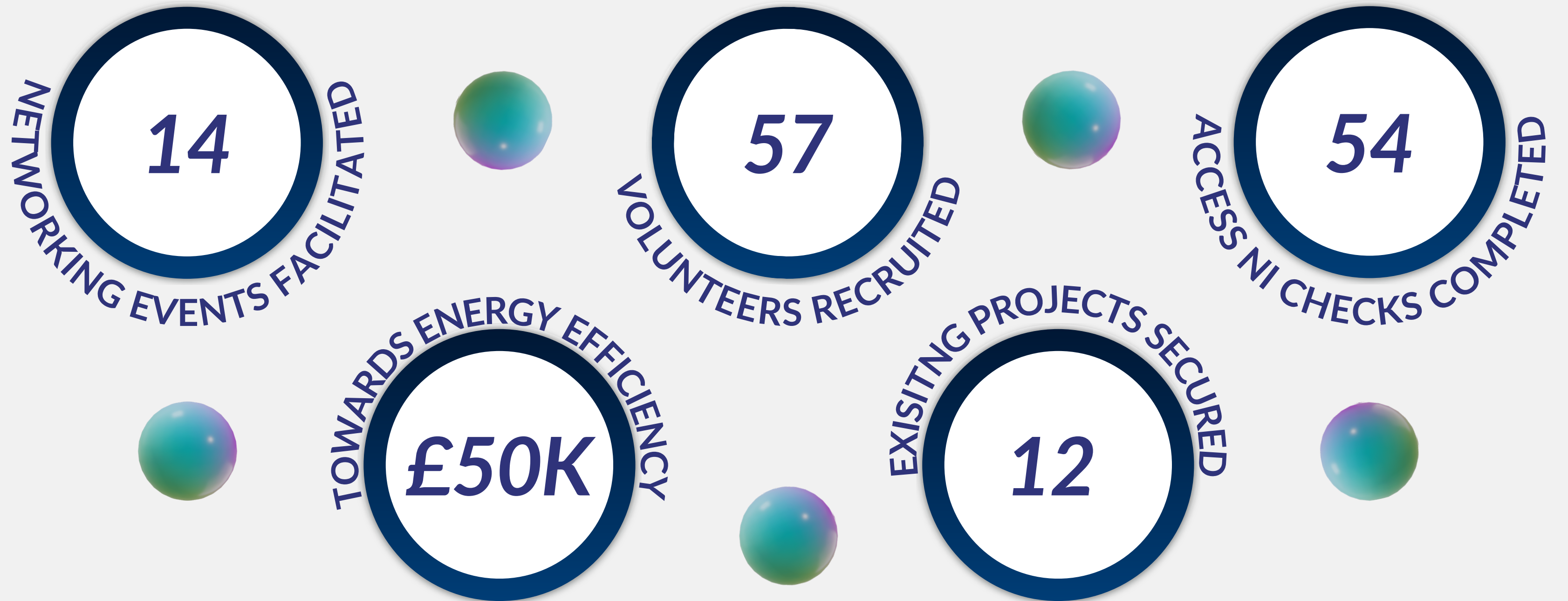
2024/25: YEAR IN NUMBERS



2024/2025: YEAR IN NUMBERS



2024/2025: YEAR IN NUMBERS



2024/2025: YEAR IN NUMBERS

4
NEW SERVICES DEVELOPED

165
ADULTS SUPPORTED BY ETHOS

277
CHILDREN SUPPORTED BY ETHOS

19
GROUPS SUPPORTED BY CONSUESUAL GRANT

307
PUPILS SUPPORTED BY ASPIRE PROJECT

2024/2025: YEAR IN NUMBERS

190

HEALTH BENEFICAIRES

870

PUPILS SUPPORTED BY EXTENED SCHOOLS

929

PARENTS SUPPORTED BY TTOB

£237K

FUNDING SECURED FOR LOCAL GROUPS

1

ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW COMPLETED

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - 2024/25

TOTAL INCOME

£1,122,997

NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

£11,527

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£1,110,889

TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD

£477,428

THE POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY



MEET THE TEAM - SENIOR MANAGEMENT



Rory McParland
Manager



Sean Carlin
Community Development Manager



Darren Kirby
Strategy Manager

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Nicola Mullan
Skeoge Hub Coordinator



Minty Thompson
Senior EMO



Sharon Jones
ASPIRE Coordinator



Marty Daly
Family Support Coordinator

SKEOGE COMMUNITY HUB



Nicola Mullan
Skeoge Hub Coordinator



Mollie McMonagle
Programme Officer



Georgina Lavy
Family Support Worker



Kayla Boyle
Youth Worker



Jeannie Curran
Project Worker



Orla Jackson
Project Support Officer



Sean Pol McLaughlin
Parks Warden

SCHOOLS & EARLY YEARS



Laura Gallagher
Families Connect Coordinator



Deirdre Kelly
TTOB Coordinator



Sharon Jones
ASPIRE Coordinator

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Minty Thompson
Senior EMO



Conor McCourt
EMO

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES



Marty Daly
Family Support Coordinator



Ruth Carr
Family Support Worker



Molly McBride
Family Support Worker



Georgina Lavy
Family Support Worker

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Sean Carlin
Community Development
Manager



Michelle Simpson
Projects Development
Officer



Orla Jackson
Community Support
Officer



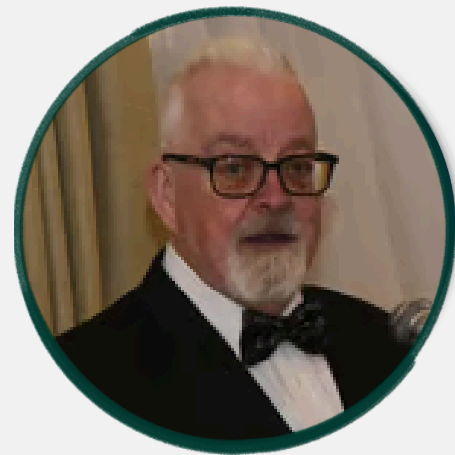
Marisa McCallion
Finance Officer



Ronnie Graham
Administrator

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

GSAP TRUSTEES - 2024/25



CHARLIE MCDAID
CHAIRPERSON



CATHAL MCCAULEY
COMPANY SECRETARY



SANDRA DUFFY
VICE CHAIRPERSON



MICHEAL DOYLE
SECRETARY



MARTIN CONNOLLY
TREASURER



GERRY MCMONAGLE
TRUSTEE



VIVIENNE LYNOTT
TRUSTEE



ELAINE YOUNG
TRUSTEE



BRIAN TIERNEY
TRUSTEE



CAOLAN CAMPBELL
TRUSTEE



MARIE GILLESPIE
TRUSTEE

THE POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY



THE POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY



GREATER SHANTALLOW AREA PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AGENCY



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk



Department of
Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk



Trusthouse
Charitable Foundation



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland
Co-funded by the
European Union | UK Government
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland | Northern Ireland
Executive



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSraitha Báin
Derry Citty & Strábane
Deistrick Cooncil



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSraitha Báin
Derry Citty & Strábane
Deistrick Cooncil



ea Education
Authority



**COMMUNITY
FUND**



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



Department of
Justice
www.dojni.gov.uk



Changing for the better, together



Western Health
and Social Care Trust