



Nottingham Soroptimist Trust

providing training, education and financial hardship grants
for women and girls in Nottinghamshire

registered charity number 1130691

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the Charity as set out in its governing document

The Trustees must apply the income of the Charity in furthering the following objects:

- a) For the relief of financial hardship among women (including those under the age of 18 years) living or working mainly or wholly in Nottinghamshire
- b) For the advancement of education of women (including those under the age of 18 years) living or working mainly or wholly in Nottinghamshire
- c) Supporting Soroptimist International projects for the relief of financial hardship and the advancement of education for women (including those under the age of 18 years)

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit

The Charity was established during 2009. The Charity's funds were invested in an appropriate portfolio of investments. Investment is managed subject to the Trust's Investment Policy, which aims to further the Trust's objects by balancing the maintenance of the capital, the provision of income and risk.

Income from the investments is used to further the objectives of the Trust through an application and award process.

The Trust has no staff and no volunteers except for the Trustees, who work together on a voluntary basis to achieve the objects.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The Trustees have developed a new website and introduced entries into grant seeking websites, to ensure information about our grants is available to the widest section of the population who fulfil the criteria within our objects.



Achievements and Performance

The Trustees are pleased with the range of applications and awards made in relation to the objects this year.

During the current period the charity has continued a successful programme of grant making for a wide variety of Nottinghamshire women. The grants awarded have varied in size and purpose covering education and hardship.

The Trustees have changed the application schedule this year and increased from two to four award rounds.

This structure and the relevant cut-off dates are communicated on the application forms and guidance notes. The Trustees also have a process for making one off urgent payments in cases of severe financial hardship.

The application process is reviewed at least once every year, and the application forms and guidance notes are updated as necessary

During the period, applications were received from women for funds to assist with hardship and for educational purpose, and the Trustees considered all such applications during the award process.

There were more applications for hardship grants than in previous years. These were mainly for women moving out of refuges into independent accommodation. Increasing to four grant meetings has resulted in fewer applications having to be considered on an urgent basis – making fairer distribution of the available funds.

The objectives of the deed are being met and the operations are benefitting many Nottinghamshire women and girls.

Financial Review

The Charity's funds are invested in an appropriate portfolio of investments. Income from the investments is used to further the objectives of the Trust through an award process in accordance with the key objectives of the Charity.

The investments are managed in accordance with the Trust's Investment Policy with regular reviews by the Trustees and our Legal Advisors. The Advisors have reported that the investments have performed as well as possible in comparison to the current market.

The Fund Managers were asked to increase income where possible, and the income is significantly improved on the previous year, enabling more money for grants.

Normally the only income derives from the Investment Fund. The Trustees have agreed not to take any money from that fund except in extraordinary circumstances as that would affect future income.

The value of the investment portfolio has fluctuated during the period, in line with all investments, ending slightly lower at the end of the year.



The Trustees hold a small cash fund in the bank to allow flexibility in awarding grants depending on demand. Some years grants awarded are slightly above the income for particular year. In other years grants may be slightly below the income.

Trustees have agreed to keep an amount at least equal to a year's expenditure in the cash fund. The current amount is £39,000.

There are no uncertainties about the Charity continuing as a going concern. There are no fixed on-going commitments and grants are always awarded considering the income received.

Risks are addressed by the Charity's risk policy and the risk register is reviewed regularly.

Structure, Governance and Management

Nottingham Soroptimist Trust is a Charitable Trust governed by a Trust deed.

The Trustees are appointed by the current Trustees following application by the prospective Trustee and selection under the terms of the Trust Deed.

The Trustees have adopted and regularly review the policy on the appointment of Trustees.

Trustees use Charity Commission guidance "The Essential Trustee" and FSI Foundation for Social Improvement training.

The Charity is run by the Trustees with no other volunteers and no staff.

The Trustees have adopted and regularly review policies on the appointment of Trustees; conflict of interest; complaints; investment; privacy and data retention; equality & diversity; and safeguarding.

The Trustees have adopted and regularly review a risk policy and a risk register

