

The Fermanagh Trust



FERMANAGH TRUST

STRATEGY

2025 - 2029

COMMUNITY CATALYST 2025 – 2029

The Fermanagh Trust is an independent community-based charitable foundation, established in 1995 and through the timeline of this strategy we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary. We believe in, advocate for, and support the wellbeing of individuals and communities across Fermanagh and further afield, helping to develop strong and vibrant communities. We have a broad portfolio of programmes and funds which make a valuable contribution to life in County Fermanagh and beyond.

The Trust's endowment supports community and voluntary endeavours throughout Fermanagh. Our grant programmes provide support to individuals, groups, and organisations. Through our development work, we have a strong track record of supporting, resourcing, advising and guiding a wide range of community initiatives, facilities, programmes, activities and events.

Our successful Social Enterprise, Fermanagh House which opened in 2007 is home to 14 Charities and a venue for meetings, conferences, workshops, seminars and exhibitions etc, with over 200 groups and 50,000 people utilising the facilities each year.

We have a strong commitment to collaboration, strategic alliances and partnership working. Our knowledge and experiences are drawn upon by communities and a wide range of organisations both locally and nationally.



In recent years, the people, and communities we support have been through Covid and the ongoing Cost of Living crisis. Society is changing rapidly here including the increasing impact of technology and the notable decline in volunteering. Going forward, this strategy outlines our contribution to help address these challenges. It lays out what we will do to achieve our vision and how we will achieve this by building on our strong and dedicated volunteers and workforce, our processes, our reputation, and our income generating ability.

COMMUNITY CATALYST

2025 – 2029

We believe in the passion and ability of everybody involved in Fermanagh Trust- whether they be our staff, volunteers, supporters, or partners - to build on this work and make a positive contribution to community life.

While grounded in our local community, we recognise the importance of creating positive change by influencing the work of others. We are committed to highlighting issues, utilising our experience and networks to advocate for change, and contributing to positive developments impacting local communities.

Our rural community faces significant social, economic and health challenges. These challenges are exacerbated with a decline in volunteering, impacting on the work of civic society organisations.

Looking to the next five years and the Fermanagh Trust's work, our experience and local knowledge provides us with a valuable insight into the issues facing individuals and communities across Fermanagh and beyond.

Strong Foundations

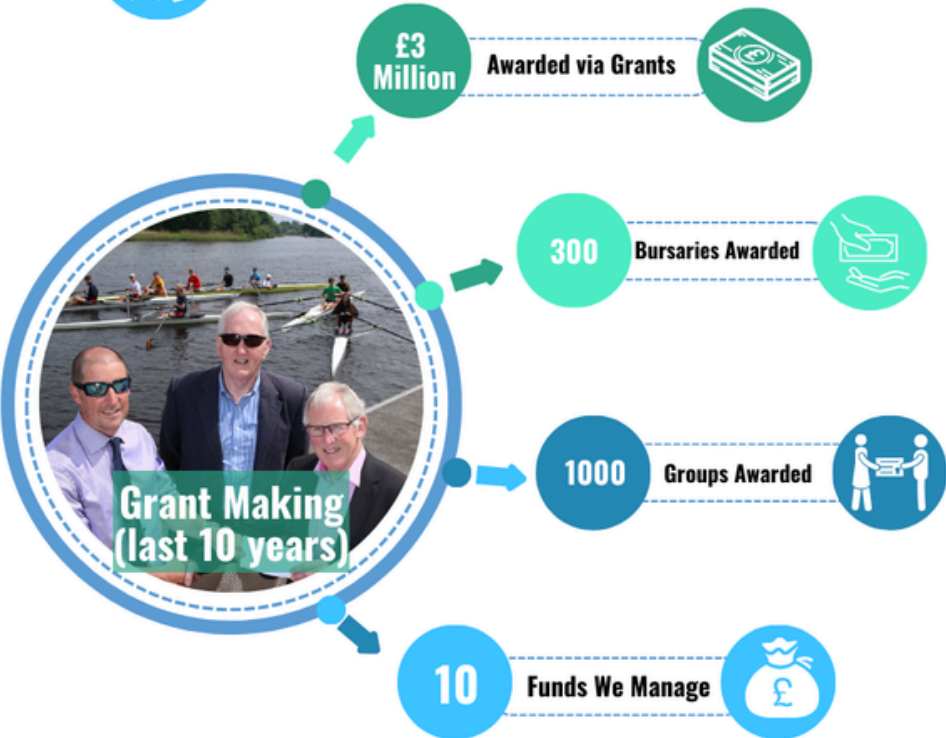
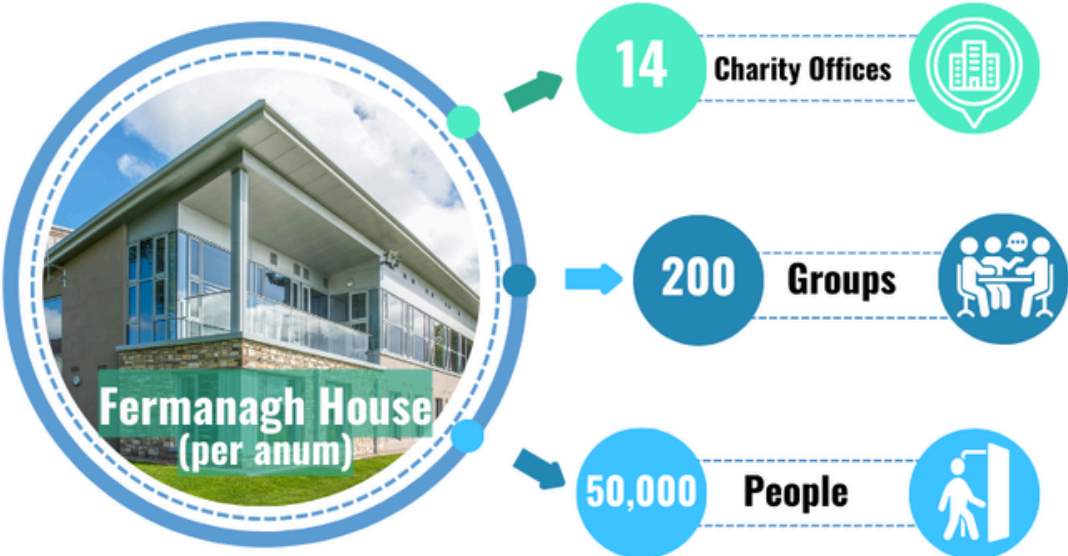
We plan to build on the Trust's endowment and the 12 grant programmes providing support to individuals and community-based organisations.

We will continue to build upon our leadership, community development and capacity building supports and programmes. Through our social enterprise, Fermanagh House, we will continue to provide a central hub, providing affordable office and meeting spaces for groups and charities, a place to network and convene for the voluntary and community sector.

Our commitment to building local philanthropy will include continuing to advise and support several other charitable and philanthropic initiatives.



OUR CURRENT CONTRIBUTION





VISION

Everyone feels they belong and are empowered to contribute to a strong, healthy, and vibrant community in Fermanagh, our natural hinterlands and beyond.

MISSION

To be a Community Catalyst:

- We build sustainable communities, transforming and enriching lives where people feel connected and able to contribute to their community
- We encourage and assist individuals and organisations across Fermanagh and beyond, harnessing their skills, knowledge, creativity, and assets to generate positive change exploring new opportunities, forging new connections, and establishing robust support networks across rural and often remote geographies.
- We unlock the talent and skills of people, transforming and enhancing lives, supporting individuals and their community to find their voice and make a positive impact both locally and regionally.



VALUES



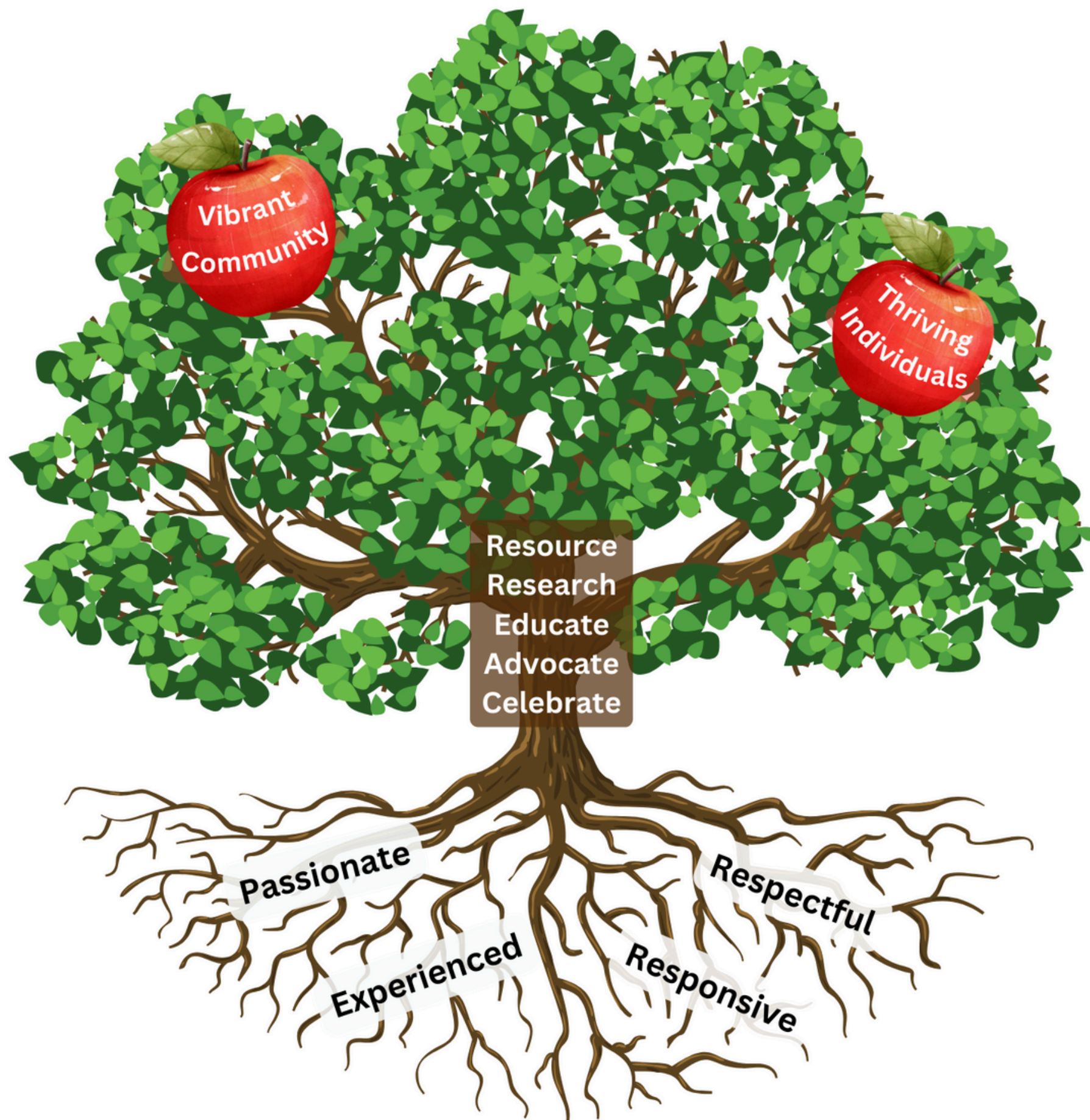
- Commitment to the County and our Neighbours
- Promoting Positive Citizenship
- Celebrating Leadership
- Honouring Diversity
- Encouraging Collaborative Action
- Valuing People's Contributions
- Sharing Good Practice
- Commitment to Quality, Ongoing Improvement, and Innovation

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

Our 3 goals for 2025 – 2029 will help us as an organisation become stronger and more sustainable and in turn ensure the communities, we serve become stronger, healthier, and more sustainable. These goals are underpinned by our commitment to ensuring that every citizen in Fermanagh feels a sense of belonging and are empowered to contribute to a strong, healthy, and vibrant community.

- 1 Be an Effective, Community-Focused Foundation.
- 2 Enhance People's Lives.
- 3 Strengthen Civic Society





HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE IT:

EXPERIENCE

We will draw upon our rich history and extensive experience in community development, alongside a deep understanding of local and broader contexts, challenges, and opportunities.

RESPONSIVE

Across all our work, we will acknowledge the evolving landscape of civic society, embracing opportunities presented by new technology and digitalisation to enhance support for the community and voluntary sector, and adopting a flexible, adaptable, creative, and solution-focused approach.

PASSION

We will recruit and retain a workforce who are driven by our passion for unlocking the potential of people, communities, and organisations, who are motivated and inspired by the prospect of change despite the challenges encountered.

RESPECT

A commitment to advocating for respect and inclusion across all fronts. This entails actively engaging in advocacy efforts to promote societal acceptance and equity, fostering a culture of diversity and inclusivity within our organisation, and integrating these principles into all our programmes and initiatives. By championing respect and inclusion, both internally and externally, we strive to contribute to the creation of a more equitable and compassionate society where every individual is valued and empowered to thrive.



RESOURCE

- Grow philanthropy
- Enhance lives through effective and efficient grant-making

RESEARCH

- Conduct community-driven research
- Informed decision-making
- Provide real-time data
- Support policy development

EDUCATE

- Support the Community and Voluntary sector in meeting economic and well-being challenges
- Provide personalised development opportunities for individuals and groups
- Share best practices

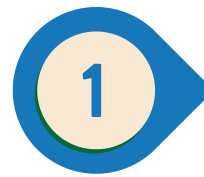
ADVOCATE

- Bring key issues to light
- Address local challenges
- Forge impactful, cross sectoral connections, harnessing local expertise
- Empower communities to advocate for themselves

CELEBRATE

- Acknowledge the achievements and successes within Fermanagh Trust/ Fermanagh House
- Acknowledge and celebrate achievements of our staff, our volunteers, our donors and our partners
- Acknowledge and celebrate the successes of individual and groups, benefitting from our grants and our support, directly and indirectly.
- Share good practice to inspire and motivate others across the sector.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

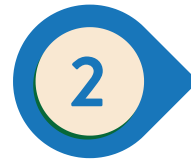


Being an Effective, Community-Focused Foundation

- **Developing philanthropy, with a focus on growing local grant making by increasing the size and number of funds.**
- **Manage resources effectively, including investments, to maximise financial and social returns.**
- **Support: Back initiatives for social and community development, facilitate learning exchanges, and empower community activism.**



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



Enhancing People's Lives

- **Community training and capacity building, creating pathways and nurturing leadership.**
- **Collaborative approach to supporting people and communities.**
- **Enable: Support individuals and groups to run sustainable projects, access funding, and produce action plans for change.**



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE



Strengthening Civic Society

- **Build strategic linkages and develop joint programs locally, regionally, and nationally to amplify impact and effectiveness.**
- **Actively promote and encourage Volunteerism and support volunteers in their ability to carry out their duties.**
- **Research and support policy development.**
- **Build Community infrastructure and cohesion including helping groups and organisations secure sustainable resources.**
- **Convene: Bring together diverse voices to explore innovative solutions and build strategic alliances.**
- **Influence: Engage in innovative pathways for community development, provide specialized information, represent local issues, and build strategic alliances to advocate for and change.**
- **Provide advice and consultancy services through our programmes and initiatives.**
- **Provide funding opportunities through our grant and other programmes.**
- **Promote and support good governance and provide staff and volunteers access to learning and development opportunities to enhance expertise.**



STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Our flexible and adaptable approach recognises the complexity of communities, enabling engagement and collaboration with diverse stakeholder groups to address emerging issues effectively.

To cultivate conditions for community thriving, we will continue to encourage individuals and organisations both locally and further afield to get involved and contribute to this work.

This strategy aligns with our vision, purpose, values, and key priorities, reflecting our commitment to fostering strong, healthy, and vibrant communities in Fermanagh and beyond.



CONCLUSION

Our strategic framework serves as the guiding compass, aligning all stakeholders within the Fermanagh Trust around our core philanthropic mission. It outlines our fundamental objectives and defines the strategic pathways necessary for growth, crucial for maximising our positive impact on the community.

While our vision may seem ambitious, it has never been needed more. We remain resolute in our conviction that through concerted philanthropic and volunteer efforts, we can turn our endeavours into reality. With unwavering support from our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and partners, we have the capacity to transform our strategic vision into tangible, meaningful outcomes.

Through this collaborative approach, fuelled by passion and inclusivity, we empower ourselves to contribute towards the advancement and nurturing of a thriving and vibrant civic society.



Trustees: Back (L-R) Kevin Lunney, Ernie Fisher (Chair), Katie Cooper, Anna Devlin, Frank McManus and Robert Gibson.
Front (L-R) Lauri McCusker (Director), Sue Bryson, Aideen McGinley, Joanna McVey (Patron) and Jim Ledwith (Vice Chair)



MORE ABOUT US



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