

APPENDIX 1



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	04	2025	To	31	03	2026

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Freedom Fighters (Community Action Initiative)
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC048272
Charity's principal address	21 Mill Road, Kilbirnie, N. Ayrshire
	Postcode KA25 7DZ

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Vincent Gartland	Chairman	01/04/2025 – 24/05/2025 (Deceased)	n/a
2	Sandy Jamieson Barr	Chairman	10/06/2025	Trustees
3	Gordon McLeod	Trustee	n/a	n/a
4	Ian Black	Trustee	n/a	n/a
5	Jane Wailes	Trustee	01/04/2025 – 06/03/2026	Trustees
6	Brian Wailes	Trustee	01/04/2025 – 06/03/2026	Trustees
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Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

SCIO Constitution

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Clause 13: "Any person, nominated individual or body who/which wishes to become a Charity Trustee must sign a written application for Charity Trusteeship; and for a corporate body, that application must be signed by an appropriately authorised officer of that body who will remain as the representative of that corporate body until such time as the corporate body informs the Board otherwise."

Clause 14: "The application will then be considered by the Committee at its next Committee meeting."

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The advancement of citizenship and community development through supporting those at risk, experiencing, or recovering from addiction by encouraging active and positive citizenship through volunteering and community re-engagement. Raising awareness of the causes of addiction & its related mental health issues with the purpose of reducing stigma, marginalisation and isolation.

The relief of those in need by reason of addiction and its causes and consequences, (including addiction related mental health, social isolation, poverty and disadvantage). Through facilitating one to one support sessions, group sessions, support groups, workshops, training, preventative work with young people, social activities, signposting, events and participation in Freedom Fighters programmes.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Summary of the Main Activities in Relation to the Charity's Objects

During the year, Freedom Fighters Community Action Initiative significantly expanded its activities in support of individuals and communities affected by addiction, trauma, mental health challenges, poverty, and social isolation.

The charity delivered weekly one-to-one therapeutic support and counselling sessions through a team of qualified counsellors, coaches, trainee therapists, and recovery workers, providing accessible, trauma-informed care to individuals seeking healing, recovery, and improved emotional wellbeing.

The organisation successfully completed and launched its new Trauma Recovery Hub, creating a safe, welcoming environment from which to provide counselling, coaching, peer support groups, workshops, and wellbeing initiatives. The hub has become a central community space for recovery, connection, and personal growth.

The charity established and delivered the Recovery Pathways Drop-In, a weekly community-based recovery programme offering practical support, social connection, peer encouragement, and signposting to additional services. This initiative has reduced social isolation and provided meaningful opportunities for community re-engagement.

The charity facilitated therapeutic retreats, workshops, training events, and wellbeing programmes designed to promote emotional resilience, strengthen relationships, encourage volunteering and positive citizenship, and reduce the stigma associated with addiction and mental health difficulties.

In addition, the organisation delivered the Keys to Freedom programme, providing structured teaching and practical tools to help participants understand trauma, renew unhealthy thinking patterns, build resilience, and pursue long-term recovery and personal transformation.

Through these activities, the charity has continued to support individuals in developing stability, confidence, hope, and meaningful participation within their communities, contributing to improved mental health and long-term recovery outcomes.

Acknowledgements

Freedom Fighters would like to express our sincere gratitude to the organisations whose generous support has enabled us to expand our services and continue bringing hope and healing to those affected by trauma, addiction and poor mental health across North Ayrshire. We are especially grateful to the Scottish Government Local Support Fund, Benefact Trust, North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP), North Ayrshire Council, and the ASDA Foundation for their investment in our vision. Their funding has been instrumental in establishing and developing our Trauma Recovery Hub, expanding our counselling and recovery services, creating new opportunities for community engagement, and laying the foundations for long-term sustainability through initiatives such as our Thrive Recovery Café. We are deeply thankful for their confidence in our work and for the lasting difference their support is making in the lives of individuals, families and our wider community.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

1. Development and Launch of the Trauma Recovery Hub

Following six months of renovation and development work, the charity celebrated the completion of the Trauma Recovery Hub with an Open Day on 19 April 2025, showcasing the transformed facility to supporters, partners and the local community.

The Hub provides a safe, welcoming and therapeutic environment from which the charity delivers counselling, support groups, recovery services, training and community wellbeing initiatives. The Hub represents a significant milestone in the growth of the charity and has greatly expanded our capacity to support individuals experiencing trauma, addiction, mental health challenges and social isolation.

The official opening of the Trauma Recovery Hub took place on 27 September 2025. Professor Catriona Matheson, former Chair of the Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce, formally opened the Hub. The event was attended by supporters, funders, volunteers and community partners and served as a celebration of the collaborative effort that made the project possible.

2. Recovery, Wellbeing and Community Programmes

The charity launched its first six-week Cultivate Group in May 2025. Delivered both during the daytime for individuals connected with partner organisations and in the evening for the wider community, the programme focused on receiving and responding positively to correction, helping participants identify unhealthy patterns and develop new ways of thinking and living.

A second Cultivate programme was launched in July 2025, exploring themes of sex, singleness and marriage over a four-week period. Both groups encouraged personal reflection, emotional growth and healthier relationships.

In November 2025, the charity launched the Recovery Pathways Drop-in Service. The service provides practical recovery support, rehabilitation referrals, counselling and wellbeing therapies, including therapeutic massage. The service has continued to grow steadily and has become an important point of access for individuals seeking support and recovery within the local community.

3. Women's Wellbeing Initiatives

The charity successfully launched its new Radiant Women's events in May 2025, attracting approximately 20 to 25 attendees. The events were designed to create safe and encouraging spaces for women to experience connection, support and personal growth.

Further Radiant gatherings took place throughout the year, including events in August and November, with food generously donated by Asda and local supporters. The events have been consistently well attended and have become a valued part of the charity's programme of community wellbeing activities.

In October 2025, the charity hosted an Afternoon Wellbeing Cream Tea led by Nancy Goudie, attended by approximately 40 women. Later that month, around 40 women attended the Captivating Women's Retreat at Gowanbank in Darvel, focusing on healing, restoration and personal transformation.

4. Men's Wellbeing and Retreat Events

In October 2025, approximately 30 men attended the charity's Men's Bootcamp in Kilmacolm. The retreat focused on emotional wellbeing, identity, recovery and personal growth, providing opportunities for connection and peer support in a safe environment.

5. Counselling and Therapeutic Support

The charity's counselling service continued to strengthen throughout the year. In addition to ongoing therapeutic support, two new trainee therapists joined the organisation, one specialising in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and another training as an integrative therapist.

The expansion of therapeutic provision has increased accessibility and enabled the charity to meet growing demand for trauma-informed support within the community.

6. Fundraising and Community Support

The charity benefited from several successful fundraising initiatives during the year.

On 27 April 2025, supporters Big Kev McLafferty and Maggie completed the Kiltwalk challenge in under seven hours, raising more than £2,000 towards the ongoing costs of operating the Trauma Recovery Hub.

In June 2025, Freedom Fighters and Broken Chains jointly launched the Mission Impossible fundraiser inspired by trustee Gordon McLeod's participation in the West Highland Way Race. The campaign sought to demonstrate that recovery from addiction, trauma and mental health challenges is possible when communities work together. The joint initiative raised approximately £3,500 to support the work of both charities.

7. Community Outreach

On Christmas Eve 2025, volunteers led a community outreach initiative providing meals and support to over 30 vulnerable individuals within the local community. The outreach was made possible through generous food donations from Asda and Spuddies Saltcoats and reflected the charity's commitment to serving those most in need with compassion and dignity.

8. Digital Development and Accessibility

During the year, the charity launched a new website, merchandise shop and improved referral pathways. These developments have significantly improved accessibility, making it easier for members of the public and partner agencies to engage with services, make referrals and access support.

9. Media and Wider Reach

The Freedom Fighters Podcast continued to extend the charity's reach beyond the local community, achieving approximately 3,400 plays across listeners in 38 countries. The podcast provides encouragement, education and hope to individuals affected by trauma, addiction and emotional difficulties, further advancing the charity's aims of awareness raising and community support.

10. Governance and Leadership

The charity experienced significant change during the year following the sad passing of Chairman Vincent (Vince) Gartland on 24 May 2025 after suffering a stroke. Vince was a greatly respected leader, mentor and friend whose love, generosity and service shaped the culture and direction of the organisation. His contribution to Freedom Fighters was immeasurable and his legacy continues to inspire the work of the charity.

During the year, Brian Wailes and Jane Wailes joined the Board of Trustees, and Sandy Jamieson was appointed Chairman on 10 June 2025, providing continuity of leadership as the charity entered its next phase of development and growth.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity always aims to ensure 3 months running costs are retained in reserve.

Details of any deficit

n/a

Donated facilities and services (if any)

n/a

Other optional information

Tribute to Vincent Gartland

The trustees wish to record their deep gratitude for the life, leadership and service of our beloved Chairman, Vincent (Vince) Gartland, who passed away on 24 May 2025.

Vince played an instrumental role in the development and governance of Freedom Fighters Community Action Initiative and was a passionate advocate for the charity's vision of bringing hope, recovery and transformation to individuals and communities affected by addiction, trauma and hardship.

His wisdom, encouragement and unwavering support left a lasting impact on the charity, its trustees, staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. We honour his legacy with sincere appreciation and dedicate ourselves to continuing the work that meant so much to him.

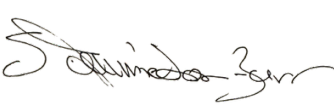
The trustees confirm that they have complied with the legal requirement to consider the guidance on public benefit issued by OSCR.

All services, including therapy, retreat events, and community support, are delivered for the benefit of individuals facing trauma, adversity, or emotional struggle. Activities are open and accessible to the public, contributing meaningfully to improved mental health and community resilience.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Sandy Jamieson Barr - Chairman	Gordon McLeod - Trustee
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chairman	Trustee
Date	3 rd September 2026	