Commission announces inquiry into Newry & Mourne Carers Ltd

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, the independent regulator of charities in Northern Ireland, has opened a statutory inquiry into Newry & Mourne Carers Ltd.

The inquiry was instituted on Monday 11 July 2016 under section 22 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 “the Act”.

The inquiry is focused on addressing concerns regarding the governance and financial control of the deemed charity, including investigating the potential misapplication of charity property.

The Commission has already exercised its statutory powers under section 22(3)(a) and section 22 (3)(b) of the Act to direct the production of documents and information to assist the Commission's inquiry.

It is the Commission’s policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. Reports of previous inquiries by the Commission are available online here.

The Commission will not be providing further comment on this inquiry while the case is ongoing.

Ends

The Commission has statutory objectives to ensure trustees comply with their legal obligations in managing charities, and to increase public trust and confidence in charities.

This includes a statutory function to identify and investigate apparent misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of charities, and to take remedial or protective action.

The Commission categorises its investigations as self-regulatory, regulatory and statutory depending on the risk posed to the charity beneficiaries, the charity and the sector. These terms are indicative of potential outcomes whereby a charity may be encouraged to self-regulate, may be issued regulatory guidance or where, due to the severity of risk assessed, it is envisaged that there may be a requirement for the use of statutory powers assigned to the Commission by virtue of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The Commission’s decision to announce the opening of a statutory inquiry is based on whether it is in the public interest to do so and with consideration of our objective to increase public trust and confidence in charities.