

Registered Charity No: 504774

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Full Name: DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

**Registered Charity
Number:** 504774

Contact Address: Deaf Community Centre
Milton Walk
St James Street
Doncaster
DN1 3QG

Trustees: Mark Tolson
Georgina Cook
Susan Cobb
Mary Jones
Pauline Dunn

Management Committee: Mark Tolson - Chair
Simon Tacey - Vice Chair
Pauline Dunn- Secretary/Treasurer
Georgina Cook
Patricia Raikes
Lisa Aithwaite
Rebecca Walls - NHS R-Dash
Cllr Jane Kidd
Cllr David Nevett
Karen Holdsworth

Bankers: Lloyds Bank
55 High Street
Doncaster
DN1 1BH

Independent Examiner: Stephanie Tolson
Community Accountant
BCVS Services
23 Queens Road
Barnsley
S71 1AN

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Doncaster and District Deaf Society is an unincorporated charity, registered with the Charity Commission on 2nd February 1976 and governed by its constitution adopted 4th March 1974, and amended on the 1st October 2016.

The affairs of the charity are managed by the Management Committee, who may exercise all the powers of the charity.

Appointment of trustees

In accordance with the terms of the constitution, members of the Society can only be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting.

The trustees and Management Committee who served during the year are shown on page 3 of this report.

Membership of the Society shall be open to any person who is totally deaf or hard of hearing and has paid the annual subscription fees. Hearing people and those interested in the welfare of the deaf are welcome subject to approval of the Committee.

The Deaf Society advertise through local community channels for skilled professional people and by word of mouth. We look for both deaf and hearing volunteers who have a keen interest in the workings and ethos of Society and the Deaf Community we proudly serve, who can offer their skills and professionalism and loyalty. Preferable, but not essential, that interested hearing people have knowledge of British Sign Language and be deaf aware.

Prospective Trustees will show a genuine interest in promoting the Deaf Society and deaf BSL User community in Doncaster and to learn and develop BSL skills themselves.

Interested Trustees will be dedicated to the work and development of the Deaf Society borough wide, the Deaf Community, Deaf Culture, its Language and willing advocate the Rights of Deaf people living in Doncaster.

Charitable aims and objectives

The objects of the charity are:

To promote the welfare of Deaf people in any manner which is now or hereafter may be deemed by the Law in England and Wales to be charitable within the new Metropolitan District of Doncaster.

Public benefit

In shaping the objectives for the year, the trustees have paid due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The trustees consider that all activities as outlined in this report meet the public benefit requirement.

The Doncaster & District Deaf Society is a dedicated autonomous, volunteer third sector, BSL User organisation, that successfully, serves the Doncaster deaf community.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT continued

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Society is managed by BSL User volunteers who make every effort to serve the Doncaster deaf community in advocating deaf rights and work alongside service providers and BSL Users to remove barriers to prevent loneliness, isolation and exclusion, The Society works valiantly in both deaf and hearing worlds to promote equality, empowerment, social inclusion, health and wellbeing for the benefit of the Doncaster Deaf BSL User Community Borough-wide it proudly serves.

The untiring work of the Society is unique and recognised by professional organisations, service providers and British Sign Language Users as a central BSL Hub point of contact. Professional advice and support is provided through the Society's advice and information centre and Monday morning support from Doncaster Council's Sensory Team. The Society liaised with Citizens Advice and secured funding for the training and employment of a BSL Advisor.

The Society is the umbrella to diligently oversee the smooth running of its five dedicated deaf volunteer groups namely; Happy Goldies OAP Club, Social Club/ Sewing Craft Lunch Club, Leisure Club, Happy Hands Play Group and Drama Group. Each club/group provides a variety social activities covering all ages, abilities and disabilities for Doncaster's BSL deaf community to benefit; primarily focussing on mental health & wellbeing and quality of life of the BSL User in Doncaster as its priority.

Communication is British Sign Language and the Society strives and succeeds to maintain deaf culture and its language, through its BSL User vibrant Groups. A variety of indoor and outdoor activities are organised, suitable for the deaf community, all ages, where social interaction and companionship is enjoyed :- Bingo, tombola, raffle, quizzes, DVD nights, Easter, Halloween, Christmas and New Year parties, birthday parties, children's activities, drama workshops and themed events.

The OAP & Social Club provide hot and cold snacks, with a variety of tasty food for its members as many live alone and isolated because of their deafness. The Leisure Club runs a food & drink Café and sweet shop for adults and children's activities

Activities and events are all inclusive suitable for wheelchair users, members with learning difficulties and mental health issues.

January this year, the Society set up arrangements with Happy Hands playgroup to have monthly visits from health visitors and play care workers.

Outdoor group/club activities are day and weekend trips, visits to local theatres for BSL signed performances are organised. Fundraising events are always popular with lots of family fun, allowing young and old to join in annual activities.

To maintain a high standard of BSL interpreting at theatre performances, the Society is active in relaying both positive and constructive feedback to theatres, thus making sure BSL User, adults, young people and children enjoy performances on par with hearing counterparts.

For mental Health, well-being and companionship two successful, well attended tutorial Christmas Craft 2023 activities were organised

Review of the main achievements during the year

The Deaf Society worked closely with NHS Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching hospitals, Primary Care Health professionals and Doncaster Wellbeing board to improve the quality of health services of concern, including GP and dental surgeries, and audiology issues within the BSL User Doncaster borough .

Digital inclusion relating to health services is a challenge for the most vulnerable BSL Users including digital poverty, in particular the additional needs of the very elderly have been addressed.

The past year has been a year of positive progress, important information gathering and feedback, involving face to face meetings with BSL Users and health professionals at the deaf community centre. Some aspects were not easy listening, but prepared a vital action plan for the ensuing year.

Regular, essential, contact with Clarion BSL Interpreter Services CEO, to improve and maintain quality interpreting services, culminated with a BSL presentation at the Deaf Community Centre highlighting positive and negative progress.

The Society highlighted issues BSL parents experiences and worked with Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching hospitals and Maternity & Neonatal Voices partnerships, to identify gaps in maternity services. Culminating in forty four South Yorkshire maternity staff learning British Sign Language.

Visits to Doncaster Hospital new birthing unit to give advice on equipment needed for BSL User parents. Their advice, including BSL welcome signs and baby monitors in cots linked to a vibration pager for deaf mums to know when their baby needs attention whilst staying in hospital maternity wards, was well received.

Additionally, working with Doncaster Council family hubs, Happy Hands parents now have monthly supported visits in British Sign Language with Community Health Visitor and play care worker.

Working at this high level of health professionals and covering equality in health services has been a great achievement and breakthrough for the Doncaster deaf community to benefit long term.

Working with Voluntary Action Doncaster the Society organised a very successful, much needed, seven week BSL digital learning course and access to the NHS App. Each learner was given a free tablet to kick start learning and a reconditioned laptop at the end of the course.

The Society have been proud to work with Citizens Advice to improve access to their services on advice and information in British Sign Language on a one to one basis, which has been lacking for years. The Society were able to support financially by negotiating to hand over the Society's £35,000 successful funding project, to where it was most needed, for Doncaster Citizens Advice to employ a BSL User Advisor to the deaf BSL Community living in all Doncaster's twenty one Wards. This was seen as a great breakthrough to serve the Doncaster deaf BSL User community, enabling access to one to one private and confidential information and support without a third party interpreter present.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT continued

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Other recent successful funding applications during the past year have been:-

1. Rotary for Happy Hands baby and early years development sensory toys
2. Well Doncaster for publicity, advertising and marketing equipment and materials. We are now able to attend community networking events to promote British Sign Language and Deaf Culture to benefit communities
3. National Lottery funding to set up a children and young people's Saturday bi-lingual Board Game Café for children and siblings of the Doncaster deaf community ages 8- 18 years for social fun and mental health and wellbeing.

The Society worked with LNER for BSL access at railway stations starting with trials at Doncaster Railway Station. Five of our BSL Users had several meetings with LNER staff and gave invaluable advice using train services travelling either as an elderly person, single person or family traveller with young children.

The trials were successful and digital 'Sign Apse' BSL interpreting is now shown on all Doncaster Station information boards as equal access to information. The system will now be used at other railway stations around the country for BSL Users to benefit. A remarkable state of the art achievement.

The Charity's policy on reserves

The trustees recognise the need to keep reserves at a level which will ensure that the charity can continue to operate in the event of unforeseen arising. The trustees consider that it is prudent to hold reserves of at least £5,000 as a "rainy day" reserve. The Society's insurance policy also ensures continuity of activities and social gatherings for BSL Users living in Doncaster should alternative premises need to be sought if the building is deemed unusable due to fire or malicious attacks, until repairs or rebuild is completed.

At the year end the general reserve stands at £6,405 (2023: £5,419) which meets this requirement.

Related Parties

The trustees consider that there are no related parties to the charity.

Trustees responsibilities for the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity at any time and enable the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT continued

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

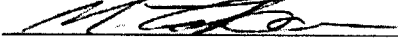
Financial Position

The financial statements are set out in pages 10 to 14.

The Receipts and Payments Account shows a surplus at the year end of £19,610 (2023: deficit of £361). Total funds of the charity at year-end stand at £28,654 (2023: £9,044).

The trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed:  Date: 9th April 2025

Mark Tolson, Chair

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I report on the accounts of the charity, which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year, under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts, under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records, in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met;

or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date: 9th April 2025

Stephanie Tolson
Community Accountant, BCVS Services,
23 Queens Road, Barnsley, S71 1AN

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts					
Donations	5	1,864	-	1,864	5,637
Fundraising		400	-	400	1,028
Grants	5	-	22,997	22,997	2,644
Room Hire		275	-	275	285
Sundry income		-	-	-	7
Total receipts		2,539	22,997	25,536	9,601
Payments					
Leases & Licenses		204	-	204	204
Premises maintenance		746	-	746	770
Utilities		1,721	-	1,721	1,213
Insurance		791	-	791	1,173
Telephone, Broadband & IT		360	494	854	744
Equipment Repairs & Renewals		-	-	-	1,777
Donations		200	-	200	-
Activities & Trips		-	254	254	2,374
Furniture		-	-	-	528
Accountancy Fee		485	-	485	485
Refreshments		253	202	455	-
Sundry expenditure		216	-	216	694
Total payments		4,976	950	5,926	9,962
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,437)	22,047	19,610	(361)
Total funds brought forward		5,419	3,625	9,044	9,405
Transfers between funds	6	3,423	(3,423)	-	-
Total Funds Carried Forward		6,405	22,249	28,654	9,044

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Monetary Assets:		
Lloyds Treasurers Account	28,654	9,044
Cash in hand	-	-
Total monetary assets	<u>28,654</u>	<u>9,044</u>
Assets retained for the charity's own use:		
A list of assets retained for the charities use is included in note 8 of the accounts (page 14)		
Debtors/prepayments at the year end:		
Insurance prepaid	257	1,075
	<u>257</u>	<u>1,075</u>
Liabilities:		
Accountancy Fee	500	485
	<u>500</u>	<u>485</u>

The trustees declare that they have approved the accounts above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Date: 9th April 2025

Pauline Dunn, Treasurer

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Accounting policies

Basis of the preparation of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis which summarises the movement of cash in and out of the organisation. In this context 'cash' includes cash equivalents, such as bank accounts where cash can be readily available to pay debts as they fall due. This format of accounts is available to non-company charities with gross annual income of £250,000 or less.

Classification of income & expenditure

Income and expenditure has been analysed in the accounts using natural classification.

Funds structure

The charity maintains an unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Unrestricted funds may arise from general donations, grants of a general nature, fees for service provision and payment for service delivery contracts.

Restricted funds may be provided to the charity for particular purposes and may only be spent for the purposes for which they were given. Any balance remaining outstanding on a restricted fund at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on the fund, unless permission has been given by the funder to remove the restriction on the balance outstanding. Restricted funds will arise from grants and donations given to the charity for specific purposes.

Taxation

Doncaster and District Deaf Society is a registered charity and is exempt from UK corporation tax on income from its charitable activities.

2. Trustee payments, benefits and expenses

There were no payments, remuneration or benefits to trustees during the period, other than out of pocket expenses that were reasonably incurred by trustees in promoting the purposes of the Charity.

3. Related Party Transactions

No payments were made to related parties during the period.

4. Premises

The land for the charity's premises is provided by the local authority on a leasehold basis. The building's freehold is owned by the charity.

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. Grants & Donations

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023
	£	£	£	£
DMBC Ward Councillor J Kearsley	-	-	-	528
Liz & Terry Brammall Foundation	-	-	-	5,000
National Lottery CCTV grant	-	-	-	1,366
SYFAB - NHS Focus Group	-	-	-	200
Voluntary Action Doncaster Covid	-	-	-	750
Sodexo Catering	-	-	-	200
Chanel 3 TV DMBC	-	-	-	200
Rotary Club Happy Hands	-	254	254	-
Voluntary Action Doncaster Broadband	-	494	494	-
DMBC Well Doncaster	-	3,030	3,030	-
A4A Lottery Board Game Café	-	19,219	19,219	-
Funeral Donations	616	-	616	-
Social Club	250	-	250	-
OAP Happy Goldies group	300	-	300	-
DDLC	593	-	593	-
Citizens Advice Bureau	100	-	100	-
Various small donations	5	-	5	37
Total	1,864	22,997	24,861	8,281

6. Fund Analysis

	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Fund Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	5,419	2,539	(4,976)	3,423	6,405
	5,419	2,539	(4,976)	3,423	6,405
Restricted funds					
DMBC Ward Cllr Budget	(20)	-	-	20	-
DMBC Cultural & Leisure Trust	(164)	-	-	164	-
SYFAB Covid Recovery	188	-	-	(188)	-
A4A Lottery Fund	2	19,219	-	(2)	19,219
Voluntary Action Doncaster	202	494	(696)	-	-
DMBC Well Doncaster	3,417	3,030	-	(3,417)	3,030
Rotary Club Happy Hands	-	254	(254)	-	-
	3,625	22,997	(950)	(3,423)	22,249
TOTAL FUNDS	9,044	25,536	(5,926)	-	28,654

DONCASTER AND DISTRICT DEAF SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. Restricted Funds and transfers

- A4A National Lottery– a grant of £19,219 was received to fund a Board Game Café. This grant is spent in the following financial year.
- DMBC Well grant – a grant of £3,030 was received for marketing and advertising materials. This grant is carried forward to the following financial year.
- Rotary Club – A £254 grant was received and spent in the year, for sensory toys for the Happy Hands Group.
- Voluntary Action Doncaster – A £494 grant was received to cover broadband costs to facilitate a computer course.
- Fund Transfers – A number of fund transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds were made to close some previous grant pots that had been fully spent and accounted for.

8. Assets Retained for the Charity's Own Use

Building with estimated value of £100,000
IT Equipment/computer approx. value £4,764
Furniture approx. value £7,647
Vacuum Cleaner £140