

**Hands That Talk**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

The trustees are pleased to present their report with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102), "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019) in preparing the report of the trustees and financial statements of the charitable company, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a Directors' report and accounts for company and charity law purposes.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Company number**

NI 047688 (Northern Ireland)

**Registered Charitable company numbers**

HMRC: XR37241

Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: NIC100158

**Principal & Registered Office**

116 Main Street  
Dungiven  
Co Derry/Londonderry  
Northern Ireland  
BT47 4LG

**Trustees**

The members of the Board during the year and up to the date of approval have been:

Colleen Agnew	Chairperson
Avril Scott	Vice Chair
Liam P Hegarty	Treasurer, resigned 26 October 2022
Dorothy A Hegarty	Resigned 19 October 2022
Caroline Doherty	Appointed 26 October 2022
Roisin Farren	Appointed 26 October 2022
Debbie Hutchinson	Appointed 26 October 2022
Joshua Kavanagh	Appointed 26 October 2022
Luke Keogh	Appointed 26 October 2022
Margaret Logue	
Martin Heaney	
Mary McCloskey	
Raymond Abernethy	Resigned 26 October 2022
Naomi Brown	

**Company Secretary**

Martina Allen

**Executive Officer**

Martina Allen

**Accountant**

CG Taggart Accountancy Services  
17 Cypress Crescent  
Donaghadee  
Co Down BT21 0QG

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**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)**  
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS continued**

**Solicitor**

Clarendon Legal  
48 Clarendon Street  
Derry City BT48 7ET

**Bankers**

Danske Bank	Cambridge & Counties Bank
46 Catherine Street	(online account)
Limavady	
Co Derry/Londonderry BT49 9DB	

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The charitable company is controlled by its governing documents, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

**Governance of the Organisation**

During the year under review the trustees met 5 times. Trustees are nominated and appointed by members present at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted by the trustees at any time, and hold office until the next AGM when they are eligible for re-election. At all times, whether by way of AGM or co-option members must give due regard to the overall make-up of the Board in terms of balance between deaf and hearing members, community and gender balance.

**Risk management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks, to which the charitable company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charitable company. The trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate any exposure to major risks.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's statutory guidance on the Public Benefit requirement, issued under the Charities Act (NI) 2008.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives**

The principal objective of the charitable company is to improve the quality of life for the Deaf community by providing social, educational and recreational activities.

Included in this are the following:

- (1) The advancement of education of those with deafness and hearing loss and of the general public to improve communication capacity and opportunities and to decrease isolation;
- (2) The advancement of health and well-being of those with deafness and hearing loss;
- (3) The advancement of citizenship and promotion of community development for and between those with deafness and hearing loss and the hearing community;
- (4) The advancement of the arts, culture and heritage and encouragement of participation in such activities for those with deafness and hearing loss;
- (5) The advancement of human rights for those with deafness and hearing loss and the promotion of equality, diversity and integration with the hearing community;
- (6) The relief of those in need by reason of their deaf or hearing loss disability; and
- (7) Any other charitable purpose which provides or assists in providing facilities in the interest of social welfare with the objective of improving the conditions of life for those with deafness and hearing loss in the area of benefit.

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**Report of the Trustees (including Directors' Report)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 - continued**

**Objectives continued**

**Vision:**

Hands That Talk's vision is to engender pride in the Deaf community and its culture and language.

**Mission:**

Hands That Talk's mission is to promote a greater interest in and awareness of the Deaf community and create opportunities for further integration of the Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing communities.

**ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE PLANS**

The principal activities of Hands That Talk can be defined in the following areas:

**Supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing People**

During the financial year Hands That Talk secured funding from AIB, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Centra, Department for Communities, Dungiven Parish, Dunmore Community Benefit Fund, Evishgaran and Craiggore Community Benefit Fund, Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland and Screwfix. With this financial support we upgraded our classroom and furniture shop, delivered programmes and undertook activities designed to reduce social isolation and promote inclusion for the Deaf Community. A key part of the service offered by Hands That Talk is supporting our members. By offering this support, we identified a need for classes to be facilitated in sign language, where possible.

**Social Activities**

A key activity of Hands That Talk is supporting, developing and delivering social activities that allow not only the Deaf community to come together, but also promote integration between the Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing communities.

We worked hard to attract members back into the centre and our social club meet regularly on Friday nights. This year some of the group activities included - bowls, sewing club, information sessions and cookery. We will keep adapting to the changing needs of our members as we continue to grow.

**Education and Outreach**

The cost of living crisis had a negative impact on our accredited BSL classes for Hearing people and we were unable to get enough numbers to run these. Coffee catch ups continue to be popular, and the venue varies to allow people to attend local to where they live. We collaborated with BDA to deliver a 6 week Teacher Training course with a view to providing more Sign Language Tutors for the future.

Upcycling furniture, reading and luncheon club, mental wellbeing, and intensive courses in BSL level 3 and Level 4 were all facilitated in sign language.

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**ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE PLANS continued**

**Interpreting**

Hands That Talk provide sign language interpreters to support Deaf people in numerous situations such as healthcare appointments, parent-teacher meetings, accessing services and attending events. In 2022-23 we provided interpreters for 821 separate bookings, thus making a huge impact on the ability of Deaf people to interact with the hearing community in their first language. From 01/04/2023 Hands That Talk together with Sign Language Interactions have secured the contract for interpreters in medical settings for the next 3 years. Hands That Talk will continue to provide face to face interpreters within WHSCT for medical settings.

**Social Economy**

Hands That Talk's charity shop in our premises on Main Street, Dungiven and our furniture shop generates income to support our work with the Deaf Community and hard of hearing people. We encourage people to volunteer in the shop and in the office on a regular basis.

The charity continues to offer courses in upcycling furniture. Longer term we plan to use these skills to help the circular economy and the sustainability of the charity.

**Future Plans**

Hands That Talk plan to work in partnership, where possible, with other Community Groups; also to share space and resources. We look forward to these developments.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The financial statements deal with all the income and expenditure of the charitable company, as well as its financial position at the year end. The results for the year and the financial position were considered satisfactory by the trustees.

At 31 March 2023, total charitable company funds were £419,564 (2022: £404,767), an increase of £14,797. Of the increase of £14,797 (2022: £4,693), £5,244 relates to restricted reserves (2022: £(48,089)), with a surplus of £9,553 (2022: £52,782) in unrestricted funds.

Unrestricted reserves at 31 March 2023 were £229,009 (2022: £219,456), of which £80,631 would be realisable only through a disposal of the building.

All monies received supported key objectives of the charitable company, funding charitable activity costs and support costs, as well as capital expenditure.

**Reserves policy**

The trustees' policy is to retain a level of free reserves which matches the needs of the charitable company both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The Executive of the Board have set a Reserves Policy of a minimum level of unrestricted reserves held by the charitable company of the equivalent of six months core running and salary costs plus one month's other salaries and statutory redundancy pay. This currently equates to approximately £50,000 (2022: £50,000) and will be recalculated every 3 years, unless an earlier calculation is required through change of circumstances. A minimum level of £60,000 is preferred. Actual unrestricted reserves at present are £229,009 (2022: £219,456) in total, of which £3,000 is designated and £80,631 (2022: £80,028) is effectively tied up in the building and realisable only through disposal. Free reserves are £140,803 (2022: £82,806).

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**FINANCIAL REVIEW continued**

**Going Concern**

The charitable company has reported a surplus of £14,797 for the current year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: surplus £4,693). The Balance Sheet shows a net asset position as at 31 March 2023 of £419,564 (2022: £404,767). Unrestricted funds have increased from £219,456 as at 31 March 2022 to £229,009 as at 31 March 2023, with free reserves standing at £140,803 (2022: £82,806). The Board is confident that with the renewal of grant funding from historical sources, increased effort in fund-raising activities and continued income derived from interpreting, coupled with an effective cost reduction strategy, the charitable company will be able to continue as a going concern for the next 12 months. For this reason, the trustees continue to adopt the Going Concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the Going Concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees (who are also directors of Hands That Talk for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charitable company SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.


The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

**ACCOUNTANT**

A resolution at a previous AGM required the organisation to retender for accountants. Grace Taggart of CG Taggart Accountancy Services was subsequently appointed for an initial period of 1 year (2013/14). This has been extended every 2 years since and will now remain in force until further notice.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and was approved by the trustees on 27 September 2023.

**SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

  
Colleen Agnew  
Chairperson