

**BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**of the**  
**TRUSTEES**

**for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**Charity registration number 1039183**

**Bank:**

Charities Aid Foundation Bank

**Independent Examiner:**

SADLER FOGARTY SERVICES LTD  
T/AS Sadler Davies & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
3 Enterprise House  
8 Essex Road  
KENT DA1 2AU

# Bexley Deaf Group (BDG)

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Company Limited by Guarantee Number: 02942265

Charity Number: 1039183

Registered Office: 20 Whitehall Lane, Erith, Kent DA8 2DH

Bankers: CAF Bank

Accountants: Sadler Fogarty Services Ltd, T/AS Sadler Davies & Co, Chartered Accountants,  
3 Enterprise House, 8 Essex Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 2AU

### **Directors and trustees:**

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law.

Mr David Foot	Chair and Director
Mr Michael Colget	Vice Chair and Director
Ms Melanie Porte	Treasurer and Director
Mr Mark Raymond Gately	Trustee and Director
Mr Balkar Thind	Trustee and Director
Mr Barry Hartwell	Trustee and Director
Mr Nikolas Murley	Trustee and Director
Ms Maria Goddard	Trustee and Director – Resigned 3 November 2022

### **Key management personnel:**

Chief Executive Officer – Mrs Tania Bushell

No trustees have received remuneration from employment with the charity.

### **Governing Document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 23rd June 1994 and registered as a charity on 1st July 1994. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Trustee selection method- Chair and Directors are elected to stand for 3 years, Treasurer and Company Secretary are elected annually. All other Trustees are voted on to the board and serve a maximum of 5 years.

The Charity's structure is as follows:

General day to day management of the centre is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer. All major decisions and expenditure must be presented to and agreed by the Trustees.  
There are no major risks that would affect the delivery of services provided by the charity.

The charity relies on a grant jointly funded from Bexley Council and Bexley Clinical Commissioning Group, which provides most of the income for the charity to run. The trustees recognise the risk that should the grant not be awarded the charity would have to find different sources of funding.

### **Objectives and activities and public benefit**

To relieve deaf persons resident in the London Borough of Bexley in any manner which is now or shall hereafter be deemed to be charitable in law. Bexley Deaf Group provides support and encouragement to hearing impaired people and their families within the Bexley borough.

To promote improvements in all facilities (i.e. medical, environmental, educational and recreational) for Deaf and hard of hearing people irrespective of racial background, religion, gender, age or degree of hearing loss, resident in the London Borough of Bexley. It aims to enable these residents to enjoy the same quality of life as that enjoyed by those with unimpaired hearing.

### **Achievements and performance**

This year saw the launch of our flagship GP Access project, in partnership with the NHS. The project has three aims: to make existing pathways to healthcare more accessible for the deaf community in Bexley; to provide targeted support to GP practices in Bexley to help improve their engagement with deaf clients; and to provide tools and training to local social prescribers in specific deaf support.

The fulfilment of these aims has been multi-faceted: information gathering by means of focus groups involving representatives of the deaf community; the development of BSL videos and other content to provide accessibility information on GP practices' websites; the provision of deaf awareness training to GPs, reception staff and social prescribers; and the recruitment of local deaf and hard of hearing champions who provide feedback and advice for surgeries to provide access to healthcare.

The project has been enthusiastically greeted by the Bexley deaf community and GP surgeries alike. It was immediately clear that there is a real need for greater dialogue and understanding between the two parties, with surgeries needing to improve their access arrangements and the deaf community needing to be made more aware of the existing support available to them. The importance of the ability to communicate with one's surgery cannot be understated, not only to be able to make use of the services of that surgery but also because GPs act as gateways to accessing wider healthcare provision.

Such has been the success of the GP Access project that our CEO and Project Manager were invited to present the project at a meeting of the South East London Integrated Care Board. The presentation was very well received, with the initiative highly commended by the Board. It was a privilege to represent the deaf community and the borough of Bexley in this manner, as well as to highlight the issues surrounding accessibility at such an important meeting.

Leading on from this project, we have started working on a new accessible information strategy in conjunction with South East London ICS and Bexley Council. The aim is to get to a position where all public and healthcare information is provided in British Sign Language. We hope to be able to provide positive updates on this important piece of collaborative work in next year's report.

Our Lend an Ear befriending project continues to provide practical and emotional support to vulnerable deaf and hard-of-hearing members of our community within their homes, while the Deaf Centre remains a place where people can drop in for hearing checks, hearing aid maintenance, and general advice and support.

Our sign language classes, which offer BSL levels 1 and 2, continue to be oversubscribed, and we have recently secured funding to allow the relaunch of our lipreading classes. Deaf awareness sessions to schools, companies and the community remain an important part of our work, and we were particularly delighted with our recent sessions delivered through Bexley Disability Sport Network to local leisure centres and independent coaches.

In May, we celebrated the Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee along with the rest of the country, hosting a Jubilee party for the deaf and hard of hearing in Bexley and their families. December saw the return of our annual Christmas Carol concert with our signing choir and the children of Pelham School.

Absent for two years due to the pandemic, this year's concert was a huge success, with attendees of the packed church including the Mayor of Bexley.

One of the longest-serving members of our board, Maria Goddard, stepped down in the autumn. We are very grateful for all the support Maria has given over the years as a trustee and are delighted that she remains an active volunteer for the charity. We could not offer as many activities as we do without our team of dedicated volunteers. The Trustees would like to express their deepest thanks and recognition to the people who make our work possible and provided such incredible support to our clients.

Looking ahead to the coming year: as well as our continued focus on quality of services and meeting as much demand as possible, we will also be undertaking a review of our strategy. Whilst we have met several of our aims, our existing strategy was launched as the Covid-19 pandemic began and we recognise that many things have changed since that time. We will be refreshing this strategy by talking to service users, clients, staff and partners about what is important to them, to ensure our work is always driven by the needs of the people we support.

We will be seeking alternative premises for the Deaf Centre in the coming year as the owners of the property in which we currently reside, Bexley Council, have redevelopment plans for the site. We will endeavour to secure premises that are suitable for our clients' needs and have the right resources for our existing services and future plans. We also intend to develop our fundraising work and diversify our funding streams, to ensure that we continue our mission and carry on investing in the services our clients need.

Our commissioned services include:

- hearing aid information and maintenance
- outreach clinics and home visits
- lunch club and outings for over 50s Deaf
- BSL classes, lip reading classes and deaf awareness
- job-seekers club
- walking football, and
- advocacy

### **Financial Review**

The income of the charity exceeded the expenditure, resulting in a surplus of £5,934.43 (2022 deficit £18,498.64) in the year and has £43,283.10 (2022 £63,447.14) unrestricted reserves.

The charity has a policy on reserves; to keep at least 3 months expenditure in the unrestricted reserve.

The restricted reserve of £44,899.99 is the unspent balance of funding for the following projects:

- GWUK Groundwork (Tesco) and SEL ICS (South East London Integrated Care System) supported the development of our befriending 'Lend an Ear' project.
- SEL ICS (South East London Integrated Care System) supported the GP Access Project; working to improve accessibility to healthcare for the deaf community.
- Sport England, through BVSC, fund the walking football project; providing access to sport for people who are deaf or disabled.
- Info Video fund will be used to film information videos in BSL for the Bexley Deaf Centre website.

**Staffing:** The staffing levels for the year were 3 full time equivalent paid staff and 7 volunteers give their time on an ad hoc basis.

**Investment Policy.** Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves most of the charity's funds are spent in the short term, consequently there are no long term investments.

**Trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees are required under the Charities Act 2011 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- (a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- (b) Make suitable judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- (c) State whether applicable accounting standards of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- (d) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which enable them to disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity, and for ensuring that they comply with applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Mr David Foot  
Chair of Trustees



Date:

29th NOV 2023

**BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**  
Charity Number  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2023**

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	Note	Unrestricted 2023 £	Designated 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	2	3,448.51	-	-	3,448.51	4,074.54
<b>Current Assets</b>						
<b>Monetary Assets</b>						
Cash		14.01	-	-	14.01	25.01
Bank account		41,026.41	94,394.82	44,899.99	180,321.22	174,081.87
Total current assets		41,040.42	94,394.82	44,899.99	180,335.23	174,106.88
Liabilities: amounts falling due within 1 year	3	1,205.83	-	-	1,205.83	1,537.94
<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		39,834.59	94,394.82	44,899.99	179,129.40	172,568.94
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>£43,283.10</b>	<b>£94,394.82</b>	<b>£44,899.99</b>	<b>£182,577.91</b>	<b>£176,643.48</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>	6					
Unrestricted: General		43,283.10	-	-	43,283.10	63,447.14
Designated: Daisy Mumford		-	94,394.82	-	94,394.82	104,561.34
Restricted: Bexley Clinical Commissioning Group (Rent)		-	-	3,713.92	3,713.92	-
South East London ICS - Lend an Ear		-	-	15,483.00	15,483.00	-
GWUK Groundwork (Tesco) - Lend an Ear		-	-	6,125.00	6,125.00	-
South East London ICS - GP Access Project		-	-	14,539.70	14,539.70	-
BVSC: Info Video Fund		-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
BVSC: Walking Football Project		-	-	4,038.37	4,038.37	4,235.00
Locality Advice Fund		-	-	-	-	4,400.00
		<b>£43,283.10</b>	<b>£94,394.82</b>	<b>£44,899.99</b>	<b>£182,577.91</b>	<b>£176,643.48</b>

Signed by



Mr David Foot

Date:

29th Nov 2023

**BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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	<u>Note</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Restricted</u>	<u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>	
		<u>General</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Donations and Legacies	4a	46,456.01	-	43,287.92	89,743.93	73,682.92
Charitable Activities	4b	19,057.21	-	52,608.00	71,665.21	15,272.34
Income from investments	4c	284.21	-	-	284.21	-
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<u>65,797.43</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,895.92</u>	<u>161,693.35</u>	<u>88,955.26</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Charitable Activities	5a	85,038.05	10,166.52	59,630.93	154,835.50	106,349.97
Other expenditure	5b	923.42	-	-	923.42	1,103.93
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<u>85,961.47</u>	<u>10,166.52</u>	<u>59,630.93</u>	<u>155,758.92</u>	<u>107,453.90</u>
<b>NET INCOMING / ( OUTGOING )</b>						
<b>RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		(20,164.04)	(10,166.52)	36,264.99	5,934.43	(18,498.64)
<b>ADDITIONS TO &amp; RELEASES FROM FUNDS</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<u>(20,164.04)</u>	<u>(10,166.52)</u>	<u>36,264.99</u>	<u>5,934.43</u>	<u>(18,498.64)</u>
<b>BALANCES BROUGHT FWD AT 1 APRIL 2022 (2021)</b>						
		<u>£ 63,447.14</u>	<u>£ 104,561.34</u>	<u>£ 8,635.00</u>	<u>£ 176,643.48</u>	<u>£ 195,142.12</u>
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FWD AT 31 MARCH 2023 (2022)</b>						
		<u>£ 43,283.10</u>	<u>£ 94,394.82</u>	<u>£ 44,899.99</u>	<u>£ 182,577.91</u>	<u>£ 176,643.48</u>

**BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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**1 Accounting Policies**

**1a Accounting Convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS102) 2015 and the Charities Act 2011. An independent examination is required under the Charities Act 2011.

Abridged financial statements have been filed with Companies House in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to smaller companies. No audit is required under exemption S 477 of the Companies Act 2006. Exemption has been taken from preparing a cashflow on the grounds that the company qualifies as a small company.

**1b Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.  
Office furniture and computer equipment - 20% reducing balance.

**1c Pension Costs**

Bexley Deaf Group has offered the NEST pension plan for all eligible employees.

**1d Fund accounting**

Unrestricted and designated funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.  
Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

**2 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
Cost	12,759.79	10,843.79
Addition	224.89	1,916.00
	<u>12,984.68</u>	<u>12,759.79</u>
Accumulated Depreciation 1st April 2022	8,685.25	7,678.32
Charge for year	850.92	1,006.93
	<u>9,536.17</u>	<u>8,685.25</u>
NET BOOK VALUE 31st March 2023	<u>3,448.51</u>	<u>4,074.54</u>

**3 LIABILITIES FALLING DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR**

Staff Wages	-	-
Nest Pension	255.83	237.94
Accrued expenses	950.00	1,300.00
	<u>1,205.83</u>	<u>1,537.94</u>

**4 INCOMING RESOURCES**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>	
	<u>General</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>4a Voluntary Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	3,556.01	-	-	3,556.01	14,969.10
Grant from Bexley Clinical Commissioning Group/ Bexley Council	42,900.00	-	43,287.92	86,187.92	58,713.82
	<u>46,456.01</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,287.92</u>	<u>89,743.93</u>	<u>73,682.92</u>
<b>4b Charitable Activities</b>					
Access to work reclaims	2,675.00	-	-	2,675.00	2,555.00
South East London ICS - Lend an Ear	-	-	15,483.00	15,483.00	-
GWUK Groundwork (Tesco) - Lend an Ear	-	-	6,125.00	6,125.00	-
South East London ICS - GP Access Project	-	-	30,000.00	30,000.00	-
BVSC: Info Video Fund	-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Courses	16,382.21	-	-	16,382.21	12,717.34
	<u>19,057.21</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,608.00</u>	<u>71,665.21</u>	<u>15,272.34</u>
<b>4c Income from investment</b>					
Bank interest	284.21	-	-	284.21	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>284.21</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u>£65,513.22</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£95,895.92</u>	<u>£161,693.35</u>	<u>£88,955.26</u>



**BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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5 RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	TOTAL FUNDS	
	General	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>5a Expenditure on charitable activities</b>					
British Sign Language Courses	9,790.60	-	-	9,790.60	-
Interpreting Services	2,115.00	-	-	2,115.00	-
Charitable Activities: Expenses	-	-	4,815.13	4,815.13	8,247.13
Rent of offices	-	-	39,574.00	39,574.00	7,427.64
Wages	64,615.17	10,166.52	15,241.80	90,023.49	82,441.56
Employers NI	376.16	-	-	376.16	565.94
Pensions	1,264.96	-	-	1,264.96	1,223.64
Telephone	987.08	-	-	987.08	891.04
Printing postage stationery	1,261.06	-	-	1,261.06	1,161.02
Travel and subsistence	16.40	-	-	16.40	19.80
Insurance	719.90	-	-	719.90	719.90
Refreshments	220.50	-	-	220.50	-
Company accounts filing fees	13.00	-	-	13.00	13.00
Sundry	324.50	-	-	324.50	172.68
Accountancy and book keeping	1,054.72	-	-	1,054.72	1,697.02
Subscriptions	564.00	-	-	564.00	249.00
Legal & Professional	1,715.00	-	-	1,715.00	1,520.60
	<u>85,038.05</u>	<u>10,166.52</u>	<u>59,630.93</u>	<u>154,835.50</u>	<u>106,349.97</u>
<b>5b Other expenditure</b>					
Depreciation	850.92	-	-	850.92	1,006.93
Bank charges	72.50	-	-	72.50	97.00
	<u>923.42</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>923.42</u>	<u>1,103.93</u>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<u><b>£85,961.47</b></u>	<u><b>£10,166.52</b></u>	<u><b>£59,630.93</b></u>	<u><b>£155,758.92</b></u>	<u><b>£107,453.90</b></u>

**6 Funds**

	BFWD	Income	Expenditure	Net Movement	Transfers	CFWD
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Bexley Clinical Commissioning	-	43,287.92	39,574.00	3,713.92		3,713.92
South East London ICS - Lend an Ear	-	15,483.00	-	15,483.00		15,483.00
GWUK Groundwork (Tesco) - Lend an Ear	-	6,125.00	-	6,125.00		6,125.00
South East London ICS - GP Access Project	-	30,000.00	15,460.30	14,539.70		14,539.70
BVSC: Info Video Fund	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00		1,000.00
BVSC: Walking Football Project	4,235.00	-	196.63	(196.63)		4,038.37
Locality Advice Fund	4,400.00	-	4,400.00	(4,400.00)		-
	<u>8,635.00</u>	<u>95,895.92</u>	<u>59,630.93</u>	<u>36,264.99</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,899.99</u>
Designated - Daisy Mumford	<u>104,561.34</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,166.52</u>	<u>(10,166.52)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,394.82</u>
<b>General</b>	<u>63,447.14</u>	<u>65,797.43</u>	<u>£85,961.47</u>	<u>(20,164.04)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,283.10</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>£176,643.48</b></u>	<u><b>£161,693.35</b></u>	<u><b>£155,758.92</b></u>	<u><b>£5,934.43</b></u>	<u><b>£0.00</b></u>	<u><b>£182,577.91</b></u>

GWUK Groundwork (Tesco) and South East London ICS (South East London Integrated Care System) supported the development of our befriending 'Lend an Ear' project.

South East London ICS (South East London Integrated Care System) supported the GP Access Project; working to improve accessibility to healthcare for the deaf community.

Sport England, through BVSC, fund the walking football project; providing access to sport for people who are deaf or disabled.

Funding received from BVSC will be used to fund information videos in BSL for the Deaf Centre website.

Locality Advice Fund funded a designated freelance consultant to advise and support the CEO.

# **BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

#### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**

This report on the financial statements of the **BEXLEY DEAF GROUP** for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set on pages 5 to 8 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with s145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

#### **Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) or under Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act)
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. The 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act;
- have not been met; or
- to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached; or
- which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the accounting rules of the charity's constitution have not been met.



**Graham E.J. Sadler FCA**  
**SADLER DAVIES & CO**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
**3 Enterprise House**  
**8 Essex Road**  
**Dartford,**  
**Kent, DA1 2AU**

Date: 28/11/23