

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

**for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

**Charity registration number 1039183**

**Bank:**

Charities Aid Foundation Bank

**Independent Examiner:**

Sadler Davies

Trading as: Finsbury Robinson Ltd

Top Floor, West Hill House,

Dartford, Kent DA1 2EU

# Bexley Deaf Group (BDG)

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Company Limited by Guarantee Number: 02942265

Charity Number: 1039183

Registered Office: The Learning & Enterprise College, 5 Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, DA7 4EZ

Bankers: CAF Bank

Accountants: Sadler Davies, Trading as: Finsbury Robinson Ltd, Top Floor, West Hill House, Dartford, Kent DA1 2EU

### **Directors and trustees:**

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

David Foot	Chair and Director
Mark Raymond Gately	Trustee and Director
Barry Hartwell	Trustee and Director
Belliappa Konganda	Trustee and Director
Nikolas Murley	Trustee and Director
Melanie Porte	Treasurer and Director
Oyin Olaitan Rogers	Trustee and Director
Balkar Thind	Trustee and Director
Michael Colget	Trustee and Director – resigned June 2023

### **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.

We appoint Trustees through a programme of local advertising and recruitment, where we utilise local communication channels and partners, such as our local Council for Voluntary Services and service user groups. We advertise the skills and requirements needed to enhance the Board and applications are then reviewed by the Trustee Board. Shortlisted applicants have the opportunity to observe a Trustee Board meeting, ask informal questions prior to an interview with Trustee members and appointment.

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 South East London ICS, 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 has been another productive and rewarding one for the Bexley Deaf Group. Alongside our usual day-to-day work to support our local Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, we have also been involved in two important research projects relating to health care and the Deaf community.

The first of these was a continuation of our GP Access project, in partnership with the NHS. The project aims to make existing pathways to healthcare more accessible for the Deaf community in Bexley; to provide targeted support to Bexley GP practices to improve their engagement with Deaf clients; and to provide tools and training to local social prescribers in specific deaf support.

Building on the success of last year, we have continued to work with GP practices to update their websites with accessibility information, including BSL videos; to train them in the effective use of loop systems; and to support them in improving access to healthcare to the Deaf and hard of hearing. Our deaf awareness training, which initially covered GP surgeries, including support staff, has now been opened out to paramedics, advanced practitioners and nurses.

The second of our healthcare research projects was an initiative to help identify why there are so few Deaf people working within the South East London health and care workforce. Commissioned by Health Education England, the objectives of the project were to capture feedback from Deaf adults and young people; to understand the challenges faced by Deaf people when accessing jobs in the SEL health and care workforce; and to understand any communication issues/barriers that Deaf people experience in the workplace.

The project outcomes were to provide solutions to encourage more Deaf people to work in the healthcare sector; to devise a system where Deaf people are well supported when working within a healthcare setting in keeping with statutory guidelines; and to ensure that healthcare professionals and colleagues are educated in deaf awareness to enable them to understand communication barriers and Deaf culture.

To this end, we engaged with as many of the local Deaf population as possible, via focus groups, face-to-face conversations and email responses. We used our own service user contacts as well as those known to social services who may not necessarily use our services. We consulted our colleagues in the sensory support team who provided valuable insight and helped us to contact some of the harder to reach members of the Deaf community.

Our research uncovered some valuable feedback and fascinating insights into the type of barriers that Deaf people face in pursuing a career in the health and care sector. It is hoped that our work will aid South East London ICS in breaking down these barriers, which will not only enable more Deaf people to gain employment with the trust but also benefit the wider Deaf population.

Following on from our GP Access project, and as part of an ongoing drive to provide public and healthcare information in British Sign Language, we have recorded some short BSL information videos for Bexley Council. This service forms part of a broader initiative by the local authority to better meet the needs of the Deaf community and more importantly to meet the council's statutory obligations under the

Accessible Information Standard. Our CEO currently sits on the Bexley Wellbeing Partnership Accessibility sub-group with the aim to ensure that all public information is available in British Sign Language.

Although our research projects have been an important part of this year, our work in the Bexley Deaf community remains at the heart of our day-to-day lives. Our Lend an Ear befriending project provides 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 website has been revamped in a more contemporary and animated style while remaining accessible and informative, with a new welcome video in British Sign Language and subtitles featuring prominently on our home page.

Our sign language classes, which offer BSL levels 1 and 2, continue to be very successful, and this year saw the relaunch of our lipreading classes. Our deaf awareness provision to schools, companies and the community has included sessions for Sixth Formers at Blackfen School, employees of Workspace Group PLC, and council staff at Bexley Civic Offices, as well as training for 55 firefighters and support staff of the London Fire Brigade.

We have all been keeping fit and having fun with the launch of regular Deaf Bowls and Deaf Pickle Ball sessions, while, on a more cultural note, our annual Christmas Carol concert with our signing choir and the children of Pelham School was, as always, an extremely well attended and well received event.

We are excited to announce that we are shortly due to move into new premises in Bexleyheath. Not only will these premises provide superior resources but also benefit from excellent transport links and will enhance our ability to meet our clients' needs. The move will coincide with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the charity so we are looking forward to a double celebration in the coming months.

Our commissioned services include:

- hearing aid information and maintenance
- outreach clinics and home visits
- lip reading classes for hard of hearing people
- BSL classes and deaf awareness
- job-seekers club
- Pickleball and Bowls
- Advocacy and information
- HearCheck

### **Financial Review**

The income of the charity exceeded the expenditure, resulting in a surplus of £77,140.29 (2023 surplus £5,934.43) in the year and has £126,067.44 (2023 £43,283.10) unrestricted reserves.

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

The restricted reserve of £39,454.94 is the unspent balance of funding for the following projects:

- 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.

**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:

*David Foot*

David Foot (Dec 16, 2024 11:47 GMT)

Mr David Foot  
Chair of Trustees

Date: 16/12/24

**BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**  
Charity Number  
**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2024**

5

	Note	Unrestricted 2024 £	Designated 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	2	3,526.56	-	-	3,526.56	3,448.51
<b>Current Assets</b>						
<b>Monetary Assets</b>						
Cash		34.01	-	-	34.01	14.01
Bank account		124,257.66	94,195.82	39,454.94	257,908.42	180,321.22
Total current assets		124,291.67	94,195.82	39,454.94	257,942.43	180,335.23
Liabilities: amounts falling due within 1 year	3	1,750.79	-	-	1,750.79	1,205.83
<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		122,540.88	94,195.82	39,454.94	256,191.64	179,129.40
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>£126,067.44</b>	<b>£94,195.82</b>	<b>£39,454.94</b>	<b>£259,718.20</b>	<b>£182,577.91</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>	6					
Unrestricted: General		126,067.44	-	-	126,067.44	43,283.10
Designated: Daisy Mumford		-	94,195.82	-	94,195.82	94,394.82
Restricted: South East London ICS - Rent		-	-	9,869.52	9,869.52	3,713.92
Restricted: South East London ICS - Lend an Ear		-	-	10,535.53	10,535.53	15,483.00
Restricted: GWUK Groundwork (Tesco) - Lend an Ear		-	-	-	-	6,125.00
Restricted: South East London ICS - GP Access Project		-	-	16,395.82	16,395.82	14,539.70
Restricted: BVSC: Info Video Fund		-	-	-	-	1,000.00
Restricted: BVSC: Walking Football Project		-	-	2,654.07	2,654.07	4,038.37
		<b>£126,067.44</b>	<b>£94,195.82</b>	<b>£39,454.94</b>	<b>£259,718.20</b>	<b>£182,577.91</b>

Signed by

David Foot  
David Foot (Dec 16, 2024 11:47 GMT)

Mr David Foot

Date: 16/12/24

**BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

6

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		<b>Restricted</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	
		<b>General</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Voluntary Income	4a	3,582.65	-	-	3,582.65	3,556.01
Charitable Activities	4b	81,468.42	-	119,286.10	200,754.52	157,853.13
Income from investments	4c	476.85	-	-	476.85	284.21
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>85,527.92</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119,286.10</b>	<b>204,814.02</b>	<b>161,693.35</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Charitable Activities	5a	1,811.67	199.00	124,731.15	126,741.82	154,835.50
Other expenditure	5b	931.91	-	-	931.91	923.42
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>2,743.58</b>	<b>199.00</b>	<b>124,731.15</b>	<b>127,673.73</b>	<b>155,758.92</b>
<b>NET INCOMING / ( OUTGOING )</b>						
<b>RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		82,784.34	(199.00)	(5,445.05)	77,140.29	5,934.43
<b>ADDITIONS TO &amp; RELEASES FROM FUNDS</b>		-	-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>82,784.34</b>	<b>(199.00)</b>	<b>(5,445.05)</b>	<b>77,140.29</b>	<b>5,934.43</b>
<b>BALANCES BROUGHT FWD AT 1 APRIL 2023 (2022)</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>BALANCES CARRIED FWD AT 31 MARCH 2024 (2023)</b>		<b>£ 126,067.44</b>	<b>£ 94,195.82</b>	<b>£ 39,454.94</b>	<b>£ 259,718.20</b>	<b>£ 182,577.91</b>

**BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

7

**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><b>2024</b></u>	<u><b>2023</b></u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>Office Equipment</b>		
Cost	12,984.68	12,759.79
<b>Addition</b>	949.96	224.89
	<u>13,934.64</u>	<u>12,984.68</u>
Accumulated Depreciation 1st April 2023	9,536.17	8,685.25
Charge for year	871.91	850.92
	<u>10,408.08</u>	<u>9,536.17</u>
NET BOOK VALUE 31st March 2024	<u>3,526.56</u>	<u>3,448.51</u>

**3 LIABILITIES FALLING DUE WITHIN 1 YEAR**

Creditors	460.80	-
Nest Pension	326.99	255.83
Accrued expenses	963.00	950.00
	<u>1,750.79</u>	<u>1,205.83</u>

**4 INCOMING RESOURCES**

	<u><b>Unrestricted</b></u>	<u><b>Designated</b></u>	<u><b>Restricted</b></u>	<u><b>TOTAL FUNDS</b></u>	
	<u><b>General</b></u>	<u><b>Funds</b></u>	<u><b>Funds</b></u>	<u><b>2024</b></u>	<u><b>2023</b></u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>4a Voluntary Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	3,582.65	-	-	3,582.65	3,556.01
	<u>3,582.65</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,582.65</u>	<u>3,556.01</u>
<b>4b Charitable Activities</b>					
Access to work reclaims	-	-	-	-	2,675.00
South East London ICS - Service Delivery and Rent	56,650.00	-	12,311.10	68,961.10	86,187.92
South East London ICS - Lend an Ear	-	-	-	-	15,483.00
South East London ICS - GP Access Project	-	-	25,000.00	25,000.00	30,000.00
South East London ICS - Core Sustainability Fund	-	-	60,000.00	60,000.00	-
GWUK Groundwork (Tesco) - Lend an Ear	-	-	375.00	375.00	6,125.00
BVSC: Info Video Fund	-	-	-	-	1,000.00
Community Links Bromley - Health Education England	-	-	21,600.00	21,600.00	-
Courses	24,818.42	-	-	24,818.42	16,382.21
	<u>81,468.42</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>119,286.10</u>	<u>200,754.52</u>	<u>157,853.13</u>
<b>4c Income from investment</b>					
Bank interest	476.85	-	-	476.85	284.21
	<u>476.85</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>476.85</u>	<u>284.21</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u><b>£85,527.92</b></u>	<u><b>£0.00</b></u>	<u><b>£119,286.10</b></u>	<u><b>£204,814.02</b></u>	<u><b>£161,693.35</b></u>



**BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

8

5	RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>	
		<u>General</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
5a	Expenditure on charitable activities					
	British Sign Language Courses	1,798.67	-	12,451.60	14,250.27	9,790.60
	Interpreting Services	-	-	1,090.00	1,090.00	2,115.00
	Charitable Activities: Expenses	-	-	1,357.30	1,357.30	4,815.13
	Rent of offices	-	-	6,155.50	6,155.50	39,574.00
	Meeting room hire	-	-	127.50	127.50	-
	Wages	-	-	92,332.53	92,332.53	90,023.49
	Employers NI	-	-	1,091.32	1,091.32	376.16
	Pensions	-	-	1,572.63	1,572.63	1,264.96
	Telephone	-	-	1,158.25	1,158.25	987.08
	Computer software	-	-	449.00	449.00	-
	Printing postage stationery	-	-	1,340.55	1,340.55	1,261.06
	Travel and subsistence	-	-	68.45	68.45	16.40
	Insurance	-	-	623.76	623.76	719.90
	Refreshments	-	-	361.52	361.52	220.50
	Company accounts filing fees	13.00	-	-	13.00	13.00
	Staff training	-	-	30.00	30.00	-
	Sundry	-	-	442.30	442.30	324.50
	Accountancy and book keeping	-	-	1,285.34	1,285.34	1,054.72
	Subscriptions	-	199.00	890.00	1,089.00	564.00
	Legal & Professional	-	-	1,903.60	1,903.60	1,715.00
		<u>1,811.67</u>	<u>199.00</u>	<u>124,731.15</u>	<u>126,741.82</u>	<u>154,835.50</u>
5b	Other expenditure					
	Depreciation	871.91	-	-	871.91	850.92
	Bank charges	60.00	-	-	60.00	72.50
		<u>931.91</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>931.91</u>	<u>923.42</u>
	TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>£2,743.58</u>	<u>£199.00</u>	<u>£124,731.15</u>	<u>£127,673.73</u>	<u>£155,758.92</u>
6	Funds					
	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>BFWD</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Net Movement</u>	<u>Transfers</u>
	South East London ICS - Rent	3,713.92	12,311.10	6,155.50	6,155.60	
	South East London ICS - Lend an Ear	15,483.00	-	4,947.47	(4,947.47)	
	South East London ICS - GP Access Project	14,539.70	25,000.00	23,143.88	1,856.12	
	South East London ICS - Core Sustainability Fund	-	60,000.00	60,000.00	-	
	GWUK Groundwork (Tesco) - Lend an Ear	6,125.00	375.00	6,500.00	(6,125.00)	
	BVSC: Info Video Fund	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	
	Community Links Bromley - Health Education England	-	21,600.00	21,600.00	-	
	BVSC: Walking Football Project	4,038.37	-	1,384.30	(1,384.30)	
		<u>44,899.99</u>	<u>119,286.10</u>	<u>124,731.15</u>	<u>(5,445.05)</u>	<u>-</u>
	Designated - Daisy Mumford	<u>94,394.82</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>199.00</u>	<u>(199.00)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>43,283.10</u>	<u>85,527.92</u>	<u>£2,743.58</u>	<u>82,784.34</u>	<u>-</u>
	TOTAL FUNDS	<u>£182,577.91</u>	<u>£204,814.02</u>	<u>£127,673.73</u>	<u>£77,140.29</u>	<u>£0.00</u>

# **BEXLEY DEAF GROUP**

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

#### **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 2024, 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**

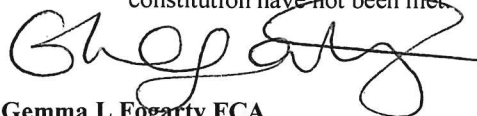
Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items 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.



**Gemma L Fogarty FCA**  
**Sadler Davies**  
**Trading as: Finsbury Robinson Ltd**  
**Top Floor, West Hill House,**  
**Dartford,**  
**Kent DA1 2EU**

**Date:** 04/12/2024