

HI KENT

England & Wales · Charity number 1052036

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03132542
Registered	1996-01-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Hi Kent 18 Brewer Street Maidstone ME14 1RU
Phone	01622691151
Email	enquiries@hikent.org.uk
Website	www.hikent.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE AND FURTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF HEARING-IMPAIRED PERSONS.

Activities: Hi Kent aims to raise awareness of the needs of deaf people and provide practical support to manage hearing loss throughout Kent. Activities include: Assessments of need for people over the age of 26 on behalf of Kent County Council. Provision of assistive equipment and advice. Advice, Hearing aid maintenance, Sign language & Deaf Awareness training, Support groups and Lipreading courses.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED, IN PRACTICE KENT AND SURROUNDING AREA
- Kent
- Medway

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£574,282	£581,222	£173,515	16
2024-03-31	£563,052	£580,052	£180,455	18
2023-03-31	£580,008	£621,580	£197,455	21
2022-03-31	£575,178	£602,618	£239,027	22
2021-03-31	£661,594	£563,201	£266,467	19

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CLIVE REDDIHOUGH	Chair	
CAROLINE ELIZABETH HIGHWOOD		2012-12-20
Julia Samantha Cox		2024-11-12
MARY SHAW		2017-10-17
Pat Todd		2014-10-14

HI KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1052036

Accounts

Company Number: 03132542
Registered Charity Number: 1052036

HI KENT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Patron:	Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe
Chief Operating Officer:	Maxine Lucas
Trustees:	Clive Reddihough (Chairman) Caroline Elizabeth Highwood (Treasurer) Patrick Todd Mary Shaw James Ransom – resigned 12 th November 2024 Julia Cox – appointed 12 th November 2024 Raymond Cuffley – appointed 12 th November 2024
Company Registered Number:	03132542
Charity Registered Number:	1052036
Company Secretary	Maxine Lucas
Head Office and Registered Office:	18 Brewer Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1RU
Independent Examiners:	Henry Reeves & Co 5 West Court Enterprise Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6JD
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors:	Warners Solicitors 180 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BD

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees (who are also directors of Hi Kent for purpose of company law) present herewith their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Legal and Administrative Details

The charity is a company limited by guarantee (company number 03132542, registered charity number 1052036). The charity is governed by the Memorandum & Articles of the company dated 21 November 1995. The Trustees, who comprise the Management Committee of the charity, are responsible for governance of the charity in accordance with the governing document, with day-to-day management delegated to the Chief Operating Officer.

Principal Activities and Policy Statement

Hi Kent's aims and objectives are to provide people who are deaf, have hearing loss and/or tinnitus with information, assistive equipment and support required to maximise communication and enable them to live fulfilled lives socially and in employment. In line with these core values the principal activities of the company continue to be the assessment of the needs of people with a hearing loss on behalf of Kent County Council, and the provision of relevant advice, equipment services and support. Our support activities also include free lipreading classes, social groups, tinnitus support groups, community clinics for NHS hearing aid maintenance, deaf awareness classes, British Sign Language courses and suitable premises where equipment can be demonstrated to clients. Additionally we provide a Technology Support service to help people access the gadgets and technology available to help them with hearing loss. We also provide Ear Care services to help people to access low cost ear checks and wax removal via microsuction. Hi Kent's objectives and activities are solely for the benefit of the public. The Trustees of Hi Kent have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

According to the RNID one in three adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus. Over half of the population aged 55 or more will have hearing loss and this rises to 80% of people over the age of 70. With a growing population in Kent, particularly in older people, the need for Hi Kent's services increases year on year. Hearing loss can add to or worsen depression and dementia so its effects can have far reaching consequences. Looking after your hearing is therefore very important and will help to mitigate these risks.

Review of the Year

It was our fourth year of the Kent County Council Wellbeing Contract in which we are sub-contracted to Kent Association for the Blind. We help around 8,000 people from the Kent County Council area per year through this work by providing information, advice, assessment of needs and provision of equipment. Our community clinics which provide NHS hearing aid maintenance are now back to pre-Covid pandemic levels, in 2024-2025 we saw nearly 30,000 people. Our Social Groups project has been given a lifeline by the National Lottery Community Fund awarding us a 5 year grant, year 2 starting 1st March 2025. The first half year funding for the year 2025-2026 is included in the accounts to 31st March 2025. This funding has enabled us to have stability for our social groups and to provide activities and information sessions. Our Lipreading courses and Tinnitus support groups continued to be offered free of charge helping people to cope with the issues they face and learn strategies to make their lives better.

The Ear Care Service is now well established with appointments being offered from both our centres and home visits available. Income for Ear Care in 2024-2025 is three times the previous year which is amazing. Our British Sign Language courses, Deaf Awareness Training and sale

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

of assistive equipment along with Ear Care have all brought in funds to help us to provide the other services free of charge to those that need them.

We have once again managed to get through the year with a manageable deficit. This is due to the many grant applications that we make throughout the year resulting in some of them being awarded and the generous donations we have received. Our Fundraising activities also continue to bring in much needed funds.

Financial Status

The steps taken in planning the budget for 2025 have helped to continue the financial health of the organization.

The actual revenue for 2025 was £574,282 (2024 was £563,052), an increase of £11,230.

On the cost control side, expenditures were £581,222 (2024 was £580,052) which is an increase of £1,170 in costs.

The net movement in funds was therefore a £6,940 deficit (2024 was a £17,000 deficit). We had budgeted for a £13,000 deficit so this is an improved result.

Reserves Policy

Total funds of the Charity at 31 March 2025 were £173,515 (2024: £180,455). Free reserves, calculated as being reserves after the removal of restricted funds, designated funds and tangible fixed assets, held at 31 March 2025 were £133,334 (2024: £137,892). It is held in a mixture of fixed term deposits, bonds and open access interest bearing accounts intended to maximise investment returns whilst not impairing liquidity. This position may fluctuate temporarily during the year as it smooths operational costs. It is our longer term aim to maintain reserves at the equivalent of between four to six months' operational costs, as a contingency to enable us to honour all contractual obligations.

Associations with Organisations

We continue to work closely with The Kent Association for the Blind under the Kent County Council Community Wellbeing Services contract. We collect detailed statistics which are reported quarterly. We also receive financial support from NHS Kent and Medway CCG which go towards providing hearing aid maintenance services throughout the county. We were very pleased to have been granted five year funding by the National Lottery Community Fund which gives stability to our Social Group project. We receive funding from many local organizations and businesses which are all gratefully received. We have also continued to provide British Sign Language courses under contract for Kent Adult Education. Our relationships with all these organisations underpin our work and are of enormous benefit to our clients. We have established working relationships with several private hearing aid providers supporting them to provide NHS services or services such as wax removal which is not readily available via the NHS. We are grateful for the ongoing support of Tinnitus UK who provide information, training and publicity for our support groups. Hi Kent continues to chair the Kent Charities Group which involves joint fundraising with several other local charities in the County.

Corporate Risk Assessment

The Management Committee have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Hi Kent operates budget control procedures and formal reports are provided to the

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Management Committee at its bi-monthly meetings. Progress of actual vs. budget funding/spending and cash flow analysis are kept under close review. Internal control risks are minimised by the stringent application of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Hi Kent operates its own quality system based on the principles of the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

Procedures are in place to:

- a) ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to all Hi Kent premises and when undertaking work on behalf of Hi Kent at other locations;
- b) ensure that all necessary policies are in place and reviewed at appropriate intervals, including, inter alia, environmental issues, adult protection, data protection, etc;
- c) ensure security of tenure in respect of premises occupied under long-term leases;
- d) recruit, retain and develop staff
- e) ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.

These procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity, and all policies and procedures are examined rigorously as part of the annual quality procedure.

Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of new Trustees

Hi Kent appoints 'fit and proper persons' to serve as its Trustees and ensures its Board is balanced with a wide range of skills. As far as is possible Hi Kent aims to have diversity in its Trustees in terms of breadth of skills, age, gender, race and background, as well as personal experience or understanding of hearing loss and the needs of our client group.

Induction of Trustees

Potential new Trustees are provided with briefing material by the Chairman and the Chief Operating Officer then invited to attend one or more Trustees' Meetings as observers before a decision is taken to appoint them as Trustee. They also receive copies of recent accounts, annual reviews, Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Employee Remuneration

The remuneration of key employees is set by the Trustees.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to our many volunteers who provide NHS hearing aid maintenance service in their local communities and those who help to run our network of Social Groups. The monetary value of the contribution these volunteers make is more than £80,000 per year, we could not do the work without them. We again appreciate the support of staff in Local Authorities and NHS bodies which enables us to develop service provision for our mutual clients. We are also grateful for the help and support of Kent Association for the Blind over this fourth year of the contract and we look forward to working together on shaping future provision of this work. Hi Kent gratefully acknowledges the generous donations of those funding bodies which have awarded grants this year. The support of the many local organisations who help us provide our services and raise funds via fundraising events is very much appreciated. We also give grateful thanks to the numerous individuals who contribute regularly to our work on behalf of Kent's 537,000 plus people with a hearing loss.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Future Plans

Our ongoing aim is to help more of Kent's 537,000 d/Deaf and hard of hearing people year on year.

The Community Wellbeing Contract has continued into year 5 which is the final year. We will work with Kent Association for the Blind to support their future contract negotiations with Kent County Council.

We are very grateful for the National Lottery Community Fund grant for our Social Groups project. It means we have been able to make plans for the next few years and build on the success we have started. The groups get people together to make new friends and receive the support to help them to live well with hearing loss. The National Lottery Community Fund also provided a one year grant towards our Lipreading courses for the academic year 2024-2025 which again was gratefully received.

Our Ear Care service is now well established with appointments now available from our centres in Maidstone and Canterbury as well as home visits. The income from this service is growing which is thanks to the Hi Kent team for working so hard to make it a success.

For the Year Ending 31 March 2026

The Community Wellbeing Contract is going into the final year and we hope to hear what plans there are for the future very soon. We are participating with Kent County Council in their work to prepare an Adult Social Care Prevention Framework which encompasses our work. We continue to offer a good quality service helping around 8,000 people and providing assessment of needs, where appropriate, resulting in advice or equipment free of charge to help them to live safely and independently.

We have a fully costed budget for 2025-2026 which provides for a small, manageable deficit. We hope that we can reduce the amount of this deficit to a break-even result, if possible. We are scaling up efforts to boost activities that bring in funds as well as continuing to make savings on general costs. We track progress of grant funding and fundraising with internal funding meetings monthly.

Our British Sign Language courses continue to be offered in partnership with Kent Adult Education which enables us to offer concessions to people on benefits or low income. We have another new BSL tutor for the 2025-2026 academic year and are running courses in Dover, Canterbury and Maidstone as well as online. We will continue to offer 2 hour BSL Taster sessions which are proving very successful and feeding people into our courses.

Tinnitus Support Groups continue to be offered as face to face in various locations and online. These provide a place where people can meet others with the condition to share coping strategies and hear the latest advice. We will be attending Tinnitus UK's first face to face conference since Covid in September 2025 and hope to pick up lots of information on the latest research.

Our Lipreading Courses are all online and fully subscribed for the next academic year 2025-2026 with a waiting list. We were very fortunate to receive a National Lottery Community Fund grant for the academic year 2024-2025 which enabled us to continue to offer this course free of charge.

We are keeping up the momentum with our social media posts and sending out email bulletins regularly too. We will continue to use free advertising available in local magazines and display posters and flyers where we can. We also will continue to take every opportunity available to us to speak to groups about what we do to spread the word.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

As always we will be doing our best to generate income from our fundraising activities to help fund our services.

Fundraising Activities

Our Fundraising activities were affected by the loss of our Fundraising Officer in October 2024 but we have done what we can with limited resources. New initiatives for 2025-2026 are an Afternoon Tea with John Sandon from The Antiques Roadshow in September 2025 and use of our new Ebay account to sell donated items. We are actively looking for a new Fundraising Officer to keep up the momentum of our fundraising activities. Income from donations and fundraising was £53,585 for 2025 (£61,348 for 2024) so down by £7,763 on 2024 levels. The Kent Charities Group Christmas Draw made £2,134 for 2024-2025 (£3,447:2023-2024) which was less than 2023-2024 but still a very helpful amount. The Hi Kent lottery raised £1,230 and we hope to increase this amount in 2025-2026. We maintain our policy of not using any professional fundraisers or commercial participators. The charity is fully compliant with the GDPR regulations and does not make any direct approaches to vulnerable people or members of the public using intrusive or unreasonable methods. The charity has received no complaints about its fundraising activities. Hi Kent is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

Hi Kent continues to rely heavily on its team of 88 volunteers, the majority of whom are deployed on running our hearing aid support clinics, after receiving necessary training. A few volunteers also help run our Social Groups and help out at occasional fundraising events. All are required to undergo a DBS check before acting on our behalf.

Trustees during the year

The trustees of the charity who served during the year were as follows:

Clive Reddihough
Caroline Highwood
Patrick Todd
Mary Shaw
James Ransom (resigned 12th November 2024)
Julia Cox - appointed 12th November 2024
Raymond Cuffley – appointed 12th November 2024

Investment Powers

Day-to-day funds management decisions in the current account rested with the Chief Operating Officer, pursuant to policies approved by the trustees and members of the Management Committee. Long-term investment decisions are subject to Board review. There are no restrictions in the Memorandum and Articles of Association on the type of investments permitted.

Auditors

Henry Reeves & Co Limited (previously Charcroft Baker LLP) were re-appointed as auditors at the 2024 Annual General Meeting. We have elected to have an Independent Examination instead of an audit for 2025 as we are not required by The Charities Commission or Companies House to have a full audit. A resolution proposing we tender for this work in 2026 will be put to the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities - continued

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 the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 proper accounting records that 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.

Disclosure For Information To Independent Examiner

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information of which the charitable company's Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- that Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charitable company's Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 17 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

C E Highwood

Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Independent examiner's report

We have examined the financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, report to the Board of Directors that we have done so, and state those matters that we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members, as a body, for our work, or for this report.

Respective responsibilities of directors and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. The charity's directors consider that an audit is not required for this financial year under Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and that an independent examination is required.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down by the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) of the Charities Act 2011; and
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the directors 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 our examination, no matter has come to our attention which gives us cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
- the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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 (FRS102)
- there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Andrew Drinkwater FCCA

HENRY REEVES AND CO

Chartered Certified Accountants and Registered Auditors

5 West Court

Enterprise Road

Maidstone

Kent

ME15 6JD

GB

Date: 17 November 2025

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
<i>Voluntary income:</i>					
Membership subscriptions	2	90	-	90	90
Donations & fund raising	2,3	53,585	-	53,585	61,348
Legacies	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Investments:</i>					
Bank interest received	4	1,273	-	1,273	1,175
Bank investment bond movement	4	(49)	-	(49)	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Grants	2	23,828	167,009	190,837	168,978
Contract income	2	233,520	-	233,520	255,000
Sales & installation of aids	3	37,494	-	37,494	22,159
Deaf awareness & Sign					
Language courses	3	42,218	-	42,218	48,582
Ear Care Services	3	15,314	-	15,314	5,720
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		407,273	167,009	574,282	563,052
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income					
		7,279	-	7,279	8,455
Charitable activities					
		402,689	167,206	569,895	565,553
Governance costs					
		4,048	-	4,048	6,044
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		414,016	167,206	581,222	580,052
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(6,743)	(197)	(6,940)	(17,000)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		158,691	21,764	180,455	197,455
Total funds carried forward		151,948	21,567	173,515	180,455

The Statement of Financial Activities incorporates the Income and Expenditure Account. The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains and losses other than those shown above.

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BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	9		18,614		20,799
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		14,258		13,161	
Debtors	10	25,504		33,896	
Prepayments & accrued income	10	19,615		19,296	
Cash at Bank & in Hand		<u>138,764</u>		<u>149,021</u>	
		198,141		215,374	
CREDITORS					
Creditors	11	(26,142)		(21,710)	
Accruals and deferred income	11	<u>(17,098)</u>		<u>(34,008)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			154,901		159,656
NET ASSETS			<u>173,515</u>		<u>180,455</u>
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted funds	16		21,567		21,764
Unrestricted funds	16		<u>151,948</u>		<u>158,691</u>
				<u>173,515</u>	
		<u>180,455</u>			

The Trustees have elected for the financial statements to be Independently Examined in accordance with section 145(1) of the Charities Act 2011.

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 17 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

C E Highwood
Treasurer

HI KENT
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STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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Statement of Cash flows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:	<u>(8,765)</u>	<u>(21,144)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1,224	1,175
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(2,712)	(2,166)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(1,488)</u>	<u>(991)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Receipt of endowment	-	-
Net cash provided (used in) financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(10,253)	(22,135)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	149,021	171,156
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>138,768</u>	<u>149,021</u>

Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per SOFA)	(6,940)	(17,000)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	4,898	5,526
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(1,224)	(1,175)
Loss / (Profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase) / decrease in stocks	(1,096)	506
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	8,074	(4,910)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(12,477)	(4,091)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(8,765)</u>	<u>(21,144)</u>

Analysis of changes in Net Debt

	at 01/04/24	Cash Flow	at 31/03/25
Net Cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	149,021	(10,253)	138,768
	<u>149,021</u>	<u>(10,253)</u>	<u>138,768</u>

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Statutory Information

Hi Kent is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and liability of each member in the event of a winding up is £1.

The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the company information page.

b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 section 1A), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

There were no material departures from those standards.

Hi Kent meet the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The company's functional and presentation currency is GBP.

c) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific purposes which may only be expended in accordance with the conditions imposed by the trustees.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charitable company.

d) Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements the trustees are confident that the charitable company has adequate resources and has taken appropriate measures to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees therefore deem it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

e) Recognition of Income

Income is recognised at fair value, derived from ordinary activities and net of sales taxes and any trade discounts. Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company becomes entitled to the resource, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Income is recognised in respect of the following sources:

i) Grants

Income from government and other grants are recognised using the performance model.

Grants are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds and when any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met. Grants received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied are recognised as a liability.

ii) Sales and courses

Income from the sale of equipment is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the customer. This is usually at the point the customer receives the goods.

Income from the installation of equipment and the delivery of courses represents amounts invoiced in respect of the rendering of services. This is recognised with reference to stage of completion and is recognised in the period in which the service is performed.

iii) Donations and fund raising

Income from donations and fund-raising activities is recognised when the funds are received, in line with the general income recognition criteria.

iv) Investment income

Income from investments is recognised when receivable.

v) Legacies

Income from legacies are recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income. This is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is made aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

vi) Contract income

Contract income is recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income and any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

f) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Depreciation is provided to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. It is calculated at the following annual rates:

Computers	- 20% of net book value
Equipment	- 20% of net book value
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% of net book value
Motor vehicles	- 25% of net book value

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

g) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is calculated on a first in first out basis and includes all costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling prices from which are deducted further costs to completion and disposal.

h) Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

i) Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable for the year are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. For more details see note 14.

j) Liabilities and Other Resources Expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category.

Support costs are allocated to the Charitable activities which they support. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a proportionate basis in line with income. Governance costs are not allocated to Charitable activities as they represent costs in respect of governing the charity as a whole and do not directly relate to a specific activity.

k) Creditors

Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

l) Financial instruments

Basic financial assets and liabilities include trade and other receivables, trade and other payables and cash and bank balances. These are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction (loan over a period of time) where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets and liabilities are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

m) Cash at Bank & In Hand

Cash held in income funds are classified as Cash at Bank and in Hand due to being highly liquid accounts.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND CONTRACTS

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	32,498	-	32,498	38,441
Subscriptions	90	-	90	90
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Government grants - Covid support	-	-	-	-
Contract income	233,520	-	233,520	255,000
Grants	23,828	167,009	190,837	168,978
Total donations, legacies and contracts	289,936	167,009	456,945	462,509
Total 2024	319,581	142,928	462,509	

3. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fundraising	21,087	-	21,087	22,907
Sales & installation of aids	37,494	-	37,494	22,159
Deaf awareness & Sign Language courses	42,218	-	42,218	48,582
Ear care services	15,314	-	15,314	5,720
Total Fundraising Income	116,113	-	116,113	99,368
Total 2024	99,368	-	99,368	

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Bank Interest received	1,273	-	1,273	1,175
Bank investment bond movement	(49)	-	(49)	-
Total Investment Income	1,224	-	1,224	1,175
Total 2024	1,175	-	1,175	

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
Lip reading support/Social Groups/Tinnitus	5,048	54,791	59,839	49,117
Sign language/Ear care/DAT/Exhibitions	53,967	-	53,967	47,443
VVS clinics	5,804	85,792	91,596	89,373
Sale of equipment	338,938	25,555	364,493	379,620
Costs of generating voluntary income	7,279	-	7,279	8,455
Governance	4,048	-	4,048	6,044
Total	415,084	166,138	581,222	580,052
Total for 2024	452,454	127,598	580,052	

6. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Lip Reading etc. £	Sign Language etc. £	VVS Clinics £	Sale of Equipment £	Governance £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Direct Costs							
Supplies & Installation							
Of aids	-	-	-	31,422	-	31,422	18,304
Training costs	13,743	31,685	-	-	-	45,428	45,782
Staff costs	1,580	12,983	-	123,186	-	137,749	138,910
Office costs	-	-	13,738	7,279	-	21,017	18,657
Total Direct Costs	15,323	44,668	13,738	161,887	-	235,616	221,653
Total Direct Costs 2024	13,124	39,937	10,202	158,390	-	221,653	
Support Costs							
Staff cost	34,621	-	64,865	149,253	1,000	249,739	254,266
Office costs	3,606	3,389	4,735	22,097	-	33,827	38,292
Premises costs	4,533	4,260	5,952	27,774	-	42,519	44,767
Deprecation of fixed assets	522	491	685	3,200	-	4,898	5,526
Bank charges	237	223	312	1,455	-	2,227	2,103
Travel cost	997	936	1,309	6,106	-	9,348	8,401
Statutory audit cost	-	-	-	-	3,048	3,048	5,044
Fixed Asset Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Support Costs	44,516	9,299	77,858	209,885	4,048	345,606	358,399
Total Support Costs 2024	35,993	7,506	79,171	229,685	6,044	358,399	

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	351,805	356,961
Social security costs	25,253	25,770
Pension costs	8,455	8,669
Healthcare and reduced insurance	1,975	1,776
Total	<u>387,488</u>	<u>393,176</u>

Staff costs include a provision of £4,031 (2024: £9,669) to reflect the impact of unused staff holiday entitlement at the year end. This is an accounting entry and will be released to the income and expenditure account as the holiday entitlement is utilised going forward.

No employee received emoluments of more than £50,000 (2024: none more than £50,000).

No trustee received any remuneration during the year (2024: nil).

No trustee was reimbursed during the year for expenses incurred on behalf of the company (2024: nil).

The charity operates a Group Pension Savings Plan for employees. Further information is provided in note 14.

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Chief Executive	1	1
Project support	12	13
Administration and management	3	4
Total	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>

The charity significantly benefits from the work of 88 (2024: 85) full and part-time volunteers, who are in addition to the average numbers shown above.

8. TAXATION

No liability to United Kingdom corporation tax arose in the year, on the basis that the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment	Other Equipment	Fixtures & Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At 1 April 2024	26,766	13,809	20,419	37,006	98,000
Additions	2,782	-	-	-	2,782
Disposals	-	(3,911)	(1,200)	-	(5,111)
At 31 March 2025	<u>29,548</u>	<u>9,898</u>	<u>19,219</u>	<u>37,006</u>	<u>95,671</u>

DEPRECIATION

At 1 April 2024	12,847	11,290	19,969	33,095	77,201
Charge for the year	3,340	494	87	977	4,898
Disposals	-	(3,859)	(1,183)	-	(5,042)
At 31 March 2025	<u>16,187</u>	<u>7,925</u>	<u>18,873</u>	<u>34,072</u>	<u>77,057</u>

NET BOOK VALUE

At 31 March 2025	<u>13,361</u>	<u>1,973</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>2,934</u>	<u>18,614</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>13,919</u>	<u>2,519</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>3,911</u>	<u>20,799</u>

10. DEBTORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	25,503	33,896
Other debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	19,615	19,296
	<u>45,118</u>	<u>53,192</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11. CREDITORS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	14,218	8,459
Other taxes and social security	11,700	12,573
Accruals and deferred income	17,099	34,008
Other creditors	224	678
	<u>43,241</u>	<u>55,718</u>

Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 st April	11,309	9,616
Additions during the year	33,357	46,791
Released to income	(40,234)	(45,098)
At 31 st March	<u>4,432</u>	<u>11,309</u>

Deferred income of £4,432 relates to income from sign langu

year end.

12. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2025, the company had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2025		2024	
	Land and Buildings	Other	Land and Buildings	Other
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year	31,500	-	31,500	-
Between two and five years	49,625	-	69,125	-
In over five years	9,000	-	21,000	-
	<u>90,125</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121,625</u>	<u>-</u>

The company's total future financial commitments under operating leases are £90,125 (2024 - £121,625).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the 31 March 2025.

14. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a Group Pension Savings Plan. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company and amounted to £8,455 (2024: £8,669). There were contributions of £273 (2024: £273) payable at the end of the year.

15. RELATED PARTIES

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2025.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Statement of funds – current year

	Balance 1.04.2024 £	Movement in Funds		Balance 31.03.2025 £
		Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	158,691	407,273	(414,016)	151,948
	<u>158,691</u>	<u>407,273</u>	<u>(414,016)</u>	<u>151,948</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent)	2,726	41,136	(43,862)	-
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent – formerly West Kent)	-	19,728	(19,728)	-
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent – Formerly Mid Kent)	2,679	19,523	(22,202)	-
Lip Reading – Fundraising Income	5,319	31,453	(26,366)	10,406
Tinnitus Groups	-	5	(5)	-
Provincial Lodge – Van donation	646	-	(155)	491
Technology Support Grants	-	25,400	(25,400)	-
Social Groups Grants	-	4,486	(4,486)	-
Social Groups Grant – National Lottery Community Fund	10,394	25,278	(25,002)	10,670
	<u>21,764</u>	<u>167,009</u>	<u>(167,206)</u>	<u>21,567</u>
Total of funds	180,455	574,282	(582,290)	173,515

Restricted Funds Carried Forward

Volunteer Visiting Scheme East Kent and West Kent

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of the Volunteer Visiting Scheme in the 3 areas of Kent helping people with maintenance of their NHS hearing aids.

Lipreading

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of the Lipreading Courses in the following year.

Social Groups Grant – National Lottery Community Fund

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of Hi Kent’s ‘Social Groups Project for People Living with Hearing Loss’ for which National Lottery funding has been awarded.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Provincial Lodge – Van donation

These funds have been designated to cover the depreciation costs of the van purchased with the funding.

Statement of funds – prior year

	Balance 1.04.2023 £	Movement in Funds		Balance 31.03.2024 £
		Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	191,021	420,124	(452,454)	158,691
	<u>191,021</u>	<u>420,124</u>	<u>(452,454)</u>	<u>158,691</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent)	1,480	36,551	(35,305)	2,726
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent – formerly West Kent)	-	8,670	(8,670)	-
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent – Formerly Mid Kent)	4,101	29,251	(30,672)	2,680
Lip Reading – Fundraising Income	-	27,191	(21,873)	5,318
Tinnitus Groups	-	5,507	(5,507)	-
Provincial Lodge – Van donation	853	-	(207)	646
Technology Support Grants	-	5,908	(5,908)	-
Social Groups Grants	-	17,377	(17,377)	-
Social Groups Grant – National Lottery Community Fund	-	12,473	(2,079)	10,394
	<u>6,434</u>	<u>142,928</u>	<u>(127,598)</u>	<u>21,764</u>
Total of funds	197,455	563,052	(580,052)	180,455

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds – current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	18,614	-	18,614
Current assets	176,574	21,567	198,141
Creditors due within one year	(43,240)	-	(43,240)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	151,948	21,567	173,515
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Analysis of net assets between funds – prior year

	Unrestricted	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets		20,799	-	20,799
Current assets		193,610	21,764	215,374
Creditors due within one year		(55,718)	-	(55,718)
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		158,691	21,764	180,455
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY ACCOUNTS

GRANTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Ann Peirson Trust	-	1,500	1,500	-
Arnold Clark	-	200	200	-
Ash Cum Ridley Parish Council	-	450	450	440
Awards for All	-	19,941	19,941	-
Beerling Foundation	-	-	-	500
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	1,200	1,200	-
Childwick Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-
Civil Service Insurance Society	-	800	800	1,200
Cobtree Charity Trust	2,500	2,450	4,950	4,913
Cole Trust	-	-	-	1,500
Colyer Fergusson	-	-	-	10,000
Culverstone Valley Lodge	-	500	500	-
Darent Valley Lions Club	-	-	-	250
Dartford Lions Club	-	2,500	2,500	2,000
Dr Saul Lanyado	-	-	-	300
Duke of Kent Lodge	-	-	-	100
East Peckham Town Council	-	480	480	-
Edenbridge Town Council	-	400	400	400
Faversham Lipreading Support Group	-	-	-	500
Faversham Town Council	-	2,337	2,337	-
Fitton Trust	-	300	300	-
Grain Over Forty Fives	-	-	-	50
Henry Smith Charity	-	-	-	10,000
Hextable Parish Council	-	330	330	-
Holmsdale Lodge	1,500	-	1,500	1,000
Hoo St Werburgh PC	-	480	480	480
Horsmonden Parish Council	-	200	200	-
H R Pratt Boorman Foundation	-	-	-	2,000
Involve Kent – Warm Space	-	-	-	1,500
Joan Ainslie Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Kent Community Foundation	-	2,000	2,000	-
Kent Community Foundation – Tech Support	-	4,000	4,000	1,333
Kent Community Foundation – Tech Support/ Tinnitus	-	-	-	1,333
Kent Community Foundation – Lipreading	-	-	-	1,333
Lawson Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Lenham Parish Council	-	480	480	-
Leysdown Parish Council	-	-	-	-
Lipreading donations	-	1,005	1,005	2,295

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY ACCOUNTS

GRANTS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	2024
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Maidstone Borough Council – Tinnitus	-	-	-	1,000
Maidstone Borough Council – Lipreading	-	-	-	1,000
Maidstone Rotary Club	275	-	275	250
National Lottery Community Fund	-	25,278	25,278	12,473
NHS Kent and Medway CCG	-	60,012	60,012	60,012
NHS Kent and Medway CCG – Adult Community Engagement	2,000	-	2,000	-
Paddock Wood Town Council	-	480	480	-
Pat Newman Memorial Trust	-	1,500	1,500	1,500
Pembury Pavilion Community Coffee Shop	-	550	550	250
Phillips Foundation	-	6,000	6,000	-
Poult Wood Ladies Golf Club	4,553	-	4,553	-
Ranmore Trust	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Robert McAlpine Foundation	-	10,000	10,000	5,000
Rotary Club of Ashford	250	-	250	-
Rotary Club of the Channel Trust Fund	-	-	-	1,000
Rotary Club of Dover	-	-	-	200
Rotary Club of Edenbridge and Westerham	-	-	-	100
Rotary Club of Gillingham	500	-	500	-
Rotary Club of Medway	-	-	-	600
Rotary Club of Sandwich	-	-	-	500
Rotary Club Tunbridge Wells	-	300	300	-
Rotary Club Westgate and Birchington	250	-	250	200
Saedingburna Lodge	-	-	-	400
Sevenoaks Town Council	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Shanley Foundation	-	2,500	2,500	-
Sheerness Town Council	-	500	500	500
Simon Langton Lodge	-	-	-	250
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	3,000	-	3,000	2,500
Snar Gate Lodge	-	-	-	250
Social Groups Donations	-	701	701	1,043
South East Equalities Micro Fund	-	-	-	2,000
St Edmunds School	-	-	-	100
St Mary’s Gillingham Green Lodge	-	-	-	250
Staplehurst Parish Council	-	440	440	-
Swanley Town Council	-	-	-	500
Tenterden Town Council	-	1,000	1,000	-
Tesco Groundwork UK	1,750	2,605	4,355	14,393
Thanet Rotary Club	250	-	250	250
Tinnitus Donations	-	5	5	-
Tonbridge Lions Club	-	125	125	480
Tonbridge and Malling Parish Council	-	2,500	2,500	-
Tonbridge and Malling Seniors Forum	-	200	200	-

HI KENT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THIS PAGE DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY ACCOUNTS

GRANTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Tory Family	2,000	-	2,000	3,000
Westgate On Sea Town Council	-	480	480	-
Westerham Town Council	-	300	300	300
Whitehead Monckton Charitable Trust	-	-	-	750
Whitfield Parish Council -	-	480	480	-
Worshipful Company of Insurers	-	-	-	2,500
Zedra Trust	-	2,500	2,500	-
<hr/>				
Totals:	<u>23,828</u>	<u>167,009</u>	<u>190,837</u>	<u>168,978</u>

CONTRACT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total Funds	2024 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
KAB – KCC Wellbeing Contract	233,520	-	233,520	255,000
<hr/>				
Totals:	<u>233,520</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>233,520</u>	<u>255,000</u>

HI KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1052036

Accounts

Company Number: 03132542
Registered Charity Number: 1052036

HI KENT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

AUDITED TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Patron:	Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe
Chief Operating Officer:	Maxine Lucas
Trustees:	Clive Reddihough (Chairman) Caroline Elizabeth Highwood (Treasurer) Patrick Todd Mary Shaw James Ransom
Company Registered Number:	03132542
Charity Registered Number:	1052036
Company Secretary	Maxine Lucas
Head Office and Registered Office:	18 Brewer Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1RU
Independent Auditors:	Charcroft Baker LLP 5 West Court Enterprise Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6JD
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors:	Warners Solicitors 180 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BD

HI KENT
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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees (who are also directors of Hi Kent for purpose of company law) present herewith their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

Legal and Administrative Details

The charity is a company limited by guarantee (company number 03132542, registered charity number 1052036). The charity is governed by the Memorandum & Articles of the company dated 21 November 1995. The Trustees, who comprise the Management Committee of the charity, are responsible for governance of the charity in accordance with the governing document, with day-to-day management delegated to the Chief Operating Officer.

Principal Activities and Policy Statement

Hi Kent's aims and objectives are to provide d/Deaf, deafened, and people with hearing loss with information, assistive equipment and support required to maximise communication and enable them to live fulfilled lives socially and in employment. In line with these core values the principal activities of the company continue to be the assessment of the needs of people with a hearing loss on behalf of Kent County Council, and the provision of relevant advice, equipment services and support. Our support activities also include free lipreading classes, social groups, tinnitus support groups, community clinics for hearing aid maintenance, deaf awareness classes, British Sign Language courses and suitable premises where equipment can be demonstrated to clients. We also provide a Technology Support service to help people access the gadgets and technology available to help them with hearing loss. We added Ear Care to our range of services during the year to help people to access low cost ear checks and wax removal via microsuction. Hi Kent's objectives and activities are solely for the benefit of the public. The Trustees of Hi Kent have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

According to the RNID one in three adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus. Over half of the population aged 55 or more will have hearing loss and this rises to 80% of people over the age of 70. With a growing population in Kent, particularly in older people, the need for Hi Kent's services increases year on year. Hearing loss can add to or worsen depression and dementia so its effects can have far reaching consequences. Looking after your hearing is therefore very important and will help to mitigate these risks.

Review of the Year

It was our third year of the Kent County Council Wellbeing Contract in which we are sub-contracted to Kent Association of the Blind. We help around 8,000 people from the Kent County Council area per year through this work by providing information, advice, assessment of needs and provision of equipment. Our community clinics which provide NHS hearing aid maintenance are getting back to pre-Covid pandemic levels, in 2023-2024 we saw nearly 24,000 people. Our Social Groups project has been given a lifeline by the National Lottery Community Fund awarding us a 5 year grant. The first half year funding is included in the accounts to 31st March 2024. This will enable us to reach new areas as well as providing stability for the existing groups. Our Lipreading courses and Tinnitus support groups continued to be offered free of charge helping people to cope with the issues they face and learn strategies to make their lives better.

Because of the difficulties people face accessing wax removal from their healthcare providers we trained up a member of staff to provide a low cost Ear Care Service and increase the range of services we can offer. Our British Sign Language courses, Deaf Awareness Training and sale of assistive equipment have all brought in funds to help us to provide the other services free of charge to those that need them.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We could not have managed to get through the year with a manageable deficit without the many grant applications that we make throughout the year resulting in some of them being awarded and the generous donations we have received. Our Fundraising activities continue to bring in much needed funds with our quizzes, fundraising meals and Christmas sales being as popular as ever.

Financial Status

The steps taken in planning the budget for 2024 have helped to continue the financial health of the organization.

The actual revenue for 2024 was £563,052 (2023 was £580,008), a decrease of £16,956.

On the cost control side, expenditures were £580,052 (2023 was £621,580) which is a decrease of £41,528 in costs.

The net movement in funds was therefore a £17,000 deficit (2023 was a £41,572 deficit), which is as budgeted.

Reserves Policy

Total funds of the Charity at 31 March 2024 were £180,455 (2023: £197,455). Free reserves, calculated as being reserves after the removal of restricted funds, designated funds and tangible fixed assets, held at 31 March 2024 were £137,892 (2023: £166,862). It is held in a mixture of fixed term deposits, bonds and open access interest bearing accounts intended to maximise investment returns whilst not impairing liquidity. This position may fluctuate temporarily during the year as it smooths operational costs. It is our longer term aim to maintain reserves at the equivalent of between four to six months' operational costs, as a contingency to enable us to honour all contractual obligations.

Associations with Organisations

We continue to work closely with The Kent Association for the Blind under the Kent County Council Community Wellbeing Services contract. We collect detailed statistics which are reported quarterly. We also receive financial support from NHS Kent and Medway CCG which go towards providing hearing aid maintenance services throughout the county. We were very pleased to have been granted five year funding by the National Lottery Community Fund which gives stability to our Social Group project. We receive funding from many local organizations and businesses which are all gratefully received. We have also continued to provide British Sign Language courses under contract for Kent Adult Education. Our relationships with all these organisations underpin our work and are of enormous benefit to our clients. We have established working relationships with several private hearing aid providers supporting them to provide NHS services or services such as wax removal which is not readily available via the NHS. We are grateful for the ongoing support of Tinnitus UK who provide information, training and publicity of our support groups. Hi Kent continues to chair the Kent Charities Group which involves joint working with several other local charities in the County.

Corporate Risk Assessment

The Management Committee have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Hi Kent operates budget control procedures and formal reports are provided to the Management Committee at its bi-monthly meetings. Progress of actual vs. budget funding/spending and cash flow analysis are kept under close review. Internal control risks are minimised by the stringent application of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Hi Kent operates its own quality system based on the principles of the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Procedures are in place to:

- a) ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to all Hi Kent premises and when undertaking work on behalf of Hi Kent at other locations;
- b) ensure that all necessary policies are in place and reviewed at appropriate intervals, including, inter alia, environmental issues, adult protection, data protection, etc;
- c) ensure security of tenure in respect of premises occupied under long-term leases;
- d) recruit, retain and develop staff
- e) ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.

These procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity, and all policies and procedures are examined rigorously as part of the annual quality procedure.

Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of new Trustees

Hi Kent appoints 'fit and proper persons' to serve as its Trustees and ensures its Board is balanced with a wide range of skills. As far as is possible Hi Kent aims to have diversity in its Trustees in terms of breadth of skills, age, gender, race and background, as well as personal experience or understanding of hearing loss and the needs of our client group.

Induction of Trustees

Potential new Trustees are provided with briefing material by the Chairman and the Chief Operating Officer then invited to attend one or more Trustees' Meetings as observers before a decision is taken to appoint them as Trustee. They also receive copies of recent accounts, annual reviews, Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Employee Remuneration

The remuneration of key employees is set by the Trustees.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to our many volunteers who provide NHS hearing aid maintenance service in their local communities and those who help to run our network of Social Groups. The monetary value of the contribution these volunteers make is around £80,000 per year, we could not do the work without them. We again appreciate the support of staff in Local Authorities and NHS bodies which enables us to develop service provision for our mutual clients. We are also grateful for the help and support of Kent Association for the Blind over this third year of the contract and we look forward to continuing to build this relationship. We are very grateful to have again been invited to join Kent Association for the Blind on their Iris Bus visiting locations and informing people on services available and look forward to attending their Sight Matters exhibition in Maidstone October 2024. Hi Kent gratefully acknowledges the generous donations of those funding bodies which have awarded grants this year. The support of the many local organisations who help us provide our services and raise funds via fundraising events is very much appreciated. We also give grateful thanks to the numerous individuals who contribute regularly to our work on behalf of Kent's 530,000 plus people with a hearing loss.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Future Plans

Our ongoing aim is to help more of Kent's 530,000 d/Deaf and hard of hearing people year on year.

The Community Wellbeing Contract has continued into year 4 which is the first of the additional two years. We will work hard to ensure that this continues into the final year and co-operate with Kent Association for the Blind in future contract negotiations.

We are very grateful for the National Lottery Community Fund grant for our Social Groups project. It means we can make plans for the next few years and build on the success we have started. The groups get people together to make new friends and receive the support to help them to live well with hearing loss. The National Lottery Community Fund has also provided a one year grant towards our Lipreading courses for 2024-2025 which again is gratefully received.

We are continuing to grow our Ear Care service after a very good start. The service was only being offered from our Canterbury centre but from September 2024 we are expanding this to our Maidstone centre too. We have received some wonderful feedback from people who have accessed the service and are very pleased that it is helping them to get their hearing issues resolved.

For the Year Ending 31 March 2025

The Community Wellbeing Contract will be in the first of the additional two years and we are hopeful will continue into the last year. We continue to offer a good quality service helping around 8,000 people and providing assessment of needs, where appropriate, resulting in advice or equipment free of charge to help them to live safely and independently.

We have a fully costed budget for 2024-2025 which provides for a small, manageable deficit. We hope that we can reduce the amount of this deficit to a break-even result, if possible. We are scaling up efforts to boost activities that bring in funds as well as continuing to make savings on general costs. We track progress of grant funding and fundraising with internal funding meetings monthly. Our trustees are going above and beyond to help using their areas of expertise and we have added trustees planning meetings as well as the usual bi-monthly trustees meetings so we can keep up the impetus. We are very fortunate to have recruited three new trustees (co-opted until AGM in November 2024) all with lived experience of hearing loss and they are a very welcome addition to the team.

Our British Sign Language courses continue to be offered in partnership with Kent Adult Education which enables us to offer assistance to people on benefits or low income. We have recruited some new BSL tutors across Kent for the 2024-2025 academic year so we have a bit more flexibility to set up courses in different locations.

Tinnitus Support Groups continue to be offered as face to face in various locations and online. These provide a place where people can meet others with the condition to share coping strategies and hear the latest advice.

Our Lipreading Courses are all online and fully subscribed for the next academic year 2024-2025 with a waiting list. We have been very fortunate in receiving a National Lottery Community Fund grant for this next year which will enable us to continue to offer this free of charge.

We are really concentrating on using social media platforms to get awareness of our services out to the people of Kent. We do not want people to be struggling when we are there to support them. We will continue to use the regular advertising platforms such as local newspapers and magazines, using free advertising so we save our precious funds for delivering services. We will continue to take every opportunity available to us to speak to groups about what we do to spread the word.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

As always we will be doing our best to generate income from our fundraising quizzes and other activities to help fund our services.

Fundraising Activities

We have continued with our programme of quizzes which generate a good level of income and give everyone a great time. We have our regular fundraising meal in a local restaurant which is another great way of raising funds. Christmas sales were down on the previous year but we are working on ways to make this better in the future. Income from donations and fundraising was £61,348 for 2024 (£67,205 for 2023) so down on 2023 levels. 2023 was inflated by £10,000 by a donation in kind which has not been repeated so in real terms donations and fundraising is up for 2024. The Kent Charities Group Christmas Raffle tickets had record sales at £3,447 for 2024 which is nearly £500 more than 2023. The Hi Kent lottery brought in nearly £1,200 (£900:2023) and we are actively advertising this to help grow it further. We continue to look for new and innovative ways of raising our own funds. We maintain our policy of not using any professional fundraisers or commercial participators. The charity is fully compliant with the GDPR regulations and does not make any direct approaches to vulnerable people or members of the public using intrusive or unreasonable methods. The charity has received no complaints about its fundraising activities. Hi Kent is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

Hi Kent continues to rely heavily on its team of 85 volunteers, the majority of whom are deployed on running our hearing aid support clinics, after receiving necessary training. A few volunteers also help run our Social Groups and help out at occasional fundraising events. All are required to undergo a DBS check before acting on our behalf.

Trustees during the year

The trustees of the charity who served during the year were as follows:

Clive Reddihough
Caroline Highwood
Patrick Todd
Mary Shaw
Derek Smyth (deceased 3rd October 2023)
Alan West (deceased 25th May 2023)
James Ransom

Investment Powers

Day-to-day funds management decisions in the current account rested with the Chief Operating Officer, pursuant to policies approved by the trustees and members of the Management Committee. Long-term investment decisions are subject to Board review. There are no restrictions in the Memorandum and Articles of Association on the type of investments permitted.

Auditors

Charcroft Baker LLP were re-appointed as auditors at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. A resolution proposing that Henry Reeves & Co Limited, the successor company of Charcroft Baker LLP, be re-appointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities - continued

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 the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 proper accounting records that 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.

Disclosure For Information To Auditor

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustees is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- that Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 11-11-24 and signed on their behalf by:


C E Highwood
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hi Kent (the "charitable company") for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise of a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained during the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for the audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or have effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the charity's activities and sector, control environment and performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having enquired into the policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud was in relation to revenue recognition, cash collections and safeguarding of assets.

We are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included FRS102 Section 1A, the UK Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and local tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified revenue recognition as a key audit matter related to the potential risk of irregularity including fraud. We assessed the Charity's policy for deferring revenue, including considering whether the policy is in accordance with Charity SORP. We substantively tested the source data and challenged assumptions used to recognise revenue ensuring consistent treatment. We are satisfied that the judgements applied within the financial statements are appropriate.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors report.

Charcroft Baker LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Baker BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Charcroft Baker LLP

MG Baker

5 West Court
Enterprise Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6JD

Date: *11/11/24*

Charcroft Baker LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
<i>Voluntary income:</i>					
Membership subscriptions	2	90	-	90	120
Donations & fund raising	2,3	61,348	-	61,348	67,205
Legacies	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Investments:</i>					
Bank interest received	4	1,175	-	1,175	821
Bank investment bond movement	4	-	-	-	(1,477)
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Grants	2	26,050	142,928	168,978	173,671
Contract income	2	255,000	-	255,000	264,500
Sales & installation of aids	3	22,159	-	22,159	28,720
Deaf awareness & Sign					
Language courses	3	48,582	-	48,582	46,448
Ear Care Services	3	5,720	-	5,720	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		420,124	142,928	563,052	580,008
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income					
		8,455	-	8,455	9,652
Charitable activities					
		437,955	127,598	565,553	606,145
Governance costs					
		6,044	-	6,044	5,783
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	5	452,454	127,598	580,052	621,580
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(32,330)	15,330	(17,000)	(41,572)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward					
		191,021	6,434	197,455	239,027
Total funds carried forward					
		158,691	21,764	180,455	197,455

The Statement of Financial Activities incorporates the Income and Expenditure Account. The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains and losses other than those shown above.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	9		20,799		24,159
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock		13,161		13,667	
Debtors	10	33,896		28,358	
Prepayments & accrued income	10	19,296		19,924	
Cash at Bank & in Hand		<u>149,021</u>		<u>171,156</u>	
		215,374		233,105	
CREDITORS					
Creditors	11	(21,710)		(19,516)	
Accruals and deferred income	11	<u>(34,008)</u>		<u>(40,293)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			159,656		173,296
NET ASSETS			<u>180,455</u>		<u>197,455</u>
INCOME FUNDS					
Restricted funds	16		21,764		6,434
Unrestricted funds	16		<u>158,691</u>		<u>191,021</u>
			<u>180,455</u>		<u>197,455</u>

The Trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

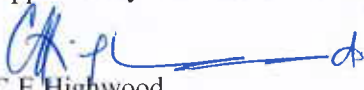
The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 11.11.24 and signed on its behalf by:


 C E Highwood
 Treasurer

Statement of Cash flows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:	<u>(21,144)</u>	<u>(13,023)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1,175	(656)
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(2,166)	(1,699)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(991)</u>	<u>(2,355)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Receipt of endowment	-	-
Net cash provided (used in) financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(22,135)	(15,378)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	171,156	186,533
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>149,021</u>	<u>171,155</u>

Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per SOFA)	(17,000)	(41,572)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	5,526	3,974
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(1,175)	656
Loss / (Profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Increase) / decrease in stocks	506	1,352
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(4,910)	16,050
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	(4,091)	6,517
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(21,144)</u>	<u>(13,023)</u>

Analysis of changes in Net Debt

	at 01/04/23	Cash Flow	at 31/03/24
Net Cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	171,156	(22,135)	149,021
	<u>171,156</u>	<u>(22,135)</u>	<u>149,021</u>

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Statutory Information

Hi Kent is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is £1.

The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the company information page.

b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 section 1A), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

There were no material departures from those standards.

Hi Kent meet the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The company's functional and presentation currency is GBP.

c) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific purposes which may only be expended in accordance with the conditions imposed by the trustees.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charitable company.

d) Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements the trustees are confident that the charitable company has adequate resources and has taken appropriate measures to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees therefore deem it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

e) Recognition of Income

Income is recognised at fair value, derived from ordinary activities and net of sales taxes and any trade discounts. Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company becomes entitled to the resource, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income is recognised in respect of the following sources:

i) Grants

Income from government and other grants are recognised using the performance model.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Grants are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds and when any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met. Grants received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied are recognised as a liability.

ii) Sales and courses

Income from the sale of equipment is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the customer. This is usually at the point the customer receives the goods.

Income from the installation of equipment and the delivery of courses represents amounts invoiced in respect of the rendering of services. This is recognised with reference to stage of completion and is recognised in the period in which the service is performed.

iii) Donations and fund raising

Income from donations and fund-raising activities is recognised when the funds are received, in line with the general income recognition criteria.

iv) Investment income

Income from investments is recognised when receivable.

v) Legacies

Income from legacies are recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income. This is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is made aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

vi) Contract income

Contract income is recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income and any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

f) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Depreciation is provided to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. It is calculated at the following annual rates:

Computers	- 20% of net book value
Equipment	- 20% of net book value
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% of net book value
Motor vehicles	- 25% of net book value

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- g) Stocks**
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is calculated on a first in first out basis and includes all costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling prices from which are deducted further costs to completion and disposal.
- h) Operating Leases**
Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.
- i) Pensions**
The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable for the year are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. For more details see note 14.
- j) Liabilities and Other Resources Expended**
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category.
- Support costs are allocated to the Charitable activities which they support. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a proportionate basis in line with income. Governance costs are not allocated to Charitable activities as they represent costs in respect of governing the charity as a whole and do not directly relate to a specific activity.
- k) Creditors**
Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.
- l) Financial instruments**
Basic financial assets and liabilities include trade and other receivables, trade and other payables and cash and bank balances. These are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction (loan over a period of time) where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets and liabilities are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.
- m) Cash at Bank & In Hand**
Cash held in income funds are classified as Cash at Bank and in Hand due to being highly liquid accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND CONTRACTS

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	38,441	-	38,441	42,895
Subscriptions	90	-	90	120
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Government grants - Covid support	-	-	-	-
Contract income	255,000	-	255,000	264,500
Grants	26,050	142,928	168,978	173,671
Total donations, legacies and contracts	319,581	142,928	462,509	481,186
Total 2023	333,515	147,671	481,186	

3. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fundraising	22,907	-	22,907	24,310
Sales & installation of aids	22,159	-	22,159	28,720
Deaf awareness & Sign				
Language courses	48,582	-	48,582	46,448
Ear care services	5,720	-	5,720	-
Total Fundraising Income	99,368	-	99,368	99,478
Total 2023	99,478	-	99,478	

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Bank Interest received	1,175	-	1,175	821
Bank investment bond movement	-	-	-	(1,477)
Total Investment Income	1,175	-	1,175	(656)
Total 2023	(656)	-	(656)	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
Lip reading support/Social Groups/Tinnitus	2,281	46,836	49,117	34,298
Sign language/Ear care/DAT/Exhibitions	47,443	-	47,443	52,950
VVS clinics	14,726	74,647	89,373	94,403
Sale of equipment	381,960	6,115	388,075	434,146
Governance	6,044	-	6,044	5,783
Total	452,454	127,598	580,052	621,580
Total for 2023	471,894	149,686	621,580	

6. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Lip Reading etc. £	Sign Language etc. £	VVS Clines £	Sale of Equipment £	Governance £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Direct Costs							
Supplies & Installation							
Of aids	-	-	-	18,304	-	18,304	24,381
Training costs	11,178	34,604	-	-	-	45,782	39,498
Staff costs	1,946	5,333	-	131,631	-	138,910	128,576
Office costs	-	-	10,202	8,455	-	18,657	18,991
Total Direct Costs	13,124	39,937	10,202	158,390	-	221,653	211,446
Total Direct Costs 2023	12,891	45,631	9,339	143,585	-	211,446	
Support Costs							
Staff cost	26,329	-	67,665	159,272	1,000	254,266	299,790
Office costs	3,524	2,737	4,196	27,835	-	38,293	34,127
Premises costs	4,973	3,863	5,921	30,010	-	44,767	44,432
Deprecation of fixed assets	-	-	-	5,526	-	5,526	3,974
Bank charges	234	181	278	1,410	-	2,103	1,691
Travel cost	933	725	1,111	5,632	-	8,401	11,421
Statutory audit cost	-	-	-	-	5,044	5,044	4,783
Fixed Asset Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,916
Total Support Costs	35,993	7,506	79,171	229,685	6,044	358,399	410,134
Total Support Costs 2023	21,407	7,319	85,064	290,561	5,783	410,134	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	356,961	392,882
Social security costs	25,770	25,686
Pension costs	8,669	8,276
Healthcare and reduced insurance	1,776	1,522
Total	<u>393,176</u>	<u>428,366</u>

Staff costs include a provision of £9,669 (2023: £21,843) to reflect the impact of unused staff holiday entitlement at the year end. This is an accounting entry and will be released to the income and expenditure account as the holiday entitlement is utilised going forward.

No employee received emoluments of more than £50,000 (2023: none more than £50,000).

No trustee received any remuneration during the year (2023: nil).

No trustee was reimbursed during the year for expenses incurred on behalf of the company (2023: nil).

The charity operates a Group Pension Savings Plan for employees. Further information is provided in note 14.

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Chief Executive	1	1
Project support	13	14
Administration and management	4	6
Total	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>

The charity significantly benefits from the work of 85 (2023: 146) full and part-time volunteers, who are in addition to the average numbers shown above.

8. TAXATION

No liability to United Kingdom corporation tax arose in the year, on the basis that the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment £	Other Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST					
At 1 April 2023	24,600	13,809	20,419	37,006	95,834
Additions	2,166	-	-	-	2,166
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	26,766	13,809	20,419	37,006	98,000
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2023	9,367	10,660	19,856	31,792	71,675
Charge for the year	3,480	630	113	1,303	5,526
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	12,847	11,290	19,969	33,095	77,201
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2024	13,919	2,519	450	3,911	20,799
At 31 March 2023	15,233	3,149	563	5,214	24,159

10. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	33,896	26,025
Other debtors	-	2,333
Prepayments and accrued income	19,296	19,924
	53,192	48,282

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

11. CREDITORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	8,459	10,404
Other taxes and social security	12,573	8,839
Accruals and deferred income	34,008	40,293
Other creditors	678	273
	<u>55,718</u>	<u>59,809</u>

Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 st April	9,616	6,808
Additions during the year	46,791	47,170
Released to income	(45,098)	(44,362)
At 31 st March	<u>11,309</u>	<u>9,616</u>

Deferred income of £11,309 relates to income from sign language courses occurring post year end.

12. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2024, the company had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2024		2023	
	Land and Buildings	Other	Land and Buildings	Other
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year	31,500	-	31,500	-
Between two and five years	69,125	-	88,625	-
In over five years	21,000	-	33,000	-
	<u>121,625</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>153,125</u>	<u>-</u>

The company's total future financial commitments under operating leases are £121,625 (2023 - £153,125).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the 31 March 2024.

14. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a Group Pension Savings Plan. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company and amounted to £8,669 (2023: £8,276). There were contributions of £273 (2023: £273) payable at the end of the year.

15. RELATED PARTIES

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2024.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Statement of funds – current year

	Balance	Movement in Funds		Balance
	1.04.2023	Incoming Resources	Expenditure	31.03.2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	191,021	420,124	(452,454)	158,691
	<u>191,021</u>	<u>420,124</u>	<u>(452,454)</u>	<u>158,691</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent)	1,480	36,551	(35,305)	2,726
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent – formerly West Kent)	-	8,670	(8,670)	-
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent – Formerly Mid Kent)	4,101	29,251	(30,672)	2,680
Lip Reading – Fundraising Income	-	27,191	(21,873)	5,318
Tinnitus Groups	-	5,507	(5,507)	-
Provincial Lodge – Van donation	853	-	(207)	646
Technology Support Grants	-	5,908	(5,908)	-
Social Groups Grants	-	17,377	(17,377)	-
Social Groups Grant – National Lottery Community Fund	-	12,473	(2,079)	10,394
	<u>6,434</u>	<u>142,928</u>	<u>(127,598)</u>	<u>21,764</u>
Total of funds	197,455	563,052	(580,052)	180,455

Restricted Funds Carried Forward

Volunteer Visiting Scheme East Kent and West Kent

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of the Volunteer Visiting Scheme in the 3 areas of Kent helping people with maintenance of their NHS hearing aids.

Lipreading

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of the Lipreading Courses in the following year.

Social Groups Grant – National Lottery Community Fund

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of Hi Kent’s ‘Social Groups Project for People Living with Hearing Loss’ for which National Lottery funding has been awarded.

Provincial Lodge – Van donation

These funds have been designated to cover the depreciation costs of the van purchased with the funding.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Statement of funds – prior year

	Movement in Funds			Balance 31.03.2023 £
	Balance 1.04.2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	230,578	432,337	(471,894)	191,021
	<u>230,578</u>	<u>432,337</u>	<u>(471,894)</u>	<u>191,021</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent)	1,480	35,676	(35,676)	1,480
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent – formerly West Kent)	-	8,575	(8,575)	-
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent – Formerly Mid Kent)	5,840	26,577	(28,316)	4,101
Lip Reading – Fundraising Income	-	18,835	(18,835)	-
Provincial Lodge – Van donation	1,129	-	(276)	853
KAB – COMF	-	8,333	(8,333)	-
Kent Community Foundation – Marketing Project	-	6,000	(6,000)	-
Technology Support Grants	-	26,140	(26,140)	-
Social Groups Grants	-	12,885	(12,885)	-
Equipment Grants	-	3,251	(3,251)	-
Involve Kent – Warm Space Grant	-	699	(699)	-
Tonbridge Lions Club – banners	-	700	(700)	-
	<u>8,449</u>	<u>147,671</u>	<u>(149,686)</u>	<u>6,434</u>
Total of funds	239,027	580,008	(621,580)	197,455

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds – current year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	20,799	-	20,799
Current assets	193,610	21,764	215,374
Creditors due within one year	(55,718)	-	(55,718)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	158,691	21,764	180,455

Analysis of net assets between funds – prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	24,159	-	24,159
Current assets	226,671	6,434	233,105
Creditors due within one year	(59,809)	-	(59,809)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	191,021	6,434	197,455

HI KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1052036

Accounts

Company Number: 03132542
Registered Charity Number: 1052036

HI KENT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

AUDITED TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Patron:	Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe
Honorary President:	Nadra Ahmed OBE DL
Chief Operating Officer:	Maxine Lucas
Trustees:	Clive Reddihough (Chairman) Caroline Elizabeth Highwood (Treasurer) Patrick Todd Mary Shaw Derek Smyth – Deceased 03/10/2023 Alan West – Deceased 25/05/2023 James Ransom
Company Registered Number:	03132542
Charity Registered Number:	1052036
Company Secretary	Maxine Lucas
Head Office and Registered Office:	18 Brewer Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1RU
Independent Auditors:	Charcroft Baker LLP 5 West Court Enterprise Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6JD
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors:	Warners Solicitors 180 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BD

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees (who are also directors of Hi Kent for purpose of company law) present herewith their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Legal and Administrative Details

The charity is a company limited by guarantee (company number 03132542, registered charity number 1052036). The charity is governed by the Memorandum & Articles of the company dated 21 November 1995. The Trustees, who comprise the Management Committee of the charity, are responsible for governance of the charity in accordance with the governing document, with day-to-day management delegated to the Chief Operating Officer.

Principal Activities and Policy Statement

Hi Kent's aims and objectives are to provide d/Deaf, deafened, and hard of hearing people with information, assistive equipment and support required to maximise communication and enable them to live fulfilled lives socially and in employment. In line with these core values the principal activities of the company continue to be the assessment of the needs of people with a hearing loss on behalf of Kent County Council, and the provision of relevant advice, equipment services and support. Our support activities also include free lipreading classes, social groups, tinnitus support groups, community clinics for hearing aid maintenance, deaf awareness classes, British Sign Language courses and suitable premises where equipment can be demonstrated to clients. We also provide a Technology Support service to help people access the gadgets and technology available to help them with hearing loss. Hi Kent's objectives and activities are solely for the benefit of the public. The Trustees of Hi Kent have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Statistics show that 40% of people over the age of 50 have hearing loss and this increases to 70% for people over the age of 70. Demographic data shows that there is a growing older population, most notably in over 80's. The number of people over the age of 85 is expected to double in the next 25 years. Although Hi Kent's services are available to people with hearing loss of any age (26 and over for the Kent Association for the Blind Contract) the biggest proportion of our services are used by older people. This means there is certain to be an ongoing increase in people requiring the services of Hi Kent in the future. An additional factor is the general, increasing population in the county of Kent.

Review of the Year

It was our second year of working under Kent County Council's Community Based Wellbeing Service contract in which we are sub-contracted to Kent Association of the Blind. We are really enjoying working with a wider range of clients including all adults 26 years and over and people who use British Sign Language as their first language. We also continue to work with BSL Community providing the booking and administration of face to face (in person and online) appointments for BSL users to help them with various issues such as claiming benefits, housing etc... We provide our own support service too helping people directly or finding the right help for them. Our Social Groups for people with hearing loss have expanded so we now have 12 up and running across the county (8 last year). We also run a series of walking groups each year to get people out in the open air, socialising and seeing some beautiful parts of Kent. Our Technical Support service has proved very popular with a couple of people per week being helped. We provide help with some of the standard assistive equipment along with modern technology, so people are able to access online services and keep connected. BSL courses continue to be taught in a mix of online and face to face and Lipreading courses are all online which makes funding go further. Our Tinnitus support groups are online once per month on the first Wednesday of the month. We also meet face to face at a few locations across the county.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Our fundraising activities were back on track with our usual quizzes making a return and a full schedule of Christmas events. We have added new activities too with a fundraising meal at Frederics, a French restaurant in Maidstone and a new Film Quiz at the Picturehouse Cinema in Ashford.

Financial Status

The steps taken in planning the budget for 2023 have helped to continue the financial health of the organization.

The actual revenue for 2023 was £580,008 (2022 was £574,065), an increase of £5,943.

On the cost control side, expenditures were £621,580 (2022 was £601,505) which is an increase of £20,075 in costs.

The net movement in funds was therefore a £41,572 deficit (2022 was a £27,440 deficit), which is as budgeted.

Reserves Policy

Total funds of the Charity at 31 March 2023 were £197,455 (2022: £239,027). Free reserves, calculated as being reserves after the removal of restricted funds, designated funds and tangible fixed assets, held at 31 March 2023 were £166,862 (2022: £204,144). It is held in a mixture of fixed term deposits, bonds and open access interest bearing accounts intended to maximise investment returns whilst not impairing liquidity. This position may fluctuate temporarily during the year as it smooths operational costs. It is our longer term aim to maintain reserves at the equivalent of between four to six months' operational costs, as a contingency to enable us to honour all contractual obligations.

Associations with Organisations

We continue to work closely with The Kent Association for the Blind under the Kent County Council Community Wellbeing Services contract. We collect detailed statistics which are reported quarterly. We also receive financial support from NHS Kent and Medway CCG which go towards providing hearing aid maintenance services throughout the county. We receive funding from many local organizations and businesses which are all gratefully received. We have also continued to provide British Sign Language courses under contract for Kent Adult Education. Our relationships with all these organisations underpin our work and are of enormous benefit to our clients. We have established working relationships with several private hearing aid providers supporting them to provide NHS services or services such as wax removal which is not readily available via the NHS. We are grateful for the ongoing support of Tinnitus UK who provide information, training, and publicity of our support groups. Hi Kent continues to chair the Kent Charities Group which involves joint working with several other local charities in the County.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Corporate Risk Assessment

The Management Committee has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Hi Kent operates budget control procedures and formal reports are provided to the Management Committee at its bi-monthly meetings. Progress of actual vs. budget funding/spending and cash flow analysis are kept under close review. Internal control risks are minimised by the stringent application of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Hi Kent operates its own quality system based on the principles of the ISO 9001:2015 standard.

Procedures are in place to:

- a) ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to all Hi Kent premises and when undertaking work on behalf of Hi Kent at other locations;
- b) ensure that all necessary policies are in place and reviewed at appropriate intervals, including, inter alia, environmental issues, adult protection, data protection, etc;
- c) ensure security of tenure in respect of premises occupied under long-term leases;
- d) recruit, retain and develop staff
- e) ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.

These procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity, and all policies and procedures are examined rigorously as part of the annual quality procedure.

Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of new Trustees

Hi Kent appoints 'fit and proper persons' to serve as its Trustees and ensures its Board is balanced with a wide range of skills. As far as is possible Hi Kent aims to have diversity in its Trustees in terms of breadth of skills, age, gender, race, and background, as well as personal experience or understanding of hearing loss and the needs of our client group.

Induction of Trustees

Potential new Trustees are provided with briefing material by the Chairman and the Chief Operating Officer then invited to attend one or more Trustees' Meetings as observers before a decision is taken to appoint them as Trustee. They also receive copies of recent accounts, annual reviews, Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Employee Remuneration

The remuneration of key employees is set by the Trustees.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to our many volunteers who provide our outreach service to people with hearing loss in their local communities. We again appreciate the support of staff in Local Authorities and NHS bodies which enables us to develop service provision for our mutual clients. We are also grateful for the help and support of Kent Association for the Blind over this second year of the contract and we look forward to continuing to build this relationship. We are very grateful to have been invited to join Kent Association for the Blind on their Iris Bus visiting locations and informing people on services available. Hi Kent gratefully acknowledges the generous donations of those funding bodies which have awarded grants this year. We also give grateful thanks to the numerous individuals who contribute regularly to our work on behalf of Kent's 370,000 plus people with a hearing loss.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Future Plans

Our ongoing aim is to help more of Kent's 370,000 d/Deaf and hard of hearing people year on year, providing the services they need as close to where they live as possible and helping them to achieve the outcomes they need. We aim to provide services which give people a toolbox of support, skills and equipment that can help them to improve their communication and confidence and live well with hearing loss.

We will continue to provide the services under the Community Wellbeing Contract and work towards securing the extension of the contract after year 3 into the two additional years.

The Community Wellbeing Contract has given us the stability to establish new services such as Hi Kent Social Groups, Technology Support, and the Wellbeing Gateway. The Social Groups are across the county helping to bring people together and meet others who face similar issues. Technology Support is offered from our centres or at home visits to help people use technology to help them to stay connected. Our Wellbeing Gateway is there to help people who are unable to manage tasks for themselves due to their hearing loss.

For the Year Ending 31 March 2024

The Community Wellbeing Contract will be in the last of the original three years and we are hopeful that there will be another two years to follow. We are performing well under the contract providing information, advice, and guidance for around 8,000 people per year. We also provide equipment assessments for around 600 people per year.

We have a fully costed budget for 2023-2024 which provides for a much smaller deficit than these last two years. We expect to bring the deficit down by looking at cost savings, new ways of generating income and increasing activity on fundraising, securing donations and grant income. We will, as always, track our performance against this budget at bi-monthly trustee meetings as well as in house funding meetings to keep things as close as possible to budget.

Hi Kent will continue to offer high quality British Sign Language (BSL) in partnership with Adult Education. Levels 1 and 2 are offered in a mixture of face to face and online and at different locations in Kent. We also provide bespoke training and taster courses to schools, colleges, and other organisations. Deaf Awareness Training courses are available either online or face to face to help public facing organisations learn how to communicate well with people with hearing loss.

Tinnitus Support Groups will be offered in a mix of face to face and online and help people to get the support they need to cope with living with the condition. The online groups are in the evening which also attracts people who are at work during the day.

Lipreading Courses continue to be online only which suits the students, tutors, and makes funding go further. Learning to lipread is a very important skill to help to fill in the gaps left by loss of hearing.

We are adding ear checks and wax removal to our range of services for 2023-2024. This will bring in extra revenue and help people struggling to access this service now that most GP's are no longer providing it.

We are out doing lots of talks and exhibitions again and spreading the word about what we can do to help people with hearing loss.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Our fundraising activities are back on track with a full schedule of quiz nights and fundraising meals which are bringing in much needed funds. We are selling gifts all year round now but our big push is once again the Christmas period where we are all out selling our wares at Christmas fairs all over the county.

Fundraising Activities

As well as resuming our usual quizzes we have added a new Movie Quiz at The Ashford Picturehouse which is great fun. We had our second fundraising meal at Frederic's French Restaurant in Maidstone which was a great night with good food, great atmosphere, and a raffle. Sales of fundraising goods are still not quite back to pre-Covid levels but will hopefully improve in 23-24. Income from donations and fundraising was £67,205 for 2023 (£63,645 for 2022) so an improvement on the previous year. We have a busy schedule of Christmas fairs booked for 2023 and with another new range of gifts to sell we are looking forward to a successful season. The Hi Kent lottery brought in nearly £900 and numbers will continue to grow. We continue to look for new and innovative ways of raising our own funds. We maintain our policy of not using any professional fundraisers or commercial participators. The charity is fully compliant with the GDPR regulations and does not make any direct approaches to vulnerable people or members of the public using intrusive or unreasonable methods. The charity has received no complaints about its fundraising activities. Hi Kent is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

Hi Kent continues to rely heavily on its team of volunteers, the majority of whom are deployed on running our hearing aid support clinics, after receiving necessary training. A few volunteers also help running our Social Groups and at occasional fundraising events. All are required to undergo a DBS check before acting on our behalf.

Trustees during the year

The trustees of the charity who served during the year were as follows:

Clive Reddihough
Caroline Highwood
Patrick Todd
Mary Shaw
Derek Smyth – Deceased 03/10/2023
Alan West – Deceased 25/05/2023
James Ransom

Investment Powers

Day-to-day funds management decisions in the current account rested with the Chief Operating Officer, pursuant to policies approved by the trustees and members of the Management Committee. Long-term investment decisions are subject to Board review. There are no restrictions in the Memorandum and Articles of Association on the type of investments permitted.

Auditors

Charcroft Baker LLP were re-appointed as auditors at the 2022 Annual General Meeting. A resolution proposing that Charcroft Baker LLP be re-appointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities - continued**

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 the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 proper accounting records that 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.

Disclosure For Information To Auditor

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustees is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- that Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 10.11.23 and signed on their behalf by:


C E Highwood
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hi Kent (the “charitable company”) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise of a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity’s affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the [entity]’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained during the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for the audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or have effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the charity's activities and sector, control environment and performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having enquired into the policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud was in relation to revenue recognition, cash collections and safeguarding of assets.

We are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included FRS102 Section 1A, the UK Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and local tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included compliance with laws and regulations concerned with UK government COVID-19 support schemes.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified revenue recognition as a key audit matter related to the potential risk of irregularity including fraud. We assessed the Charity's policy for deferring revenue, including considering whether the policy is in accordance with Charity SORP. We substantively tested the source data and challenged assumptions used to recognise revenue ensuring consistent treatment. We are satisfied that the judgements applied within the financial statements are appropriate.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors report.

Charcroft Baker LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Baker BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Charcroft Baker LLP

MA Baker

5 West Court
Enterprise Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6JD

Date: 13/11/23

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
<i>Voluntary income:</i>					
Membership subscriptions	2	120	-	120	150
Donations & fund raising	2,3	67,205	-	67,205	63,645
Legacies	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Investments:</i>					
Bank interest received	4	821	-	821	478
Bank investment bond movement	4	(1,477)	-	(1,477)	(1,113)
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Grants	2	26,000	147,671	173,671	162,747
Contract income	2	264,500	-	264,500	280,000
Sales & installation of aids	3	28,720	-	28,720	37,460
Deaf awareness & Sign Language courses	3	46,448	-	46,448	30,698
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		432,337	147,671	580,008	574,065
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income					
		9,652	-	9,652	7,208
Charitable activities					
		456,459	149,686	606,145	588,793
Governance costs					
		5,783	-	5,783	5,504
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	5	471,894	149,686	621,580	601,505
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(39,557)	(2,015)	(41,572)	(27,440)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward					
		230,578	8,449	239,027	266,467
Total funds carried forward					
		191,021	6,434	197,455	239,027

The Statement of Financial Activities incorporates the Income and Expenditure Account.

The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains and losses other than those shown above.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	9	24,159	26,434
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		13,667	15,019
Debtors	10	28,358	24,183
Prepayments & accrued income	10	19,924	40,149
Cash at Bank & in Hand		<u>171,156</u>	<u>186,533</u>
		233,105	265,884
CREDITORS			
Creditors	11	(19,516)	(26,785)
Accruals and deferred income	11	<u>(40,293)</u>	<u>(26,506)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		173,296	212,593
NET ASSETS		<u>197,455</u>	<u>239,027</u>
INCOME FUNDS			
Restricted funds	16	6,434	8,449
Unrestricted funds	16	<u>191,021</u>	<u>230,578</u>
		<u>197,455</u>	<u>239,027</u>

The Trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

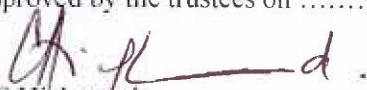
The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 10.11.23 and signed on its behalf by:


 C E Highwood
 Treasurer

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****Statement of Cash flows:**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:	<u>(13,023)</u>	<u>(48,406)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(656)	(635)
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	-	150
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,699)	(1,779)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(2,355)</u>	<u>(2,264)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Receipt of endowment	-	-
Net cash provided (used in) financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(15,378)	(50,670)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	186,533	237,203
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>171,155</u>	<u>186,533</u>

Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per SOFA)	(41,572)	(27,440)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	3,974	7,188
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	656	635
Loss / (Profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	(7)
(Increase) / decrease in stocks	1,352	2,050
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	16,050	(38,028)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	6,517	7,196
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(13,023)</u>	<u>(48,406)</u>

Analysis of changes in Net Debt

	at 01/04/22	Cash Flow	at 31/03/23
Net Cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	186,533	(15,378)	171,155
	<u>186,533</u>	<u>(15,378)</u>	<u>171,155</u>

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Statutory Information

Hi Kent is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is £1.

The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the company information page.

b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 section 1A), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

There were no material departures from those standards.

Hi Kent meet the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The company's functional and presentation currency is GBP.

c) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific purposes which may only be expended in accordance with the conditions imposed by the trustees.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charitable company.

d) Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements the trustees are confident that the charitable company has adequate resources and has taken appropriate measures to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees therefore deem it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

e) Recognition of Income

Income is recognised at fair value, derived from ordinary activities and net of sales taxes and any trade discounts. Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company becomes entitled to the resource, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income is recognised in respect of the following sources:

i) Grants

The charity has received government grants in the year. Income from government and other grants are recognised using the performance model.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Grants are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds and when any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met. Grants received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied are recognised as a liability.

ii) Sales and courses

Income from the sale of equipment is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the customer. This is usually at the point the customer receives the goods.

Income from the installation of equipment and the delivery of courses represents amounts invoiced in respect of the rendering of services. This is recognised with reference to stage of completion and is recognised in the period in which the service is performed.

iii) Donations and fund raising

Income from donations and fund-raising activities is recognised when the funds are received, in line with the general income recognition criteria.

iv) Investment income

Income from investments is recognised when receivable.

v) Legacies

Income from legacies are recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income. This is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is made aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

vi) Contract income

Contract income is recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income and any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

f) **Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Depreciation is provided to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. It is calculated at the following annual rates:

Computers	- 20% of net book value
Equipment	- 20% of net book value
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% of net book value
Motor vehicles	- 25% of net book value

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- g) Stocks**
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is calculated on a first in first out basis and includes all costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling prices from which are deducted further costs to completion and disposal.
- h) Operating Leases**
Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.
- i) Pensions**
The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable for the year are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. For more details see note 14.
- j) Liabilities and Other Resources Expended**
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category.
- Support costs are allocated to the Charitable activities which they support. Governance costs are not allocated to Charitable activities as they represent costs in respect of governing the charity as a whole and do not directly relate to a specific activity.
- k) Creditors**
Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.
- l) Financial instruments**
Basic financial assets and liabilities include trade and other receivables, trade and other payables and cash and bank balances. These are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction (loan over a period of time) where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets and liabilities are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.
- m) Cash at Bank & In Hand**
Cash held in income funds are classified as Cash at Bank and in Hand due to being highly liquid accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND CONTRACTS

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	42,895	-	42,895	49,415
Subscriptions	120	-	120	150
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Government grants - Covid support	-	-	-	20,324
Contract income	264,500	-	264,500	280,000
Grants	26,000	147,671	173,671	142,423
Total donations, legacies and contracts	333,515	147,671	481,186	492,312
Total 2022	355,589	136,723	492,312	

3. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Fundraising	24,310	-	24,310	14,230
Sales & installation of aids	28,720	-	28,720	37,460
Deaf awareness & Sign				
Language courses	46,448	-	46,448	30,698
Total Fundraising Income	99,478	-	99,478	82,388
Total 2022	82,388	-	82,388	

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank Interest received	821	-	821	478
Bank investment bond movement	(1,477)	-	(1,477)	(1,113)
Total Investment Income	(656)	-	(656)	(635)
Total 2022	(635)	-	(635)	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
Lip reading support	15,463	18,835	34,298	31,821
Sign language support	52,950	-	52,950	42,867
VVS clinics	21,836	72,567	94,403	88,208
Sale of equipment	375,862	58,284	434,146	433,105
Governance	5,783	-	5,783	5,504
Total	471,894	149,686	621,580	601,505
Total for 2022	449,310	152,195	601,505	

6. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Lip Reading Support	Sign Language Support £	VVS Clinics £	Sale of Equipment £	Governance £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Direct Costs							
Supplies & Installation							
Of aids	-	-	-	24,381	-	24,381	28,155
Training costs	10,716	28,782	-	-	-	39,498	36,747
Staff costs	2,175	16,849	-	109,552	-	128,576	117,437
Office costs	-	-	9,339	9,652	-	18,991	12,394
Total Direct Costs	12,891	45,631	9,339	143,585	-	211,446	194,733
Total Direct Costs 2022	11,754	38,207	5,186	139,586	-	194,733	
Support Costs							
Staff cost	18,430	-	73,870	206,490	1,000	299,790	294,260
Office costs	1,108	2,725	4,167	26,127	-	34,127	45,260
Premises costs	1,443	3,547	5,426	34,016	-	44,432	43,543
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-	-	3,974	-	3,974	7,188
Bank charges	55	135	206	1,295	-	1,691	1,868
Travel cost	371	912	1,395	8,744	-	11,421	10,149
Audit cost	-	-	-	-	4,783	4,783	4,504
Fixed Asset Disposals	-	-	-	9,916	-	9,916	-
Total Support Costs	21,407	7,319	85,064	290,561	5,783	410,134	406,772
Total Support Costs 2022	20,067	4,660	83,022	293,519	5,504	406,772	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	392,882	374,384
Social security costs	25,686	25,686
Pension costs	8,276	8,521
Healthcare and reduced insurance	1,522	3,106
Total	<u>428,366</u>	<u>411,697</u>

Staff costs include a provision of £21,843 to reflect the impact of unused staff holiday entitlement at the year end. This is an accounting entry and will be released to the income and expenditure account as the holiday entitlement is utilised going forward.

No employee received emoluments of more than £50,000 (2022: none more than £50,000).

No trustee received any remuneration during the year (2022: nil).

No trustee was reimbursed during the year for expenses incurred on behalf of the company (2022: nil).

The charity operates a Group Pension Savings Plan for employees. Further information is provided in note 14.

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Chief Executive	1	1
Project support	14	13
Administration and management	6	8
Total	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>

The charity significantly benefits from the work of 146 (2022: 140) full and part-time volunteers, who are in addition to the average numbers shown above.

8. TAXATION

No liability to United Kingdom corporation tax arose in the year, on the basis that the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment	Other Equipment	Fixtures & Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At 1 April 2022	33,910	12,920	20,419	37,006	104,255
Additions	10,725	889	-	-	11,614
Disposals	(20,035)	-	-	-	(20,035)
At 31 March 2023	<u>24,600</u>	<u>13,809</u>	<u>20,419</u>	<u>37,006</u>	<u>95,834</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2022	18,179	9,872	19,715	30,055	77,821
Charge for the year	1,308	788	141	1,737	3,974
Disposals	(10,120)	-	-	-	(10,120)
At 31 March 2023	<u>9,367</u>	<u>10,660</u>	<u>19,856</u>	<u>31,792</u>	<u>71,675</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2023	<u>15,233</u>	<u>3,149</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>5,214</u>	<u>24,159</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>15,731</u>	<u>3,048</u>	<u>704</u>	<u>6,951</u>	<u>26,434</u>

10. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	26,025	21,423
Other debtors	2,333	2,760
Prepayments and accrued income	19,924	40,149
	<u>48,282</u>	<u>64,332</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11. CREDITORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	10,404	18,060
Other taxes and social security	8,839	8,357
Accruals and deferred income	40,293	26,506
Other creditors	273	368
	<u>59,809</u>	<u>53,921</u>

12. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2023, the company had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2023		2022	
	Land and Buildings	Other	Land and Buildings	Other
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year	31,500	-	31,500	-
Between two and five years	88,625	-	108,125	-
In over five years	33,000	-	34,900	-
	<u>153,125</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>176,525</u>	<u>-</u>

The company's total future financial commitments under operating leases are £153,125 (2022 - £184,625).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

13. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the 31 March 2023.

14. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a Group Pension Savings Plan. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company and amounted to £8,276 (2022: £8,521). There were contributions of £273 (2022: £368) payable at the end of the year.

15. RELATED PARTIES

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2023.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Statement of funds – current year

	Movement in Funds			Balance 31.03.2023 £
	Balance 1.04.2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	230,578	432,337	(471,894)	191,021
	<u>230,578</u>	<u>432,337</u>	<u>(471,894)</u>	<u>191,021</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent)	1,480	35,676	(35,676)	1,480
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent – formerly West Kent)	-	8,575	(8,575)	-
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent – Formerly Mid Kent)	5,840	26,577	(28,316)	4,101
Lip Reading – Fundraising Income	-	18,835	(18,835)	-
Provincial Lodge – Van donation	1,129	-	(276)	853
KAB – COMF	-	8,333	(8,333)	-
Kent Community Foundation – Marketing Project	-	6,000	(6,000)	-
Technology Support Grants	-	26,140	(26,140)	-
Social Groups Grants	-	12,885	(12,885)	-
Equipment Grants	-	3,251	(3,251)	-
Involve Kent – Warm Space Grant	-	699	(699)	-
Tonbridge Lions Club – banners	-	700	(700)	-
	<u>8,449</u>	<u>147,671</u>	<u>(149,686)</u>	<u>6,434</u>
Total of funds	239,027	580,008	(621,580)	197,455

Restricted Funds Carried Forward

Volunteer Visiting Scheme East Kent

Volunteer Visiting Scheme West Kent

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of the Volunteer Visiting Scheme in the 3 areas of Kent helping people with maintenance of their NHS hearing aids.

Provincial Lodge – van donation

these funds have been designated to cover the depreciation costs of the van purchased with the funding.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Statement of funds –prior year

	Movement in Funds			Balance 31.03.2022 £
	Balance 1.04.2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	242,546	437,342	(449,310)	230,578
	<u>242,546</u>	<u>437,342</u>	<u>(449,310)</u>	<u>230,578</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent)	1,480	35,676	(35,676)	1,480
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent – formerly West Kent)	10,624	13,020	(23,644)	-
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent – Formerly Mid Kent)	6,412	28,316	(28,888)	5,840
Lip Reading – Fundraising Income	3,908	16,816	(20,724)	-
Provincial Lodge – Van donation	1,497	-	(368)	1,129
Awards for All – Hearing Aid project	-	5,535	(5,535)	-
KAB – COMF	-	16,667	(16,667)	-
KCC – Social Groups	-	8,500	(8,500)	-
Other - Social Groups	-	3,693	(3,693)	-
Phillip Connie Foundation – Social Groups	-	8,500	(8,500)	-
	<u>23,921</u>	<u>136,723</u>	<u>(152,195)</u>	<u>8,449</u>
Total of funds	266,467	574,065	(601,505)	239,027

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds – current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	24,159	-	24,159
Current assets	226,671	6,434	233,105
Creditors due within one year	(59,809)	-	(59,809)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	191,021	6,434	197,455

Analysis of net assets between funds – prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	26,434	-	26,434
Current assets	257,435	8,449	265,884
Creditors due within one year	(53,291)	-	(53,291)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	230,578	8,449	239,027

HI KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1052036

Accounts

Company Number: 03132542
Registered Charity Number: 1052036

HI KENT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

AUDITED TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Patron:	Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe
Honorary President:	Nadra Ahmed OBE DL
Chief Operating Officer:	Maxine Lucas
Trustees:	Clive Reddihough (Chairman) Caroline Elizabeth Highwood (Treasurer) Patrick Todd Mary Shaw Derek Smyth Alan West James Ransom (Appointed 16/11/2021)
Company Registered Number:	03132542
Charity Registered Number:	1052036
Company Secretary	Maxine Lucas
Head Office and Registered Office:	18 Brewer Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1RU
Independent Auditors:	Charcroft Baker LLP 5 West Court Enterprise Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6JD
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors:	Warners Solicitors 180 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BD

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees (who are also directors of Hi Kent for purpose of company law) present herewith their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Legal and Administrative Details

The charity is a company limited by guarantee (company number 03132542, registered charity number 1052036). The charity is governed by the Memorandum & Articles of the company dated 21 November 1995. The Trustees, who comprise the Management Committee of the charity, are responsible for governance of the charity in accordance with the governing document, with day-to-day management delegated to the Chief Operating Officer.

Principal Activities and Policy Statement

Hi Kent's aims and objectives are to provide d/Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people with information, assistive equipment and support required to maximise communication and enable them to live fulfilled lives socially and in employment. In line with these core values the principal activities of the company continue to be the assessment of the needs of people with a hearing loss on behalf of Kent County Council, and the provision of relevant advice, equipment services and support. Our support activities also include free lipreading classes, social groups, tinnitus support groups, community clinics for hearing aid maintenance, deaf awareness classes and suitable premises where equipment can be demonstrated to clients. Hi Kent's objectives and activities are solely for the benefit of the public. The Trustees of Hi Kent have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Demographic data shows that there is a growing older population which means there is certain to be an ongoing increase in people requiring the services of Hi Kent in the future as the incidence of hearing loss and deafness is greatest among older people. An underlying factor is the general, increasing population in the county of Kent. Nationally 1 in 5 people are hearing impaired and this statistic rises to 2 in 5 for people over the age of 50. People over the age of 70 are more likely to have a hearing loss than not. In Kent the number of people over the age of 50 is set to rise by 55% by 2033 (source: Office for National Statistics).

Review of the Year

During the past year we have worked hard to get our services back out in the community and began to return to face to face activities as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions were progressively lifted. It was also the first year of working under Kent County Council's Community Based Wellbeing Service contract in which we are sub-contracted to Kent Association of the Blind. The new contract has enabled us to work with a wider range of clients including all adults 26 years and over and people who use British Sign Language as their first language. We also developed a working relationship with BSL Community providing the booking and administration of appointments for BSL users to help them with various issues such as claiming benefits, housing etc.. We have our own Information Service for deafened people. We started Social Groups for deafened people so that we could get people out socialising again and now have 8 running across Kent. We also started to run a few Walking Groups for people wanting to meet others out in the open air. We were fortunate to receive some additional funding which enabled us to set up a Technical Support service providing one to one help with modern technology to ensure people understand the ways it can be used to benefit them. BSL courses are now being taught in a mix of online and face to face and Lipreading courses have remained online. Our Tinnitus groups moved online throughout the lockdowns and we are now delighted to be resuming face to face. We also started offering Counselling for people impacted by hearing loss which is a talking therapy, this is free of charge for the first 6 sessions.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Fundraising was difficult once again because we were unable to run our usual schedule of quizzes and fundraising dinners. We did, however, manage to participate in a few Christmas fairs selling our range of Christmas gifts. We are hoping that we can improve this further in the following year as restrictions have eased.

The continuing impact of the COVID pandemic can be seen in the 2022 year.

Financial Status

The steps taken in planning the budget for 2022 have helped to continue the financial health of the organization.

The actual revenue for 2022 was £574,065 (2021 was £661,594), a decrease of £87,529.

On the cost control side, expenditures were £601,505 (2021 was £563,201) which is an increase of £38,304 in costs.

The net movement in funds was therefore a £27,440 deficit (2021 was a £98,393 surplus), which is a better result than budgeted.

Reserves Policy

Total funds of the Charity at 31 March 2022 were £239,027 (2021: £266,467). Free reserves, calculated as being reserves after the removal of restricted funds, designated funds and tangible fixed assets, held at 31 March 2022 were £204,144. It is held in a mixture of fixed term deposits, bonds and open access interest bearing accounts intended to maximise investment returns whilst not impairing liquidity. This position may fluctuate temporarily during the year as it smooths operational costs. It is our longer term aim to maintain reserves at the equivalent of between four to six months' operational costs, as a contingency to enable us to honour all contractual obligations.

Associations with Organisations

We continue to work closely with The Kent Association for the Blind under the Kent County Council Community Wellbeing Services contract. We collect detailed statistics which are reported quarterly. We also receive financial support from NHS Kent and Medway CCG which go towards providing hearing aid maintenance services throughout the county. We receive funding from many local organizations and businesses which are all gratefully received. We have continued our symbiotic relationship with Kent Adult Education. Our relationships with all these organisations underpin our work and are of enormous benefit to our clients. We have established excellent working relationships with several private providers of hearing aids who either currently carry out work for the NHS or intend to do so in the near future. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the British Tinnitus Association who provide information, training and publicity of our support groups. Hi Kent chairs the Kent Charities Group which involves joint working with several other local charities in the County.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Corporate Risk Assessment

The Management Committee have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Hi Kent operates budget control procedures and formal reports are provided to the Management Committee at its bi-monthly meetings. Progress of actual vs. budget funding/spending and cash flow analysis are kept under close review. Internal control risks are minimised by the stringent application of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Hi Kent no longer holds the quality standard ISO 9001:2015 but operates its own quality system based on the principles of the standard.

Procedures are in place to:

- a) ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to all Hi Kent premises and when undertaking work on behalf of Hi Kent at other locations;
- b) ensure that all necessary policies are in place and reviewed at appropriate intervals, including, inter alia, environmental issues, adult protection, data protection, etc;
- c) ensure security of tenure in respect of premises occupied under long-term leases;
- d) recruit, retain and develop staff
- e) ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.

These procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity, and all policies and procedures are examined rigorously as part of the annual quality procedure.

Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of new Trustees

Hi Kent appoints 'fit and proper persons' to serve as its Trustees and ensures its Board is balanced with a wide range of skills. As far as is possible Hi Kent aims to have diversity in its Trustees in terms of breadth of skills, age, gender, race and background, as well as personal experience or understanding of hearing loss and the needs of our client group.

Induction of Trustees

Potential new Trustees are provided with briefing material by the Chairman and the Chief Executive then invited to attend one or more Trustees' Meetings as observers before a decision is taken to appoint them as Trustee. They also receive copies of recent accounts, annual reviews, Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Employee Remuneration

The remuneration of key employees is set by the Trustees.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to our many volunteers who provide the outreach service to deaf people in their local communities, and it has been great to have them back out helping our clients. We again appreciate the support of staff in Local Authorities and NHS bodies which enables us to develop service provision for our mutual clients. We are also grateful for the help and support of Kent Association for the Blind over the first year of the contract and we look forward to continuing to build this relationship. Hi Kent gratefully acknowledges the generous donations of those funding bodies which have awarded grants this year which have been essential in a year where fundraising activities have still been difficult. We also give grateful thanks to the numerous individuals who contribute regularly to our work on behalf of Kent's 350,000 people with a hearing loss.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Future Plans

Our ongoing aim is to help more of Kent's 350,000 d/Deaf and hard of hearing people year on year, providing the services they need as close to where they live as possible and helping them to achieve the outcomes they need to live well.

The Community Wellbeing Services Contract has enabled us to develop new services such as the Social Groups, help for Deaf people and British Sign Language users and extending our Assessment Service to all d/Deaf adults in the Kent County Council area.

This contract has a 3-year term, with the possibility of two one year extensions, which provides much-needed stability for voluntary sector providers, and will be far more satisfactory than the year-by-year rolling renewals that have characterised the recent past.

For the Year Ending 31 March 2023

The new management team that was put in place from 30th June 2021 is coping well with the challenges of the new Community Wellbeing Services Contract. Hi Kent is in a good place to continue this work into its second year and increase the number of people helped year on year.

We were awarded funding to help us improve our marketing systems and will use this to extend our reach further by utilising our website and social media platforms in the best way possible.

With a fully costed budget for 2022-2023 we will continue to sustain our service delivery and maintain performance against targets subject to funding in the current year.

We continue to return to the community in providing assistive equipment, advice and aftercare services to clients at our Resource Centres and numerous other venues.

Hi Kent will continue to offer high quality British Sign Language (BSL) and Deaf Awareness Courses at venues that are most convenient and cost-effective. These are now being delivered in a mix of face to face and online as we have found that students do appreciate having the choice. Our partnership with Kent Adult Education covers BSL Levels 1 and 2 and the number of courses that we provide each year continues to increase. Students on our BSL courses achieve enviably high pass rates thanks to our excellent professional tutors. We have successfully run bespoke courses at local Schools and at Mid Kent College and are hoping to extend this provision into other education providers.

Our Tinnitus Support Groups are still meeting twice per month online in the evening. We have a programme of face to face meetings set up for the year. The face to face meetings that have already taken place have been very successful, people are very happy to see each other again.

We took part in the RISE Expo at Kent County Showground this year which was a great opportunity to tell clients and other organisations about our work. This had not run since 2019 so it was great to see familiar faces again and see some new faces. We hope more of the exhibitions that were running before Covid-19 will soon return.

We have a schedule of quiz nights arranged for the year and are hoping that these will be well attended and make a good contribution to Hi Kent's fundraising income. We have held a fundraising dinner in Maidstone restaurant and a film quiz in Ashford which have both been very successful. We are looking forward to the next ones!

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Fundraising Activities

The charity was still unable to carry out the normal quiz nights and fundraising dinners hosted previously by its Patron, the Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe. Sale of fundraising goods were below previous years because many of the events did not resume, however we did make the most of the ones that did run. Income from donations and fundraising was £63,645 for 2022 (£60,903 for 2021). We have a busy schedule of Christmas fairs booked for 2022 and with a new range of gifts to sell we are looking forward to a successful season. We have started our new Hi Kent lottery which has a growing number of members and is bringing in much needed funds. We continue to look for new and innovative ways of raising our own funds. We maintain our policy of not using any professional fundraisers or commercial participators. The charity is fully compliant with the GDPR regulations and does not make any direct approaches to vulnerable people or members of the public using intrusive or unreasonable methods. The charity has received no complaints about its fundraising activities. Hi Kent is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

Hi Kent continues to rely heavily on its team of 140 volunteers, the majority of whom are deployed on running our hearing aid support clinics, after receiving necessary training. A few volunteers also help in our offices, at some Social Groups and at occasional fundraising events. All are required to undergo a DBS check before acting on our behalf.

Trustees during the year

The trustees of the charity who served during the year were as follows:

Clive Reddihough
Caroline Highwood
Patrick Todd
Mary Shaw
Derek Smyth
Alan West
James Ransom (elected 16 November 2021)

Investment Powers

Day-to-day funds management decisions in the current account rested with the Chief Operating Officer, pursuant to policies approved by the trustees and members of the Management Committee. Long-term investment decisions are subject to Board review. There are no restrictions in the Memorandum and Articles of Association on the type of investments permitted.

Auditors

Charcroft Baker LLP were re-appointed as auditors at the 2021 Annual General Meeting. A resolution proposing that Charcroft Baker LLP be re-appointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report 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 the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities - continued

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 proper accounting records that 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.

Disclosure For Information To Auditor

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustees is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- that Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 21/10/2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Maxine Lucas
Company Secretary

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hi Kent (the “charitable company”) for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise of a Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity’s affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the [entity]’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained during the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for the audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or have effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the charity's activities and sector, control environment and performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having enquired into the policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud was in relation to revenue recognition, cash collections and safeguarding of assets.

We are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included FRS102 Section 1A, the UK Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and local tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included compliance with laws and regulations concerned with UK government COVID-19 support schemes.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified revenue recognition as a key audit matter related to the potential risk of irregularity including fraud. We assessed the Charity's policy for deferring revenue, including considering whether the policy is in accordance with Charity SORP. We substantively tested the source data and challenged assumptions used to recognise revenue ensuring consistent treatment. We are satisfied that the judgements applied within the financial statements are appropriate.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors report.

Charcroft Baker LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michael Baker BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Charcroft Baker LLP

Michael Baker

5 West Court
Enterprise Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6JD

Date: ...*07/11/22*.....

Charcroft Baker LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
<i>Voluntary income:</i>					
Membership subscriptions	2	150	-	150	190
Donations & fund raising	2,3	63,645	-	63,645	60,903
Legacies	2	-	-	-	-
<i>Investments:</i>					
Bank interest received	4	478	-	478	551
Bank investment bond movement	4	(1,113)	-	(1,113)	689
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Grants	2	26,024	136,723	162,747	547,403
Contract income	2	280,000	-	280,000	-
Sales & installation of aids Deaf awareness & Sign Language courses	3	37,460	-	37,460	17,666
	3	30,698	-	30,698	34,192
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		437,342	136,723	574,065	661,594
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income					
		7,208	-	7,208	5,449
Charitable activities					
		436,598	152,195	588,793	550,960
Governance costs					
		5,504	-	5,504	6,792
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	5	449,310	152,195	601,505	563,201
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(11,968)	(15,472)	(27,440)	98,393
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		242,546	23,921	266,467	168,074
Total funds carried forward		230,578	8,449	239,027	266,467

The Statement of Financial Activities incorporates the Income and Expenditure Account.

The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains and losses other than those shown above.

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)BALANCE SHEETFOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	9	26,434	31,986
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		15,019	17,069
Debtors	10	21,423	5,937
Prepayments & accrued income	10	42,149	20,367
Cash at Bank & in Hand		<u>186,533</u>	<u>237,203</u>
		265,884	280,576
CREDITORS			
Creditors	11	(26,785)	(13,307)
Accruals and deferred income	11	<u>(26,506)</u>	<u>(32,788)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		212,593	234,481
NET ASSETS		<u>239,027</u>	<u>266,467</u>
INCOME FUNDS			
Restricted funds	16	8,449	23,921
Unrestricted funds	16	<u>230,578</u>	<u>242,546</u>
		<u>239,027</u>	<u>266,467</u>

The Trustees have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 21/10/2022 and signed on its behalf by:

C E Highwood
Treasurer



(A Company Limited by Guarantee)STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWSFOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022Statement of Cash flows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:	<u>(48,406)</u>	<u>132,710</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(635)	1,240
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	150	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,779)	(5,276)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(2,264)</u>	<u>(4,036)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Receipt of endowment	-	-
Net cash provided (used in) financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(50,670)	128,674
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	237,203	108,529
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>186,533</u>	<u>237,203</u>

Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per SOFA)	(27,440)	98,393
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	7,188	9,101
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	635	(1,240)
Loss / (Profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(7)	-
(Increase) / decrease in stocks	2,050	(256)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(38,028)	6,938
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	7,196	19,774
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(48,406)</u>	<u>132,710</u>

Analysis of changes in Net Debt

	at 01/04/21	Cash Flow	at 31/03/22
Net Cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	237,203	(50,670)	186,533
	<u>237,203</u>	<u>(50,670)</u>	<u>186,533</u>

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Statutory Information

Hi Kent is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is £1.

The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the company information page.

b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 section 1A), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

There were no material departures from those standards.

Hi Kent meet the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The company's functional and presentation currency is GBP.

c) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific purposes which may only be expended in accordance with the conditions imposed by the trustees.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charitable company.

d) Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements the trustees are confident that the charitable company has adequate resources and has taken appropriate measures to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees therefore deem it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

e) Recognition of Income

Income is recognised at fair value, derived from ordinary activities and net of sales taxes and any trade discounts. Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company becomes entitled to the resource, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income is recognised in respect of the following sources:

i) Grants

The charity has received government grants in the year. Income from government and other grants are recognised using the performance model.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Grants are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds and when any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met. Grants received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied are recognised as a liability.

ii) Sales and courses

Income from the sale of equipment is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the customer. This is usually at the point the customer receives the goods.

Income from the installation of equipment and the delivery of courses represents amounts invoiced in respect of the rendering of services. This is recognised with reference to stage of completion and is recognised in the period in which the service is performed.

iii) Donations and fund raising

Income from donations and fund-raising activities is recognised when the funds are received, in line with the general income recognition criteria.

iv) Investment income

Income from investments is recognised when receivable.

v) Legacies

Income from legacies are recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income. This is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is made aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

vi) Contract income

Contract income is recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income and any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

f) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Depreciation is provided to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. It is calculated at the following annual rates:

Computers	- 20% of net book value
Equipment	- 20% of net book value
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% of net book value
Motor vehicles	- 25% of net book value

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

- g) Stocks**
Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is calculated on a first in first out basis and includes all costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling prices from which are deducted further costs to completion and disposal.
- h) Operating Leases**
Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.
- i) Pensions**
The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable for the year are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. For more details see note 14.
- j) Liabilities and Other Resources Expended**
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that category.
- Support costs are allocated to the Charitable activities which they support. Governance costs are not allocated to Charitable activities as they represent costs in respect of governing the charity as a whole and do not directly relate to a specific activity.
- k) Creditors**
Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.
- l) Financial instruments**
Basic financial assets and liabilities include trade and other receivables, trade and other payables and cash and bank balances. These are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction (loan over a period of time) where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets and liabilities are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.
- m) Cash at Bank & In Hand**
Cash held in income funds are classified as Cash at Bank and in Hand due to being highly liquid accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND CONTRACTS

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	49,415	-	49,415	43,973
Subscriptions	150	-	150	190
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Government grants - Covid support	20,324	-	20,324	140,589
Contract income	280,000	-	280,000	-
Grants	5,700	136,723	142,423	406,814
Total donations, legacies and contracts	355,589	136,723	492,312	591,566
Total 2021	501,478	90,088	591,566	

3. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Fundraising	14,230	-	14,230	16,930
Sales & installation of aids	37,460	-	37,460	17,666
Deaf awareness & Sign				
Language courses	30,698	-	30,698	34,192
Total Fundraising Income	82,388	-	82,388	68,788
Total 2021	68,788	-	68,788	

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank Interest received	478	-	478	551
Bank investment bond movement	(1,113)	-	(1,113)	689
Total Investment Income	(635)	-	(635)	1,240
Total 2021	1,240	-	1,240	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
Lip reading support	11,097	20,724	31,821	23,612
Sign language support	42,867	-	42,867	35,850
VVS clinics	-	88,208	88,208	72,198
Sale of equipment	389,842	43,263	433,105	424,749
Governance	5,504	-	5,504	6,792
Total	449,310	152,195	601,505	563,201
Total for 2021	468,363	94,838	563,201	

6. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Lip Reading Support	Sign Language Support £	VVS Clinics £	Sale of Equipment £	Governance £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Direct Costs							
Supplies & Installation							
Of aids	-	-	-	28,155	-	28,155	13,430
Training costs	10,404	26,343	-	-	-	36,747	28,183
Staff costs	1,350	11,864	-	104,223	-	117,437	121,254
Office costs	-	-	5,186	7,208	-	12,394	1,234
Total Direct Costs	11,754	38,207	5,186	139,586	-	194,733	164,101
Total Direct Costs 2021	9,231	31,013	1,234	122,623	-	164,101	
Support Costs							
Staff cost	17,410	-	66,231	209,619	1,000	294,260	288,143
Office costs	1,326	2,326	8,681	32,927	-	45,260	55,962
Premises costs	1,276	2,238	5,844	34,185	-	43,543	39,097
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-	-	7,188	-	7,188	9,101
Bank charges	55	96	251	1,466	-	1,868	1,687
Travel cost	-	-	2,015	8,134	-	10,149	(682)
Audit cost	-	-	-	-	4,504	4,504	5,792
Total Support Costs	20,067	4,660	83,022	293,519	5,504	406,772	399,100
Total Support Costs 2021	14,381	4,837	75,855	297,235	6,792	399,100	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

7. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	374,384	370,996
Social security costs	25,686	23,922
Pension costs	8,521	9,602
Healthcare and reduced insurance	3,106	4,877
Total	<u>411,697</u>	<u>409,397</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £50,000 (2021: none more than £50,000).

No trustee received any remuneration during the year (2021: nil).

No trustee was reimbursed during the year for expenses incurred on behalf of the company (2021: nil).

The charity operates a Group Pension Savings Plan for employees. Further information is provided in note 14.

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
Chief Executive	1	1
Project support	13	10
Administration and management	8	8
Total	<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>

The charity significantly benefits from the work of 140 (2021: 140) full and part-time volunteers, who are in addition to the average numbers shown above.

8. TAXATION

No liability to United Kingdom corporation tax arose in the year, on the basis that the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment £	Other Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
COST					
At 1 April 2021	32,463	12,588	20,419	43,018	108,488
Additions	1,447	332	-	-	1,779
Disposals	-	-	-	(6,012)	(6,012)
At 31 March 2022	33,910	12,920	20,419	37,006	104,255
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2021	14,246	9,110	19,539	33,607	76,502
Charge for the year	3,933	762	176	2,317	7,188
Disposals	-	-	-	(5,869)	(5,869)
At 31 March 2022	18,179	9,872	19,715	30,055	77,821
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2022	15,731	3,048	704	6,951	26,434
At 31 March 2021	18,217	3,478	880	9,411	31,986

10. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	21,423	5,937
Other debtors	2,760	1,616
Prepayments and accrued income	40,149	18,751
	<u>64,332</u>	<u>26,304</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

11. CREDITORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	18,060	3,751
Other taxes and social security	8,357	8,643
Accruals and deferred income	26,506	32,788
Other creditors	368	913
	<u>53,921</u>	<u>46,095</u>

12. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2022, the company had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2022		2021	
	Land and Buildings £	Other £	Land and Buildings £	Other £
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year	31,500	-	31,333	-
Between two and five years	108,125	-	126,000	-
In over five years	34,900	-	58,625	-
	<u>176,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>215,958</u>	<u>-</u>

The company's total future financial commitments under operating leases are £176,525 (2021 - £215,958).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

13. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the 31 March 2022.

14. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a Group Pension Savings Plan. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company and amounted to £8,521 (2021: £9,602). There were contributions of £368 (2021: £913) payable at the end of the year.

15. RELATED PARTIES

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2022.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Statement of funds – current year

	Balance	Movement in Funds		Balance
	1.04.2021	Incoming	Expenditure	31.03.2022
	£	Resources	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	242,546	437,342	(449,310)	230,578
	<u>242,546</u>	<u>437,342</u>	<u>(449,310)</u>	<u>230,578</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent)	1,480	35,676	(35,676)	1,480
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent – formerly West Kent)	10,624	13,020	(23,644)	-
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent – Formerly Mid Kent)	6,412	28,316	(28,888)	5,840
Lip Reading – Fundraising Income	3,908	16,816	(20,724)	-
Provincial Lodge – Van donation	1,497	-	(368)	1,129
Awards for All – Hearing Aid project	-	5,535	(5,535)	-
KAB – COMF	-	16,667	(16,667)	-
KCC – Social Groups	-	8,500	(8,500)	-
Other - Social Groups	-	3,693	(3,693)	-
Phillip Connie Foundation – Social Groups	-	8,500	(8,500)	-
	<u>23,921</u>	<u>136,723</u>	<u>(152,195)</u>	<u>8,449</u>
Total of funds	266,467	574,065	(601,505)	239,027

Restricted Funds Carried Forward

Volunteer Visiting Scheme East Kent

Volunteer Visiting Scheme West Kent

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of the Volunteer Visiting Scheme in the 2 areas of Kent helping people with maintenance of their NHS hearing aids.

Provincial Lodge – van donation

these funds have been designated to cover the depreciation costs of the van purchased with the funding.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Statement of funds –prior year

	Movement in Funds			Balance 31.03.2021 £
	Balance 1.04.2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Expenditure £	
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	139,403	571,506	(468,363)	242,546
	<u>139,403</u>	<u>571,506</u>	<u>(468,363)</u>	<u>242,546</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent)	1,480	35,674	(35,674)	1,480
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent – formerly West Kent)	19,125	11,900	(20,401)	10,624
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent – Formerly Mid Kent)	2,170	25,256	(21,014)	6,412
Lip Reading – Fundraising Income	3,908	9,231	(9,231)	3,908
Provincial Lodge – Van donation	1,988	-	(491)	1,497
Tinnitus Groups	-	2,605	(2,605)	-
Awards for All – Hearing Aid project	-	722	(722)	-
Sevenoaks Round Table Laptop Fund	-	600	(600)	-
The Clothworkers Charitable Foundation	-	4,100	(4,100)	-
	<u>28,671</u>	<u>90,088</u>	<u>(94,838)</u>	<u>23,921</u>
Total of funds	168,074	661,594	(563,201)	266,467

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds – current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	26,434	-	26,434
Current assets	257,435	8,449	265,884
Creditors due within one year	(53,291)	-	(53,291)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	230,578	8,449	239,027

Analysis of net assets between funds – prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	31,986	-	31,986
Current assets	256,655	23,921	280,576
Creditors due within one year	(46,095)	-	(46,095)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	242,546	23,921	266,467

HI KENT

England & Wales - Charity number 1052036

Accounts

Company Number: 03132542
Registered Charity Number: 1052036

HI KENT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

AUDITED TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Patron:	Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe
Honorary President:	Nadra Ahmed OBE DL
Chief Executive:	John Clayton (resigned 30 June 2021)
Trustees:	Clive Reddihough (Chairman)
(Treasurer)	Caroline Elizabeth Highwood
2020)	Tina Beckham (resigned 20 September 2020)
	Patrick Todd
	Mary Shaw
	Derek Smyth
	Alan West
Company Registered Number:	03132542
Charity Registered Number:	1052036
Company Secretary	Maxine Lucas
Head Office and Registered Office:	18 Brewer Street Maidstone Kent ME14 1RU
Independent Auditors:	Charcroft Baker LLP 5 West Court Enterprise Road Maidstone Kent ME15 6JD
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors:	Warners Solicitors 180 High Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1BD

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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7 - 10	Report of the Auditors
11	Statement of Financial Activities
12	Balance Sheet
13	Statement of Cashflows
14 - 16	Accounting Policies Statement
17 - 25	Notes to the Financial Statements

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees (who are also directors of Hi Kent for purpose of company law) present herewith their Annual Report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Legal and Administrative Details

The charity is a company limited by guarantee (company number 03132542, registered charity number 1052036). The charity is governed by the Memorandum & Articles of the company dated 21 November 1995. The Trustees, who comprise the Management Committee of the charity, are responsible for governance of the charity in accordance with the governing document, with day-to-day management delegated to the Chief Executive.

Principal Activities and Policy Statement

Hi Kent's aims and objectives are to provide d/Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people with information, assistive equipment and support required to maximise communication and enable them to live fulfilled lives socially and in employment. In line with these core values the principal activities of the company continue to be the assessment of the needs of people with a hearing loss on behalf of Kent County Council, and the provision of relevant advice, equipment services and support. Our support activities also include free lipreading classes, tinnitus support groups, community clinics for hearing aid maintenance, deaf awareness classes and suitable premises where equipment can be demonstrated to clients. Hi Kent's objectives and activities are solely for the benefit of the public. The Trustees of Hi Kent have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Demographic data shows that there is a growing older population which means there is certain to be an ongoing increase in people requiring the services of Hi Kent in the future as the incidence of hearing loss and deafness is greatest among older people. An underlying factor is the general, increasing population in the county of Kent. Nationally 1 in 5 people are hearing impaired and this statistic rises to 2 in 5 for people over the age of 50. People over the age of 70 are more likely to have a hearing loss than not. In Kent the number of people over the age of 50 is set to rise by 55% by 2033 (source: Office for National Statistics).

Review of the Year

The past year has been like no other because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We kept our services running by adapting them to be as Covid safe as possible. Our BSL and Lipreading courses and Tinnitus Support Groups were moved from face to face to online platforms which have proved to be successful for many people, and some will continue even after the threat of Covid has passed. We kept our centres open throughout the lockdowns running with a skeleton crew at times and had many staff working from home. Our hearing aid maintenance clinics had to be paused out in the community, but the service was still available from our centres, and we operated a postal service for batteries and hearing aid supplies. We have only helped around half of the people we would help in a normal year. A total of 35,000 as opposed to 72,000 in the previous year's report. The threat of Covid has been at the forefront of people's minds, overshadowing any hearing issues they may be experiencing.

Our usual fundraising activities were curtailed but we were fortunate to

being able to benefit from local authority grants to help mitigate these losses of income. We did take advantage of our website for selling our fundraising goods which helped but income was a fraction of a normal year where we would be out selling at Christmas fairs, exhibitions and other community events.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

During the year we were able to apply for funding for our new Wellbeing Support Line which has been a lifeline to people having to isolate in this period. Due to having to move our Lipreading Courses and Tinnitus Support Groups online we did find that the format did not suit some people. Because of this we have developed a new Social Groups project which will bring people back face to face.

Financial Status

The steps taken in planning the budget for 2021 have helped to continue the financial health of the organization.

The actual revenue for 2021 was £661,594 (2020 was £642,437), an increase of £19,157.

On the cost control side, expenditures were £563,201 (2020 was £667,353) which is a decrease of £104,152 in costs.

The net movement in funds was therefore a £98,393 surplus (2020 was a £24,916 deficit) which is a fantastic result in difficult times and reaffirmed our major objective to maintain Hi Kent's organisation and finances in a solid position.

Reserves Policy

Total funds of the Charity at 31 March 2021 were £266,467 (2020: £168,074). Free reserves, calculated as being reserves after the removal of restricted funds, designated funds and tangible fixed assets, held at 31 March 2021 were £210,560. Funds may be held in a mixture of fixed term deposits, bonds and open access interest bearing accounts intended to maximise investment returns whilst not impairing liquidity. This position may fluctuate temporarily during the year as it smooths operational costs. It is our longer term aim to maintain reserves at the equivalent of between four to six months' operational costs, as a contingency to enable us to honour all contractual obligations.

Associations with Organisations

We have continued to work closely with Kent County Council under a contract which funds our Resource Centres and employs us to carry out Statutory Assessments on their behalf. This contract renews in April 2021 and will become a Wellbeing Contract incorporating work for the blind and d/Deaf. We will be subcontracted by The Kent Association for the Blind for this Kent County Council contract. We also receive financial support from

NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, and from many local organizations and businesses. We have continued our symbiotic relationship with Kent Adult Education. Our relationships with all these organisations underpin our work and are of enormous benefit to our clients. We have established excellent working relationships with several private providers of hearing aids who either currently carry out work for the NHS or intend to do so in the near future. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the British Tinnitus Association. Hi Kent chairs the Kent Charities Group which involves joint fundraising with several other local charities in the County.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Corporate Risk Assessment

The Management Committee have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Hi Kent operates budget control procedures and formal reports are provided to the Management Committee at its bi-monthly meetings. Progress of actual vs. budget funding/spending and cash flow analysis are kept under close review. Internal control risks are minimised by the stringent application of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Hi Kent successfully completed the ISO 9001:2008 quality assurance process in June 2013, and this certification has been renewed annually since that date. This standard is now named ISO 9001:2015.

Procedures are in place to:

- a) ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to all Hi Kent premises and when undertaking work on behalf of Hi Kent at other locations;
- b) ensure that all necessary policies are in place and reviewed at appropriate intervals, including, inter alia, environmental issues, adult protection, data protection, etc;
- c) ensure security of tenure in respect of premises occupied under long-term leases;
- d) recruit, retain and develop staff
- e) ensure compliance with all relevant legislation.

These procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity, and all policies and procedures are examined rigorously as part of the annual ISO 9001:2015 process.

Methods Adopted for Recruitment and Appointment of new Trustees

Hi Kent appoints 'fit and proper persons' to serve as its Trustees and ensures its Board is balanced with a wide range of skills. As far as is

possible Hi Kent aims to have diversity in its Trustees in terms of breadth of skills, age, gender, race and background, as well as personal experience or understanding of hearing loss and the needs of our client group.

Induction of Trustees

Potential new Trustees are provided with briefing material by the Chairman and the Chief Executive then invited to attend one or more Trustees' Meetings as observers before a decision is taken to appoint them as Trustee. They also receive copies of recent accounts, annual reviews, Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Employee Remuneration

The remuneration of key employees is set by the Trustees.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to our many volunteers who provide the outreach service to deaf people in their local communities and understand how frustrated they have been not to be able to help as they usually do. Tragically there have been Volunteer and Client lives lost to Covid-19 and our sympathy goes out to all the families and friends of those people. We again appreciate the support of staff in Local Authorities and NHS bodies which enables us to develop service provision for our mutual clients. Hi Kent gratefully acknowledges the generous donations of those funding bodies which have awarded grants this year which have been essential in a year where fundraising activities mainly had to be put on hold. We also give grateful thanks to the numerous individuals who contribute regularly to our work on behalf of Kent's 350,000 people with a hearing loss.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Future Plans

Our ongoing aim is to help more of Kent's 350,000 d/Deaf and hard of hearing people year on year, providing the services they need as close to where they live as possible and helping them to achieve the outcomes they need to live well.

Our new Wellbeing Contract will enable us to develop new services such as the Social Groups, help for Deaf people and British Sign Language users and extending our Assessment Service to all d/Deaf adults in the Kent County Council area.

This contract will have a 3-year term, with the possibility of two one year extensions, which will provide much-needed stability for voluntary sector providers, and will be far more satisfactory than the year-by-year rolling renewals that have characterised the recent past.

For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

To put us in a better position to face the challenges ahead under the new Wellbeing Contract we took the decision to make changes to the structure of the management team. The new management team was put in place from 30th June 2021. Another change for the year is that it was decided not to renew the ISO 9001:2015 certification so this will run until 18th June 2022. Hi Kent will continue to follow its own self regulated form of quality

assurance which is based on the systems put in place for ISO.

With a fully costed budget for 2021-2022 we will continue to sustain our service delivery and maintain performance against targets subject to funding in the current year.

We are gradually returning to the community in providing assistive equipment, advice and aftercare services to clients at our Resource Centres and numerous other venues including our shop in Week Street, Maidstone. In the shop we also showcase the work of deaf artists and intend to continue with these exhibitions.

We will continue to navigate our way as safely as possible through the Covid-19 pandemic by use of sanitising, PPE and regular testing and vaccinations of staff.

Hi Kent, will continue to offer high quality British Sign Language (BSL) and Deaf Awareness Courses at venues that are most convenient and cost-effective. These are now being delivered in a mix of face to face and online. Our partnership with Kent Adult Education covers BSL Levels 1 and 2 and the number of courses that we provide each year continues to increase. Students on our BSL courses achieve enviably high pass rates thanks to our excellent professional tutors. We have successfully run bespoke courses at local Grammar Schools and at Mid Kent College and are hoping to extend this provision into other education providers.

Our Tinnitus Support Groups are online but should return to some face-to-face ones within the year. The advantage of having the groups online is that it has enabled us to reach worldwide with people from India and the United Arab Emirates joining us.

We hope there will be a return to exhibitions and events in the year to come where we will be able to raise awareness of our activities. Lost fundraising income in the past year was offset by Government grants and support from funders and we will be able to resume some of our activities this year, but it will not be a return to pre-pandemic levels.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Fundraising Activities

The charity was unable to carry out the normal quiz nights, dinners hosted by its Patron, the Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe, usual levels of sales of fundraising goods during the Christmas season, sponsored walks and runs and similar events. Income from donations and fundraising was £60,903 for 2021 (£129,976 for 2020). Many of the larger Christmas events for 2021 are not going ahead but we will be maximizing the opportunities at the events that are running. We hope to return to our quizzes after Christmas depending on the Covid-19 situation. We will be launching a new HI Kent lottery in the year so continue to look for new ways of raising our own funds. We maintain our policy of not using any professional fundraisers or commercial participators. The charity is fully compliant with the GDPR

regulations and does not make any direct approaches to vulnerable people or members of the public using intrusive or unreasonable methods. The charity has received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

Hi Kent continues to rely heavily on its team of 140 volunteers, the majority of whom are deployed on running our hearing aid support clinics, after receiving necessary training. A few volunteers also help in our offices and at occasional fundraising events. All are required to undergo a DBS check before acting on our behalf.

Trustees during the year

The trustees of the charity who served during the year were as follows:

Clive Reddihough
Tina Beckham (resigned 20 September 2020)
Caroline Highwood
Patrick Todd
Mary Shaw
Derek Smyth
Alan West

Investment Powers

Day-to-day funds management decisions in the current account rested with the Finance Manager in consultation with the Chief Executive, pursuant to policies approved by the trustees and members of the Management Committee. Long-term investment decisions are subject to Board review. There are no restrictions in the Memorandum and Articles of Association on the type of investments permitted.

Auditors

Charcroft Baker LLP were re-appointed as auditors at the 2020 Annual General Meeting. A resolution proposing that Charcroft Baker LLP be re-appointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report 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 the year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities - continued

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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 proper accounting records that 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.

Disclosure For Information To Auditor

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that Trustees is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- that Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees, on 4th October 2021.. and signed on their behalf by:

Maxine Lucas

Maxine Lucas
Company Secretary

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Hi Kent (the “charitable company”) for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 14 to 16. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity’s affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty relating to going concern

We draw attention to the going concern accounting policy shown on page 14 which refers to the potential impact of Covid-19, which cannot be assessed with any certainty, on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially

misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the

We have nothing to report in this regard.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounts records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for the audit.

Responsibilities of the directors

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or have effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the charity's activities and sector, control environment and performance including the design of the remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration, bonus levels and performance targets;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having enquired into the policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any

potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud was in relation to revenue recognition, cash collections and safe guarding of assets.

We are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included FRS102 Section 1A, the UK Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities SORP (FRS 102) and local tax legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included compliance with laws and regulations concerned with UK government COVID-19 support schemes.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified revenue recognition as a key audit matter related to the potential risk of irregularity including fraud. We assessed the Charity's policy for deferring revenue, including considering whether the policy is in accordance with Charity SORP. We substantively tested the source data and challenged assumptions used to recognise revenue ensuring consistent treatment.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF HI KENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
 - enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
 - performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
 - reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- and

- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Michael Baker BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Charcroft Baker LLP**

5 West Court
Enterprise Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6JD

Date: ...4th October 2021.....

Charcroft Baker LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

HI KENT

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(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	2020
	Funds	Funds	Total	Total
Notes	£	£	Funds	Funds
			£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
<i>Voluntary income:</i>				
Membership subscriptions 2	190	-	190	220
Donations & fund raising 2,3	60,903	-	60,903	129,976

Legacies	2	-	-	-	4,777
<i>Investment income:</i>					
Bank interest received	4	1,240	-	1,240	563
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Grants	2	457,315	90,088	547,403	429,998
Sales & installation of aids	3	17,666	-	17,666	24,059
Deaf awareness & Sign Language courses	3	34,192	-	34,192	52,844
<hr/>					
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		571,506	90,088	661,594	642,437
<hr/>					
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds:					
Costs of generating voluntary income		5,449	-	5,449	25,583
Charitable activities		456,122	94,838	550,960	636,112
Governance costs		6,792	-	6,792	5,658
<hr/>					
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	5	468,363	94,838	563,201	667,353
<hr/>					
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			103,143		
			(4,750)		
			(24,916)		
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward			139,403	28,671	168,074
		192,990			
<hr/>					
Total funds carried forward		242,546	23,921		
		266,467	168,074		
<hr/> <hr/>					

The Statement of Financial Activities incorporates the Income and Expenditure Account.

The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains and losses other than those shown above.

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	9	31,986	35,811
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		17,069	16,813
Debtors	10	5,937	5,659
Prepayments & accrued income		10	20,367
Cash at Bank & in Hand		<u>237,203</u>	<u>108,529</u>
		280,576	158,584
CREDITORS			
Creditors	11	(13,307)	(15,788)
Accruals and deferred income	11	<u>(32,788)</u>	<u>(10,533)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		234,481	132,263
NET ASSETS		<u>266,467</u>	<u>168,074</u>
INCOME FUNDS			
Restricted funds	16	23,921	28,671
Unrestricted funds	16	<u>242,546</u>	<u>139,403</u>
		<u>266,467</u>	
		<u>168,074</u>	

The members have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The directors have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 4th October 2021.....and signed on its behalf by:

Caroline Highwood

C E Highwood
Treasurer

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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Statement of Cash flows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:	132,710	(27,984)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	1,240	563
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(5,276)	(1,133)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(4,036)	(571)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	-	-
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	-
Receipt of endowment	-	-
Net cash provided (used in) financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	128,674	(28,554)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	108,529	137,083
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	237,203	108,529

Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities:

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per SOFA)	98,393	(24,916)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	9,101	10,054
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(1,240)	(563)
Loss / (Profit) on the sale of fixed assets	-	2,914
(Increase) / decrease in stocks	(256)	5,607
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	6,938	12,731
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	19,774	(33,811)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	132,710	(27,984)

Analysis of changes in Net Debt

at
01/04/20 Cash Flow at 31/03/21

**Net
Cash**

Cash at bank and in hand	108,529	128,674	237,203
	<u>108,529</u>	<u>128,674</u>	<u>237,203</u>

HI KENT
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Statutory Information

Hi Kent is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The liability of each member in the event of a winding up is £1.

The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the company information page.

b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the charitable company have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 section 1A), the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting By Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

There were no material departures from those standard

Hi Kent meet the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The company's functional and presentation currency is GBP.

c) Fund Accounting

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific purposes which may only be expended in accordance with the conditions imposed by the trustees.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charitable company.

d) Going concern

The trustees acknowledge the uncertainty concerning Covid-19 and the impact that this could have on the charitable company's operational existence. The charitable company has taken advantage of schemes offered by the government to reduce costs by furloughing staff through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Although some activities of the charitable company had to be postponed and therefore the relevant income was reduced, the charitable company was able to secure additional funding in the form of government grants in order to mitigate the impact of reduced income. The charitable company has continued to provide some necessary activities to the public throughout the pandemic and has been able to provide other charitable activities, such as deaf awareness and sign language courses, safely through alternative methods.

At the time of approving the financial statements the trustees are confident that the charitable company has adequate resources and has taken appropriate measures to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees therefore deem it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

e) Recognition of Income

Income is recognised at fair value, derived from ordinary activities and net of sales taxes and any trade discounts. Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company becomes entitled to the resource, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income is recognised in respect of the following sources:

i) Grants

The charity has received government grants in the year. Income from government and other grants are recognised using the performance model.

Grants are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds and when any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met. Grants received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied are recognised as a liability.

ii) Sales and courses

Income from the sale of equipment is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the customer. This is usually at the point the customer receives the goods.

Income from the installation of equipment and the delivery of courses represents amounts invoiced in respect of the rendering of services. This is recognised with reference to stage of completion and is recognised in the period in which the service is performed.

iii) Donations and fund raising

Income from donations and fund-raising activities is recognised when the funds are received, in line with the general income recognition criteria.

iv) Investment income

Income from investments is recognised when receivable.

v) Legacies

Income from legacies are recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income. This is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is made aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

f) Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Depreciation is provided to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. It is calculated at the following annual rates:

Computers	- 20% of net book value
Equipment	- 20% of net book value
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% of net book value
Motor vehicles	- 25% of net book value

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ACCOUNTING POLICIES STATEMENT (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

g) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is calculated on a first in first out basis and includes all costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition. Net realisable value is based on the estimated selling prices from which are deducted further costs to completion and disposal.

h) Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

i) Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable for the year are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. For more details see note 14.

j) Liabilities and Other Resources Expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to that

category.

Support costs are allocated to the Charitable activities which they support. Governance costs are not allocated to Charitable activities as they represent costs in respect of governing the charity as a whole and do not directly relate to a specific activity.

k) Creditors

Short term trade creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

l) Financial instruments

Basic financial assets and liabilities include trade and other receivables, trade and other payables and cash and bank balances. These are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction (loan over a period of time) where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Such assets and liabilities are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

m) Cash at Bank & In Hand

Cash held in income funds are classified as Cash at Bank and in Hand due to being highly liquid accounts.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations	43,973	-	43,973	69,551
Subscriptions	190	-	190	220
Legacies	-	-	-	4,777
Government grants - Covid support		140,589		-140,589
Grants	316,726	90,088	406,814	420,038

Total donations and legacies	<u>501,478</u>	<u>90,088,591,566</u>
	<u>504,546</u>	

Total 2020	<u>360,842</u>	<u>143,704,504,546</u>
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3. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Fundraising	16,930	-	16,930	60,425
Sales & installation of aids 24,059		17,666	-	17,666
Deaf awareness & Sign Language courses	<u>34,192</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,192</u>	<u>52,844</u>
Total Fundraising Income		<u>68,788</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,788</u>
	<u>137,328</u>			

Total 2020	<u>137,328</u>	<u>-137,328</u>
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4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Interest received	<u>1,240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,240</u>	<u>563</u>
Total Investment Income		<u>1,240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,240</u>
	<u>563</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>563</u>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
Lip reading support	14,381	9,231	23,612	42,436
Sign language support	35,850	-	35,850	62,711
VVS clinics	-	77,089	77,089	98,078

Sale of equipment	411,340	8,518	19,858	458,470
Governance	6,792	-	6,792	5,658

Total **468,363****94,838****563,201****667,353**

Total for 2020 **549,677****117,676****676,353**

6. TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Lip Reading Support	Sign Language Support	VVS Clinics	Sale of Equipment	Governance	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct Costs							
Supplies & Installation							
Of aids	-	-	-	13,430	-	13,430	20,263
Training costs	7,667	20,516	-	-	-	28,183	66,090
Staff costs	1,564	10,497	-	109,193	-	121,254	
119,134							
Office costs	-	-	1,234	-	-	1,234	10,695
Total Direct Costs	9,231	31,013	1,234	122,623	-	164,101	
	216,182						

Total Direct Costs 2020 **25,206****52,464****10,695****127,817** **- 216,182**

Support Costs

Staff cost	13,413	-	65,212	208,518	1,000	288,143	
286,354							
Office costs	560	2,798	6,156	46,448	-	55,962	77,161
Premises costs	391	1,955	4,301	32,450	-	39,097	49,192
Depreciation of fixed assets-	-	-	-	9,101	-	9,101	10,054
Bank charges	17	84	186	1,400	-	1,687	1,732
Travel cost	-	-	-	(682)	-	(682)	22,020
Audit cost	-	-	-	-	5,792	5,792	4,658

Total Direct Costs **14,381****4,837** **75,855** **297,235** **6,792** **399,100**
451,171

Total Direct Costs 2020 **17,230** **10,247** **87,383****330,653** **5,658**
451,171

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

2021 **2020**

	£	£
Salaries and wages	370,996	364,683
Social security costs	23,922	26,101
Pension costs	9,602	10,081
Healthcare and reduced insurance	4,877	4,623
Total	<u>409,397</u>	<u>405,488</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £50,000 (2020: none more than £50,000).

No director received any remuneration during the year (2020: nil).

No director was reimbursed during the year for expenses incurred on behalf of the company (2020: nil).

The charity operates a Group Pension Savings Plan for employees. Further information is provided in note 14.

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Chief Executive	1	1
Project support	10	10
Administration and management	8	8
Total	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>

The charity significantly benefits from the work of 140 (2020: 145) full and part-time volunteers, who are in addition to the average numbers shown above.

8. TAXATION

No liability to United Kingdom corporation tax arose in the year, on the basis that the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains.

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer Equipment Total	Other Fixtures Equipment	& Fittings	Motor Vehicles	
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At 1 April 2020	27,187	12,588	20,419	43,018	
103,212					
Additions	5,276	-	-	-	5,276
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	<u>32,463</u>	<u>12,588</u>	<u>20,419</u>	<u>43,018</u>	<u>108,488</u>

DEPRECIATION

At 1 April 2020	9,371	8,240	19,319	30,471	
67,401					
Charge for the year	4,875	870	220	3,136	9,101
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	<u>14,246</u>	<u>9,110</u>	<u>19,539</u>	<u>33,607</u>	<u>76,502</u>

NET BOOK VALUE

At 31 March 2021	18,217	3,478	880	9,411	
31,986					

At 31 March 2020	17,816	4,348	1,100	12,547	
35,811					

10. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	5,937	4,100
Other debtors	1,616	1,559
Prepayments and accrued income	18,751	27,583
	<u>26,304</u>	<u>33,242</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11. CREDITORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,751	7,168
Other taxes and social security	8,643	7,393
Accruals and deferred income	32,788	10,533
Other creditors	913	1,227
	<u>46,095</u>	<u>26,321</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

12. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2021, the company had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2021		2020	
	Land and Buildings	Other	Land and Buildings	Other
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year	31,333	-	29,500	-
Between two and five years	126,000	-	118,000	-
In over five years	58,625	-	87,958	-
	<u>215,958</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>235,458</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	

The company's total future financial commitments under operating leases are £215,958 (2020 - £235,458).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

13. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the 31 March 2021.

14. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a Group Pension Savings Plan. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company and amounted to £9,602 (2020: £10,017). There were contributions of £913 (2020: £856) payable at the end of the year.

15. RELATED PARTIES

There have been no related party transactions in the year ended 31 March 2021.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

16. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Statement of funds - current year

	Movement in Funds			
	Balance	Incoming	Expenditure	Balance
	1.04.2020	Resources	Expenditure	
	31.03.2021			
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	139,403	571,506	(468,363)	242,546
	<u>139,403</u>	<u>571,506</u>	<u>(468,363)</u>	<u>242,546</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent) 1,480		1,480	35,674	(35,674)
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent - formerly West Kent)	19,125	11,900	(20,401)	10,624
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent - Formerly Mid Kent)	2,170	25,256	(21,014)	6,412
Lip Reading - Fundraising Income	3,908	9,231	(9,231)	3,908
Provincial Lodge - Van donation	1,988	-	(491)	1,497
Tinnitus Groups	-	2,605	(2,605)	-
Awards for All - Hearing Aid project	-	722	(722)	-
Sevenoaks Round Table Laptop Fund-		600	(600)	-
The Clothworkers Charitable Foundation		-	4,100	(4,100)
-				
	<u>28,671</u>	<u>90,088</u>	<u>(94,838)</u>	<u>23,921</u>
Total of funds	168,074	661,594	(563,201)	266,467

Restricted Funds Carried Forward

Volunteer Visiting Scheme East Kent

Volunteer Visiting Scheme North Kent

Volunteer Visiting Scheme West Kent

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of the Volunteer Visiting Scheme in the 3 areas of Kent helping people with maintenance of their NHS hearing aids.

Lipreading

The restricted funds have been designated to cover the costs of the

Lipreading Courses in the following year.

Provincial Lodge - van donation

these funds have been designated to cover the depreciation costs of the van purchased with the funding.

HI KENT

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(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Statement of funds - prior year

	Movement in Funds			Balance
	Balance	Incoming	Expenditure	
	1.04.2020	Resources	Expenditure	Balance
	31.03.2021			
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	190,347	498,733	(549,677)	139,403
	<u>190,347</u>	<u>498,733</u>	<u>(549,677)</u>	<u>139,403</u>
Restricted funds				
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (East Kent) 1,480		-	36,663	(35,183)
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (North Kent - formerly West Kent)	-	45,125	(26,000)	19,125
Volunteer Visiting Scheme (West Kent - Formerly Mid Kent)	-	28,170	(26,000)	2,170
Lip Reading - Fundraising Income	-	27,925	(24,017)	3,908
Provincial Lodge - Van donation	2,643	-	(655)	1,988
Tinnitus Groups	-	4,918	(4,918)	-
Awards for All - Hearing Aid project	-	903	(903)	-
	<u>2,643</u>	<u>143,704</u>	<u>(117,676)</u>	<u>28,671</u>
Total of funds	192,990	642,437	(667,353)	168,074

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

17. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	31,986	-	31,986
Current assets	256,655	23,921	280,576
Creditors due within one year	(46,095)	-	(46,095)
	242,546	23,921	266,467

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	35,811	-	35,811
Current assets	129,913	28,671	158,584
Creditors due within one year	(26,321)	-	(26,321)
	139,403	28,671	168,074