

Durham Deafened Support

Trustee Report 2024

Since our last report, Caroline Smyth has left our small team. We wish her well for everything she does in the future. Donna Balmer, Jane Atkinson daughter, has the same passion for DDS as her mother does. She applied for and was offered the position of General Manager. We also welcome Graham Balmer who is DDS new Outreach Support Worker. We also have Stacey Lowther back, part time as office admin working alongside Richard Flowers.

Support

Support still escalates month on month. 1:1 support in the home, Lip Reading Support groups, Cochlear Implant Support group, Dealing with Deafness Rehab weeks, Tinnitus support groups and 1:1 support and crafts and relaxations groups, can be offered throughout County Durham and Darlington. These are kept small and friendly to accommodate deafened adults.

1:1 work will always be paramount, identifying the needs and being there to support who has become isolated and given up on their social life.

Complementary therapies are also offered throughout the year. Sandras Day is very popular with the members. Reflexology, Facials, Head Massage, Nails and New Age Kurling is offered throughout the day. As this is a social event for members, lunch is provided with tea and coffee offered throughout.

Pam and Donna have also been very busy and successful in gaining Personal Independence Allowance, Attendance Allowance payments and Blue Badges for deafened members this year. Graham is also starting to help with applications for these.

Funding

A lot of work has been done on funding applications. We are still waiting for the outcome of a few but are happy to announce we have ongoing funding from Ballinger of £15,000 a year. We would also like to thank Paula Snowden for Coalfields Regeneration Scheme for helping the team complete applications.

Dealing with Deafness is a non-residential rehabilitation course which is open to people identified as struggling with their or their partners/family members loss. We have learned that even people at the onset of hearing loss can gain huge benefit from attending the course and giving support in the early stages of hearing loss can prevent mental health and family conflict problems before they begin.

On the course we deliver topics that helped deafened people and their partners to understand and to cope with the changes that has been made to their lives and how to deal with the anger, anxiety, fear and frustration associated with severe or profound hearing loss.

Some Comments from Attendees

The deaf people were asked how deafness made them feel, and how it had changed their lives. Tears flowed but there was laughter too from both the deaf and hearing people comments were:

- I have no confidence my social life has gone.
- People don't understand I'm deaf not stupid.
- I can't go to appointment on my own as I need my wife to hear.
- Sad and lonely even though I have a good wife who is trying her best to help me.
- Lack of meaningful conversation.
- Everyday conversation, people keep everything to a minimum now.
- Grandchildren as I can't understand them.
- I avoid people. Even my family.
- I miss friendship and general, everyday chat.
- We have no social life now.
- I feel angry and a burden to my family.

No one will leave the course without ongoing support, whatever they require. Other agencies are also contacted if needed by the attendees.

The trustees would like to thank the staff and volunteers of DDS. Their hard work and commitment along with passion for DDS will ensure that we will continue to thrive and provide advice and support to the deafened community.

Durham Deafened Support
Income & Expenditure Account April 2023 to March 2024

Income Restricted

DCC	£ 101,186.50
Big Lottery Fund	£ 19,593.75
CDCF	£ -
Stanley AAP	£ -
Spennymoor AAP	£ -
Bash AAP	£ -
True Potential	£ -
	£ 120,780.25

Income Unrestricted

Donation	£ 1,795.00
Membership	£ 1,114.00
Funraising	£ 128.28
Cheques	£ 787.95
Access to Work	£ -
Training	£ 70.00
Christmas Lunches	£ 967.90
Project/Photocopying	£ -
Refund	£ -
Sarabec Limited	£ 42.32
	£ 4,863.13

Total Income **£ 125,643.38**

Total Income	£ 125,643.38
Total Expenditure	£ 202,600.96
Income over Expenditure	-£ 76,957.58
Add Balance b/f 01/04/2023	£ 249,827.18
Income over expenditure	-£ 76,957.58
Total	£ 172,869.60

Balance as per Bank Statement 31/03/2024 **£ 172,869.60**

Expenditure

Wages	£ 100,356.75
Project	£ 10,479.01
Lip Reading	£ 13,135.00
HMRC	£ 1,490.05
Rent and Rates	£ 10,069.00
Room Hire	£ 7,888.66
Transport	£ 2,574.91
Office Equipment	£ 745.20
Staff Expenses	£ 6,059.07
Pension	£ 3,501.85
Events	£ 7,099.31
Dealing with Deafness	£ 662.31
Postage and Stationery	£ 1,616.85
Photocopying	£ 164.80
Volunteer Expenses	£ 2,021.74
Utilities	£ 667.94
Tinnitus	£ 1,354.90
Insurance	£ 1,073.61
Web Sites and Computers	£ 559.99
Membership	£ 50.00
ACAS Settlement	£ 1,485.00
Miscellaneous	£ 328.44
Bank Charges	£ 93.03
DWD	£ 40.18
BSL	£ 5,254.74
Palantype	£ 4,786.71
CRB Checks	£ 388.00
Petty Cash	£ 750.00
Accountancy	£ 720.00
Training	£ 924.00
Redundancy	£ 10,664.00
Phone/Internet	£ 231.92
Licence	£ 20.00
Subscriptions	£ 1,379.92
Legal Advice	£ 3,807.00
Flowers	£ 157.07
Purchases	£ 691.89
Total Expenditure	£ 202,600.96



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

DURHAM DEAFENED SUPPORT

On accounts for the year ended

31st MARCH 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1080663

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I 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 accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

30/01/2025

Name:

JAMES STEPHENSON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

MAAT FCCA

(if any):

Address:

NORTH ROAD EAST

WINGATE

TS28SA4

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.