DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1089657

Details

Other names	THE DAME VERA LYNN TRUST FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04230409
Registered	2001-12-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Chailey Heritage Foundation Haywards Heath Road North Chailey Lewes East Sussex BN8 4EF
Phone	01444473274
Email	info@dvlcc.org.uk
Website	www.dvlcc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AND OTHER MOTOR IMPAIRMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DISABILITIES AND THEIR PARENTS AND CARERS, BY PROVIDING EARLY INTERVENTION AND OTHER RELEVANT RELATED SERVICES. TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER RELEVANT RELATED SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AND ASSOCIATED DISABILITIES, AND THEIR PARENTS AND CARERS.

Activities: This charity provides early intervention and other relevant related services to children with cerebral palsy and other motor impairments and associated disabilities and their parents and carers.

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Classification

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

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£676,762	£508,780	£485,023	9
2024-03-31	£527,994	£441,758	£317,041	9
2023-03-31	£369,270	£448,096	-	-
2022-03-31	£440,787	£349,351	-	-
2021-03-31	£468,313	£408,980	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
John Michael Nicholas Dutt	Chair	2021-01-20
Carolyn Scott		2022-12-08
Deborah Fry		2024-02-08
Douglas William Hill		2020-03-02
Elizabeth Haigh-Reeve		2023-02-09
Sarah Whiteley		2025-06-25

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DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1089657

Accounts

DAME VERA LYNN
Children's Charity
Discover together

Registered Charity No. 1089657

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

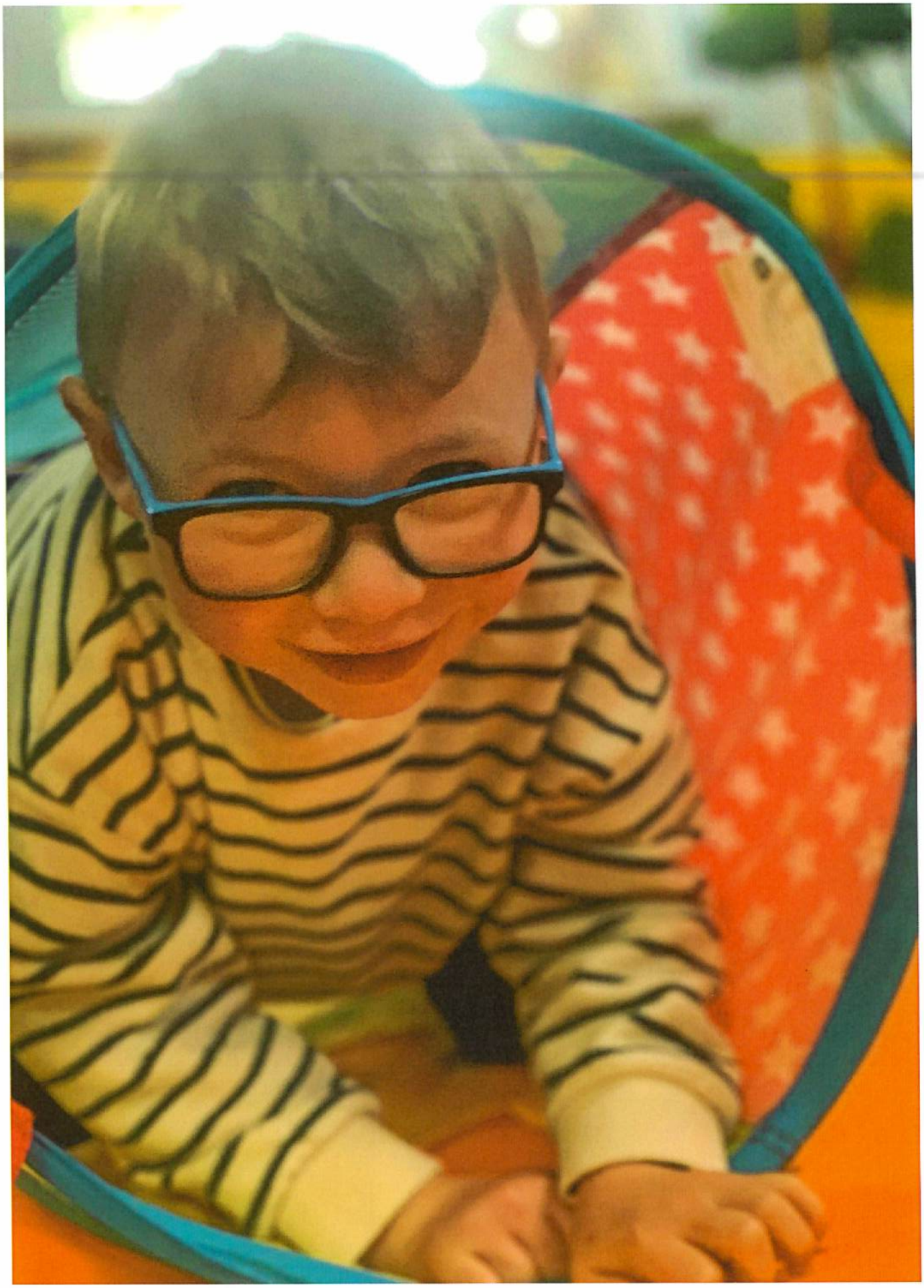
Charity number - 1089657
Company Registration no. - 04230409
www.dvlcc.org.uk

Supporting children and their families, creating possibilities and enhancing lives

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Charity continues to provide an exceptional level of service to children and their families. To see the impact the charity have on the children is truly inspiring.

Our most significant recent achievement has been the move from our base in Cuckfield to the Chailey Heritage site. The move was planned and executed brilliantly, with no disruption to the support for our families and providing a fantastic new centre.

Like all similar charities, the ongoing financial challenges that we are experiencing, have continued to impact our efforts to raise funds, but through the hard work of the team, the generosity of many Trusts & Foundations and particularly a large number of individuals and corporates, we feel we are in a good position as we move forward to build and develop what we have.

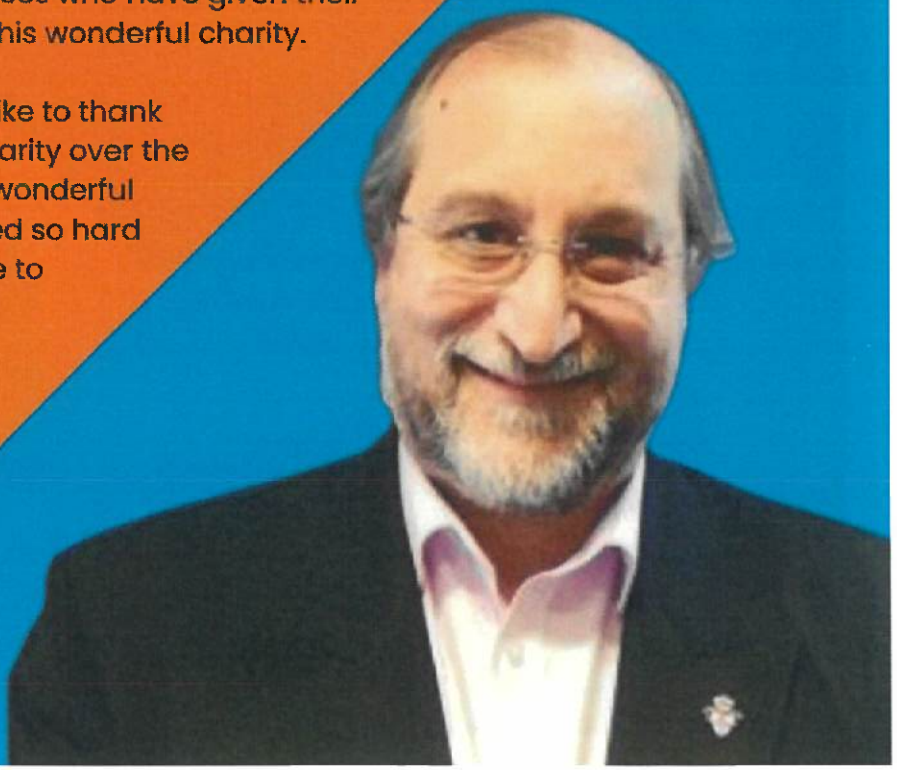
Over the last year Paula Barnes and Tracey Trotter have stepped down as Trustees. Both have provided many years of service for which we are truly grateful. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank them for all their support and efforts.

As always, particular thanks are due to Glenys Creese, who as CEO of the Charity, has done a tremendous job in continuing to build the charity and keep the money coming in.

I would also like to thank all the Trustees who have given their time and expertise so freely to help this wonderful charity.

Finally, on behalf of the Trustees, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the Charity over the last year, and particularly to all the wonderful staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to deliver such an invaluable service to make a real difference to so many

Nick Dutt
Chair of Trustees



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the progress we have made together as a charity. Despite the challenges faced in our ever evolving sector, we have demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and innovation.

Our commitment to excellence and our focus on the changing needs of the children and their families has enabled us to deliver life changing services in a financially sustainable way.

This year, we have made significant strides in expanding our service provision, investing in new team members both in service and fundraising, increasing the charities ability to provide first rate services and a secure financial future for the charity.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our strategic vision and are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We will continue to prioritise the children and their families. We continue to work towards supporting more families giving them the best possible chance of a stronger, brighter future.

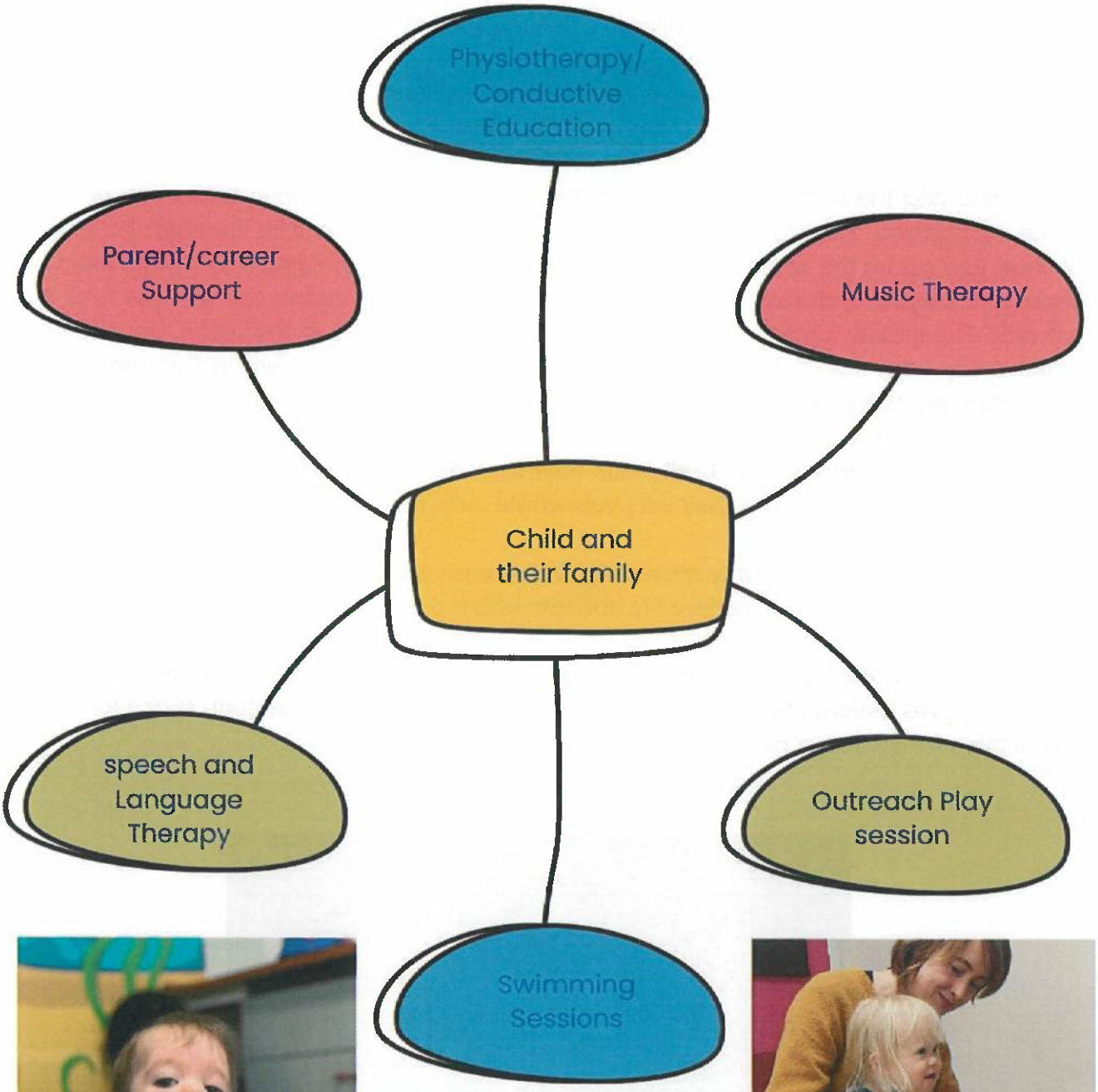
None of this work would be possible without the support and generosity of our many supporters, the incredible families who attend every week and my amazing team who support them.

My heart felt thanks to all of them. I would also like to thank the board of trustees and incredible staff team who have supported all the changes that have been made this year.

Glenys Creese
CEO



ABOUT US


Physiotherapy/ Conductive Education
Parent/career Support
Music Therapy
Child and their family
speech and Language Therapy
Outreach Play session
Swimming Sessions





A BRIEF HISTORY

Next year (2026) Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Like many charities, it has had a few changes along the way but it always remains steadfast in its determination to help the youngest children with motor learning impairments, such as Cerebral Palsy.

In 2001, following the removal of funding from SCOPE, Dame Vera, along with some of her friends, recognised the vital need for support for young children with Cerebral Palsy to continue. She set up the charity in her own name, which was then housed at Ingfield Manor School and began fundraising to enable SCOPE to continue to deliver the services to 0-5 year olds. The charity continued in this way until December 2016. At that point, the charity moved away from SCOPE and away from Ingfield, to a converted barn in Cuckfield. The charity then started employing its own service staff and developing the services to reflect that is offered today. During March 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic, all services were moved online in order that the charity was able to continue to support families who spent many months shielding to keep their very vulnerable children safe.

In the summer of 2024 the charity moved again because we needed more space to provide the now wide range of holistic services to children with more complex needs.

The charity is now housed in its current home on the site of Chailey Heritage Foundation. The new centre gives the charity not only the space it needs but hopefully enough space for it to remain there for a number of years to come.




DAME VERA LYNN
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FINISHER
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OTIS' STORY



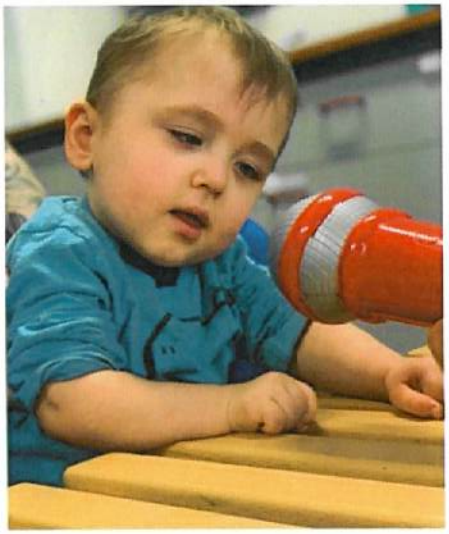
Otis and his twin brother Eddie were both born prematurely at 25 weeks old. Tragically, Eddie passed away in the first 24 hours of his life and Otis went on to spend months in hospital battling serious complications.

Suffering from two brain bleeds, a serious condition in the gut, holes in his heart, holes in his lungs and numerous fractured bones, Otis was resuscitated countless times in that first year. He was diagnosed with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, which means his brain injury affects all four limbs, and he experiences excruciating pain from abnormal muscle tightness that causes erratic movements. His prognosis was bleak and uncertain, and Otis' parents were told that he would never walk or talk.

Although excited to finally leave hospital with Otis at six months old, the family felt terrified and alone with this tiny, fragile baby away from the security of the doctors and nurses. With a recommendation from a friend, the family started attending Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity for physiotherapy, conductive education and hydrotherapy sessions in July 2023.

Being part of sessions was initially very stressful for Otis; he didn't want to be touched or interact with other children and couldn't cope in group sessions. Having been given such a bleak outlook, Otis' parents didn't know what to expect and didn't want to give themselves too much hope. A year and a half on, Otis has achieved more than his parents ever dreamt might be possible.

Through his sessions, Otis has begun to progress his gross motor and fine motor skills, using his hands to grip items such as holding a toy in two hands. Working on hand-eye coordination, he is learning how cause and effect work, by pushing cars on a track or moving an item from one place to another. Whilst Otis is non-verbal, he can make noises to communicate or attract attention. With full support, he is working on rolling, kneeling, sitting and improving his balance.



He has even begun to try and take some step movements in his sessions – something that his parents could never have imagined him doing when he first started at the charity. Now Otis' parents are looking at getting him his own supported walker and he's practicing taking steps at home too.

Hydrotherapy allows Otis to enjoy himself in the swimming pool, just like any other child. The upward force of the water counteracts Otis' bodyweight, allowing him to feel completely relaxed, reducing his pain and helping him to play and have fun with his family and friends. Otis is happy in the water and can solidify the skills learnt in his physiotherapy sessions, whilst experiencing less pressure on his muscles.

Now at nursery, his parents are beginning to consider what the future might hold for him at school. As he continues his sessions at DVLCC, the team will continue to support his development, helping him gain as much independence as possible and allowing him future opportunities.

"Coming here, I've seen so many changes in so many children. I've met some amazing people here and everything has been so good for Otis. It's changed our lives massively." – Otis' mum, Kayleigh

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Number of Swim sessions

76

Number of physiotherapy sessions

988

Number of music sessions

304

Number of outreach sessions

620

Number of families supported

99

Number of SALT sessions

98







SUCCESS

Our biggest success this year was moving to our new home. The barn in Cuckfield was a lovely home for the last 8 years, but the charity has grown significantly since taking over the lease in December 2016. The team spent July packing up the old home, August was spent painting the new home in Chailey and then unpacking all the moved boxes. In September we welcomed the first families into the new home on the site of Chailey Heritage Foundation.

Before....





After....





We have also expanded the team this year, with Sophie and Molly coming to join the fundraising team in August and Beth and Meghana joining the service team in February. Sophie Bushell and Holly also returned from maternity leave. The new team members have been working hard to increase income for the charity and expand the amount of sessions and the range of services on offer to families.



Molly Devine
Content & Admin Officer



Sophie Barriball
Fundraising Officer



Meghana Kolekar
Pediatric Physio



Beth Perry
Family Support Worker

SUCCESS

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the charity has supported 36 new families who came for assessment from right across the south east, travelling from Waterlooville in the west, Hastings in the East and London boroughs in the north.

In total, 99 families accessed services. Some attending only physiotherapy and others attending all services that are on offer to them.

Over the last 18 months, the session leads have been using a new piece of medical equipment called Galileo, which gives each child full-body vibration therapy before the start of their session. It proved so beneficial to children that the charity was able to fund a second machine for our second service room.

Financial year 2024/2025 has been the strongest financial year for the charity. A combination of more corporate support and legacy donations as well as the hard work of the fundraising team has ensured that the charity starts the new financial year in a strong position.



CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge during this financial year was ensuring the building move was as seamless as possible with minimal disruption to services. Good advance communication and frequent updates during the move ensured that families felt that they knew what has happening. We hosted an open-house party before restarting sessions so families could come along and see the new building before the official opening.

Fundraising continues to be a challenge as it is for all charities but, with the new team in place, the charity is in a much stronger position and is now able to look forward and plan for the future.

The charity continues to work with medical professionals, both private and within the NHS, to ensure that as many families as possible know about the charity and the support it is able to provide to young children. The challenge remains in raising awareness of our work so that we can reach the families that need our services.



FINLAY'S STORY

Born eight weeks early via emergency c-section, Finlay suffered breathing difficulties at birth, spending the first five weeks in the neonatal intensive care, with his first week on a ventilator. Finlay was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder, Hao Fountain Syndrome, which affects chromosome 13. This rare condition is diagnosed in only 250 people worldwide, and is characterised by hypotonia (muscle weakness), developmental delay, including speech, and seizures.

When Finlay first attended our centre, he was only 10 months old and initially accessed physiotherapy and conductive education. At this time, he could respond to his name, track people or noises and make choices with food. He has always been a very social child, trying to join in conversations with a range of sounds and giggles. Finlay suffers with speech delay, meaning that it is difficult for him to express himself, and he struggles with formulating words verbally.

Finlay attends sessions with our highly specialist Speech and Language therapist. Using Makaton sign language and his personalised Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) book – provided by the charity – Finlay is now able to better engage in activities, anticipate things happening, and has begun to vocalise sounds or words. He laughs loudly when excited and can say 'mamma' and 'dah' when speaking to his parents. Using his signing knowledge, Finlay can now communicate his needs with almost 50 Makaton signs being used spontaneously – and he is keen to learn more!

The speech and language therapist has also been able to demonstrate ways in which his family can continue to support development of his communication skills at home using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

Finlay now attends nursery, using the aided language boards to communicate with his peers. He can converse with his key worker and nursery SENCO, using his PODD book, and is able to tell staff when he is feeling unwell.

Since coming to the centre, Finlay has become noticeably more confident, communicating more with staff and other children through gestures, vocalisations, and signs. He is now far better equipped to communicate his thoughts, feelings and needs with those around him.





IMPACT

72% of children have made progress in emotional wellbeing

65% of children have made progress with their communication

63% of children have made progress with their gross motor skills

69% of children have made progress with their social skills

The charity continues to use Outcome Star in order that is it able to demonstrate effectively the impact that services have on children and the families. Every child is given a set of learning goals which sit alongside a score, and these goals and scores are reassessed every 6 months. Learning goals are worked on during all sessions at the centre, across all services to ensure joined-up progress for the child and their family. For example, if the child is working on fine motor skills, every member of the team working with that child, whether that be swimming, music, speech and language or home play, will ensure that the child is given an opportunity to work on that skill. It may be holding a beater or a float in the pool or threading objects onto a string - the focus remains firmly on that key learning goal.

Although the team work hard to ensure that children are given every opportunity to continue to build on their skills, it is sadly not always possible for children to process. For some, this is because of their medical condition and others due to unexpected changes to medication as a result of a seizure. These children may spend much of their time learning skills, losing those skills and then relearning. For those families, it is essential that they receive the emotional support that they need alongside the physical support that their child needs. As a charity we are now able to offer parents and careers access to a counselling services which provides them with a safe space to voice their concerns and fears.



For every child we celebrate their success, no matter how small or how long the child is able to maintain that skill. Many parents who come to the charity tell us how much they value that. They tell us that they spend so long listening to professionals telling them what their child can't do or will never be able to do. Parents want to hear the positive - to see their child sit for the first time, even if it is for only a few seconds, can be life-changing for both child and the parent.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play a vital role at the charity, both in support service provision, helping at fundraising events and supporting with administration tasks. Colin and his wife Sue have been volunteering at the charity for a number of years.

"We have been volunteering for DVLCC for nearly 7 years since retirement and have enjoyed every minute of it. It has been an extremely rewarding experience which has offered us the opportunity to give something back to the community and has broadened our horizons.

We have been involved in many diverse events and activities. These include assisting in a sponsored abseiling event down Arundel Castle, supporting a garden party event at Lambeth Palace and running stalls at various fetes and fundraising events (including escorting Christopher Biggins for the day!)

It has given us the opportunity to see the wonderful work that the charity's staff do in helping children with cerebral palsy, and that is the most rewarding part. We have found it has helped our own physical health and wellbeing, and we have made new friends and contacts and had some exciting days out.

Thank you DVLCC for allowing us to become involved so closely in all the wonderful things you do, as well as becoming experts at selling Christmas cards, and barbecuing sausages! Volunteering for DVLCC has been a wonderful experience for us and we would encourage others to consider the same to have the same rewarding experience. Volunteering is not a time consuming activity - you can choose as much or as little as suits you - but you will have fun!"

Colin and Sue

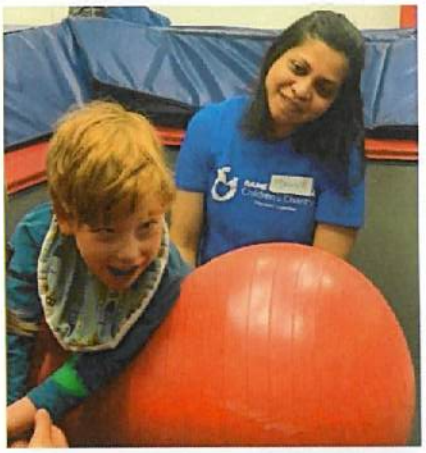


THE FUTURE



During the early part of the year, the Trustees adopted the Business strategy, which outlined a 3 year plan of new services and expanding the current ones on offer.

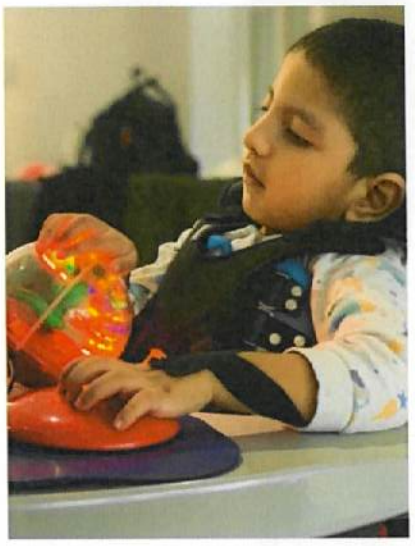
The first part of the strategy was to secure a new home as the barn at Cuckfield could no longer accommodate all of the children and their families who were attending every week. The new home needed to be either in addition to or a replacement for the barn. Following a number of conversations with Chailey Heritage Foundation, it became apparent that sharing their site would not only provide an excellent home for the charity but also reflect the synergy between our two organisations.



The second part of the strategy was to expand both the service and fundraising team. Now this has been successfully completed, the charity can focus on the other parts of the plan.

Over the coming months, new services such as Rebound therapy will be introduced, and new fundraising strategy will come into force to support that expansion.

As a charity, we are constantly reviewing the services on offer to ensure that they meet the changing needs of the families who attend, and remain at the forefront of new technologies and therapies.



An exciting project which the charity hopes will be starting in the next financial year is a research project with the University of Chichester. The research will look into areas such as the physical impact the charity has on the children and their families, the financial impact on other healthcare providers such as the NHS, and what the charity would need to do to increase its provision further.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

DVLCC receives no government funding and relies on donations from the local community to support the vital work. This year, it was extremely fortunate to be selected as the Charity of the Year for Haywards Heath Golf Club who raised over £42,000. This is a life changing amount of money for a child under our care.



This year saw an impressive number of people take on huge challenges to help raise funds including Brighton Marathon,, London Marathon and climbing Mount Snowdon!



Sporting Bears Motor Club®
Driving for Charity

Sporting Bears, for the first time, took part in Spring Live! at Ardingly Showground and raised nearly £5,500 for DVLCC by giving people rides in their amazing sports cars in return for a donation to the charity.



Christmas 2024 saw the 3rd year of Christmas Tree collections, supported by volunteers, local businesses and our parents! The team collected over 200 trees, kindly recycled by Sussex Trees.

We are very thankful to the local community who have continued to support DVLCC over the last 24 years. Without their support and generosity it would not be possible to offer the vital early intervention services that are offered to families who need them.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships for DVLCC are not just about money, we look to partners for support with their professional knowledge and help the charity to grow in other ways. Enable Law continue to support families through the legal advice line, and national law firm Slater and Gordon have come onboard this year to offer families legal advice as well and sponsor a member of our outreach team.

We continue to work with Portage as the kite mark of quality for home play sessions. This year, becoming a Portage Approved Service from being accredited.

A new relationship this year has also begun with the University of Chichester. Over the next year, DVLCC will continue to work together and host placements for physiotherapy students as well the potential for larger research projects.

PLATINUM PARTNERS

September 2024 saw the launch of the Platinum Partners, with 6 partners joining. Platinum Partners are our major donor membership group who are invited to play a direct role in our future as well as attending special events and receptions to network with other like-minded people. We would like to extend special thanks to;

TRUST AND FOUNDATIONS

Trusts and Foundations remains a high percentage of the funds required to maintain and grow DVLCC. This year, the charity has secured funding from 57 different trust and foundations. This is a big increase from the year before. We have been able to build strong relationships with a number of these trusts and they remain critical in the future of the charity.

We are incredibly grateful to all the trusts and foundations who have supported the charity this year.











Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Structure and Governance

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a Registered Charity, (number 1089657). It is a Company, (number 04230409), limited by guarantee. The Charity is governed by its Articles of Association which were updated in March 2019 from the original document with hand-written notes. The directors of the company, who are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law, form the Board of Trustees. Two of the Trustees serve voluntarily as Treasurer and Company Secretary respectively. The Trustees who served during the period were:
Paula Barnes – Secretary (resigned 20 February 2025)
Nick Dutt - Chairperson
Deborah Fry - Safeguarding Lead
Elizabeth Haigh-Reeve
Doug Hill - Treasurer
Carolyn Scott
Tracey Trotter (resigned 15 April 2025)
Sarah Whiteley (appointed 25 June 2025)

A full board meeting is held six times in a 12-month period (more frequently if the need arises). One Trustee is appointed as Chairperson and staff are invited to report on the services and fundraising activities via the respective sub-committees which also meet regularly during the period. The budget is approved annually by the full Board of Trustees and is reviewed monthly.

The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum and Trustees are appointed to serve for a term of nine years. Prospective Trustees are required to complete an application form and declare any conflict of interest. No person is appointed to serve as a Trustee unless approved by the existing Trustees. New Trustees are introduced to the Board and briefed, as necessary, in all aspects of the Charity's objectives and policies. Trustees are encouraged to seek training, as appropriate, also to observe and follow the requirements and guidelines set down by the Charity Commission. Trustees are DBS checked on their appointment and then every two years thereafter. The Trustees have diverse professional backgrounds, and some are also parents of children who have used the service.

Risk Management

Risks have been identified to which the Charity is exposed, and which might impact on the Charity's ability to achieve its objectives. To mitigate those risks, policies and procedures have been established that are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss and ensure a consistent, high quality of service and care for the children and appropriate working conditions for the staff. The safeguarding of our children is paramount to everything that this Charity does. The Trustees have established an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Charity's key risks, and this is reviewed regularly. In particular, there are procedures for:

- Ethical fundraising
- Providing the capacity to safely deliver the service with fully qualified staff
- Ensuring that the Charity's services meet required standards, including for safeguarding, child protection, health and safety and well-being.
- Avoiding actions that could damage the Charity's reputation
- Ensuring that the Fundraising staff and all Charity fundraising activities are fully compliant with all Fundraising Regulations and all Charity Commission requirements, including those for general data protection.
- Ensuring a proper complaint procedure for service users, staff, and donors
- Ensuring equal opportunities and safe recruitment and retaining sufficient levels of skilled staff
- Providing adequate ICT systems and ensuring the protection and security of confidential information
- The overall management and development of systems and HR practises and people
- Ensuring the provision of adequate levels of governance, financial and operating control through its Trustees and management.
- Financial reporting within a comprehensive planning and accounting framework, and monitoring of other risks which are identified and reported to the Trustees.

The Trustees continue to monitor the risks and the effectiveness of the system of control that has been put in place by the Charity.

Management

The Chief Executive Officer holds responsibility for ensuring that the delivery and standards of the services meet the objectives set out by the Trustees as well as having full responsibility for staffing, delivery of the service provision and fundraising.

Financial Review

The Charity's Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 28. The total income for the year was £676,762 (2024: £527,994) and total expenditure was £508,780 (2024: £441,758). Income has increased this year mainly due to three legacies totalling £174,179. In the prior year, we received a one off endowment of £120,000. Excluding these, income was up 23% and reflects increased fundraising efforts with events and corporate income accounting for all of this increase.

Reserve policy

The Charity is reliant on receiving funds from individuals, community groups, business and trust and foundations. In order to protect against an unexpected drop in income, the Charity ensures that it has deposited funds that are set aside to meet the financial commitments explained in the report for at least a period of six (6) months. The main objective of the Trustees is to ensure the Charity has adequate funding to safeguard its daily activities meet its financial obligations and commitments to the children, parents and staff. At 31st March 2025, in addition to the restricted and designated funds it carries over into the new financial year, the Charity held free reserves of £215,743 (2024: £79,505) and is just short of meeting the free reserves policy. However, the Charity continues to implement a comprehensive plan arising from a strategic review of its income generation undertaken 2023/24 and which is already beginning to yield significant positive results. Combined with a continuous review of its costs, the Trustees are confident that the Charity will meet the reserves policy going forward.

In 2021/22, the Trustees agreed to set aside the proceeds from a significant legacy to fund initiatives aimed at the expansion of the Charity's services as it emerged from the COVID restrictions. These have been allocated to a designated fund. This policy will continue to be under review in the coming financial year.

All funds are held in approved current and deposit accounts, including those managed by the Charities Aid Foundation, and positions are monitored closely to ensure that there is no unduly high exposure to any one financial institution. The Trustees continually monitor the cash position and review this reserves policy each year in order to ensure that the Charity always has sufficient funds to meet its obligations and continue to provide its charity service.

Preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also directors of Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and 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 Charity at the year end and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity 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 judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf by: 7th August 2025.



Nick Dutt
Chair of Board of Trustees

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Legal & Administrative Information

Founder
Dame Vera Lynn CH DBE LLD M. Mus

Vice Presidents
Virginia Lewis-Jones
Tom Jones
Sir Tim Rice
Sir Cliff Richard OBE
Hayley Westenra

Patrons
Kirstie Betts
Richard Betts
Christopher Biggins
John Bowis OBE
Richard Leon
Barrie Roberts
Sophia Warner

Ambassadors
Chris Andre
Gary and Lorrie Birtles
Olivia Breen
Adrian Brown
D-Day Darlings
Colin & Sue Darnell
Mickie Driver
Avril Gaynor
Abbie Hunnisett
James Lynes
Christian Mitchell
Stephanie Prior
Katherine Samuelson
Colin Thackery

CEO
Glenys Creese

Address (Registered)
Rennie Building,
Chailey Heritage Foundation,
Haywards Heath Road,
Chailey, BN8 4EF
Tel: 01444 473274

Trustees
Paula Barnes – Secretary (resigned 20 February 2025)
Nick Dutt - Chairperson
Deborah Fry - Safeguarding Lead
Elizabeth Haigh-Reeve
Doug Hill - Treasurer
Carolyn Scott
Tracey Trotter (resigned 15 April 2025)
Sarah Whiteley (appointed 25 June 2025)

Principal Advisers
Bank
CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill
West Malling, Kent
ME19 4JQ

Accountants and Independent examiners
TC Group
The Courtyard, Shoreham Road,
Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3TN

Registration numbers
Registered Charity No. 1089657
Company Registration No. 04230409

Website www.dvlcc.org.uk

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsiblefor the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts ascarried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followedthe Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ACCA, which is a listed body.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than anyrequirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

TC Group

Mr Mark Cummins FCCA FCIE
for and on behalf of
TC Group
The Courtyard,
Shoreham Road,
Upper Beeding,
Steyning
West Sussex
BN44 3TN

Dated: .....13/8/2025.....

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

(including the Income & Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	**364,915**	-	**23,250**	-	**388,165**	123,575
Charitable activities	4	**65,460**	-	**146,343**	-	**211,803**	315,277
Other trading activities	5	**68,447**	-	-	-	**68,447**	88,365
Investments	6	**8,347**	-	-	-	**8,347**	777
Total income		**507,169**	-	**169,593**	-	**676,762**	527,994
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	**168,223**	-	-	-	**168,223**	127,020
Charitable activities	7	**197,762**	-	**142,795**	-	**340,557**	314,738
Total Expenditure		**365,985**	-	**142,795**	-	**508,780**	441,758
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds		**141,184**	-	**26,798**	-	**167,982**	86,236
Reconciliation of Funds							
Total funds brought forward		83,182	77,850	36,009	120,000	317,041	230,805
Total funds carried forward		**224,366**	**77,850**	**62,807**	**120,000**	**485,023**	317,041

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those reported on the Statement of Financial Activities.

All activities are classed as continuing.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible Assets	13	8,623	-	-	-	8,623	3,677
Intangible assets	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
		8,623	-	-	-	8,623	3,677
Current Assets							
Debtors	15	37,775	-	-	-	37,775	32,051
Cash at bank and in hand		208,397	77,850	62,807	120,000	469,054	309,596
		246,172	77,850	62,807	120,000	506,829	341,647
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(30,429)	-	-	-	(30,429)	(28,283)
Net current assets		215,743	77,850	62,807	120,000	476,400	313,364
Net assets		224,366	77,850	62,807	120,000	485,023	317,041
Funds							
Restricted funds	17	-	-	62,807	-	62,807	36,009
Endowment funds	19	-	-	-	120,000	120,000	120,000
Designated funds	18	-	77,850	-	-	77,850	77,850
Unrestricted funds		224,366	-	-	-	224,366	83,182
		224,366	77,850	62,807	120,000	485,023	317,041

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to audit exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 7th August 2025.

.....

N Dutt (Chair) Charity number: 1089657 Company number: 04230409

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities					
Net cash from operating activities	Note below		**159,374**		53,471
Cash flow from investing activities					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		**(8,263)**		-	
Interest received		**8,347**		777	
Net cash flow from investing activities			**84**		777
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			**159,458**		54,248
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024			**309,596**		255,348
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2025			**469,054**		309,596
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents					
Cash at bank and in hand			**469,054**		309,596
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operations					
Net income for the year			**167,982**		86,236
Interest received			(8,347)		(777)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets			3,317		2,584
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets			-		-
Increase in debtors			(5,724)		(9,706)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors			2,146		(24,866)
Net cash flow from operating activities			**159,374**		53,471

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Company Information

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the legal and administrative information page.

2. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

Having considered future budgets and cash flows, the Trustees confirm that they have no material uncertainties about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

Both grants and donations income are recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income stream have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. In the event that such income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income from other trading activities includes ticket sales and other income from events organised directly by the Charity together with other income from the sale of Christmas cards and is recognised when the entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is credited to income when it is receivable, and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. Support costs are those which assist the use of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Support costs are allocated on a basis consistent with use of resources.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. These are included within support costs.

Tangible fixed assets
Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation. Depreciation is provided as the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life: Fixtures and fittings 20% and 25% straight line

Intangible fixed assets
Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation. Amortisation is provided at 20% on a straight-line basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Lease commitments
Operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Taxation
The charitable company is registered as a charity and all of its income falls within the exemptions under Part11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated towards a specific purpose by the trustee board.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Endowment funds are restricted funds that generate income to benefit the Charity over multiple years.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes bank accounts, cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposits or similar account.

Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Critical estimates and accounting judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experienceand other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Individual donations	-	**88,467**	**88,467**	56,115
Corporate donations	**23,250**	**91,068**	**114,318**	61,310
Legacies/in memory donations	-	**185,380**	**185,380**	6,150
	23,250	**364,915**	**388,165**	123,575

There was no designated or endowment income during the year, in the prior year there were no restricted, endowment or designated income .

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Trusts and Foundations	**146,343**	**65,460**	**211,803**	315,277
	146,343	**65,460**	**211,803**	315,277

There was £114,627 restricted income and a £120,000 Endowment from Trusts and Foundations during the prior year.
There was no designated or endowment income during the year.

5. Income from other trading activities

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Events	-	**26,841**	**26,841**	39,668
Local Authority fees	-	**36,086**	**36,086**	47,902
Other	-	**5,520**	**5,520**	795
	-	**68,447**	**68,447**	88,365

There was no restricted, endowment or designated income during the year, or in the prior year.

6. Investment income

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable	-	**8,347**	**8,347**	777
	-	**8,347**	**8,347**	777

There was no restricted or designated income during the year, or in the prior year.

7. Analysis of Expenditure

	Depreciation/ Amortisation £	Staff Costs £	Other costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Raising Funds					
Activities undertaken directly	-	121,359	44,155	165,514	124,212
Support costs	-	-	2,709	2,709	2,808
	-	121,359	46,864	168,223	127,020
Charitable activities					
Activities undertaken directly	3,317	235,612	92,148	331,077	307,423
Support costs	-	-	9,480	9,480	7,315
	3,317	235,612	101,628	340,557	314,738
Total	3,317	356,971	148,492	508,780	441,758

8. Analysis of Support Costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Travel and training	4,370	2,881
HR & Payroll costs	175	950
Governance costs (note 9)	7,644	6,292
	12,189	10,123

9. Analysis of Governance Costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Professional fees	4,543	3,890
Independent examination fee	3,000	2,100
Other governance costs	101	302
	7,644	6,292

10. Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	**123,575**	-	-	-	**123,575**
Charitable activities	**80,650**	-	**114,627**	**120,000**	**315,277**
Other trading activities	**88,365**	-	-	-	**88,365**
Investments	**777**	-	-	-	**777**
Total income	**293,367**	-	**114,627**	**120,000**	**527,994**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**127,020**	-	-	-	**127,020**
Charitable activities	**215,519**	-	**99,219**	-	**314,738**
Total Expenditure	**342,539**	-	**99,219**	-	**441,758**
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	**(49,172)**	-	**15,408**	**120,000**	**86,236**
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total funds brought forward	132,354	77,850	20,601	-	**230,805**
Total funds carried forward	**83,182**	**77,850**	**36,009**	**120,000**	**317,041**

11. Trustees

None of the trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

12. Employees

	2025	2024
Employee information	**Number**	Number
Average number of employees during the year:	**9**	7

Employment costs	**£**	£
Wages and salaries	**280,328**	242,628
Agency staff costs	**44,684**	56,962
Social Security costs	**23,681**	19,188
Other pension costs	**8,278**	6,519
	356,971	325,297

The number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension contributions) were within the following ranges: £70,000 - £79,999: 1 (none in 2024).

During the year the key management personnel of the charitable company comprised of the CEO and the Fundraising Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel (including Employer's National Insurance Contributions) were £123,865 (2024: £104,345).

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Total Fixtures & Fittings £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	70,579
Additions	**8,263**
At 31 March 2025	**78,842**
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2024	66,902
Charge for the year	3,317
At 31 March 2025	**70,219**
Net book value	
At 31 March 2025	**8,623**
At 31 March 2024	3,677

14. Intangible fixed assets

	Total Software £
Cost and accumulated amortisation	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	25,992
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025	-

15. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	**22,220**	18,966
Prepayments and accrued income	**15,555**	1,385
Other debtors	-	11,700
	37,775	32,051

16. Creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	**8,051**	7,919
Social security and other taxes	**8,828**	5,610
Accruals and deferred income	**11,500**	13,500
Other creditors	**2,050**	1,254
	30,429	28,283

17. Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds 2024/25			
	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Salaries	33,009	132,541	(102,743)	-	62,807
Equipment	3,000	37,052	(40,052)	-	-
	36,009	169,593	(142,795)	-	62,807

Salaries

The salaries restricted fund comprises funds received to contribute towards specific roles within the service team (e.g., within the Charitable Service).

Equipment

The equipment restricted fund comprises of income received that is specifically to be used to fund the purchase of equipment. The transfer out of the fund represents capital expenditure incurred in the year.

18. Designated Funds

The income funds of the charity include designated funds comprising the following unexpended balances allocated by trustees towards specific purposes:

		Movement in funds 2024/25			
	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Legacy fund	77,850	-	-	-	77,850
	77,850	-	-	-	77,850

The legacy designated fund comprises a legacy receipt allocated by the trustee board towards future project funding.

19. Endowment Funds

The income funds of the charity include endowment funds comprising of the following unexpended balances:

		Movement in funds 2024/25			
	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Edward Gostling fund	**120,000**	-	-	-	**120,000**
	120,000	-	-	-	**120,000**

The endowment fund was provided by The Edward Gostling Foundation to help the charity provide educational and other relevant related services to children with cerebral palsy and associated disabilities and their parents and carers.

20. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2025 the company had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land & buildings 2025 £	Land & buildings 2024 £
Expiry date:		
Within one year	**32,000**	34,850
Between two and five years	**112,000**	-
	144,000	34,850

During 2024 the Charity took out a 5 year lease on premises at Chailey Heritage School after the termination of the lease at its previous premise at Unit 1 The Courtyard, Holmsted Farm, Cuckfield.

Total lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £29,164 (2024: £47,800).

21. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2025 or 2024

22. Control

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Charity is controlled by the Trustees.

DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1089657

Accounts

DAME VERA LYNN
Children's Charity
Discover together

Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2024



CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER - 1089657 COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER - 04230409 (ENGLAND AND WALES)



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

The charity continues to provide an exceptional level of service to those children and their families who need it the most. This is a service that is vitally needed, and it is really making a difference to all the lives of those that it is able to help.

To see the impact the charity has on the children is truly inspiring and sets them up in the best possible way for their future development, once they move on to the next stages.

It is clear that there is a continuing – and growing - need for the services the team provides, across the whole South-East region with many families regularly travel long distances to attend their sessions.

Like many similar charities, the ongoing financial challenges that we are experiencing, have continued to impact our efforts to raise funds, but through the hard work of the team, the generosity of many Trusts & Foundations and particularly a large number of individuals and corporates, we feel that we are in a good position as we move forward to build and develop for the future.

The Trustees are confident that the budget we have set forth for the coming year is achievable. This, in conjunction with our new fundraising team and the plan to relocate the centre to new, more suitable and flexible facility within the next few months, will ensure the success of the Charity in the longer term.

Over the last year Tom Jones and Colin Darnell have had to step down as Trustees due to health reasons. Nicci Long also had to step down as a result of family issues. Tom Jones, Dame Vera's son-in-law, was with the charity since the beginning and was the founding Chairman. Over the years he did a fantastic job building the charity to what it is today. Colin has been a Trustee since October 2019. He and his wife Sue, have done – and continue to do – a tremendous amount to support the charity. Nicci, although only with us for a short time was also able to provide useful insights and support. All will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank them for all their support and efforts over the years. They don't get away quite so easily, in recognition of all they have done, Tom has been appointed a Vice-President and both Colin and Sue have been appointed Ambassadors of the charity.

We were pleased to welcome Debbie Fry as a new Trustee. Debbie brings with her extensive early years and SEND experience and will pick-up the Safeguarding portfolio that had previous been managed by Colin.

As Trustees, we are continually looking ahead to building on the success of the charity and Dame Vera's foresight in founding it and have a clear strategy for growth in mind to support Glenys and her team as required.

As always particular thanks are due to Glenys Creese, who as CEO of the Charity has done a tremendous job in continuing to build the Charity and keep the money coming in in difficult circumstances. I would also like to thank all the Trustees who have given their time and expertise so freely to help this wonderful charity.

Finally, on behalf of the Trustees, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the Charity over the last year, and particularly to all the brilliant staff and volunteers, who have worked so hard to deliver such an invaluable service that makes a real difference to so many.

NICK DUTT

CHAIRMAN

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

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A WORD FROM THE CEO

2023/2024 was for many reasons an incredible year!

More families than ever have been to the centre in Cuckfield and started to receive much needed support and services. We were privileged to be able to hold a number of new events including at Lambeth Palace Gardens in the summer, as well as some events which we have done for a number of years now including the Christmas Tree Recycling project. We had some incredible support from both loyal donors and corporates who have supported us every year and welcomed support from new businesses as well.

The fantastic team have worked harder than ever to make sure that all children are able to access our high-quality services, even when there has been no more room at the inn!

A change of personnel in the fundraising team led to some challenges over the past year, which have now been overcome and leave the charity in good shape for the coming year.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees headed up by Nick, for their help and support throughout the year. I look forward to continue developing the charity in 2024/25.

Glenys Treese

AREA THE CHARITY COVERS

YEAR 2023/24

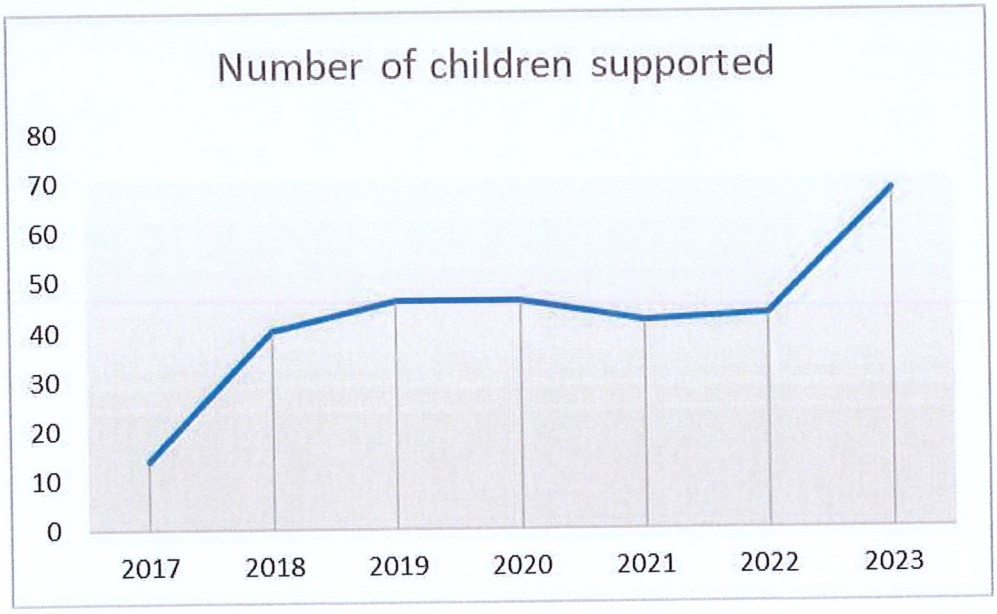


Families travel from right across the South-East to attend sessions at the Centre. The above map shows the counties where families come from, with Surrey and Hampshire to the west, Kent to the east, West Sussex and East Sussex along the coast and London in the North. The furthest distance that a family drives to the centre is from Farnham, taking on average an hour and a half each way. This demonstrates how much the families value the services that they receive, free of charge, at the centre.

Since 2017 we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of children who are supported by the charity every year.

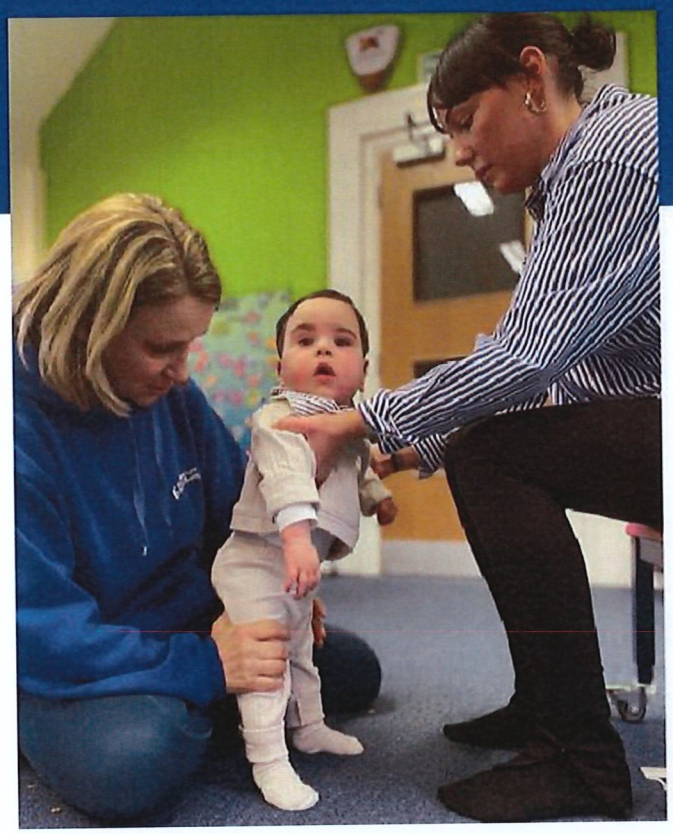
During 2023/24 this number has been higher than ever. We believe that this number will continue to rise as the Charity works to increase the awareness of the work it does. The Charity has also seen an increase in the number of children who have a high level of physical need. All service staff have completed a diploma in Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, which has enabled them to ensure that they developed the sessions to meet the changing needs of the children.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SUPPORTED



PAEDIATRIC PHYSIOTHERAPY/CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

YEAR 2023/24





All children who attend services provided by the Charity are offered paediatric physiotherapy/conductive education. Children are placed into small groups with others who are of a similar age and working on a similar set of skills. This not only motivates them and gives them, maybe for the first time, an opportunity to meet children just like them, it also gives the parents and carers an opportunity to meet people in a similar situation to themselves.

Sessions run every week for an hour and gives children an opportunity to learn new skills and build on the skills that they have already learnt. In each session children are given an opportunity to work on a whole range of skills building both their confidence and abilities. Sessions are hands on for parents/careers who are shown how to encourage the continuation of these skills at home through specific movement patterns and stretches.

During 2023/24 the charity has seen a huge increase in the number of children who need the support of the specialist services. In total 919 sessions were provided, which is almost back to the pre-pandemic number of sessions in a year.

The charity supported 71 children through physiotherapy/conductive education sessions throughout 2023/24. It is anticipated that during 2024/25 this number will increase further.

You can read more information about the impact that the sessions have had in the impact section of this report.

Beatrice's Story







Little Beatrice was born with Down's Syndrome, she has bilateral Sensory Neural Hearing Loss, Hypotonia, Dysphagia and Anaemia. She joined us at the charity in November 2022 and has attended Conductive Education sessions once a week with her mum and later on with her new-born baby sister.

Beatrice also attended music therapy and speech and language therapy. The family (mum, dad, grandma) have been very committed to teaching Beatrice skills using the techniques learnt during sessions. Beatrice has made an excellent progress since she joined.

When Beatrice started at the charity, not long after her 1st birthday, she was unable to crawl, stand or walk, but step by step over the last 16 months she has learnt all these things and more!

She started four-point crawling in March 2023, then started standing and cruising by furniture and cruising in the summer 2023. Through learning to take steps with a walking aid, parallel bars and ropes and when she had 1 hand held, she finally started walking independently in January 2024.

Beatrice is now a confidently walking little girl, ready to tackle things on her way.



24

Number of children who were supported through Speech and Language sessions in 2023

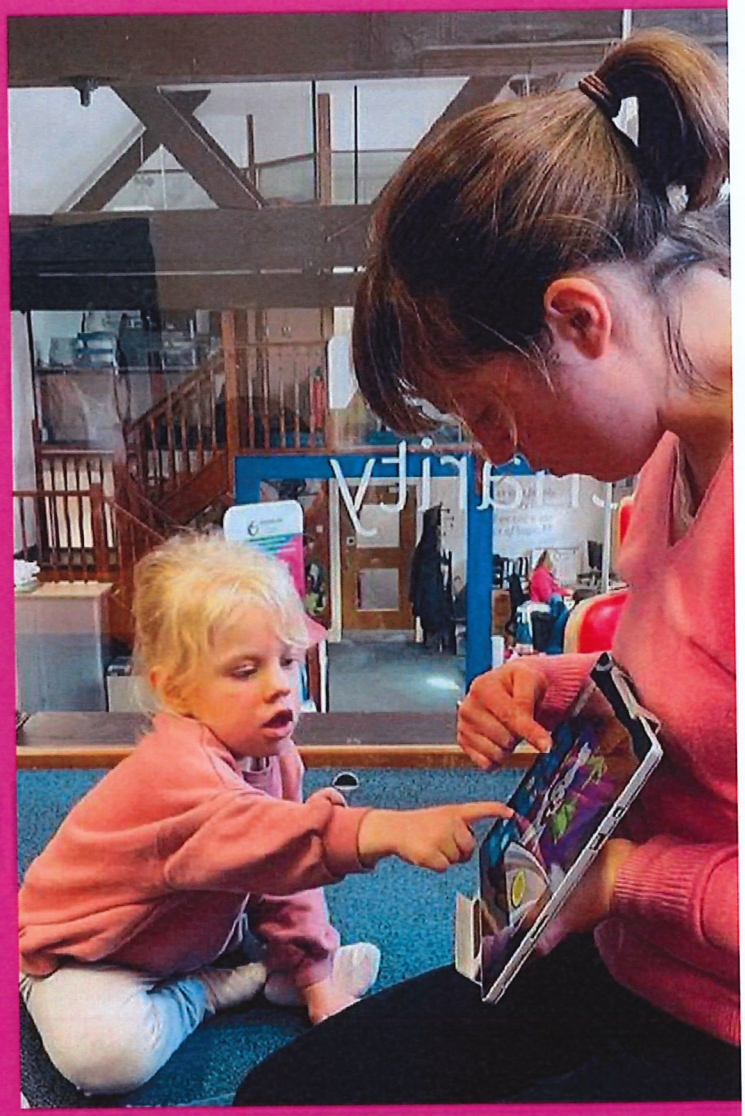
54%

Number of children who have made progress with their communication skills in 2023.

9

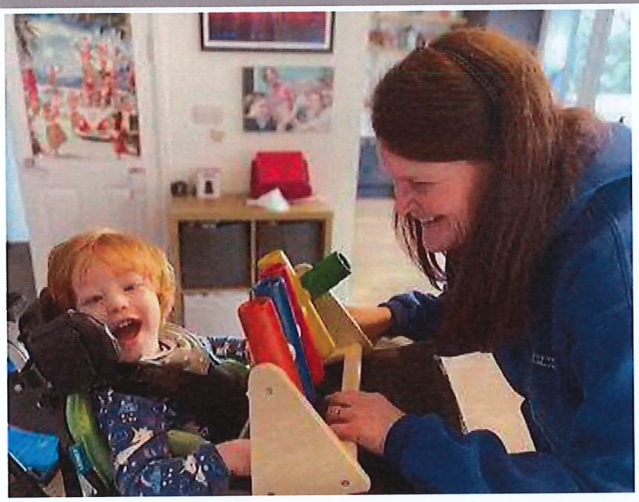
Number of children who have had personalised low technology communication books created for them by the charity.

"The difference these sessions have made to my son is amazing, he is able to not only tell us what he wants but he has started to use his PODD book to tell us jokes!"



Jothi's Story



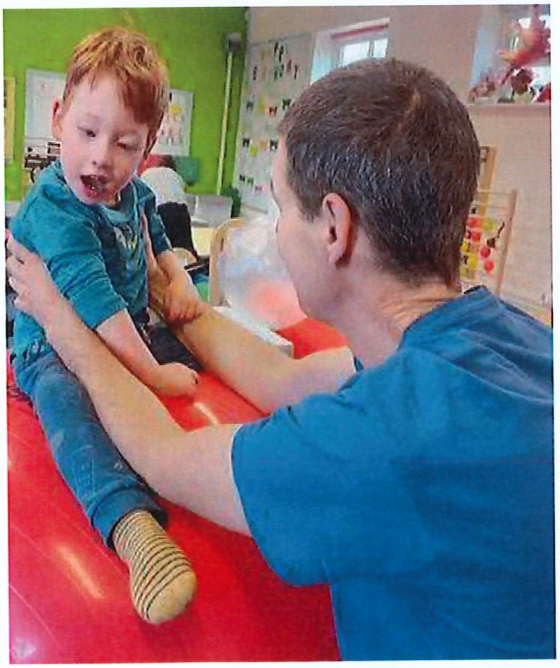


Jothi was born premature and had a bleed on his brain, he also had infantile spasms. When he was born he was placed on a ventilator for 24 hours and in intensive care for the first 93 days of his life.

At 13 months his parents made contact with the charity and an assessment was carried out, although Jothi had learnt to roll over he had very limited other physical skills.

He started attending sessions with the team in July 2021. Over the next nearly two and a half years Jothi attended the centre for physiotherapy sessions, he also had homeplay sessions with the Outreach Team. Following a huge amount of effort from Jothi and his mums, alongside the help and support from the team in his sessions Jothi has learnt many new skills, he is able to hold his head up for longer, which means he can look at the world around him.

He is able to follow simple instructions and will greet his friends with a smile, Jothi is also able to make vocalisations consistently for "go" when playing a game.



Jothi loves "Big Movements", spinning around in a spinner which always beings a smile to his face. He is now more confident with other people but needs time to build up trust with them.

The charity has been able to support Jothi not only through the session both in the centre and at home, but also with supporting is parents when they attended a tribunal to ensure that Jothi has access to the right school for him.

In September 2024, Jothi will be attending school and driving round in his Wizzybug which he loves!

OUTREACH

YEAR 2023/24

519

Number of home play sessions provided in 2023/2024

503

Miles driven each week by the Outreach Team

Play sessions delivered in the child's own home are another of the services that the charity has offered for a number of years now. During 2023/24 due to the increased demand for services a second outreach worker was employed. This has enabled the charity to increase the number of sessions it is able to offer each week.

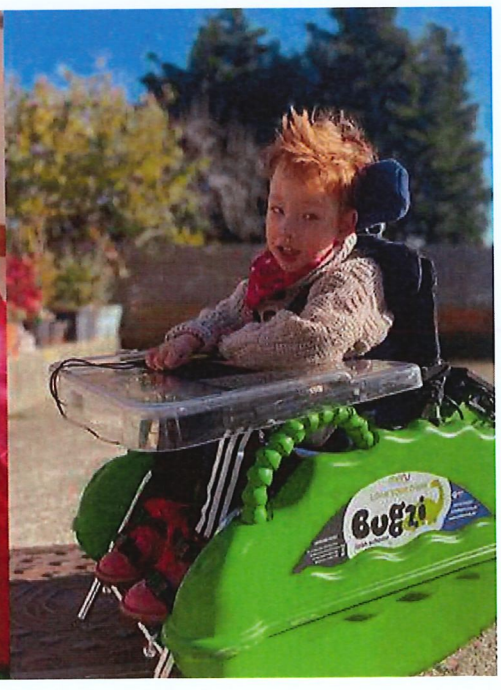
Home play sessions are a great way for children to learn through play in the safe and familiar surroundings of their own home. Each session is planned according to the child's and family's individual needs. The team carefully plan each session and take the resources needed with them in one of the charity vans.

All families who live within an hours' drive of the centre are offered this service. The charity is proud to once again be awarded the stamp of approval from the National Portage Association

National Portage Association
Partners with Parents and Children







MUSIC THERAPY

YEAR 2023/24

284

Number of music therapy sessions provided during 2023/24.

Music therapy is based on the premise that everyone has the ability to respond to music because they have a heart beat inside them.

In partnership with Nordorff and Robins the charity provides eight 30 minute sessions each week.

Small groups of children are given the opportunity to experience music making, exploring using their voices and have fun with lots of different sounds. During the school holidays the Music therapist facilitates the Big Jam sessions which are open to all families and their siblings.



SESSIONS SWIMMING

YEAR 2023/24

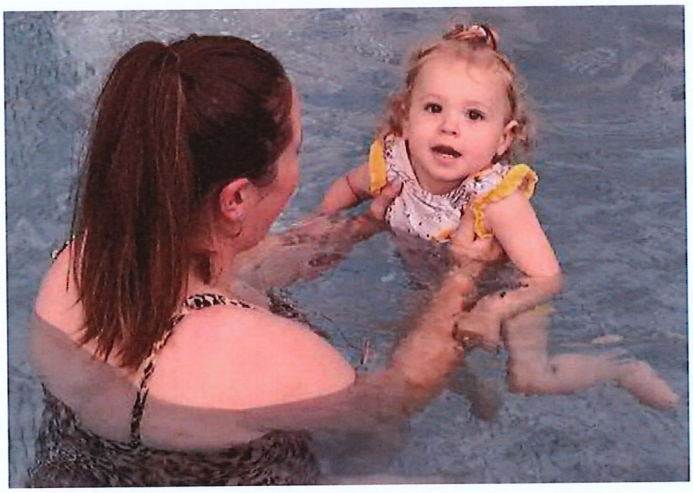
One of the services that all families love are the swimming sessions.

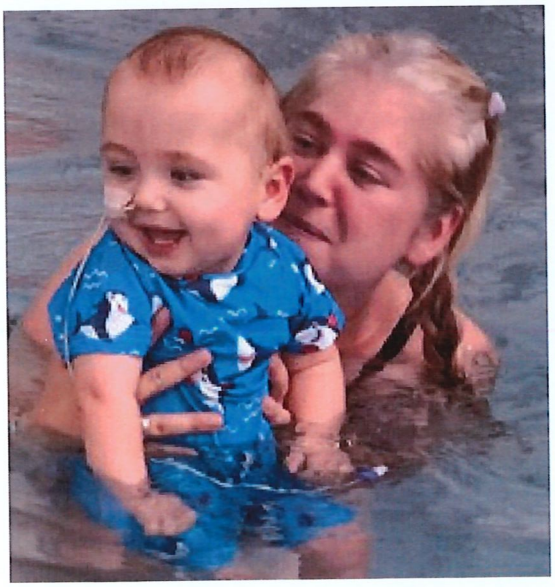
Twice a week the charity provides 30minute swimming sessions in a private hydrotherapy pool. The water is heated to 32 degrees and this makes it ideal for the young children with tight muscles. The warm water not only helps their muscles to relax but the water also supports their body weight meaning that they are able to move and stretch far more than on dry land.

Children also learn how to be safe in the water, how to safely get in and out of the pool. and hold onto the side. For some children who have difficulties holding things this can be a real challenge.

38

Number of children who have attended swimming sessions during 2023/24.

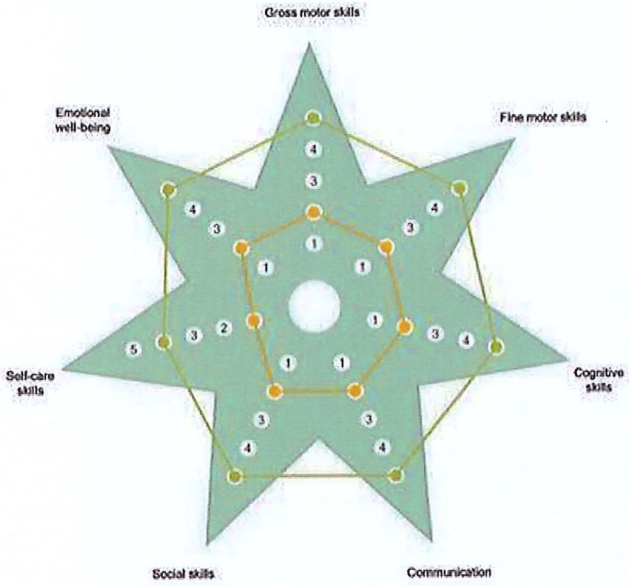




"My son loves the swimming sessions, they are his favourite part of the week! We don't see it as a therapy but a time to have fun together, but we know he is working his muscles and learning new skills."

IMPACT

YEAR 2023/24



74%

Children have made progress in at least 2 areas of their learning during 2023.

69%

Children improved in their emotional well-beiong score during 2023.

Each child has a set of learning goals which are reviewed every 6 months. Each score is plotted on with star chart to demonstrate progress.

Ev ery star has 7 points;

- Gross motor
- Fine motor
- Communication
- Self-care
- Emotional well-being
- Cognition
- Social skills.

Each point on the star has a set criteria which every child regardless of their level of disability will be able to meet. The child needs to regularly meet the criteria set in order to progress to the next number up the point. Every session is carefully planned to ensure that each child has an opportunity to work on each skill, the goals are shared with parents and careers so they can continue to work of those skills at home.

65%

Children improved in their social skills score during 2023.

59%

Children improved in their gross motor skills during 2023





128

Trust and Foundation applications made during 2023/24.

2

New charity of the year partnerships set up for 2024/2025.

£60,000

The charity received over £60,000 from its corporate partners this year.

7

Skydivers took to the skies to raise over £5,000 for the charity.

Adelphi

Supported by BBC Children in Need

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Bii

The Edward Gostling Foundation
Enhancing Quality of Life for People in Need

ENABLELAW

Focus Foundation

the Hollyhock foundation

ryan CANTER CLUB







Thank you

DAME VERA LYNN
Children's Charity
Discover together







Structure and Governance

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a Registered Charity, (number 1089657). It is a Company, (number 04230409), limited by guarantee. The Charity is governed by its Articles of Association which were updated in March 2019 from the original document with hand-written notes. The Trustees who served during the period were:

Paula Barnes – Secretary
Colin Darnell - Safeguarding Lead (resigned 30 November 2023)
Nick Dutt - Chairperson
Deborah Fry - Safeguarding Lead (appointed 8th February 2024)
Elizabeth Haigh-Reeve
Doug Hill - Treasurer
Tom Jones (resigned 26th March 2024)
Nicci Long (resigned 4th October 2023)
Carolyn Scott
Tracey Trotter

The directors of the company, who are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law, form the Board of Trustees. Two of the Trustees serve voluntarily as Treasurer and Company Secretary respectively.

A full board meeting is held six times in a 12-month period (more frequently if the need arises). One Trustee is appointed as Chairperson and staff are invited to report on the services and fundraising activities via the respective sub-committees which also meet regularly during the period. The budget is approved annually by the full Board of Trustees and is reviewed monthly.

The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum and Trustees are appointed to serve for a term of three years. Prospective Trustees are required to complete an application form and declare any conflict of interest. No person is appointed to serve as a Trustee unless approved by the existing Trustees. New Trustees are introduced to the Board and briefed, as necessary, in all aspects of the Charity's objectives and policies. Trustees are encouraged to seek training, as appropriate, also to observe and follow the requirements and guidelines set down by the Charity Commission. Trustees are DBS checked on their appointment and then every two years thereafter. The Trustees have diverse professional backgrounds, and some are also parents of children who have used the service.

Risk Management

Risks have been identified to which the Charity is exposed, and which might impact on the Charity's ability to achieve its objectives. To mitigate those risks, policies and procedures have been established that are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss and ensure a consistent, high quality of service and care for the children and appropriate working conditions for the staff. The safeguarding of our children is paramount to everything that this Charity does. The Trustees have established an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Charity's key risks, and this is reviewed regularly. In particular, there are procedures for:

- Ethical fundraising
- Providing the capacity to safely deliver the service with fully qualified staff
- Ensuring that the Charity's services meet required standards, including for safeguarding, child protection, health and safety and well-being.
- Avoiding actions that could damage the Charity's reputation
- Ensuring that the Fundraising staff and all Charity fundraising activities are fully compliant with all Fundraising Regulations and all Charity Commission requirements, including those for general data protection.
- Ensuring a proper complaint procedure for service users, staff, and donors
- Ensuring equal opportunities and safe recruitment and retaining sufficient levels of skilled staff
- Providing adequate ICT systems and ensuring the protection and security of confidential information
- The overall management and development of systems and HR practises and people
- Ensuring the provision of adequate levels of governance, financial and operating control through its Trustees and management.

- Financial reporting within a comprehensive planning and accounting framework, and monitoring of other risks which are identified and reported to the Trustees.

The Trustees continue to monitor the risks and the effectiveness of the system of control that has been put in place by the Charity.

Management

In this financial year the Executive Manager was promoted to Chief Executive Officer and holds responsibility for ensuring that the delivery and standards of the services meet the objectives set out by the Trustees as well as having full responsibility for staffing, delivery of the service provision and fundraising.

Financial Review

The Charity's Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 22. The total income for the year was £527,994 (2023: £369,270) and total expenditure was £441,758 (2023: £448,096). Income has increased this year mainly due to a significant one off receipt from a trust fund of £120,000. Excluding this, income was up 10% and reflects increased fundraising from activities such as events and also increased usage of our services by local authorities.

Reserve policy

The Charity is reliant on receiving funds from individuals, community groups, business and trust and foundations. In order to protect against an unexpected drop in income, the Charity ensures that is has deposited funds that are set aside to meet the financial commitments explained in the report for at least a period of six (6) months. The main objective of the Trustees is to ensure the Charity has adequate funding to safeguard its daily activities meet its financial obligations and commitments to the children, parents and staff. At 31st March 2024, in addition to the restricted and designated funds it carries over into the new financial year, the Charity held free reserves of £79,505 (2023: £126,093) and as of 31 March 2024, the free reserves policy has not been met. However, the Charity is implementing a comprehensive plan arising from a strategic review of its income generation undertaken 2023/24 and which is already beginning to yield significant positive results. Combined with a continuous review of its costs, the Trustees are confident that the Charity will meet the reserves policy going forward.

In 2021/22, the Trustees agreed to set aside the proceeds from a significant legacy to fund initiatives aimed at the expansion of the Charity's services as it emerged from the COVID restrictions. These have been allocated to a designated fund. This policy will be under review in the coming financial year.

All funds are held in approved current and deposit accounts, including those managed by the Charities Aid Foundation, and positions are monitored closely to ensure that there is no unduly high exposure to any one financial institution. The Trustees continually monitor the cash position and review this reserves policy each year in order to ensure that the Charity always has sufficient funds to meet its obligations and continue to provide its charity service.

Preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of recommended Practice 2019 Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also directors of Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and 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 Charity and the group at the year end and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity and the group for the year.

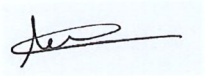
In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and the group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 11th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Nick Dutt
Chair of Board of Trustees

Legal & Administrative Information

Founder
Dame Vera Lynn CH DBE LLD M. Mus

Vice Presidents
Virginia Lewis-Jones
Tom Jones
Sir Tim Rice
Sir Cliff Richard OBE
Hayley Westenra

Patrons
Kirstie Betts
Richard Betts
Christopher Biggins
John Bowis OBE
Richard Leon
Barrie Roberts
Sophia Warner

Ambassadors
Chris Andre
Gary and Lorrie Birtles
Olivia Breen
Adrian Brown
D-Day Darlings
Colin & Sue Darnell
Mickie Driver
Avril Gaynor
Abbie Hunnisett
James Lynes
Christian Mitchell
Stephanie Prior
Katherine Samuelson
Colin Thackery

CEO
Glenys Creese

Address
Unit 1, The Courtyard,
Holmsted Farm, Staplefield Road,
Cuckfield, West Sussex
RH17 5JF
Tel: 01444 473274

Trustees
Paula Barnes – Secretary
Nick Dutt - Chairperson
Deborah Fry - Safeguarding Lead (appointed 8th February 2024)
Elizabeth Haigh-Reeve
Doug Hill - Treasurer
Carolyn Scott
Tracey Trotter

Principal Advisers

Registered office
Unit 1, The Courtyard
Holmstead Farm
Staplefield Road
Cuckfield
RH17 5JF

Bank
CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill
West Malling, Kent
ME19 4JQ

Accountants and Independent examiners
TC Group
The Courtyard, Shoreham Road,
Upper Beeding, West Sussex BN44 3TN

Registration numbers
Registered Charity No. 1089657
Company Registration No. 04230409

Website www.dvlcc.org.uk

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsiblefor the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts ascarried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followedthe Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ACCA, which is a listed body.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than anyrequirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

Mr Mark Cummins FCCA FCIE
for and on behalf of
TC Group
The Courtyard,
Shoreham Road,
Upper Beeding,
Steyning
West Sussex
BN44 3TN

TC Group

Dated: 18th June 2024

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024 (including the Income & Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	**123,575**	-	-	-	**123,575**	127,305
Charitable activities	4	**80,650**	-	**114,627**	**120,000**	**315,277**	194,655
Other trading activities	5	**88,365**	-	-	-	**88,365**	46,895
Investments	6	**777**	-	-	-	**777**	415
Total income		**293,367**	-	**114,627**	**120,000**	**527,994**	369,270
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	**127,020**	-	-	-	**127,020**	156,601
Charitable activities	7	**215,519**	-	**99,219**	-	**314,738**	291,495
Total Expenditure		**342,539**	-	**99,219**	-	**441,758**	448,096
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds		**(49,172)**	-	**15,408**	**120,000**	**86,236**	(78,826)
Reconciliation of Funds							
Total funds brought forward		132,354	77,850	20,601	-	**230,805**	309,631
Total funds carried forward	22	**83,182**	**77,850**	**36,009**	**120,000**	**317,041**	230,805

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those reported on the Statement of Financial Activities.

All activities are classed as continuing.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

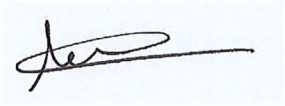
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fixed Assets							
Tangible Assets	13	**3,677**	-	-	-	**3,677**	6,261
Intangible assets	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
		3,677	-	-	-	**3,677**	6,261
Current Assets							
Debtors	15	**32,051**	-	-	-	**32,051**	22,345
Cash at bank and in hand		**75,737**	**77,850**	**36,009**	**120,000**	**309,596**	255,348
		107,788	**77,850**	**36,009**	**120,000**	**341,647**	277,693
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	**(28,283)**	-	-	-	**(28,283)**	(53,149)
Net current assets		**79,505**	**77,850**	**36,009**	**120,000**	**313,364**	224,544
Net assets		**83,182**	**77,850**	**36,009**	**120,000**	**317,041**	230,805
Funds							
Restricted funds	17	-	-	**36,009**	-	**36,009**	20,601
Endowment funds	19	-	-	-	**120,000**	**120,000**	-
Designated funds	18	-	**77,850**	-	-	**77,850**	77,850
Unrestricted funds		**83,182**	-	-	-	**83,182**	132,354
	23	**83,182**	**77,850**	**36,009**	**120,000**	**317,041**	230,805

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to audit exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 11th June 2024.



.....

N Dutt (Chair) Charity number: 1089657

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2024

		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities					
Net cash from operating activities	Note below		**53,471**		(71,587)
Cash flow from investing activities					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		-		**(1,745)**	
Interest received		**777**		**415**	
Net cash flow from investing activities			**777**		(1,330)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			**54,248**		(72,917)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2024			**255,348**		328,265
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2024			**309,596**		255,348
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents					
Cash at bank and in hand			**309,596**		255,348
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operations					
Net income/(expenditure) for the year			**86,236**		(78,826)
Interest received			(777)		(415)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets			2,584		2,585
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets			-		5,199
Decrease/(increase) in debtors			(9,706)		(10,645)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors			(24,866)		10,515
Net cash flow from operating activities			**53,471**		**(71,587)**

1. Company Information

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the legal and administrative information page.

2. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted are as follows:

Basis of accounting
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

Having considered future budgets and cash flows, the Trustees confirm that they have no material uncertainties about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

Income
All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

Both grants and donations income are recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income stream have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. In the event that such income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income from other trading activities includes ticket sales and other income from events organised directly by the Charity together with other income from the sale of Christmas cards and is recognised when the entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is credited to income when it is receivable, and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. Support costs are those which assist the use of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Support costs are allocated on a basis consistent with use of resources.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. These are included within support costs

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Tangible fixed assets
Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation.

Depreciation is provided as the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:
Fixtures and fittings 20% and 25% straight line

Intangible fixed assets
Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation. Amortisation is provided at 20% on a straight-line basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Lease commitments
Operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Taxation
The charitable company is registered as a charity and all of its income falls within the exemptions under Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated towards a specific purpose by the trustee board.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Endowment funds are restricted funds that generate income to benefit the Charity over multiple years.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period towhich they relate.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes bank accounts, cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposits or similar account.

Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Critical estimates and accounting judgements
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experienceand other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate isrevised. The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Endowment £	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Individual donations	-	-	56,115	56,115	68,329
Corporate donations	-	-	61,310	61,310	44,940
Legacies/in memory donations	-	-	6,150	6,150	14,036
	-	-	123,575	123,575	127,305

There was no restricted or designated income during the year, or in the prior year.

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Endowment £	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Trusts and Foundations	114,627	120,000	80,650	315,277	194,655
	114,627	120,000	80,650	315,277	194,655

There was £132,780 restricted income from Trusts and Foundations during the prior year. There was no designated income during the year or in the prior year.

5. Income from other trading activities

	Restricted £	Endowment £	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Events	-	-	39,668	39,668	19,137
Local Authority fees	-	-	47,902	47,902	25,560
Other	-	-	795	795	2,198
	-	-	88,365	88,365	46,895

There was no restricted or designated income during the year, or in the prior year.

6. Investment income

	Restricted £	Endowment £	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable	-	-	777	777	415
	-	-	777	777	415

There was no restricted or designated income during the year, or in the prior year.

7. Analysis of Expenditure

	Depreciation/ Amortisation £	Staff Costs £	Other costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Raising Funds					
Activities undertaken directly	-	90,247	33,965	124,212	154,248
Support costs	-	-	2,808	2,808	2,353
	-	90,247	36,773	127,020	156,601
Charitable activities					
Activities undertaken directly	2,584	235,050	69,789	307,423	286,693
Support costs	-	-	7,315	7,315	4,802
	2,584	235,050	77,104	314,738	291,495
Total	2,584	325,297	113,877	441,758	448,096

8. Analysis of Support Costs

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Travel and training	2,881	1,901
HR & Payroll costs	950	2,020
Governance costs (note 9)	6,292	3,234
	10,123	7,155

9. Analysis of Governance Costs

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Professional fees	3,890	803
Independent examination fee	2,100	2,100
Other governance costs	302	331
	6,292	3,234

10. Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	127,305	-	-	127,305
Charitable activities	61,875	-	132,780	194,655
Other trading activities	46,895	-	-	46,895
Investments	415	-	-	415
Total income	236,490	-	132,780	369,270
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	156,601	-	-	156,601
Charitable activities	154,584	-	136,911	291,495
Total Expenditure	311,185	-	136,911	448,096
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	(74,695)	-	(4,131)	(78,826)
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	207,049	77,850	24,732	309,631
Total funds carried forward	132,354	77,850	20,601	230,805

11. Trustees

None of the trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

12. Employees

	2024	2023
Employee information	**Number**	Number
Average number of employees during the year:	**7**	9
Employment costs	**£**	£
Wages and salaries	**242,628**	255,656
Agency staff costs	**56,962**	30,826
Social Security costs	**19,188**	20,843
Other pension costs	**6,519**	5,983
	325,297	313,308

No employees' annual emoluments totalled over £60,000 in either 2024 or 2023.

During the year the key management personnel of the charitable company comprised of the CEO and the Fundraising Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel (including Employer's National Insurance Contributions) were £104,345 (2023: £95,776).

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings	Total
	£	**£**
Cost		
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	**70,579**	**70,579**
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	64,318	64,318
Charge for the year	2,584	2,584
At 31 March 2024	**66,902**	**66,902**
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	**3,677**	**3,677**
At 31 March 2023	6,261	6,261

14. Intangible fixed assets

	Software £	Total £
Cost and accumulated amortisation		
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	25,992	25,992
Net book value		
At 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024	-	-

15. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	**18,966**	8,200
Prepayments and accrued income	**1,385**	2,445
Other debtors	**11,700**	11,700
	32,051	22,345

16. Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	**7,919**	2,941
Social security and other taxes	**5,610**	6,630
Accruals and deferred income	**13,500**	41,000
Other creditors	**1,254**	2,578
	28,283	53,149

17. Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds 2023/24			
	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Salaries	17,976	107,627	(92,594)	-	33,009
Equipment	2,625	7,000	(6,625)	-	3,000
	20,601	114,627	(99,219)	-	36,009

Salaries

The salaries restricted fund comprises funds received to contribute towards specific roles within the service team (e.g., within the Charitable Service).

Equipment

The equipment restricted fund comprises of income received that is specifically to be used to fund the purchase of equipment. The transfer out of the fund represents capital expenditure incurred in the year.

18. Designated Funds

The income funds of the charity include designated funds comprising the following unexpended balances allocated by trustees towards specific purposes:

		Movement in funds 2023/24			
	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Legacy fund	77,850	-	-	-	77,850
	77,850	-	-	-	77,850

The legacy designated fund comprises a legacy receipt allocated by the trustee board towards future project funding.

19. Endowment Funds

The income funds of the charity include endowment funds comprising of the following unexpended balances:

		Movement in funds 2023/24			
	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Edward Gostling fund	-	120,000	-	-	120,000
	-	120,000	-	-	120,000

The endowment fund was provided by The Edward Gostling Foundation to help the charity provide educational and other relevant related services to children with cerebral palsy and associated disabilities and their parents and carers.

20. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2024 the company had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land & buildings 2024 £	Land & buildings 2023 £
Expiry date:		
Within one year	34,850	48,300
Between two and five years	-	36,900
	34,850	85,200

During 2016 the Charity took out a 5-year lease on premises at Holmsted Farm Cuckfield. The lease was extended from December 2021 for a further 3 years.

Total lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £47,800 (2023: £48,400).

21. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2024 or 2023

22. Control

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Charity is controlled by the Trustees.

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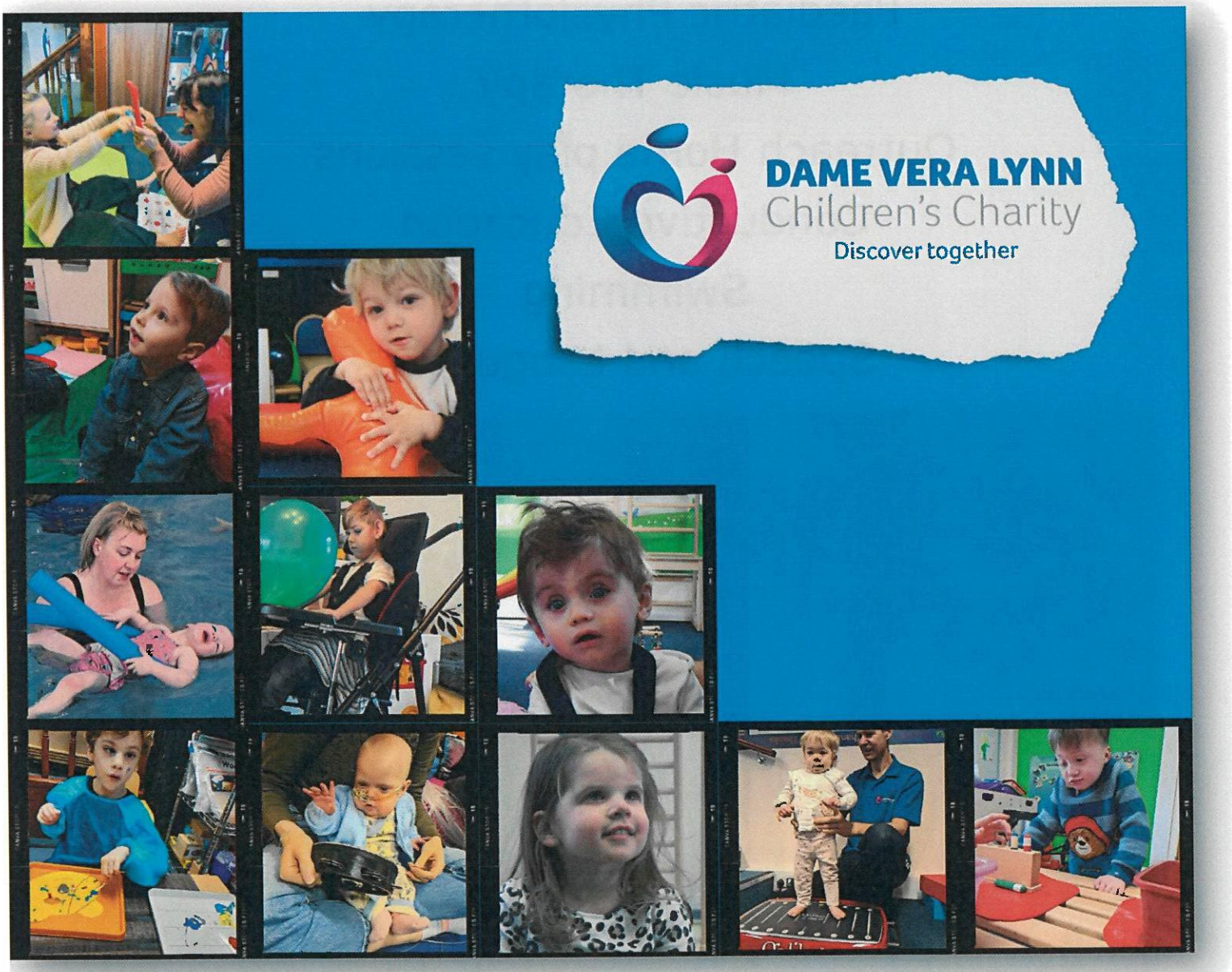
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DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1089657

Accounts

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023



Charity Registration number: 1089657

Company Registration number: 04230409 (England & Wales)

Supporting children and their families, creating possibilities and enhancing lives.

Services include:

Paediatric Physiotherapy

Music Therapy

Outreach Home play sessions

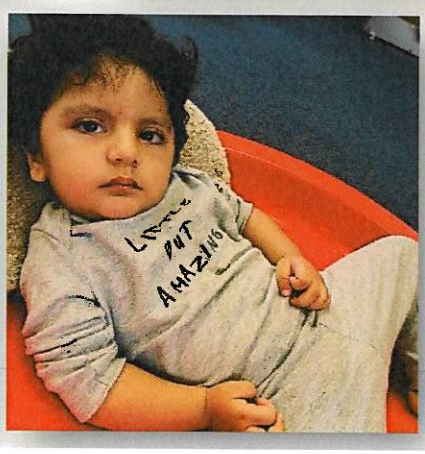
Conductive Education

Swimming

Speech and Language





Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

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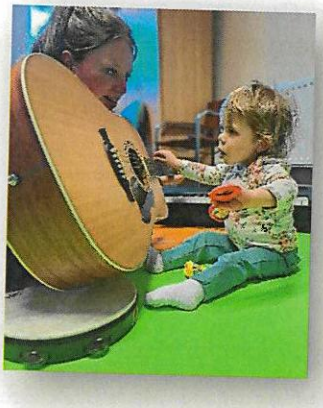
Conductive Education





Swimming

Music



Speech and Language Therapy



Outreach



Letter from Chair of Trustees

The Charity continues to provide an exceptional level of service to those children and their families who need it most. This is a service that is vitally needed and is really making a difference to all their lives. To see the impact the Charity have on the children is truly inspiring and sets them up in the best possible way for their future development once they move on to the next stages.

It is clear that there is a continuing need for the services the team provide across the whole South East region. Many of our children travel over relatively large distances to attend their sessions.

The Trustees are fully aware of the challenging financial climate in which we all live at the moment and have plans in place to ensure the stability future success of the Charity. We did make a loss in the last financial year. This is caused by a number of factors, including the reduction of some grants as a result of some funds rebalancing their finances after the pandemic and the resultant credit crunch as well as timing delays in receiving some expected funds.

We are firmly of the belief that the budget we have set forth of the coming year is achievable and ensures the stability of the Charity in the long term. We have had to make some difficult decisions recently to refocus our fund raising efforts on events and funds that are likely to provide higher returns, including a focus on the Corporate world as well as statutory funding opportunities.

To that end I am pleased to welcome Carolyn Scott and Elizabeth Haigh-Reeve to the Charity's Board. They bring a wealth of experience in the world of commissioning and fund raising to support the on the ground team.

As Trustees, we are continually looking ahead to building on the success of the Charity and Dame Vera's foresight in founding it and have a clear strategy for growth in mind to support Glenys and her team as required.

This year we lost one of our long-standing Trustees, Tim Wright, who sadly passed away. We are very grateful for all his efforts over the years and will be sadly missed.

Particular thanks, as always, to Glenys Creese, who has done a tremendous job, since taking over to lead the team during the pandemic. In recognition of these efforts, the Board was very pleased to recently promote her to CEO.

I would also like to thank all the Trustees who have given their time and expertise so freely to help this wonderful charity.

Finally, on behalf of the Trustees, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the Charity over the last year, and particularly to all the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to deliver such an invaluable service to make a real difference to so many.



Nick Dutt

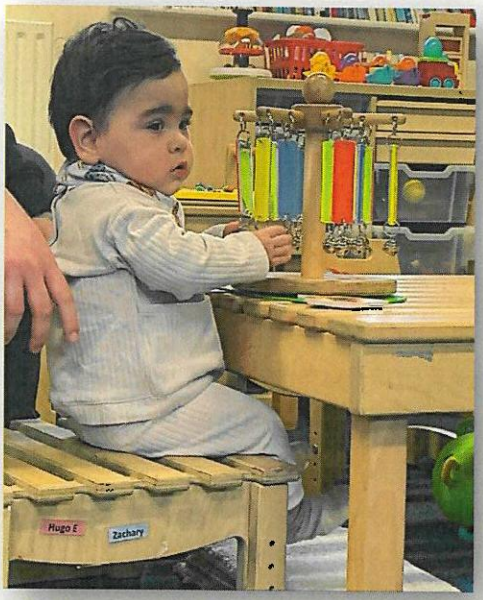
Chair of Trustees

Conductive Education



For over 20 years the Charity has used the principles of Conductive Education as the cornerstone to all its service provision. We break down each task into small achievable steps, so that each child regardless of their ability, is able to achieve.

Grouping children using their age and ability means that the children are all working together on the same skills as their peers, whist at the same time parents and carers are working with their children alongside their peers and giving each other the support they need to continue on their journey.



During each session the session lead (either Conductor or Paediatric Physiotherapist) works with the parents/carers and the children to show them how to achieve everyday tasks that may be taken for granted by people who do not have a physical disability. Children are learning to sit, roll, crawl, walk, run and jump. They are also working on their communication skills, learning about shapes, letters and numbers and having great fun along the way.

Each child has a set of learning goals, which are reviewed every 6 months, the team use these goals to plan each session and ensure that individual children are making steady progress to becoming as independent as possible.



This year....

839 Sessions provided

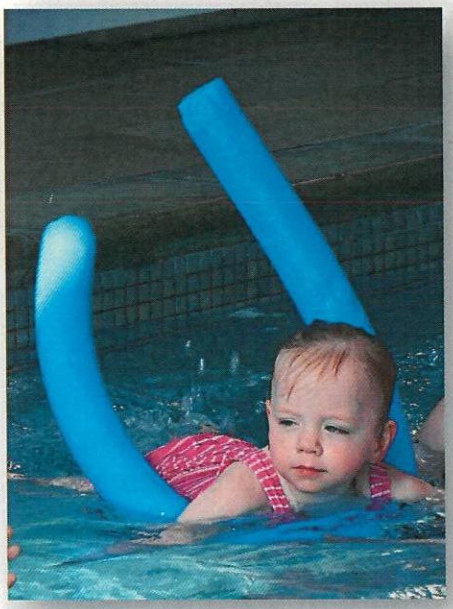
51 Children on average each week

21 sessions each week

Over 2000 miles driven by families to come to the centre for sessions each week.

Swimming

One of the services that children love the most are the swimming sessions. These sessions are provided in a private hydrotherapy pool which is heated to around 32 degrees. The private sessions give parents the privacy to enjoy sessions without worrying about what other people are thinking of them, or having other parents making judgements about their child.



The warm water particularly helps children who have tight muscles, relaxing them in a way that is just not possible outside of the pool. Children are not learning to swim but learning to enjoy the sensation of being weightless in the water and moving around freely. They are building up their strength and stamina and stretching their muscles, which helps them to continue their development in their physiotherapy sessions.

They are taught basic water safety such as how to get in and out of the pool, and the importance of holding onto the side of the pool or holding onto the edge of the float.



For some children this is a huge challenge, some children struggle physically to hold onto objects because of the muscles in their arms or hands, for others it may be a challenge because of their cognition, but all children over time learn confidence in the water as they are shown each week how to achieve these important skills. They learn all of these skills while having fun splashing about and singing nursery songs.

Sessions are designed to give parents and carers the knowledge and confidence that they need to handle their child in the water.

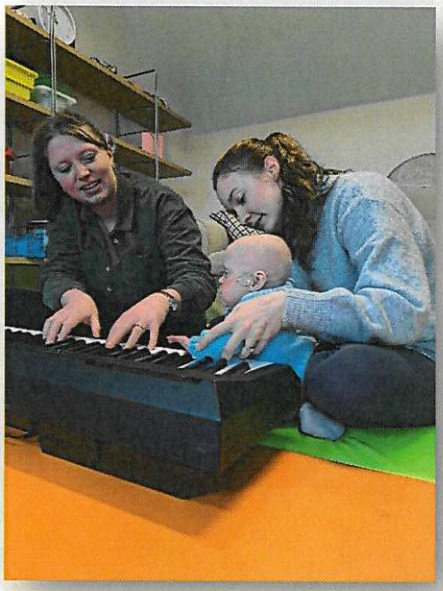
This year....

118 Sessions provided

26 Children on average attending each week

2 Sessions every week.

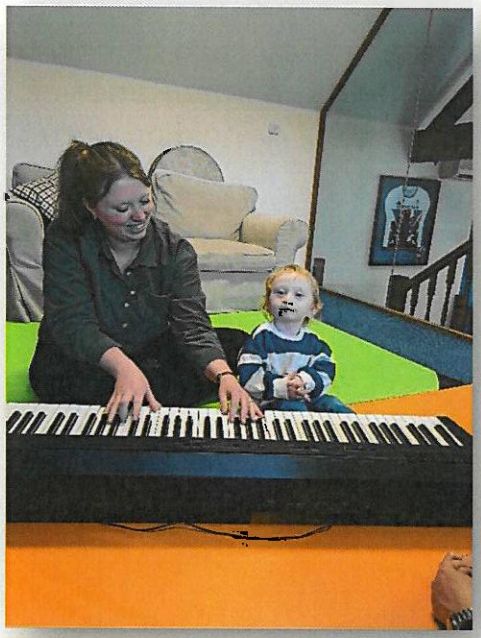
Music



Music therapy is delivered in partnership with the Music Therapy charity Nordoff & Robbins, it is delivered on the premise that everyone has the ability to respond to music because they have their own beat (their heart) inside them.

Each session gives children the opportunity to explore different rhythms and tempos, alongside well-known nursery rhymes and songs and improvised tunes.

Sessions are either 1-2-1 or small group depending on the needs of the child. Sessions are 30mins long and give children the opportunity to explore a range of different instruments. One of the children currently attending has their sibling attend with them. Music therapy provides a brilliant space for children to learn to "share" and take turns. The sessions have been a great space for the brothers to learn to play together and share an experience where they are both the focus and not just the sibling with the disability.



During school holidays we have also organised a number of "Big Jam" sessions, these are open music sessions for the whole family to enjoy and have been really well attended.

"Today was our second week of Music Therapy and my son absolutely LOVES it, the music, the sensory element, dancing! Plus his brother can get involved too!"

This year....

195 Sessions provided

11 Children on average attending sessions each week

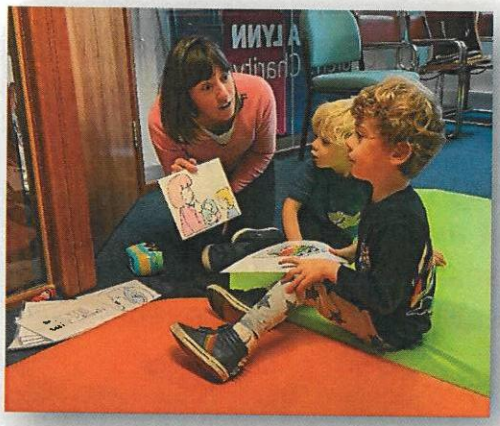
8 Sessions every week

3 Big Jam fun for the whole family sessions provided.

Speech and Language Therapy



Families told us that one of the services that they felt they missed the most during Covid was Speech and Language. Many appointments with the NHS were cancelled or replaced by Zoom sessions which children really struggled with.
Over the last few years the Charity has worked with a private, highly specialist Speech and Language Therapist to provide a range of services for families, these include, 1-2-1 sessions, information sessions for parents, small groups and most recently the addition of the Tiny Chatters group.



The Therapist works hands on with the children to demonstrate different techniques.

Giving children an opportunity to access this highly specialist service has been extremely popular with families, it has also proved extremely effective, and children have responded with great success to the introduction of techniques like using a PODD (Pragmatic Organised Dynamic Display) book for the first time.

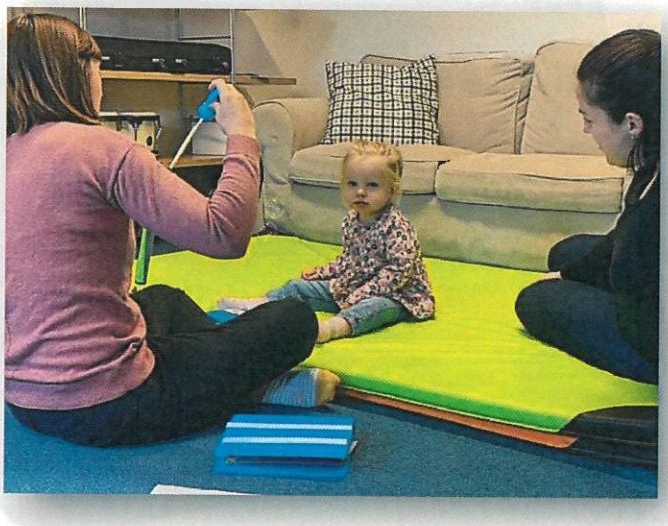
"We have been doing SALT sessions for a number of weeks now, and Brooks loves them, the sessions have come just at the right time for him. His commination is coming on so much, he surprises me each day with new words I just didn't know he knew!"

This year....

180 Sessions provided

16 Children supported in 1-2-1 sessions

6 Tiny Chatters sessions



Outreach

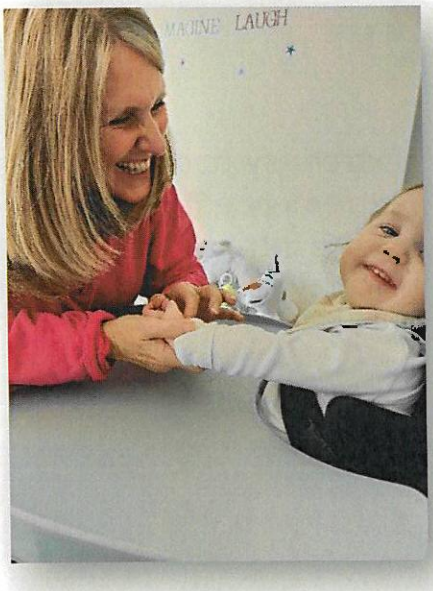


Over the last 5 years the Charity has been developing our bespoke Outreach programme. Visits to the family home last between 45 mins and an hour (depending on the child's need) each visit is tailored to meet the needs of each child and support their learning in their own home.

Many of the children who attend the services at the Charity spend many hours traveling and attending hospital appointments, so to have someone come to their home and play makes a refreshing change. Children are often more relaxed in their own environment and the 1-2-1 support means the session can change and adapt to meet their changing needs.



Once again this year the Charity has achieve the National Stamp of approval from Portage and continues to be the only non-education setting in West Sussex to hold this status.



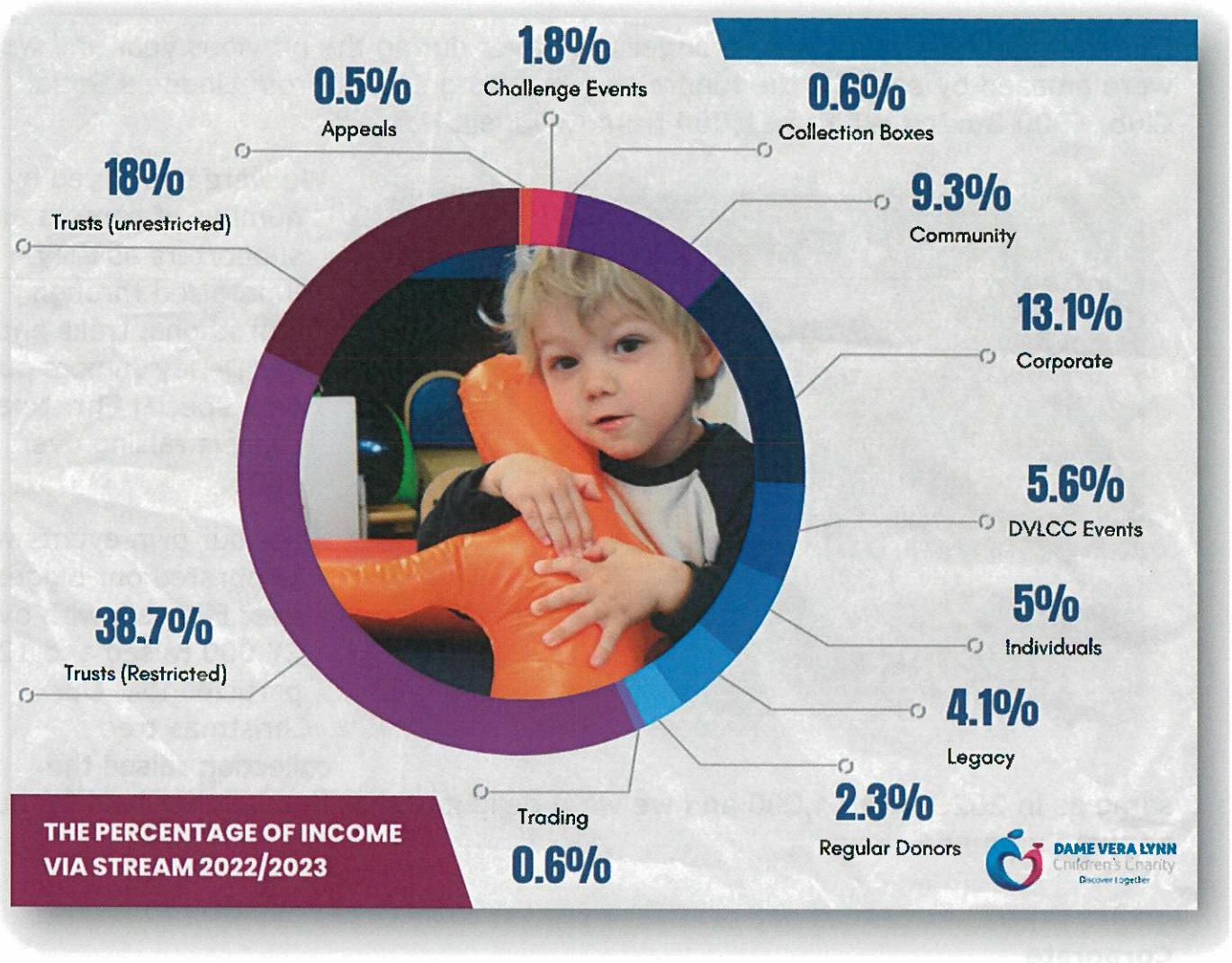
"Words can't express how much we appreciate the play sessions we have had with the DVL charity. Carol very quickly understood our son's needs and has helped him learn to play. He now gives Carol loads of eye contact and hugs, loves her bag of toys and gets so much from her sessions. His focus has improved and he wants to explore the world. I adore seeing him exploring new toys to see what he enjoys, we always look forward to her visits"

This year....

408 Sessions provided

18 Children supported in 1-2-1 sessions on average each week

Fundraising



Trusts & Foundations

Over 56% of our income this year was received from a number of different charitable Trusts and Foundations, including funding again from BBC Children In Need for the salary of our full time paediatric physiotherapist, £10,000 from Barbara Ward for Speech & Language Therapy for the next three years and Hollyhock Foundation for the salary of our Conductor over the next three years. Again this year Sussex Community Foundation continue to provide support with their grant towards our core costs. We are extremely grateful to all those trusts and foundations whose support enables us to make such a significant impact on the lives of the children and families we benefit.

Community & Events

Our community support was stronger than ever during the previous year and we were amazed by some of the fundraising including £6,000 from Lindfield Social Club, £500 Buxted WI and £1,000 from Childhelp Hassock.



We were supported by a number of parents and supporters as they fundraised through marathons, treks and our D-Day Juniors put on a special Christmas concert raising over £600.

For our own events we celebrated our biggest ever Firewalk with over £7,000 raised and 12 participants. Our Christmas tree collection raised the same as in 2022 with £4,000 and we were delighted that the weather held for our annual Summer Fayre.

Corporate

Corporate support is very important to us as we are seeing a downturn in participation and sponsorship for individual fundraising. The wonderful Cumnor House School raised an incredible £22,520 during their year of fundraising whilst Ryan Canter Club supported us through a number of events and their annual Picnic on the Square.

We would like to thank Handy Bees and Testers Tree Surgeons for their generosity of time and equipment during our Christmas tree collection, and Aero Golf beat their own target from 2021 and raised over £25,000.

With new families joining us each week, the need for our services continues and this is only possible with the wonderful financial support the charity received from so many supporters.


Thank you
For Your Support
DAME VERA LYNN

Structure and Governance

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a Registered Charity, (number 1089657). It is a Company, (number 04230409), limited by guarantee. The Charity is governed by its Articles of Association which were updated in March 2019 from the original document with hand-written notes. The Trustees who served during the period were:

Paula Barnes – Secretary (from 03/10/2022)
Colin Darnell - Safeguarding Lead
Nick Dutt - Chairperson from 22/04/2021
Elizabeth Haigh-Reeve (Appointed 09/02/2023)
Doug Hill - Treasurer
Tom Jones
Nicci Long
Carolyn Scott (Appointed 08/12/2022)
Tracey Trotter
Tim Wright – Secretary (Passed away 03/10/2022)

The directors of the company, who are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law, form the Board of Trustees. Two of the Trustees serve voluntarily as Treasurer and Company Secretary respectively.

A full board meeting is held six times in a 12-month period (more frequently if the need arises). One Trustee is appointed as Chairperson and staff are invited to report on the services and fundraising activities via the respective sub-committees which also meet regularly during the period. The budget is approved annually by the full Board of Trustees and is reviewed monthly.

The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum and Trustees are appointed to serve for a term of three years. Prospective Trustees are required to complete an application form and declare any conflict of interest. No person is appointed to serve as a Trustee unless approved by the existing Trustees. New Trustees are introduced to the Board and briefed, as necessary, in all aspects of the Charity's objectives and policies. Trustees are encouraged to seek training, as appropriate, also to observe and follow the requirements and guidelines set down by the Charity Commission. Trustees are DBS checked on their appointment and then every two years thereafter. The Trustees have diverse professional backgrounds, and some are also parents of children who have used the service.

Risk Management

Risks have been identified to which the Charity is exposed, and which might impact on the Charity's ability to achieve its objectives. To mitigate those risks, policies and procedures have been established that are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss and ensure a consistent, high quality of service and care for the children and appropriate working conditions for the staff. The safeguarding of our children is paramount to everything that this Charity does. The Trustees have established an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Charity's key risks, and this is reviewed regularly. In particular, there are procedures for:

- Ethical fundraising
- Providing the capacity to safely deliver the service with fully qualified staff
- Ensuring that the Charity's services meet required standards, including for safeguarding, child protection, health and safety and well-being.
- Avoiding actions that could damage the Charity's reputation
- Ensuring that the Fundraising staff and all Charity fundraising activities are fully compliant with all Fundraising Regulations and all Charity Commission requirements, including those for general data protection.
- Ensuring a proper complaint procedure for service users, staff, and donors

- Ensuring equal opportunities and safe recruitment and retaining sufficient levels of skilled staff
- Providing adequate ICT systems and ensuring the protection and security of confidential information
- The overall management and development of systems and HR practises and people
- Ensuring the provision of adequate levels of governance, financial and operating control through its Trustees and management.
- Financial reporting within a comprehensive planning and accounting framework, and monitoring of other risks which are identified and reported to the Trustees.

The Trustees continue to monitor the risks and the effectiveness of the system of control that has been put in place by the Charity.

Management

In this financial year the Head of Centre was promoted to Executive Manager and holds responsibility for ensuring that the delivery and standards of the services meet the objectives set out by the Trustees as well as having full responsibility for staffing, delivery of the service provision and fundraising.

Financial Review

The Charity's Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 19. The total income for the year was £369,270 (2022: £440,787 including a significant legacy of £77,850) and total expenditure was £448,096 (2022: £349,351). Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic the charity has continued to provide its services. Income has reduced this year mainly due to emergency funds in relation to Covid-19 being received in 2020/21 and 2021/22 and no longer available in 2022/23. The charity did not make use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in 2022/23.

Reserve policy

The Charity is reliant on receiving funds from individuals, community groups, business and trust and foundations. In order to protect against an unexpected drop in income, the Charity ensures that is has deposited funds that are set aside to meet the financial commitments explained in the report for at least a period of six (6) months. The main objective of the Trustees is to ensure the Charity has adequate funding to safeguard its daily activities meet its financial obligations and commitments to the children, parents and staff. At 31 March 2023, in addition to the restricted and designated funds it carries over into the new financial year, the Charity held free reserves of £126,093 (2022: £194,749) and the Charity has not met its free reserves policy. As such, the Charity continues to review its costs to ensure that is it able to meet the reserves policy going forward.

During the year, the Trustees agreed to set aside the proceeds from a significant legacy to fund initiatives aimed at the expansion of the Charity's services as it emerges from the COVID restrictions. These have been allocated to a designated fund.

All funds are held in approved current and deposit accounts, including those managed by the Charities Aid Foundation, and positions are monitored closely to ensure that there is no unduly high exposure to any one financial institution. The Trustees continually monitor the cash position and review this reserves policy each year in order to ensure that the Charity always has sufficient funds to meet its obligations and continue to provide its charity service.

Preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of recommended Practice 2015, Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also directors of Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and 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 Charity and the group at the year end and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity and the group 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 judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and the group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 8th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Nick Dutt
Chair of Board of Trustees

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Legal & Administrative Information

Founder
Dame Vera Lynn CH DBE LLD M. Mus

Vice Presidents
Virginia Lewis-Jones
Sir Tim Rice
Sir Cliff Richard OBE
Hayley Westenra

Patrons
Kirstie Betts
Richard Betts
Christopher Biggins
John Bowis OBE
Richard Leon
Barrie Roberts
Sophia Warner

Ambassadors
Chris Andre
Gary and Lorrie Birtles
Olivia Breen
Adrian Brown
D-Day Darlings
Mickie Driver
Avril Gaynor
Abbie Hunnisett
James Lynes
Christian Mitchell
Stephanie Prior
Katherine Samuelson
Colin Thackery

Executive Manager
Glenys Creese

Address
Unit 1, The Courtyard,
Holmsted Farm, Staplefield Road,
Cuckfield, West Sussex
RH17 5JF

Website www.dvlcc.org.uk
Tel: 01444 473274

Trustees
Paula Barnes – Secretary (from 03/10/2022)
Colin Darnell - Safeguarding Lead
Nick Dutt - Chairperson from 22/04/2021
Elizabeth Haigh-Reeve (Appointed 09/02/2023)
Doug Hill - Treasurer
Tom Jones
Nicci Long
Carolyn Scott (Appointed 08/12/2022)
Tracey Trotter
Tim Wright – Secretary (Passed away 03/10/2022)

Principal Advisers

Registered office
Unit 1, The Courtyard
Holmstead Farm
Staplefield Road
Cuckfield
RH17 5JF

Bank
CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill
West Malling, Kent
ME19 4JQ

Accountants and Independent examiners
TC Group
The Courtyard, Shoreham Road,
Upper Beeding, West Sussex BN44 3TN

Registration numbers
Registered Charity No. 1089657
Company Registration No. 04230409

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ACCA, which is a listed body.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

TC Group

Mr Mark Cummins FCCA FCIE
for and on behalf of
TC Group
The Courtyard,
Shoreham Road,
Upper Beeding,
Steyning
West Sussex
BN44 3TN

Dated: 13 June 2023

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023 (including the Income & Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	**127,305**	-	-	**127,305**	209,356
Charitable activities	4	**61,875**	-	**132,780**	**194,655**	210,177
Other trading activities	5	**46,895**	-	-	**46,895**	21,254
Investments	6	**415**	-	-	**415**	-
Total income		**236,490**	-	**132,780**	**369,270**	440,787
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	**156,601**	-	-	**156,601**	95,877
Charitable activities	7	**154,584**	-	**136,911**	**291,495**	253,474
Total Expenditure		**311,185**	-	**136,911**	**448,096**	349,351
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds		**(74,695)**	-	**(4,131)**	**(78,826)**	91,436
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total funds brought forward		207,049	77,850	24,732	309,631	218,195
Total funds carried forward	22	**132,354**	**77,850**	**20,601**	**230,805**	309,631

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those reported on the Statement of Financial Activities.

All activities are classed as continuing.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Assets	13	**6,261**	-	-	**6,261**	7,101
Intangible assets	14	-	-	-	-	5,199
		6,261	-	-	**6,261**	12,300
Current Assets						
Debtors	15	**22,345**	-	-	**22,345**	11,700
Cash at bank and in hand		**156,897**	**77,850**	**20,601**	**255,348**	328,265
		179,242	**77,850**	**20,601**	**277,693**	339,965
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	**(53,149)**	-	-	**(53,149)**	(42,634)
Net current assets		**126,093**	**77,850**	**20,601**	**224,544**	297,331
Net assets		**132,354**	**77,850**	**20,601**	**230,805**	309,631
Funds						
Restricted funds	17	-	-	**20,601**	**20,601**	24,732
Designated funds	18	-	**77,850**	-	**77,850**	77,850
Unrestricted funds		**132,354**	-	-	**132,354**	207,049
	22	**132,354**	**77,850**	**20,601**	**230,805**	309,631

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to audit exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 8th June 2023.

.....

N Dutt (Chair)

1. Company Information

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the legal and administrative information page.

2. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted are as follows:

Basis of accounting
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

Having considered future budgets and cash flows, the Trustees confirm that they have no material uncertainties about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future. This conclusion takes into account the financial effect of Covid-19.

Income
All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

Both grants and donations income are recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income stream have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. In the event that such income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income from other trading activities includes ticket sales and other income from events organised directly by the Charity together with other income from the sale of Christmas cards and is recognised when the entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is credited to income when it is receivable, and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered

Support costs are those which assist the use of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Support costs are allocated on a basis consistent with use of resources

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. These are included within support costs.

Tangible fixed assets
Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation.

Depreciation is provided as the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Fixtures and fittings	20% and 25% straight line

Intangible fixed assets
Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation.

Amortisation is provided at 20% on a straight-line basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Lease commitments
Operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Taxation
The charitable company is registered as a charity and all of its income falls within the exemptions under Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated towards a specific purpose by the trustee board.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes bank accounts, cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposits or similar account.

Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Critical estimates and accounting judgements
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted £	Designated £	Unrestricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Individual donations	-	-	**68,329**	**68,329**	63,125
Corporate donations	-	-	**44,940**	**44,940**	39,151
Legacies/in memory donations	-	-	**14,036**	**14,036**	87,937
Government Support re Covid-19	-	-	-	-	19,143
	-	-	**127,305**	**127,305**	209,356

£Nil of the 2022 income from donations and legacies was restricted

£77,850 of the 2022 income from donations and legacies was designated

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted £	Designated £	Unrestricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Trusts and Foundations	**132,780**	**-**	**61,875**	**194,655**	210,177
	132,780	**-**	**61,875**	**194,655**	210,177

£131,892 of the 2022 income from charitable activities was restricted

£Nil of the 2022 income from charitable activities was designated

5. Income from other trading activities

	Restricted £	Designated £	Unrestricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Events	**-**	**-**	**19,137**	**19,137**	19,601
Local Authority fees	**-**	**-**	**25,560**	**25,560**	-
Other	**-**	**-**	**2,198**	**2,198**	1,653
	-	**-**	**46,895**	**46,895**	21,254

£Nil of the 2022 income from other trading activities was restricted

£Nil of the 2022 income from other trading activities was designated

6. Investment income

	Restricted £	Designated £	Unrestricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable	**-**	**-**	**415**	**415**	-
	-	**-**	**415**	**415**	-

£Nil of the 2022 investment income was restricted

£Nil of the 2022 investment income was designated

7. Analysis of Expenditure

	Depreciation/ Amortisation £	Staff Costs £	Other costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Raising Funds					
Activities undertaken directly	-	**103,040**	**51,208**	**154,248**	93,853
Support costs	-	-	**2,353**	**2,353**	2,024
	-	**103,040**	**53,561**	**156,601**	95,877
Charitable activities					
Activities undertaken directly	**7,783**	**210,268**	**68,642**	**286,693**	248,039
Support costs	-	-	**4,802**	**4,802**	5,435
	7,783	**210,268**	**73,444**	**291,495**	253,474
Total	**7,783**	**313,308**	**127,005**	**448,096**	349,351

8. Analysis of Support Costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Travel and training	**1,901**	639
HR & Payroll costs	**2,020**	2,085
Governance costs (note 9)	**3,234**	4,735
	7,155	7,459

9. Analysis of Governance Costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Professional fees	**803**	330
Independent examination fee	**2,100**	2,100
Legal fees	**-**	1,440
Other governance costs	**331**	865
	3,234	4,735

10. Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	**131,506**	**77,850**	**-**	**209,356**
Charitable activities	**78,285**	**-**	**131,892**	**210,177**
Other trading activities	**21,254**	**-**	**-**	**21,254**
Investments	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total income	**231,045**	**77,850**	**131,892**	**440,787**
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	**95,877**	**-**	**-**	**95,877**
Charitable activities	**98,691**	**-**	**154,783**	**253,474**
Total Expenditure	**194,568**	**-**	**154,783**	**349,351**
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds	**36,477**	**77,850**	**(22,891)**	**91,436**
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	170,572	-	47,623	218,195
Total funds carried forward	**207,049**	**77,850**	**24,732**	**309,631**

11. Trustees

None of the trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

12. Employees

Employee information	2023 Number	2022 Number
Average number of employees during the year:	**9**	7

Employment costs	£	£
Wages and salaries	**255,656**	179,673
Agency staff costs	**30,826**	18,992
Social Security costs	**20,843**	12,252
Other pension costs	**5,983**	5,245
	313,308	216,162

No employees' annual emoluments totalled over £60,000 in either 2023 or 2022.

During the year the key management personnel of the charitable company comprised of the Executive Manager and the Fundraising Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel (including Employer's National Insurance Contributions) were £95,776 (2022: £80,838).

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2022	68,834	68,834
Additions	1,745	1,745
At 31 March 2023	**70,579**	**70,579**
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	61,733	61,733
Charge for the year	2,585	2,585
At 31 March 2023	**64,318**	**64,318**
Net book value		
At 31 March 2023	**6,261**	**6,261**
At 31 March 2022	7,101	7,101

14. Intangible fixed assets

	Software £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	25,992	25,992
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	20,793	20,793
Charge for the year	5,199	5,199
At 31 March 2023	**25,992**	**25,992**
Net book value		
At 31 March 2023	**-**	**-**
At 31 March 2022	5,199	5,199

15. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	**8,200**	-
Prepayments and accrued income	**2,445**	-
Other debtors	**11,700**	11,700
	22,345	11,700

16. Creditors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	**2,941**	1,610
Social security and other taxes	**6,630**	4,214
Accruals and deferred income	**41,000**	36,000
Other creditors	**2,578**	810
	53,149	42,634

17. Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds 2022/23			
	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Salaries	**20,461**	**127,280**	**(129,765)**	**-**	**17,976**
Equipment	**4,271**	**5,500**	**(7,146)**	**-**	**2,625**
	24,732	**132,780**	**(136,911)**	**-**	**20,601**

Salaries

The salaries restricted fund comprises funds received to contribute towards specific roles within the service team (e.g., within the Charitable Service).

Equipment

The equipment restricted fund comprises of income received that is specifically to be used to fund the purchase of equipment. The transfer out of the fund represents capital expenditure incurred in the year.

18. Designated Funds

The income funds of the charity include designated funds comprising the following unexpended balances allocated by trustees towards specific purposes:

		Movement in funds 2022/23			
	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	**Income £**	**Expenditure £**	**Transfers between Funds £**	**Balance at 31 March 2023 £**
Legacy fund	77,850	-	-	-	**77,850**
	77,850	-	-	-	**77,850**

The legacy designated fund comprises a legacy receipt allocated by the trustee board towards future project funding.

19. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2023 the company had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land & buildings	Land & buildings
	2023	2022
	£	£
Expiry date:		
Within one year	**48,300**	47,100
Between two and five years	**36,900**	12,000
	85,200	59,100

During 2016 the Charity took out a 5-year lease on premises at Holmsted Farm Cuckfield. The lease was extended from December 2021 for 3 years and had a break in June 2023 which has not been exercised.

Total lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £48,400 (2022: £46,800).

20. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2023 or 2022.

21. Control

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Charity is controlled by the Trustees.

22. Net assets between funds

Net assets between funds as at 31 March 2023:

	Unrestricted funds £	**Designated funds £**	**Restricted funds £**	**Balance at 31 March 2023 £**
Fixed assets	**6,261**	**-**	**-**	**6,261**
Current assets	**179,242**	**77,850**	**20,601**	**277,693**
Current liabilities	**(53,149)**	**-**	**-**	**(53,149)**
	132,354	**77,850**	**20,601**	**230,805**

Net assets between funds as at 31 March 2022:

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Fixed assets	12,300	-	-	12,300
Current assets	237,383	77,850	24,732	339,965
Current liabilities	(42,634)	-	-	(42,634)
	207,049	77,850	24,732	309,631

DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1089657

Accounts

DAME VERA LYNN
Children's Charity
Discover together
Registered Charity No. 1089657



DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Charity Registration No. 1089657
Company Registration No. 04230409. (England and Wales)

Supporting children and their families, creating possibilities and enhancing lives

All services are provided free of charge to families.

Services include:
Conductive Education
Music Therapy
Outreach Support
Swimming
Speech and Language



Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)
Trustees' Report and Accounts

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Report from Chair of Trustees

I am very pleased to report that the Charity is in a stable position and providing an excellent and invaluable service to many children and their families who need our support. Financially we have had a good year, with the Fundraising team achieving some excellent results.

We have to say particular thanks to our Business Development Manager, Helen Bournat, who is leaving us after 9 years of excellent work focusing on Trusts and Foundations, raising significant funds that have allowed us to deliver the services we have. We wish her well in her retirement.

It goes without saying that everything we do is focused on delivering the best possible support to as many children and families who suffer from these disabilities, and it is great that we have been able to get back to face-to-face sessions after the pandemic. The whole team responded fantastically well to all challenges that the pandemic threw at them, but it is good to be getting back to some sort of normality.

I came back on as a Trustee at the beginning of last year, so missed most of the incredible work done by the team to manage the Charity through the pandemic. I think it is important to recognise the achievements during this time and how the whole team adapted quickly to the situation and stabilised the Charity during those difficult times and very ably led by the then Chair of Trustees, Deborah Hay.

All those involved with the Charity were honoured to be included in the memorial Service to our founder, Dame Vera Lynn. We were really pleased that the Charity's Executive Manager was able to read out a letter of thanks from a parent of one of the children the Charity has helped in the past.

As Trustees, we are looking ahead to try to build on the success of the Charity and Dame Vera's foresight in founding it. Looking at the number of enquires we continue to receive and not least the distance that some of our current families travel to us, clearly demonstrates that the need for what we do is there and continues to grow. We will therefore be looking at ways to develop and extend the services we offer. It is important that this is done in a thoughtful and balanced way so as not to risk what we have today, but as I say the need is there and we will continue to look for ways to support it.

We have started this process by looking at what we do and have set-out the following Mission Statement. "We support children and their families, creating possibilities and enhancing lives".

We do this by:

- Providing early intervention services
- Personalised / tailored support
- Focused on 5-year-olds and under
- For children with CP or similar motor-impairment conditions
- Being Dame Vera Lynn's "Living Legacy"

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Linzi Roberts, who stepped down as a Trustee this year and welcome Nicci Long who has joined us. I would also like to thank all the Trustees – past and present - who have given their time and expertise so freely to help this wonderful Charity.

Finally, on behalf of the Trustees, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the Charity over the last year, and particularly to all the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to deliver such an invaluable service to make a real difference to so many.



Nick Dutt
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Molly's Story

Molly our beautiful, brave, and happy little girl has not had an easy start to her life. Born by emergency C-Section at 37 weeks when the doctors were concerned about her heart, we knew something wasn't quite right. We cannot describe the stress, worry and anxiety that we felt for Molly in the minutes, hours and days that followed her birth. An MRI scan confirmed that Molly has a Hypoxic-Ischaemic Encephalopathy grade 3 and an enlarged Aorta. Life looked bleak. We were told that Molly was highly likely to develop severe Cerebral Palsy and her mobility and cognition were going to be greatly affected.



Sadly, hospitals became our second home, with appointment after appointment for Molly to be tested, poked, and prodded by doctors and specialists.

We felt scared for Molly and her future, we were at a loss as to how to make the life of our beautiful little girl the best it could possibly be. As parents you want to know you are making the right decisions and choices and it can all seem so worrying.



When Molly was 6 months old her NHS physiotherapist told us about the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity. Following the assessment, we started attending the Conductive Education sessions, we also attended swimming, music and now have home play too. Sometimes the sessions are hard work, but Molly has the unique ability to smile even on the hardest of days. She has such a strong personality and a real drive to do her best for which we love her even more. We know she is pushing herself so hard to achieve everything that's asked of her.

From a 6-month-old who could only lay on her back and move her arms and legs a little, this year has been life changing. Molly can now sit on a stool with a little support, she can reach and hold toys. She has even started to make choices using switches in sessions. In music the other day she reached out to hold the hand of the other little girl Sophia in her session. One of the things that we most wanted for Molly was for her to be able to make friends and we are starting to see that now.



As parents we know that without the help, support, and guidance that the Charity have given us we would not be able to help Molly achieve the things she has. The team know Molly so well and know how to help push her to achieve. Life remains a battle for Molly, she finds each day a struggle. Sometimes we have a set back and Molly's breathing can stop. We had a huge scare at home the other month when Molly suffered a respiratory arrest and we had to do CPR till the ambulance arrived. Those minutes were so scary and we were so concerned about our little girl. But Molly once again defied the odds and has recovered amazingly. She is back to the happy, smiley girl that we love and adore.



We would love to thank you all for the support you have shown this amazing Charity.

Trustees' Report

Service

Over 1320 hours of services provided free of charge to families



Over the last two years many of the families who access the services provided by the Charity have been shielding at home. As soon as sessions were offered face-to-face back in the centre, the families were thrilled to return. Many children had missed months of therapy, meaning they were struggling more than ever with their physical skills.

Through carefully planned sessions supporting all areas of a child's learning, the children are again beginning to make progress.



The Charity has changed and adapted the way that services are offered to ensure that the children and their families receive the services that they need.

Using new pieces of equipment such as the Galileo, the team have been trying to make up for lost time, helping the children to stretch tight muscles and build up their strength and stamina.

Although the Zoom sessions that the Charity provided last year were popular and proved to be a good way of supporting families when face-to-face sessions were not possible, everyone is pleased to be back in the Centre and working hands-on with the children.

43 New families joined the Charity between April 21 and March 22



87 Families received support between April 21 and March 22

Conductive Education

842 hours of services provided free of charge to families

Conductive Education is a holistic learning programme, supporting children in all areas of their learning. It focuses on supporting children to learn new skills by carefully breaking down each movement into manageable steps. Children are then able to build on these steps learning to become as independent as possible. For some children that might be learning to crawl, for others to roll and others to walk. Over the last 21 years the Charity has supported over 700 children with a wide range of conditions.

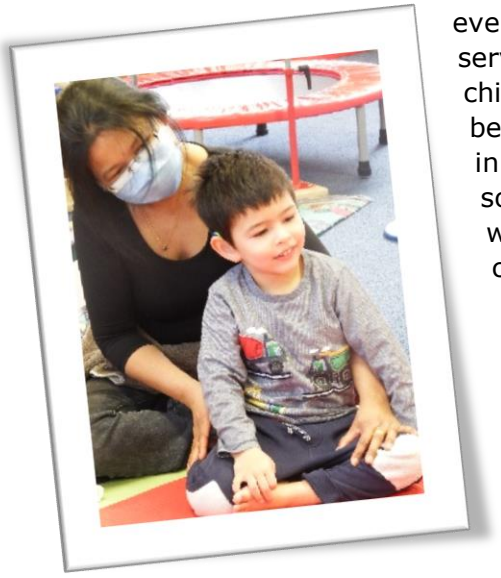


The groups that children are in are carefully grouped, based on their age and their abilities. Meaning that children are not only a similar age but also working on a similar set of skills at the same time. The number of new children who have started attending the Charity this year has meant that we have increased the number of sessions that are provided each week, always keeping in mind the new Covid-19 protocols of cleaning and keeping as much distance as possible in session.



Using the outcome measurement tool created specifically for the Charity, 57% of children progressed in at least two areas of their learning, this is a great achievement given the number of sessions and services children missed due to Covid-19. Now that all services that are provided by the Charity are face to face, we expect to see another good increase in that score next year.

Each child who attends the sessions has a set of learning goals, these goals are reviewed every six months and span all services that the family attend. This means that if a child attends swimming or has home play then the staff will all be working on the same goals, this supports the child to learn in different ways but always working on the same skill set. For some this might be working on physical skills like crawling or walking and for others it might be more focused on their cognitive skills and learning their shapes and numbers.



Swimming

74 swimming sessions provided free of charge to families

Following the relaxing of the Covid-19 regulations, sessions were able to restart. Many families had not been able to access swimming sessions for a long time and therefore attending the sessions that are provided by the Charity have proved to be a real benefit for the children.

The Charity provided two swimming sessions a week during term time. Sessions are 30 minutes long in a hydrotherapy pool and the water is heated to 33.6 degrees Celsius. The heated water helps the children's muscles to relax, they feel supported by the water and are able to move more freely enabling them to build up their strength and stamina. The children love splashing about in the warm water.



The swimming sessions are also a fun time for families, the Charity has private use of the facilities which means that they have complete privacy during the session. This can help parents to feel more relaxed as they know that the other families attending understand their child and it makes coping with any struggles slightly easier.



The swimming instructor works hard to ensure that children are not only kept safe in the water but that they are learning too. Each activity is planned to ensure that children can build on the skills they are learning. Using a range of different resources such as pool noodles or large floats the instructor can teach the children to "swim". Each child is very different and therefore their needs are different.



"Slowly week by week my daughter is learning to use her muscles, her head control is now much better which means she can see much better everything that is going on around her. She is also learning to use her muscles to sit up and support herself. The swimming has helped her to develop muscles and also enjoy and relax her body."

Speech and Language

This year we have changed the way we deliver the speech and language therapy at the Centre. Working with a local speech and language therapist, who provides both small group and 1-2-1 sessions for children alongside working with the staff in sessions means we can give children and families a more rounded approach to language development. During the 1-2-1 and small group sessions the therapist can give parents tips and tricks to try at home, she can build each week on the skills that the child is learning. When in the sessions she can demonstrate the skill directly with both the parents and staff.



Holly, the Speech and Language therapist, says *"Sadly many children accessing services at the Charity do not have the ability to verbally communicate and, for a portion of these children, will never be able to communicate verbally due to their physical difficulties. For these children a communication book is their voice. A communication book allows the child to be able to use a range of communicative functions to express themselves in the same way as their peers. Not only will a child be able to make choices without the need for a parent or carer to guess/read their mind, but they will also be able to use age-appropriate comments, such as "yuk, I don't like that!" or "wow! That was epic!!" to express their opinions; thus, giving them the means to develop their personality and sense of identity. For these children access to a communication book may eventually lead to a voice output device/communication aid allowing them to express themselves without the need for a communication partner to support. Imagine what it would be like to live without a voice…"*



"My son's confidence has grown dramatically since coming to Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity, he has developed such strong bonds with his peers, and I've found the community such a comfort. Holly, our Speech and Language Therapist is superb, she has built a trusting relationship with us, and my son responds to her so much more than the private one. He has become a global communicator and asks to see Holly every day. He looks forward to coming to Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity every week."

Outreach and Family Support



With much care and careful planning in mid-April 2021 home play sessions were restarted. Between each home visit the Outreach Worker returns to the centre to clean all of the equipment and change her clothes before heading out on her second visit of the day. These precautions have remained in place for the whole of the financial year.

251 Home play sessions provided free of charge to families

The Charity is proud that once again it has been granted the PAT Mark of approval by the National Portage Association demonstrating the high level of skill that is used during these home play sessions.

Home play sessions last for one hour, during that time the Outreach Worker will sit with a child and engage them in a wide range of different play activities. Using a wide range of resources, she will work on the skills which have been set as learning goals for that child in their Conductive Education sessions, breaking down each task into small manageable steps that the child is able to achieve. Parents and Carers can choose to play or use that time to catch up on paperwork or household tasks.



Sessions are currently offered on a fortnightly basis as they have proved very popular with families.

The Outreach Worker has also completed the supporting statements for Disabled Living Allowance purposes and has assisted parents completing their family statement for their Education, Health and Care plan when needed.

"Portage sessions through the Charity with Carol have been invaluable for our son. We have seen him grow and learn in such a positive way.

Building up that relationship with a play therapist over a period of time is such an important part of this intervention. Our son originally had portage provided by the education system when he was quite young but his sessions only lasted for 6 months and so they did not have quite the desired impact.

Working with Carol for a number of years, he has developed trust and a good relationship with her, he is always excited when she comes to play!

Intensive play therapy like this is vital for children like our son, he is learning so much without any pressure on him to 'learn'. We see him transfer the skills and knowledge that he has learnt in his sessions, to other areas of his life and we are so grateful that he has had this opportunity to receive 1:1 intervention in this way"

Music Therapy

252 Music Therapy sessions provided free of charge to families

The Charity has been working with Nordoff-Robbins for several years now to provide weekly music therapy sessions. Since returning to face-to-face sessions in April 2021 these prove to be as popular as ever.

Music therapy is based on the understanding that regardless of your disability you are able to respond to music because each of us has the music of the beat of our own heart inside us.



Working in both small groups and 1-2-1 sessions, the therapist undertakes 8 sessions each Thursday. Children come with their parents and in the school holidays often an older brother or sister too. Music therapy is not about learning to play an instrument it is about being able to express thoughts and feelings and respond to the music. Children are offered a wide range of different instruments which they enjoy using alongside the therapist now plays a range of different instruments who uses both nursery rhymes songs that the children will know and improvised melodies.

The therapist also discusses with all staff that are working with the families to check to see which the best way is to sit the child or what skills the child is currently working on, for example if they are working on fine motor skills then the therapist will use a range of different beaters or shakers. Or if the child is working on gross motor skills, then she will encourage the child to do lots of jumping around to different songs.



During the summer the Charity also hosted a BIG JAM session, this session is open to all the families who attend the services and their siblings. Everyone has great fun playing lots of different songs together.

"So, 3 weeks ago he wouldn't hold anything at all with his hand – he gradually started to hold the xylophone stick with his right hand, I still need to support his elbows but it's lovely to see his progress when he didn't have that before. If there wasn't the motivation to be playing the xylophone, he wouldn't be doing it – I don't think."

Seren's Story



Seren has a rare genetic condition called DIAS-Logan Syndrome. For Seren this means that she struggles with a number of activities that other children her age would find easy.

She was nearly 2-and-a-half years old when she came for her assessment with Beata, our conductor. As a little baby, she found it hard to settle and cried a lot. At her assessment Seren wasn't able to pull herself up onto her knees. She would get around by shuffling on her bottom.



Since October Seren has been attending weekly conductive education sessions at the Centre in Cuckfield, swimming sessions and having home play sessions.

Seren loves the swimming sessions, she always has a smile on her face when she is playing in the warm water. She loves playing with the foam that Carol brings with her on her home play sessions.



Whilst she still finds some things a challenge, in the last few weeks Seren can now walk independently, although a recent setback when she broke her leg has set her back a bit. She has been working hard and making good progress, particularly when it comes to making choices and sorting colours.

Seren's mum and dad say "our world feels a lot bigger and brighter since we found Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity. The support and facilities available to Seren are allowing her to express herself and develop both her physical abilities and her character. The community of skilled staff and those we are now acquainted with through being part of the Charity have had a massive and lasting positive impact on all of our lives."



Fundraising and Events

Trust and Foundations

Over 47% of our income this year was received from 56 charitable trusts and foundations, including a new 2-year grant from BBC Children in Need. We are extremely grateful to all those trusts and foundations whose support has allowed us to make such a significant impact on the lives of the children and families who we benefit.

Community and Events

As the Covid-19 restrictions became relaxed during the last year, fundraising from within our communities was able to resume and we were able to reinstate a number of our previous, as well as some new, events. We wish to thank everyone who has supported the Charity throughout the year, including our regular donors, the many community groups and individuals as well as those volunteers, who have given their support to our fundraising activities, including Tesco, the Co-op and Waitrose. Many supporters have held their own events or taken part in various challenges including the London Marathon, which for the first time had nearly 50,000 virtual runners on the same day as the event in London, raising nearly £7,000 for the Charity.



The Charity was able to run the postponed Firewalk, an Open Day, Bear Hunt, and Christmas Fair which together raised £19,500 for the Charity. The Charity would also like to thank Warren House Chartered Accountants who not only sponsored the Charity's newest member of the team, 'Bernie the Bear', but together with Horizon Managed Services took part in a new event, Jail and Bail, which raised nearly £4,000. Following Christmas, the Charity offered to recycle Christmas Trees for a donation in the local area and with the help of Handy Bees Gardening, Ryan Asset Management and Testers Tree Surgeons, raised nearly £4,000.

The Charity would like to thank its Ambassadors who continued to offer their support throughout the year such as an Afternoon Tea and concert with the D-Day Darlings at the Nutmeg Tree in Ditchling and who were also an integral part of the recent Memorial and Thanksgiving Service held at Westminster Abbey for the life and work of our late President, Dame Vera Lynn.

Corporate

The Charity is very grateful to ongoing support from Ryan Canter Club who together with all those who took part, held their annual Golf Day and Picnic in the Square to support the Charity, and together with the Aero Golf Day, and the Best of British Lunch provided much needed support to the children and families.

With new families joining each week the need for our services continues and this is only possible with the wonderful financial support the Charity receives from so many supporters.

The staff and Trustees would like to thank the following Trusts and Foundations from whom grants have been made.

Awards For All
BBC Children in Need
Gatwick Airport Community Trust
The Edward Gostling Foundation
The Peter Harrison Foundation
The Hedley Foundation
The Boshier Hinton Foundation
The Hollyhock Charitable Foundation
St James's Place Charitable Foundation
The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
The Henry Smith Charity
Community Foundation for Surrey
Sussex Community Foundation
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
The Garfield Weston Foundation
The Unum Community and Social Justice Fund

The Charity would also like to thank the families who have been extremely understanding and supportive with all the changes of the last 12 months; working with each of them really is a privilege.



Public Benefit

In establishing the annual objectives and activities which fulfil the Charity's overall aims, the Trustees have regard to the principles of public benefit at all times. The Trustees are aware of and have received copies of the Charity Commission's guidance regarding Public Benefit and have taken it into account, where relevant, in their planning and decision making.

The Charity is a provider of Early Intervention Services including Conductive Education, Physiotherapy, Speech & Language Therapy, Swimming, Music Therapy and home play sessions for children aged 5 and under in South East England. It is the only early intervention service that is open all year round providing a wide range of services, free of charge, to families. Families travel a long way to attend sessions. Whist the service was moved to an online format during the Covid 19 lockdowns, the services have, in the vast majority of cases, moved back to face-to-face sessions.

Children with cerebral palsy and other motor learning impairments often struggle to learn fundamental skills. They do not have the typical life experiences of their peers because of their disabilities, often excluded from everyday activities in their communities and have limited opportunities for socialisation and integration. These children are at risk of isolation. Although all children receive services through the NHS, these can be limited and sporadic. Many families have to wait a long time to receive a diagnosis which means they miss vital years of intervention. At the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity children do not need to have received that diagnosis, they can therefore start to receive help and support from a very young age. The youngest child currently attending was just 3 months old when their parents first made contact with the Charity.

The early intervention that is provided by the Charity is a high-yielding social investment, delivering positive outcomes for children and their families: physical and emotional health and wellbeing, lowering levels of stress, improving social development and a reduced need for more complex and costly interventions in later life. Early support and motivation in developing their independence skills are crucial in aiding more children with cerebral palsy to attend mainstream school.

Future Years

The global pandemic had and continues to have a big impact on the Third Sector. As well as the restrictions that were in place throughout the year, there have also now been a number of other factors which may impact on the financial position of the Charity. Whist we are able to again put on events etc, we now face the additional challenge of the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crises in the UK. These may lead to a reduction in financial giving to small local Charities such as ours.

Towards the end of the financial year 2021/2022 the Charity was left a legacy which has been designated for the purpose of investing in the expansion of the Charity's operations in the coming year.

The Charity is in a much stronger financial position than in previous years, however it is with caution that we head into the coming year, not knowing the impact of the above but knowing that there is a significant number of children who are yet to join the Charity who will need to support services that it offers.

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)
Trustees' Report and Accounts

Structure and Governance

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a Registered Charity, (number 1089657). It is a Company, (number 04230409), limited by guarantee. The Charity is governed by its Articles of Association which were updated in March 2019 from the original document with hand-written notes. The Trustees who served during the period were:

Paula Barnes	
Linzi Blockley (resigned 27/8/2021)	
Colin Darnell	Safeguarding Lead
Nick Dutt	Chairperson from 22/04/2021
Deborah Hay	Chairperson to 22/04/2021
Doug Hill	Treasurer
Tom Jones	
Nicci Long (appointed 7/10/2021)	
Tracey Trotter	
Tim Wright	Secretary

The directors of the company, who are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law, form the Board of Trustees. Two of the Trustees serve voluntarily as Treasurer and Company Secretary respectively.

A full board meeting is held six times in a 12-month period (more frequently if the need arises). One Trustee is appointed as Chairperson and staff are invited to report on the services and fundraising activities via the respective sub committees which also meet regularly during the period. The budget is approved annually by the full Board of Trustees and is reviewed monthly.

The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum and Trustees are appointed to serve for a term of three years. Prospective Trustees are required to complete an application form and declare any conflict of interest. No person is appointed to serve as a Trustee unless approved by the existing Trustees. New Trustees are introduced to the Board and briefed, as necessary, in all aspects of the Charity's objectives and policies. Trustees are encouraged to seek training, as appropriate, also to observe and follow the requirements and guidelines set down by the Charity Commission. Trustees are DBS checked on their appointment and then every two years thereafter. The Trustees have diverse professional backgrounds, and some are also parents of children who have used the service.

Risk Management

Risks have been identified to which the Charity is exposed, and which might impact on the Charity's ability to achieve its objectives. To mitigate those risks, policies and procedures have been established that are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss and ensure a consistent, high quality of service and care for the children and appropriate working conditions for the staff. The safeguarding of our children is paramount to everything that this Charity does. The Trustees have established an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Charity's key risks, and this is reviewed regularly. In particular, there are procedures for:

- Ethical fundraising
- Providing the capacity to safely deliver the service with fully qualified staff
- Ensuring that the Charity's services meet required standards, including for safeguarding, child protection, health and safety and well-being.
- Avoiding actions that could damage the Charity's reputation
- Ensuring that the Fundraising staff and all Charity fundraising activities are fully compliant with all Fundraising Regulations and all Charity Commission requirements, including those for general data protection.
- Ensuring a proper complaint procedure for service users, staff, and donors
- Ensuring equal opportunities and safe recruitment and retaining sufficient levels of skilled staff

- Providing adequate ICT systems and ensuring the protection and security of confidential information
- The overall management and development of systems and HR practises and people
- Ensuring the provision of adequate levels of governance, financial and operating control through its Trustees and management.
- Financial reporting within a comprehensive planning and accounting framework, and monitoring of other risks which are identified and reported to the Trustees.

The Trustees continue to monitor the risks and the effectiveness of the system of control that has been put in place by the Charity.

Management

In this financial year the Head of Centre was promoted to Executive Manager and holds responsibility for ensuring that the delivery and standards of the services meet the objectives set out by the Trustees as well as having full responsibility for staffing, delivery of the service provision and fundraising.

Financial Review

The Charity's Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 22. The total income for the year was £362,937 and, together with a significant legacy of £77,850, reported income totalled £440,787 (2021: £468,313) and total expenditure was £349,351 (2021: £408,980). Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the charity has continued to provide its services. Income has reduced this year mainly due to emergency funds in relation to Covid-19 being received in 2021 and no longer available in 2022. The charity did not make use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in 2022.

Reserve policy

The Charity is reliant on receiving funds from individuals, community groups, business and trust and foundations. In order to protect against an unexpected drop in income, the Charity ensures that is has deposited funds that are set aside to meet the financial commitments explained in the report for at least a period of six (6) months. The main objective of the Trustees is to ensure the Charity has adequate funding to safeguard its daily activities meet its financial obligations and commitments to the children, parents and staff. At 31 March 2022, in addition to the restricted and designated funds it carries over into the new financial year, the Charity held free reserves of £194,749 (2020: £147,482) and the Charity has met its reserve policy. As such, the Charity continues to review its costs to ensure that is it able to meet the reserves policy going forward.

During the year, the Trustees agreed to set aside the proceeds from a significant legacy to fund initiatives aimed at the expansion of the Charity's services as it emerges from the COVID restrictions. These have been allocated to a designated fund.

All funds are held in approved current and deposit accounts, including those managed by the Charities Aid Foundation, and positions are monitored closely to ensure that there is no unduly high exposure to any one financial institution. The Trustees continually monitor the cash position and review this reserves policy each year in order to ensure that the Charity always has sufficient funds to meet its obligations and continue to provide its charity service.

Preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of recommended Practice 2015, Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also directors of Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and 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 Charity and the group at the year end and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity and the group 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 judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and the group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 9th June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



Nick Dutt
Chair of Board of Trustees

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)
Trustees' Report and Accounts

Legal & Administrative Information

Founder
Dame Vera Lynn CH DBE LLD M. Mus

Vice Presidents
Virginia Lewis-Jones
Sir Tim Rice
Sir Cliff Richard OBE
Hayley Westenra

Patrons
Kirstie Betts
Richard Betts
Christopher Biggins
John Bowis OBE
Richard Leon
Barrie Roberts
Sophia Warner

Ambassadors
Chris Andre
Gary and Lorrie Birtles
Olivia Breen
Adrian Brown
D-Day Darlings
Mickie Driver
Avril Gaynor
Abbie Hunnisett
James Lynes
Christian Mitchell
Stephanie Prior
Katherine Samuelson
Colin Thackery

Executive Manager
Glenys Creese

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Trustees
Paula Barnes
Colin Darnell - Safeguarding Lead
Nick Dutt - Chair
Deborah Hay
Doug Hill - Treasurer
Tom Jones
Nicci Long
Tracey Trotter
Tim Wright - Secretary

Principal Advisers

Registered office and solicitors
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Bank
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Accountants and Independent examiners
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Registration numbers
Registered Charity No. 1089657
Company Registration No. 04230409

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (Limited by Guarantee)

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is a listed body.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

Mr Jonathan Aikens FCA, DChA

Independent Examiner
for and on behalf of TC Group
The Courtyard, Shoreham Road,
Upper Beeding, Steyning
West Sussex BN44 3TN

Dated: .....

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022 (including the Income & Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Income from:		£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	3	**131,506**	**77,850**	**-**	**209,356**	185,584
Charitable activities	4	**78,285**	**-**	**131,892**	**210,177**	272,667
Other trading activities	5	**21,254**	**-**	**-**	**21,254**	10,051
Investments	6	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	11
Total income		**231,045**	**77,850**	**131,892**	**440,787**	468,313
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	**95,877**	**-**	**-**	**95,877**	112,934
Charitable activities	7	**98,691**	**-**	**154,783**	**253,474**	296,046
Total Expenditure		**194,568**	**-**	**154,783**	**349,351**	408,980
Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds		**36,477**	**77,850**	**(22,891)**	**91,436**	59,333
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total funds brought forward		170,572	-	47,623	218,195	158,862
Total funds carried forward	22	**207,049**	**77,850**	**24,732**	**309,631**	218,195

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those reported on the Statement of Financial Activities.

All activities are classed as continuing.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Assets	**13**	**7,101**	**-**	**-**	**7,101**	12,694
Intangible assets	**14**	**5,199**	**-**	**-**	**5,199**	10,397
		12,300	**-**	**-**	**12,300**	23,090
Current Assets						
Debtors	**15**	**11,700**	**-**	**-**	**11,700**	11,700
Cash at bank and in hand		**225,683**	**77,850**	**24,732**	**328,265**	219,690
		237,383	**77,850**	**24,732**	**339,965**	231,390
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**16**	**42,634**	**-**	**-**	**42,634**	36,285
Net current assets		**194,749**	**77,850**	**24,732**	**297,331**	195,105
Net assets		**207,049**	**77,850**	**24,732**	**309,631**	218,195
Funds						
Restricted funds	**17**	**-**	**-**	**24,732**	**24,732**	47,623
Designated funds	**15**	**-**	**77,850**	**-**	**77,850**	-
Unrestricted funds		**207,049**	**-**	**-**	**207,049**	170,572
	22	**207,049**	**77,850**	**24,732**	**309,631**	218,195

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to the small companies' regime.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 9th June 2022



.....
N Dutt (Chair)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Company Information

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the legal and administrative information page.

2. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted are as follows:

Basis of accounting
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

Having considered future budgets and cash flows, the Trustees confirm that they have no material uncertainties about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future. This conclusion takes into account the financial effect of Covid-19.

Income
All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

Both grants and donations income are recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income stream have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. In the event that such income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity, and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income from other trading activities includes ticket sales and other income from events organised directly by the Charity together with other income from the sale of Christmas cards and is recognised when the entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is credited to income when it is receivable, and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Support costs are those which assist the use of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Support costs are allocated on a basis consistent with use of resources.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. These are included within support costs.

Tangible fixed assets
Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation.

Depreciation is provided as the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Fixtures and fittings	20% and 25% straight line

Intangible fixed assets
Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation.

Amortisation is provided at 20% on a straight-line basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Lease commitments
Operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Taxation
The charitable company is registered as a charity and all of its income falls within the exemptions under Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been designated towards a specific purpose by the trustee board.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes bank accounts, cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposits or similar account.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Critical estimates and accounting judgements
In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted	**Designated**	**Unrestricted**	**Total 2022**	Total 2021
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£
Individual donations	**-**	**-**	**63,125**	**63,125**	92,223
Corporate donations	**-**	**-**	**39,151**	**39,151**	5,360
Legacies/in memory donations	**-**	**77,850**	**10,087**	**87,937**	22,704
Government Support re Covid-19	**-**	**-**	**19,143**	**19,143**	65,297
	-	**77,850**	**131,506**	**209,356**	185,584

£Nil of the 2021 income from donations and legacies was restricted
£Nil of the 2021 income from donations and legacies was designated

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	**Designated**	**Unrestricted**	**Total 2022**	Total 2021
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	£
Trusts and Foundations	**131,892**	**-**	**78,285**	**210,177**	272,667
	131,892	**-**	**78,285**	**210,177**	272,667

£122,386 of the 2021 income from charitable activities was restricted
£Nil of the 2021 income from charitable activities was designated

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

5. Income from other trading activities

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Events	-	-	**19,601**	**19,601**	9,226
Other	-	-	**1,653**	**1,653**	825
	-	-	**21,254**	**21,254**	10,051

£Nil of the 2021 income from other trading activities was restricted
£Nil of the 2021 income from other trading activities was designated

6. Investment income

	Restricted	Designated	Unrestricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	-	-	-	-	11
	-	-	-	-	11

£Nil of the 2021 investment income was restricted
£Nil of the 2021 investment income was designated

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

7. Analysis of Expenditure

	Depreciation/ Amortisation	Staff Costs	Other costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds					
Activities undertaken directly	-	**58,654**	**35,199**	**93,853**	111,949
Support costs	-	-	**2,024**	**2,024**	985
	-	**58,654**	**37,223**	**95,877**	112,934
Charitable activities					
Activities undertaken directly	**17,365**	**157,508**	**73,166**	**248,039**	261,241
Support costs	-	-	**5,435**	**5,435**	34,805
	17,365	**157,508**	**78,601**	**253,474**	296,046
Total	**17,365**	**216,162**	**115,824**	**349,351**	408,980

8. Analysis of Support Costs

	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£
Travel and training	**639**	2,354
Postage and stationery	-	102
IT costs	-	1,509
Insurance	-	423
Staff costs	-	15,230
Telephone	-	210
Premises costs	-	7,512
HR & Payroll costs	**2,085**	3,245
Governance costs (note 9)	**4,735**	5,205
	7,459	35,790

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

9. Analysis of Governance Costs

	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£
Professional fees	**330**	1,846
Independent examination fee	**2,100**	2,100
Legal fees	**1,440**	40
Other governance costs	**865**	1,219
	4,735	5,205

10. Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total 2021**
Income from:	**£**	**£**	**£**
Donations and legacies	**185,584**	**-**	**185,584**
Charitable activities	**150,281**	**122,386**	**272,667**
Other trading activities	**10,051**	**-**	**10,051**
Investments	**11**	**-**	**11**
Total income	**345,927**	**122,386**	**468,313**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	**112,934**	**-**	**112,934**
Charitable activities	**179,432**	**116,614**	**296,046**
Total Expenditure	**292,366**	**116,614**	**408,980**
Net income	**53,561**	**5,772**	**59,333**
Net movement in funds	**53,561**	**5,772**	**59,333**
Reconciliation of Funds			
Total funds brought forward	117,011	41,851	158,862
Total funds carried forward	**170,572**	**47,623**	**218,195**

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

11. Trustees

None of the trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses during the year nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

12. Employees

Employee information	**2022** **Number**	2021 Number
Average number of employees during the year:	**7**	8
Employment costs	**£**	£
Wages and salaries	**179,673**	206,339
Agency staff costs	**18,992**	6,436
Social Security costs	**12,252**	13,230
Other pension costs	**5,245**	5,322
	216,162	231,327

No employees' annual emoluments totalled over £60,000 in either 2021 or 2022.

During the year the key management personnel of the charitable company comprised of the Executive Manager, the Head of Service and the Business Development Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel (including Employer's National Insurance Contributions) were £80,838 (2020: £100,487). During the year redundancy costs were incurred totalling £Nil (2021: £10,090).

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 April 2021	62,259	62,259
Additions	6,575	6,575
At 31 March 2022	**68,834**	**68,834**
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2021	49,566	49,566
Charge for the year	12,167	12,167
At 31 March 2022	**61,733**	**61,733**
Net book value		
At 31 March 2022	**7,101**	**7,101**
At 31 March 2021	12,693	12,693

14. Intangible fixed assets

	Software	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 April 2021	25,992	25,992
Additions	-	-
At 31 March 2022	**25,992**	**25,992**
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2021	15,595	15,595
Charge for the year	5,198	5,198
At 31 March 2022	**20,793**	**20,793**
Net book value		
At 31 March 2022	**5,199**	**5,199**
At 31 March 2021	10,397	10,397

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

15. Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year	**£**	£
Other debtors	**11,700**	11,700
	11,700	11,700

16. Creditors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year	**£**	£
Trade creditors	**1,610**	4,094
Social security and other taxes	**4,214**	4,063
Accruals and deferred income	**36,000**	26,700
Other creditors	**810**	1,428
	42,634	36,285

17. Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds 2021/22			
	Balance at 1 April 2021	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers between Funds**	**Balance at 31 March 2022**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Salaries	**47,623**	**118,422**	**(145,584)**	**-**	**20,461**
Equipment	**-**	**13,470**	**(9,199)**	**-**	**4,271**
	47,623	**131,892**	**(154,783)**	**-**	**24,732**

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Salaries
The salaries restricted fund comprises funds received to contribute towards specific roles within the service team (e.g., within the Charitable Service).

Equipment
The equipment restricted fund comprises of income received that is specifically to be used to fund the purchase of equipment. The transfer out of the fund represents capital expenditure incurred in the year.

Services
The services restricted fund comprises restricted income received to enable the Charity to deliver specific aspects of its early intervention service, including music therapy and swimming.

18. Designated Funds

The income funds of the charity include designated funds comprising the following unexpended balances allocated by trustees towards specific purposes:

		Movement in funds 2021/22			
	Balance at 1 April 2021	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers between Funds**	**Balance at 31 March 2022**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Legacy fund	**-**	**77,850**	**-**	**-**	**77,850**
	-	**77,850**	**-**	**-**	**77,850**

Legacy
The legacy designated fund comprises a legacy receipt allocated by the trustee board towards future project funding.

19. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2022 the company had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land & buildings	Land & buildings
	2022	2021
Expiry date:	**£**	£
Within one year	**47,100**	33,150
Between two and five years	**12,000**	-
	59,100	33,150

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

During 2016 the Charity took out a 5-year lease on premises at Holmsted Farm Cuckfield. The lease was extended from December 2021 for 3 years and has a break in June 2023.

Total lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £46,800 (2021: £46,800).

20. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in 2021 or 2022.

21. Control

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Charity is controlled by the Trustees.

22. Net assets between funds

Net assets between funds as at 31 March 2022:

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	**12,300**	**-**	**-**	**12,300**
Current assets	**237,383**	**77,850**	**24,732**	**339,965**
Current liabilities	**(42,634)**	**-**	**-**	**(42,634)**
	207,049	**77,850**	**24,732**	**309,631**

Net assets between funds as at 31 March 2021:

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	23,090	-	-	23,090
Current assets	183,767	-	47,623	231,390
Current liabilities	(36,285)	-	-	(36,825)
	170,572	-	47,623	218,195

DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1089657

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1089657
Company Registration No. 04230409
(England and Wales)



DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY

(Limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Our aim is that all children under the age of 5 with Cerebral Palsy and other motor learning impairments receive the help and support they need to lead as independent a life as possible.

All services are provided free of charge to families.

Services include;

Conductive Education
Music Therapy
Outreach Support
Swimming
Speech and Language



"The Charity changed all our lives. They gave us real expertise and understanding. Millie began to get regular therapies and treatments funded and delivered by the Charity's expert specialist team. Millie found herself with other children who were also dealing with their own difficult life health stories. They proved an inspiration."

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Report from Chair of Trustees

We write this report at the end of what has been the most extraordinary 12 months. In last year's report we had just entered into the first lockdown, and we don't for a moment think that anyone knew what the next 12 months would hold. As a charity we have been through a number of very sad and challenging times, not least the passing of our President Dame Vera Lynn in June 2020. The Charity will be forever indebted to the lifetime of support, encouragement and hope that Dame Vera Lynn personified.

Financially the Charity started the year having posted a significant loss in the previous year. As a Board of Trustees, we knew major changes needed to take place in order to ensure financial security. It became clear that Covid-19 would have an impact on our ability to fundraise with events cancelled or postponed and life in our communities and businesses severely disrupted. Therefore, in June 2020 the Trustees undertook a restructure of all staff within the Charity. This sadly led to a number of redundancies, the amalgamation of existing roles and later the recruitment to new roles. The restructure has ensured that the Charity is in the best possible place to continue to provide services to families for many years to come. Taking advantage of schemes such as the Government's Job Retention Scheme and applying for emergency Covid-19 funds also had a significant impact on the financial state of the Charity.

Through the hard work and dedication of the Board of Trustees and the staff the result has been dramatic. The Charity ends the financial year with a good surplus and means that the financial reserves that had been used in previous years are restored.

We would like to thank Philip Ward who stepped down as a Trustee in September 2020, and to Doug Hill who took on the role as Treasurer. We also welcomed Nick Dutt back to the Board of Trustees and who assumed the Chair on 22 April 2021. Our particular thanks though go to Glenys Creese, Head of the Centre, and our staff for persevering through this very difficult period and for enabling us to continue to offer this vital service for our families.



Deborah Hay

Chair of the Board of Trustees

To 22 April 2021



Nick Dutt

Chair of the Board of Trustees

From 22 April 2021

The Board of Trustees would like to extend their sincere thanks to Deborah Hay during her tenure as Chair and it is a huge benefit to the Charity that she is staying on as a Trustee.

Cyrus' Story

"Three years ago, on a weekend break, miles from home, our youngest son, Cyrus, was born three months premature. He suffered a number of serious complications in the months which followed and has a vast distance to travel before he can hope for things which other children of his age are able to take for granted: sitting, rolling, first steps, and so on.



When he left hospital after a stay of several months we as his parents were left largely on our own. We had the guilt of knowing that the first two years were critical to his development, that this would be largely down to us through home-administered physiotherapy, and that the clock was ticking; but we were also exhausted and grieving for the life we had hoped Cyrus would enjoy, and the NHS was over-loaded and only able to offer batches of once-a-week physiotherapy with long gaps between sets of sessions. There seemed to be nowhere to turn: it was the most desolate experience of our lives.



Then we were introduced to Dame Vera Lynn's Children's Charity. They have transformed all of our lives: several times a week Cyrus benefits from a mixture of physiotherapy, conductive education, hydrotherapy, music therapy and home play. Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity has transformed the care and help which Cyrus receives, they have also helped Sumi and I care for him so much better in all the time they are not there. Everybody we meet is unfailingly positive and driven to do the best for the children - you never feel that you are a problem being managed, only ever that you are surrounded by a community of care and love. I know that the other families at the Charity feel likewise.

Cyrus is also one of the happiest souls I have ever come across. He endures a life of discomfort, frustration and repetitive treatments with a joy which has been a lesson to us. I feel that Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity may well prove to be the difference in the end between a life which allows him to shine that light in the world and one which would have kept him locked up within himself. They are that good, and what they do is that impactful."

Thomas Pasco (Father of Cyrus)

Trustees' Report

Service

This year has been a particularly difficult one for the children who attend the Charity. Many families have spent months isolating at home due to the global pandemic. Within two weeks of the announcement from the Government that as a country we would be in what turned out to be the first of three lockdowns, we moved our conductive education sessions to online sessions via the Zoom platform (the first Charity of our kind to take this step). Although some families found accessing this difficult, many did take up these sessions.

We continued to offer Zoom sessions for conductive education but added music therapy and speech and language therapy also via Zoom during the second and third lockdowns.

The Charity was able to take advantage of the Government's furlough scheme which had an impact on the amount of service provision that could be made as the service team was reduced from 6 to 2 between April and July 2020.

The Charity reopened the doors to deliver face-to-face sessions in September 2020. However due to the three tier lockdown measures that were in place, some families were still unable to attend the centre and for those families we continued to offer Zoom sessions.

When the country entered into the second lockdown in November 2020, the service team again returned to offering online sessions only. In March 2021 the Charity started to welcome back families, in a slow and steady way, ensuring that as few people as possible were coming into contact with different people. This careful approach has meant that sessions have both been in person in the centre and also on Zoom for the end of the reporting period, but with more families every week returning to sessions.







Conductive Education



Conductive education is a holistic learning programme, supporting children to learn in all areas, focusing on a child's ability rather than their disability. Through weekly hour-long sessions, the Charity supports children to learn new skills such as rolling, sitting, crawling and walking alongside communication skills, working with peers and social interactions. Parents learn different stretches that help their child's mobility, as well as ensuring that the children are engaged in the sessions using songs and nursery rhymes, and these help to keep the children motivated. Over the last 20 years the Charity has supported over 700 children, with a wide range of conditions. The Charity supports children to learn to become as independent as possible.



One of the major changes this year has been moving to provide sessions online for families. The Charity has continued to welcome new families to all services it provides particularly conductive education. Assessments took place online via Zoom to ensure children and their families were kept safe. Families were then offered either an online 1-2-1 or small group session depending on which was most appropriate. As a Charity we will continue to offer Zoom sessions to families who live further away, or when a child is out of hospital for example following an operation.



The learning goals which are set within 6 weeks of each child starting sessions and that provide a base-line from which to chart future progress have been reviewed and although some children have continued to progress we have found that some children have not made the progress that was hoped for. This demonstrated that although the Zoom sessions were helpful to families feeling connected and supported, the face to face session remains the best way to have the most impact on the children.

This work has been made possible by awards from:
BBC Children in Need
Hollyhock Charitable Foundation
National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
Sussex Community Foundation
and many others who have supported this service in this financial year.

Swimming

The Charity provided four swimming sessions a week during term time. Sessions are 30 minutes long in a hydrotherapy pool and the water is heated to 33.6 degrees Celsius. The heated water helps the children's muscles to relax, they feel supported by the water and are able to move more freely enabling them to build up their strength and stamina.



During this financial year we have been unable to provide as many swimming sessions as normal. For much of the year due to Covid-19 the pool has been shut and sessions had to stop.

Sessions restarted in April 2021 and families are very keen to return but because of Covid-19 safety measures, sessions have been reduced to two sessions per week.

We are really thankful to:
Co-op Local Community Fund
Wisley Foundation
Wesley Charitable Foundation
Unum Foundation, and many others who have enabled us to provide this service to families.

Speech and Language

Throughout the pandemic and lockdowns of 2020/21, the Charity was able to provide some sessions for families. Parents have been able to access one–to–one advice sessions, enabling parents to access a style of communication that will specifically help their child. For some families that is 'now and next' boards, for others it is using MAKATON or using words, in very simple, easy to understand sentences that enable the children to process what is being asked of them.



The Charity has been unable to hold the parent training sessions which it held during the 2019 financial year, however this is something that is planned for later in 2021 when Covid-19 restrictions allow. These sessions were very helpful to parents and due to the number of new children who attend the Charity every week there are many parents who would benefit from the training sessions.

We are very grateful to The Barbara Ward Children's Foundation, Wellesley Charitable Foundation and everyone who has made a financial contribution to the Charity which has enabled us to continue providing these services for families.

Millie's Story

Millie was born at 26 weeks and three days, she suffered intraventricular haemorrhage at three days. She lost part of each finger on her right hand due to a failed arterial line. Millie spent the first 94 days of her life in hospital, she was allowed home on the day she should have been born.



Having attended the centre since September 2017 when she was just 19 months old Millie has changed dramatically. From a toddler who could say only a few words like "baby" and "daddy" and pulling herself to standing but not yet walking, to a confident, happy, 5 year old who is attending mainstream school.

Roz, Millie's mum says: "I had felt very lost, so to find people who understood the conditions and could provide tailored sessions to help her development, was a big comfort, she has gained in confidence and independence, particularly with her gross motor skills."

Since the lock down in March 2020 Millie has been having sessions via Zoom, she loves these sessions. Now that Millie attends school full time, and given the distance that she lives from the centre her sessions will continue on Zoom. This means that Millie will continue to benefit from the sessions that she might otherwise have had to stop.



Roz explains "Our daughter started Reception in our local, mainstream school in September. We're delighted that she has settled in really well. She has made lots of friends and is getting involved in a range of fun activities, alongside her peers. There is no doubt in our minds that the skills and support that she has received from the staff at the Charity have boosted her confidence and allowed her to integrate into the school environment. The sessions at Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity encompass physical, social and self-care exercises, all of which she is putting into practice at school. We remain indebted to the Charity for bringing out the best in our little girl!"

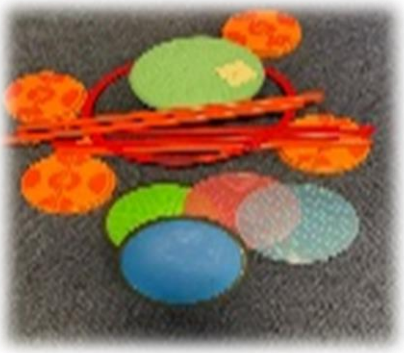


Outreach and Family Support



As a charity we offer families home play sessions. Sessions last around an hour, and run based on and approved by Portage. Sessions support the way that a child learns during their conductive education session and support the same learning goals. The Outreach Worker is also able to support families by supplying statements to sit alongside their applications for both Disability Living Allowance and Education Health Care Plans.

This was one of the services that was most impacted by Covid-19 for much of 2020/21 as it would not have been safe for us to offer home play sessions. Many of the families who attend the Charity were shielding due to the medical needs of their children; having an Outreach Worker come into the family home with resources etc. would have presented quite a risk. Therefore, the Outreach Worker supported families in other ways. The Charity delivered equipment to 41 different families throughout the lockdowns. This equipment was a mix of equipment that parents requested because they knew that their child enjoyed using it in sessions at either home play sessions before the lockdowns or in the centre. Also the equipment that the Session Leads from the conductive education sessions suggested was loaned to families to help with the Zoom sessions. Once the lockdown ended in early March 2021 the Outreach Worker collected back all of the equipment and cleaned it all ready to be used back in the centre when face-to-face sessions restarted in mid-March.



Throughout the last financial year the Outreach Worker has supported 14 families through supporting statements and advice support sessions for parents who have started on the Education Health Care Plan process. She has also helped three parents who are applying for Disability Living Allowance with supporting statements and advice on completing the form. To date the Charity has only had one family who were unsuccessful in their application for this benefit.



We would like to thank:
BBC Children in Need Next Steps Grant
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Sussex Community Foundation, and the many others for supporting us financially to ensure we are able to provide this much needed service free of charge to families.

Music Therapy

This year the Charity has continued to provide weekly music therapy sessions for families. These sessions are provided in partnership with Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy. Each week the Charity provides eight music therapy sessions, these are a mix of one-to-one sessions and small groups. During the sessions the music therapist uses a mixture of well-known nursery rhymes and songs, alongside exploring different sounds and noises that the child is able to make. Using the natural creativity of the child as an opportunity for spontaneous play. The sessions are not about learning how to play an instrument they are about exploring the reactions to different sounds. The premise being that everyone has music within them with their heart beat, and everyone regardless of their level of disability is able to respond to music.



The therapist uses motivation of music to support the child's physical development. For example children using and holding beaters and passing them between hands. This was a learning goal for one specific child.

During the first lockdown from March 2020 until Summer 2020, Nordoff-Robbins took the decision to take advantage of the Government's furlough scheme and furloughed the music therapist. Once the therapist returned from furlough, she started to offer families online Zoom sessions. During the school holidays the Charity was unable to run the normal Big Jam sessions but in their place ran online Zoom Big Jams instead. One family enjoyed the first session so much they booked onto the afternoon session the same day!



We would like to thank:

Youth Music and the many other people who financially supported the Charity enabling this service to be provided free of charge to families throughout this year.

Fundraising and Events

Trust and Foundations

Over 58% of income this year came through trusts and foundations. The Charity was able to apply to many of the Covid-19 emergency and recovery funds that were made available. 67 successful applications were made, including funds from 12 new trusts and foundations.

Community and Events

During 2020/21 the Charity's ability to fundraise via the traditional community methods was significantly impacted. The Charity was able to hold the annual street collection in Horsham with Micky Driver kindly singing. Staff took additional precautions to ensure that the collection took place in a Covid secure manner.



In an effort to continue fundraising during the lockdowns of 2020 the Charity hosted a number of Zoom Quiz evenings. These were a great success and engaged people who not only already supported the Charity but new people as well.



The D-Day Darlings held two virtual concerts during the year, one to mark the start of the 20th Anniversary year in December 2020 and one to mark what would have been Dame Vera Lynn's 104th Birthday in March 2021.

One of the most successful events during the last financial year was the 2.6 Challenge. Ten people took part in the event and raised over £7,000.

Although a Firewalk was planned to take place in October 2020 sadly it has had to be postponed until 2021. The event will be held in a local pub and is set to be a great evening.

Corporate

2020/21 was the most challenging year for many years for Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity but, throughout, it has continued to provide help, support and services to families who need it. With new families joining each week the need for services continues.

This would not be possible without the many people who have given financial support and time over the last 20 years. Alongside those already mentioned the Charity would like to thank:

CAF Coronavirus Emergency Fund
CAF Resilience Fund
Foyle Foundation
Haywards Heath Town Council
Henry Smith Charity
Mid Sussex District Council
Swire Charitable Trust

Ryan Canter Club held its annual Golf day, and chose the Charity to be its annual Charity of the Year, raising £5,000 which was a great achievement given the climate and impact of Covid-19. We would like to extend our thanks to the Ryan Canter Club for its ongoing support.

The staff and Trustees would like to thank the families who have been extremely understanding and supportive with all the changes of the last 12 months; working with each of them really is a privilege.



Public Benefit

In establishing the annual objectives and activities which fulfil the Charity's overall aims, the Trustees have regard to the principles of public benefit at all times. The Trustees are aware of and have received copies of the Charity Commission's guidance regarding Public Benefit and have taken it into account, where relevant, in their planning and decision making.

The Charity is the main provider of Conductive Education for children aged under 5 in South East England, and the only early intervention service that is open all year round providing a wide range of services free of charge to families. Families travel a long way to attend sessions, currently one family travels over 120 miles every time they attend sessions.

Children with cerebral palsy and other motor learning impairments often struggle to learn fundamental skills. They do not have the typical life experience of their peers because of their disabilities, often excluded from everyday activities in their communities and have limited opportunities for socialisation and integration. These children are at risk of isolation. Although all children receive services through the NHS, these can be limited and sporadic. Many families have to wait a long time to receive a diagnosis which mean they miss vital years of intervention. At the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity children do not need to have received that diagnosis, they can therefore start to receive help and support from a very young age.

The early intervention that is provided by the Charity is a high-yielding social investment, delivering positive outcomes for children and their families: physical and emotional health and wellbeing, lowering levels of stress, improving social development and a reduced need for more complex and costly interventions in later life. Early support and motivation in developing their independence skills are crucial in aiding more children with cerebral palsy to attend mainstream school.

Future Years

The global pandemic has had a big impact on the Third Sector. The Trustees have made significant changes to the structure of the staff team to ensure a robust and sustainable future for the Charity. The staff team has been reduced to seven members of staff, a reduction from ten at the start of 2020/21.

The Charity is now in its 20th Anniversary year, with celebrations planned throughout the coming year alongside other exciting fundraising ideas.

The full extent and lasting impact of Covid-19 is not yet known, services have been affected and the number of children in each group reduced. Parents wear masks and staff wear clear visors. Strict cleaning and resource sharing protocols are in place and it is not yet known when they will be relaxed.

Structure, Governance & Management

Structure and Governance

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a Registered Charity, (number 1089657). It is a Company, (number 04230409), limited by guarantee. The Charity is governed by its Articles of Association which were updated in March 2019 from the original document with hand-written notes. The Trustees who served during the period were:

Deborah Hay (Chairperson to 22/04/2021)
Philip Ward (Resigned 07/10/2020)
Tim Wright (Secretary)
Doug Hill (Appointed Treasurer 07/10/2020)
Paula Barnes
Linzi Blockley
Kim Bryant (Resigned 21/05/2020)
Colin Darnell (Safeguarding Lead)
Nick Dutt (Appointed 20/01/2021 and Chairperson from 22/04/2021)
Tom Jones
Tracey Trotter

The directors of the company, who are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law, form the Board of Trustees. Two of the Trustees serve voluntarily as Treasurer and Company Secretary respectively.

A full board meeting is held four times in a 12 month period (more frequently if the need arises). One Trustee is appointed as Chairperson and staff are invited to report on the services and fundraising activities via the respective sub committees which also meet four times in a 12 month period. The budget is approved annually by the full Board of Trustees and is reviewed monthly.

The minimum number of Trustees is three; there is no maximum and Trustees are appointed to serve for a term of three years. Prospective Trustees are required to complete an application form and declare any conflict of interest. No person is appointed to serve as a Trustee unless approved by the existing Trustees. New Trustees are introduced to the Board and briefed as necessary in all aspects of the Charity's objectives and policies. Trustees are encouraged to seek training, as appropriate, also to observe and follow the requirements and guidelines set down by the Charity Commission. Trustees are DBS checked on their appointment and then every two years. The Trustees have diverse professional backgrounds and some are also parents of children who have used the service.

Risk Management

Risks have been identified to which the Charity is exposed and which might impact on the Charity's ability to achieve its objectives. To mitigate those risks, policies and procedures have been established that are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss and ensure a consistent, high quality of service and care for the children and appropriate working conditions for the staff. The safeguarding of our children is paramount to everything that this Charity does. The Trustees have established an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Charity's key risks and this is reviewed regularly. In particular there are procedures for:

- Ethical fundraising
- Providing the capacity to safely deliver the service with fully qualified staff
- Ensuring that the Charity's services meet required standards, including for safeguarding, child protection, health and safety and well-being. Avoiding actions that could damage the Charity's reputation
- Ensuring that the Fundraising staff and all Charity fundraising activities are fully compliant with all Fundraising Regulations and all Charity Commission requirements, including those for general data protection.
- Ensuring a proper complaint procedure for service users, staff and donors

- Ensuring equal opportunities and safe recruitment and retaining sufficient levels of skilled staff
- Providing adequate ICT systems and ensuring the protection and security of confidential information
- The overall management and development of systems and personnel
- Ensuring the provision of adequate levels of governance, financial and operating control through its Trustees and management.
- Financial reporting within a comprehensive planning and accounting framework, and monitoring of other risks which are identified and reported to the Trustees.

The Trustees continue to monitor the risks and the effectiveness of the system of control that has been put in place by the Charity.

Management

In this financial year the management of the Charity has changed. For the period from April – June the Executive Manager held responsibility for ensuring that the delivery and standards of the services met the objectives set out by the Trustees. This was changed as part of the restructure to the Head of Centre in July 2020 who also holds full responsibility for staffing and delivery of the service provision and fundraising.

Financial Review

The Charity's Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 20. The total income for the year was £468,313 (2020: £334,096) and total expenditure was £408,979 (2020: £460,144). Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the charity has continued to provide its services. Income has increased this year mainly due to accessing emergency funds in relation to Covid-19. The charity also made use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Performance and impact of subsidiary undertaking

The subsidiary company, DVLT Trading Limited was created when the Charity ran a Charity shop in Southwater, West Sussex, in December 2012. As part of the overall financial review the Board of Trustees made the decision to close the charity shop, which was completed in November 2015. The trading company remained dormant from this date and was dissolved on 16/03/2021.

Reserve policy

The Charity is reliant on receiving funds from individuals, community groups, business and trust and foundations. In order to protect against an unexpected drop in income, the Charity ensures that is has deposited funds that are set aside to meet the financial commitments explained in the report for at least a period of six months. The main objective of the Trustees is to ensure the Charity has adequate funding to safeguard its daily activities meet its financial obligations and commitments to the children, parents and staff. At 31 March 2021, in addition to the restricted funds it carries over into the new financial year the Charity held free reserves of £147,482 (2020: £64,389) and the charity has, therefore, just fallen short of its reserve policy. As such, the Charity continues to undertake a number of cost saving activities to ensure that is it able to meet the reserves policy going forward.

All funds are held in approved current and deposit accounts, including those managed by the Charities Aid Foundation, and positions are monitored closely to ensure that there is no unduly high exposure to any one financial institution. The Trustees continually monitor the cash position and review this reserves policy each year in order to ensure that the Charity always has sufficient funds to meet its obligations and continue to provide its charity service.

Preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of recommended Practice 2015, Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also directors of Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and 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 Charity and the group at the year end and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charity and the group for the year.

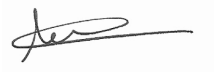
In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and the group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 3rd June 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Nick Dutt
Chairperson

Legal & Administrative Information

Founder
Dame Vera Lynn CH DBE LLD M. Mus

Vice Presidents
Virginia Lewis-Jones
Sir Tim Rice
Sir Cliff Richard OBE
Hayley Westenra

Patrons
Kirstie Betts
Richard Betts
Christopher Biggins
John Bowis OBE
Richard Leon
Barrie Roberts
Sophia Warner

Ambassadors
Chris Andre
Gary and Lorrie Birtles
Olivia Breen
Adrian Brown
D-Day Darlings
Mickie Driver
Avril Gaynor
Abbie Hunnisett
James Lynes
Christian Mitchell
Stephanie Prior
Katherine Samuelson
Colin Thackery

Trustees
Deborah Hay (Chair to 22/04/2021)
Tim Wright (Secretary)
Paula Barnes
Linzi Blockley
Colin Darnell
Nick Dutt – appointed 20/01/2021
Chair from 22/04/2021
Doug Hill – appointed Treasurer 07/10/2020
Tom Jones
Tracey Trotter

Centre Manager
Glenys Creese

Principal Advisers

Registered office and solicitors
Penningtons Manches
Cooper LLP
125 Wood Street
London
EC2V 7AW

Bank
CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Accountants and Independent examiners
TC Group
The Courtyard
Shoreham Road
Upper Beeding
West Sussex BN44 3TN

Charity address
Unit 1, The Courtyard
Holmsted Farm
Staplefield Road
Cuckfield, West Sussex
RH17 5JF

Registered Charity No. 1089657

Company Registration No. 04230409

Website www.dvlcc.org.uk

Tel: 01444-473-274

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charitable Company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charitable Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charitable Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is a listed body.

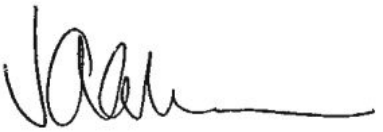
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.

Mr Jonathan Aikens ACA, DChA

Independent Examiner
for and on behalf of TC Group
The Courtyard
Shoreham Road
Upper Beeding
Steyning
West Sussex
BN44 3TN



Dated: 8 June 2021

DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Income from:		£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	3	**185,584**	**-**	**185,584**	141,482
Charitable activities	4	**150,281**	**122,386**	**272,667**	157,233
Other trading activities	5	**10,051**	**-**	**10,051**	35,377
Investments	6	**11**	**-**	**11**	4
Total income		**345,927**	**122,386**	**468,313**	334,096
Expenditure on:	7				
Raising funds		**112,934**	**-**	**112,934**	138,142
Charitable activities		**179,432**	**116,614**	**296,046**	322,002
Total expenditure		**292,366**	**116,614**	**408,980**	460,144
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		**53,561**	**5,772**	**59,333**	(126,048)
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		**117,011**	**41,851**	**158,862**	284,910
Fund balances at 31 March 2021	19	**170,572**	**47,623**	**218,195**	158,862

All activities are classed as continuing. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those reported on the Statement of Financial Activities.

DAME VERA LYNN CHILDREN'S CHARITY
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	**13**	**12,693**	31,976
Intangible assets	**14**	**10,397**	20,645
Investments	**15**	**-**	1
		23,090	52,622
Current Assets			
Stock		**-**	938
Debtors	**16**	**11,700**	17,091
Cash at bank and in hand		**219,690**	130,942
		231,390	148,971
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	**(36,285)**	(42,731)
Net current assets		**195,105**	106,240
Net assets		**218,195**	158,862
Funds	**19**		
Unrestricted funds		**170,572**	117,011
Restricted funds	**18**	**47,623**	41,851
TOTAL FUNDS		**218,195**	158,862

The Trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to audit exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 3rd June 2021



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N Dutt (Chair)

Company Registration No. 04230409

1 COMPANY INFORMATION

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the legal and administrative information page.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted are as follows:

2.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)

– Charities SORP (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

Having considered future budgets and cash flows, the Trustees confirm that they have no material uncertainties about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future. This conclusion takes into account the financial effect of Covid-19.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income can be measured reliably.

Both grants and donations income are recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income stream have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. In the event that such income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income from other trading activities includes ticket sales and other income from events organised directly by the Charity together with other income from the sale of Christmas cards and is recognised when the entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is credited to income when it is receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Support costs are those which assist the use of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Support costs are allocated on a basis consistent with use of resources.

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. These are included within support costs.

2.4 Tangible fixed assets

Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation.

Depreciation is provided as the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Fixtures and fittings	20% and 25% straight line

2.5 Intangible fixed assets

Purchases of over £500 are considered for capitalisation.

Amortisation is provided at 20% on a straight line basis in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

2.6 Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes direct purchases priced on an average cost basis and attributable overheads incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition.

2.7 Lease commitments

Operating leases and the payments made under them are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.8 Investments

Investments are stated at fair value. Any gains and losses arising on investments are included within the Statement of Financial Activity.

2.9 Taxation

The charitable company is registered as a charity and all of its income falls within the exemptions under Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

2.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2.11 Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

2.12 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

2.13 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes bank accounts, cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposits or similar account.

2.14 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2.15 Critical estimates and accounting judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021 Restricted £	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Individual donations	-	**92,223**	**92,223**	78,209
Corporate donations	-	**5,360**	**5,360**	55,588
Legacies/in memory donations	-	**22,704**	**22,704**	7,685
Government support re: Covid-19	-	**65,297**	**65,297**	-
	-	**185,584**	**185,584**	141,482

All 2020 donations and legacies income were unrestricted.

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021 Restricted £	2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Trusts and Foundations	**122,386**	**150,281**	**272,667**	157,233
	122,386	**150,281**	**272,667**	157,233

£103,754 of the 2020 income from charitable activities was restricted.

5. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Events	**9,226**	32,169
Other	**825**	3,208
	10,051	35,377

All other trading activities income is unrestricted.

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021 £	2020 £
Interest receivable	**11**	4

All interest receivable is unrestricted.

7. EXPENDITURE

	Depreciation/ amortisation	Staff costs	Other costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising funds					
Activities undertaken directly	-	71,786	40,163	**111,949**	121,928
Support costs	-	-	985	**985**	16,214
Total raising funds	-	71,786	41,148	**112,934**	138,142
Charitable activities					
DVLCC Services					
Activities undertaken directly	29,531	144,311	87,399	**261,241**	275,287
Support costs	-	15,230	19,575	**34,805**	46,715
Total charitable activities	29,531	159,541	106,974	**296,046**	322,022
Total	29,531	231,327	148,122	**408,980**	460,144

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Travel and training	**2,354**	896
Postage and stationery	**102**	310
IT costs	**1,509**	1,485
Insurance	**423**	246
Staff costs	**15,230**	32,650
Telephone	**210**	267
Premises costs	**7,512**	5,674
HR & Payroll costs	**3,245**	1,000
Other	**-**	231
Governance costs (note 9)	**5,205**	3,956
	35,790	46,715

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Professional fees	**1,846**	511
Independent examination fee	**2,100**	1,680
Legal fees	**40**	1,152
Other governance costs	**1,219**	613
	5,205	3,956

10. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - COMPARATIVE FUNDS (YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020)

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020
Income from:	£	£	£
Donations and legacies	141,482	-	**141,482**
Charitable activities	53,479	103,754	**157,233**
Other trading activities	35,377	-	**35,377**
Investments	4	-	**4**
Total income	230,342	103,754	**334,096**
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	138,142	-	**138,142**
Charitable activities	239,331	82,671	**322,002**
Total expenditure	377,473	82,671	**460,144**
Net income	(147,131)	21,083	**(126,048)**
Transfers between funds	3,189	(3,189)	**-**
Net movement in funds	(143,942)	17,894	**(126,048)**
Fund balances at 1 April 2019	260,953	23,957	**284,910**
Fund balances at 31 March 2020	117,011	41,851	**158,862**

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There was no Trustee remuneration or reimbursement of expenses for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

12. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	**206,339**	274,713
Agency staff costs	**6,436**	24,614
Social security costs	**13,230**	21,876
Other pension costs	**5,322**	7,211
	231,327	328,414

Employee information:	2021 Number	2020 Number
Average number of employees during the year	**8**	11

No employees' annual emoluments totalled over £60,000 in either 2020 or 2021.

During the year the key management personnel of the charitable company comprised of the Executive Manager, the Head of Service and the Business Development Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel (including Employer's National Insurance Contributions) were £100,487 (2020: £124,516). During the year redundancy costs were incurred totalling £10,090 (2020: £Nil).

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures & fittings	Total
Cost	**£**	**£**
At 1 April 2020	62,259	**62,259**
Additions	-	**-**
At 31 March 2021	62,259	**62,259**
At 1 April 2020	30,283	**30,283**
Charge for the year	19,283	**19,283**
At 31 March 2021	49,566	**49,566**
At 31 March 2021	12,693	**12,693**
At 31 March 2020	31,976	**31,976**

14. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Software	Total
Cost	**£**	**£**
At 1 April 2020	25,992	**25,992**
Additions	-	**-**
At 31 March 2021	25,992	**25,992**
At 1 April 2020	5,347	**5,347**
Charge for the year	10,248	**10,248**
At 31 March 2021	15,595	**15,595**
At 31 March 2021	10,397	**10,397**
At 31 March 2020	20,645	**20,645**

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENT

	Subsidiary investments
Cost/Fair value	**£**
At 1 April 2020	**1**
Disposals in the year	**(1)**
At 31 March 2021	**-**

Subsidiary Company

The Charity has a fully owned subsidiary (DVLT Trading Limited, incorporated in England and Wales, company number 08198212).

2021 financial information of DVLT Trading Limited, until it was dissolved, was as follows:

Company	Shares held class		Capital and reserves	Profit for the period
	£	%	£	£
DVLT Trading Limited	ordinary	100	**1**	**-**

The company remained dormant throughout 2020 and 2021 and was dissolved on 16/03/2021.

16. DEBTORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	**11,700**	11,700
Prepayments and accrued income	**-**	5,391
	11,700	17,091

17. CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	**4,094**	7,303
Social security and other taxes	**4,063**	5,861
Accruals and deferred income	**26,700**	22,009
Other creditors	**1,428**	7,558
	36,285	42,731

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The income funds of the Charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

Movement in funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Salaries	40,060	119,986	(112,423)	-	**47,623**
Equipment	1,000	500	(1,500)	-	**-**
Services	791	1,900	(2,691)	-	**-**
	41,851	122,386	(116,614)	-	**47,623**

Salaries

The salaries restricted fund comprises funds received to contribute towards specific roles within the service team (e.g. within the Charitable Service).

Equipment

The equipment restricted fund comprises of income received that is specifically to be used to fund the purchase of equipment. The transfer out of the fund represents capital expenditure incurred in the year.

Services

The services restricted fund comprises restricted income received to enable the Charity to deliver specific aspects of its early intervention service, including music therapy and swimming.

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £
Funds at 31 March 2021 are represented by:			
Fixed assets	23,090	-	**23,090**
Current assets	183,767	47,623	**231,390**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(36,285)	-	**(36,285)**
	170,572	47,623	**218,195**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £
Funds at 31 March 2020 are represented by:			
Fixed assets	52,622	-	**52,622**
Current assets	107,120	41,851	**148,971**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(42,731)	-	**(42,731)**
	117,011	41,851	**158,862**

20. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At 31 March 2021 the company had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land & Buildings 2021 £	Land & Buildings 2020 £
Within one year	**33,150**	46,800
Between two and five years	**-**	33,150
	33,150	79,950

During 2016 the Charity took out a 5 year lease on a premises at Holmsted Farm Cuckfield.

Total lease payments recognised as an expense in the year amounted to £46,800 (2020: £46,800).

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year a company controlled by Phil Ward (a Trustee who resigned during the year) purchased Christmas cards totalling £Nil from the charity (2020: £96).There were no other related party transaction in 2020 or 2021.

22. CONTROL

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Charity is controlled by the Trustees.

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