



DAME VERA LYNN
Children's Charity
Discover together

Registered Charity No. 1089657

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

Charity number - 1089657

Company Registration no. - 04230409

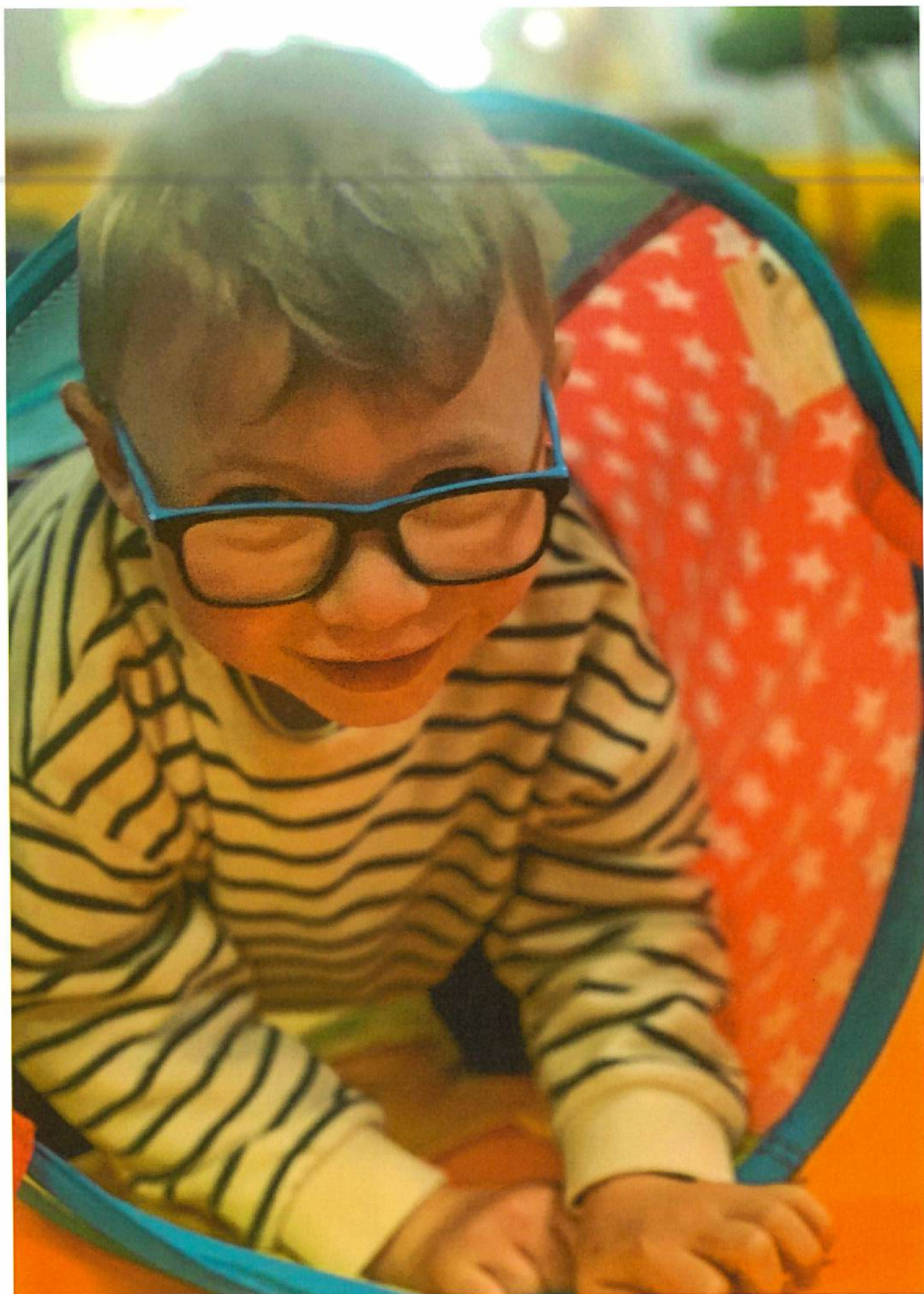
www.dvlcc.org.uk

**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.

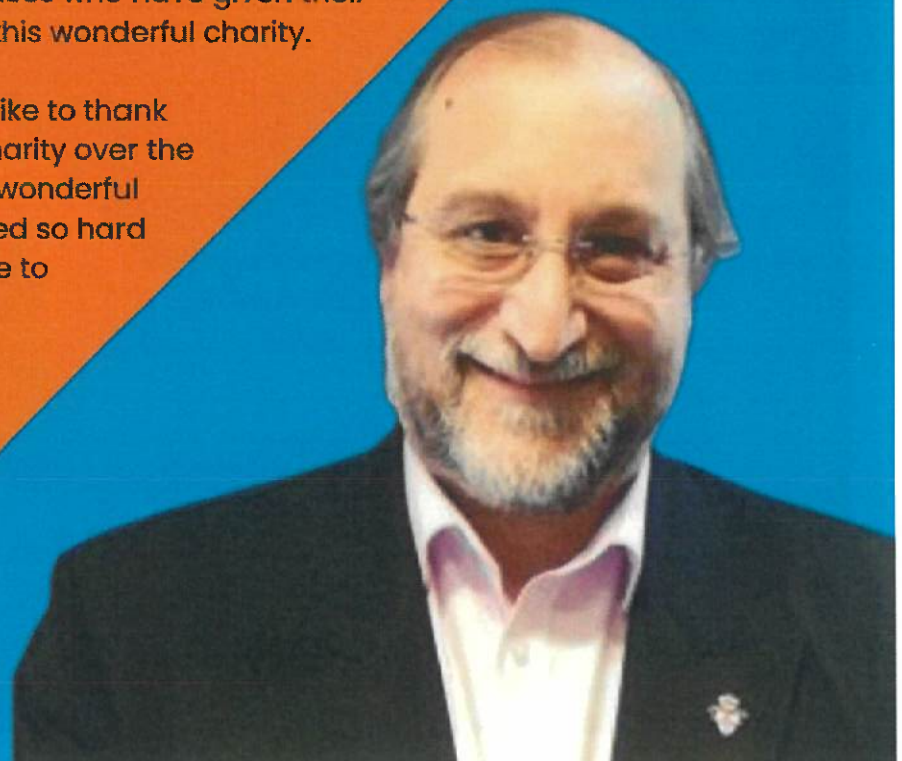
Over the last year Paula Barnes and Tracey Trotter have stepped down as Trustees. Both have provided many years of service for which we are truly grateful. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank them for all their support and efforts.

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





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.





OTIS' STORY



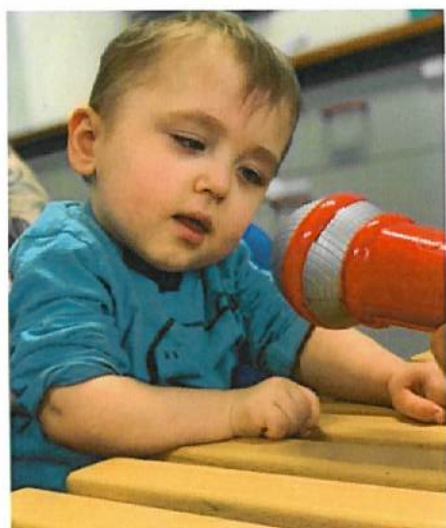
Otis and his twin brother Eddie were both born prematurely at 25 weeks old. Tragically, Eddie passed away in the first 24 hours of his life and Otis went on to spend months in hospital battling serious complications.

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 Waterloo 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

The charity continues to use Outcome Star in order that it is 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.

65% of children
have made
progress with
their
communication

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.



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

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.

69% of
children have
made
progress with
their social
skills



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.

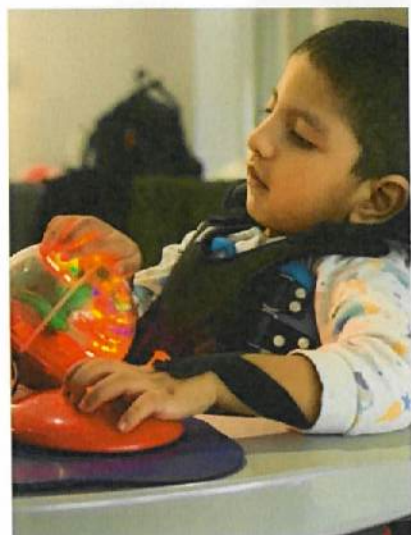
The first part of the strategy was to secure a new home as the barn at Cuckfield could no longer accommodate all of the children and their families who were attending every week. The new home needed to be either in addition to or a replacement for the barn. Following a number of conversations with Chailey 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.



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.

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!



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.





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.

Trustees' Report and Accounts

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' Report and Accounts

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 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.



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 £
<u>Income from:</u>							
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
<u>Expenditure on:</u>							
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

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

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025		2024
		£	£	£
				£
<u>Cash flow from operating activities</u>				
Net cash from operating activities	Note below	159,374		53,471
<u>Cash flow from investing activities</u>				
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(8,263)		-
Interest received		8,347		777
Net cash flow from investing activities		84		777
<u>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</u>		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
<u>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</u>				
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

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

Trustees' Report and Accounts

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.

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (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 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.

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

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

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.

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

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

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

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

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £
<u>Income from:</u>					
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
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
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.

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

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

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

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

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

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

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.

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

Trustees' Report and Accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

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.