

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP (CIC'S GROUP)

England & Wales · Charity number 1097619

Details

Other names	CICS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2003-05-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Cochlear Implanted Children's Suppo Po Box 28843 London SW13 0WY
Phone	02088768605
Email	info@cicsgroup.org.uk
Website	www.cicsgroup.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF NEED OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HAVE IMPAIRED HEARING IN PARTICULAR THOSE WHO HAVE COCHLEAR IMPLANTS OR ARE CONSIDERING COCHLEAR IMPLANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PROVISION OF ADVICE, SUPPORT AND SPONSORING RESEARCH PROJECTS WHICH FURTHER THIS OBJECT; AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE SAID PERSONS.

Activities: The principal objectives and activities of the Charity include the relief of needs of children who are deaf or have hearing impairment, in particular those who have or are considering cochlear implants and their families by the provision of advice, support and sponsoring research projects and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE NATIONALLY.
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£132,712	£130,224	-	-
2023-12-31	£173,946	£127,960	-	-
2022-12-31	£94,704	£100,044	-	-
2021-12-31	£90,859	£85,545	-	-
2020-12-31	£40,382	£45,141	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MRS TRICIA KEMP	Chair	
Angela O'Donovan		2018-01-13
Donna-Marie Tuffs		2017-01-21
Jeremy James Foster		
MARY CHIBUZO OGWO		
Monika Ursula Fines		2023-05-11
NEHA MEHTA		2022-10-19

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP (CIC'S GROUP)

England & Wales - Charity number 1097619

Accounts

**Cochlear Implanted Children's
Support Group**

**Report and Financial Statements
for the period
1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024**

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

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COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

The Trustees

Mrs. A.P. Kemp (Chairperson)
Mrs. M. Fines
Mr. J.J. Foster
Ms. N. Mehta
Mrs. A. O'Donovan
Ms. M. Ogwo
Ms. D. Tuffs

Registered Office

P.O. Box 28843
London
SW13 0WY

Charity registration number

1097619

Independent Examiner

M. Emanuel
Chartered Accountants
5, Lexham Gardens Mews
Kensington
London
W8 5JQ

Bankers

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

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Report of the Trustees for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Results

The statement of financial activities is set out on page 9 and shows the net income for the period.

Constitution

The Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group is registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1097619. Its affairs are governed by Declaration of Trust which restricts the use of the Charity's income, such that it must be applied solely towards the objects of the Charity.

Tax status

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax and income tax.

Principal objectives

The principal objectives and activities of the Charity are as stated in the Trust Deed:

'The relief of need of children who are deaf or have hearing impairment, in particular those who have cochlear implants or are considering cochlear implants and their families, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of advice, support and sponsoring research projects which further this object; and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said persons.'

Review of the Activities of the Charity

During 2024 the Charity organised a series of events and welcomed many new families to the group.

To keep existing and new members informed of developments in the fields of cochlear implantation and deafness in general four editions of the Charity's newsletter were produced and distributed during the year. It is the only national newsletter dedicated to families whose children either already have cochlear implants or are being assessed for the procedure, and during the year under review each edition contained a mixture of articles by professionals, parents, implant manufacturers and cochlear implant users of all ages.

Feedback continued to indicate that families found personal stories and articles by parents and young implant users to be inspirational. They enjoyed reading the latest news from implant manufacturers, and also valued the tips, advice and research topics covered in articles by professionals. Families also appreciated the section celebrating the achievements of all levels of accomplishments by children and young adults who use cochlear implants including those with considerable additional difficulties. In addition to seeing their names in print the younger children were sent a specially designed certificate, the older ones a celebratory card, and all received a small gift voucher.

The Trustees believe that the newsletter is an important part of what the Charity can offer to

families and that there is great value in having a printed newsletter as it is left on coffee tables in homes for the whole family to see, on stands at Auditory Implant Centres where it will be seen by families whose children are being assessed for cochlear implantation, and on conference stands where it raises awareness of the Charity's aims and activities amongst professionals. Newsletters tend to be lengthy so it is not practical to distribute them by email and the Trustees therefore intend to continue producing and distributing the newsletter in a printed format. Mindful of costs, however, the Group Coordinator liaises with the printers to ensure that any discounts available are utilised.

The vast majority of the Charity's outgoing mail is franked using its franking machine which provides a discount of approximately 22% on standard postage rates. By using return address labels any newsletters that are undelivered are returned to the Charity, and the addressee is contacted by email or telephone to obtain updated details. If there is no response the addressee is removed from the mailing list. This system also helps to keep the Charity's address records up to date. Those wishing to opt out of the Charity's postal communications, which is only the newsletter, can do so by email, telephone or writing. However, the newsletter continues to be popular and the Group Coordinator continues to receive requests from non-members who are often professionals working in the field, to be added to the mailing list. It has proved virtually impossible to collect payment of the small amount that the Charity has been charging professionals for associate membership. The Trustees have taken the decision that the Charity will bear the cost of this as not only is it these people who can pass our details direct to the families with whom they work, but it is also a waste of the Group Coordinators' time and costs involved in chasing up payment of small invoices which, as evidenced in the last few years, are very rarely paid.

To foster contact between CICS Group members the Charity hosts an invitation-only Facebook group which is only available for CICS Group parents whose children have actually received cochlear implants. The number and content of messages posted on it give testament to the value of this forum. Hosted and monitored by one of the Charity's Trustees the forum's membership has grown rapidly and is a resource for lively discussion, questions, responses and the sharing of information. A similar monitored group for teenagers was set up in 2018 but was not successful and has been discontinued.

One of the main aims of the Charity is to facilitate opportunities for families to meet others in similar circumstances. Nowadays many deaf children attend mainstream schools and do not know any other deaf children in their area. This can lead to a feeling of isolation for the children and, indeed their whole family. CICS events give them the opportunity to meet others who face the same daily challenges and to make friends with others who benefit from the same technology. Parents also make friends at these events and enjoy exchanging experiences and learning from one another. As the membership is widely spread across the country, the Charity organises a programme of weekend trips at various locations so as to be accessible to as many families as possible. These trips are all subsidised to some extent by the Charity and, in addition, the Family Sponsorship Scheme set up in 2015 provides funding to enable families on a low income or with exceptional circumstances to attend. During 2024 the Trustees were able to approve funding for all the families who applied for help and met the criteria of the scheme.

The Charity organised two weekends at an outdoor activity centre in the Peak District. The centre employs qualified instructors and provides specialist equipment necessary to enable children and parents alike to try a range of activities such as abseiling, canoeing, caving and rock climbing. Both weekends included plenty of spare time to enable children to play together outside in a large field ideal for friendly football, on the basketball court and in the indoor games room. In the evening the fire pit was an added attraction providing a focal point for families to toast marshmallows and enjoy snacks around the fire. Parents enjoyed getting to know others, and many exchanged contact details and reported that they hoped to attend a future event at Dukes Barn. The Trustees believe

these weekends to be of particular value to families who attend and was able to heavily subsidise the cost of these weekends.

A weekend at Alton Towers was the biggest the charity has ever organised with over sixty families attending and several left on a waiting list who could not be accommodated. Families came from all over the country to attend the event which began with an informal reception on the Friday evening with various games available for children as well as a volunteer face painter. Following the popularity last year of including a short performance by the nationally renowned Deaf SignSinger, Fletch a repeat performance was held and received similar acclaim. All the families spent Saturday in the theme park, and enjoyed a sit-down buffet and entertainment in the evening. A sign language interpreter was provided for the deaf parents and for those CI users who prefer to sign so that Saturday evening's event would be fully accessible for them. Stuart Wright, who provides the disco and photo booths enlisted the help of two young adult CI users to lead the dancing showing the younger children how to do some set dance routines. Excitement was generated by a raffle with high value prizes, and donated cards were sold in aid of the charity. As in previous years the Charity organised a one hour exclusive use session of the water park during the Sunday morning. This is particularly valuable as the water park gets very crowded making it extremely stressful for families to keep watch over their young children. As in previous years, feedback on the evaluation sheets was excellent with many parents expressing gratitude for the opportunity for their CI children being able to meet and spend time with other implant users and thanks to the organisers for the quality and organisation of the event.

There was also a weekend at Chessington World of Adventures which is a much smaller event than Alton Towers due to the limited capacity of the banqueting suite in the hotel for the Saturday evening dinner. Nothing formal was arranged for the Friday evening as most of the families had very young children and preferred to have an early night, although a few met up for an informal drink and chat. After a full day in the theme park on Saturday a sit-down buffet and family disco was arranged for the evening. Parents chatted whilst the younger children enjoyed the musical games before dinner, and later in the evening the older ones enjoyed the disco and trying out all the different props in the photobooth. On the Sunday some families used the hotel's leisure centre whilst others visited the onsite wildlife centre or made a second visit to the theme park. Feedback was excellent, and the Charity hopes to continue organising this event.

In addition to weekends away several short session events were organised in various locations during the year. The Midlands Coordinator organised an afternoon at Blackwell Adventure Centre at Bromsgrove, offering crate-stacking with opportunities to try the indoor climbing wall and a self-led obstacle course as well as a great deal of outdoor space for children to run around. There was also a bouncy castle for the younger children and a buffet style tea laid on for everyone. It was an action-packed afternoon and the feedback indicated that families greatly valued the opportunity to get together in a relaxed atmosphere where children could have fun and adults were able to chat.

An event at the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre near Bristol was hosted by the Bush family who are regular volunteers at CICS Group events. Table tennis, badminton and basketball as well as a giant bouncy castle were available during the morning followed by a buffet lunch, providing a short break for the children to recover their energy levels before a session for sixteen of those over the age of five on the very popular X-Height Adventure Climb. This has been a very popular event for many years and the Charity hopes to be able to continue using this venue.

Three family afternoons took place at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground, near Maidenhead, a specialist outdoor and indoor activity centre which is inclusive for all children with disabilities including those using wheelchairs. This is always a popular event as it is a relaxed venue with plenty to do. Parents are able to chat in the knowledge that their children are in completely safe surroundings, and the event is particularly valuable for those who are considering an implant for

their baby or child and want to meet others with first-hand experience. As at all the Charity's events, not only could parents and extended family who also attend ask questions about everyday life with children with cochlear implants, but they could also see first-hand how the children with cochlear implants were communicating and getting on with their lives. Teenagers with cochlear implants also attend these events as helpers and role models and parents regularly report the great value of spending some time with them.

During the previous year the Charity held its first event at Yorda Adventures Centre in Surrey. This proved to be extremely popular so was repeated during the year under review. The centre offers a small outside space hosting a giant trampoline, bikes, trikes, sandpit and swings and indoor space with a bouncy castle, soft play and ball pond. There are also excellent catering facilities and ample space for tables and chairs for families to be seated whilst enjoying a buffet tea. The small size of the centre created a friendly atmosphere and made it very easy for families to chat and make new friends.

We were delighted to have the opportunity to part sponsor a group of nine CICS teenagers to attend a Summer Camp in the Czech Republic for cochlear implanted teenagers from across Europe. This was organised by EURO-CIU and SUKI. CICS arranged for a very experienced teacher and a speech and language therapist who is also a cochlear implant user to accompany and supervise the CICS teenagers. As well as hiking, swimming and various social activities, they explored Telč and the surrounding area, visited landmarks, attended workshops and prepared and gave the whole group a presentation on the UK. They learned about the provision of cochlear implants in European countries and considered their role as advocates for cochlear implants. The feedback from the teenagers and their parents was absolutely excellent, and if a similar opportunity arises the Charity hopes to make similar arrangements.

The Trustees are very grateful to their team of volunteers who regularly help at the various events throughout the year. Parents and young adults help set up and clear away at events; meet and greet visitors; sell raffle tickets and Christmas cards in aid of the Charity; sort out seating plans and deal with queries. These volunteers are vital to the efficient running of the Charity's events.

Trustees and Coordinators

The Charity's seven Trustees continued in their roles during the year under review. The Charity's Coordinator for Scotland stepped down during the year and was replaced by Natalie Hill who has an eleven-year-old cochlear implanted daughter.

Activities of the Trustees and Coordinators

The Regional Coordinators continued to pay a great deal of attention to keeping the Charity's database of members up to date. Following a request for membership of the group, usually via the Charity's website, initial direct contact is made by telephone and prospective members have to respond to a standard GDPR compliance email before their membership is confirmed. If no response is received after three email reminders and a telephone call their details are removed from the Charity's system. The result is that a few families who apply to join do not actually become members, and although Coordinators' time has been wasted on the process it is hoped that the caller benefited from the initial conversation. In order for the Charity to maintain its personal contact approach and keep full details of families and their children's cochlear implants the Trustees believe the membership process is robust, although it is regrettable that some families cannot join as they do not complete the GDPR compliance requirement.

In addition to organising the charity's events, the day-to-day activities of the Trustees and Coordinators continued to include providing welcome packs to new members, dealing with telephone, written and e-mailed enquiries from members, non-members and professionals,

preparing and distributing the Charity's newsletter, monitoring the Charity's email and Facebook group, liaising with cochlear implant manufacturers and with other groups involved with all aspects of deafness or hearing loss, providing articles for various publications and helping with relevant research projects. Patient involvement is now at the forefront of NHS initiatives and the Group Coordinator is involved in various working parties, one of which has been active for four years developing a National Registry of Hearing Implants which will be launched in 2025. Details of every cochlear implant device and its recipient will be recorded and maintained in this Registry which will be updated by the individual's cochlear implant centre. The primary aim of the registry is to improve safety and outcomes for hearing implant users in the UK by monitoring the performance of implanted devices so that early warning signs of batch problems can be quickly acted upon.

Working with other Groups

The Charity maintained its relationships with other organisations sharing an interest in cochlear implantation, kept abreast of their activities and, where appropriate, promoted these to the CICS Group members. In particular there are strong links with The Elizabeth Foundation, Auditory Verbal UK, the National Cochlear Implant Users' Association (NCIUA) and the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA) of which the Charity was a founding member. Whenever possible, one of the Trustees or Coordinators helped with any projects undertaken by these organisations during the year.

On behalf of the charity the Group Coordinator is a member of the British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG). The Charity is a member of the UK Council on Deafness and of The Alliance which is campaigning to raise awareness of deafness generally.

In addition, the Charity is a member of the EURO-CIU which campaigns for improved quality of life for cochlear implant users of all ages across Europe. The CICS Group Coordinator also represents the Charity on the Adult Cochlear Implant Action Group ('ACIAG') which is campaigning to raise awareness of the benefits of cochlear implants and of the large number of adults who are suitable for, but not receiving cochlear implants. ACIAG is also lobbying for adult hearing screening, and for more research into bilateral implantation for adults.

Having been heavily involved in the process of achieving the NICE guidance that recommended bilateral cochlear implantation for children, the Charity's Group Coordinator is a member of the BCIG's working party which is considering a further approach to NICE regarding the approval for bilateral cochlear implants for adults and for single sided deafness as well as the relaxation of the audiological criteria for implantation to be in line with other European countries.

During 2024 two Trustees attended the BCIG's annual conference which took place in Newcastle, as well as the EURO-CIU Annual Meeting in Vienna, and the first-ever global advocacy conference on Cochlear Implants organised by CIICA in Brussels. These events were not only valuable opportunities for raising awareness of the Charity and for networking with professionals, manufacturers and other voluntary support groups from all over the world, but were also excellent sources of interesting and up-to-date articles for the Charity's newsletters.

The Regional Coordinators have also undertaken literature reviews and helped in a number of research projects organising contact with members whose children met certain criteria sought by researchers. The CICS Group Coordinator continued as Vice Chair of the NCIUA, as a member of a Specialist Sensory Academy, and an associate member of the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD). Other CICS Group Trustees and Coordinators took opportunities to keep up to date with developments in the wider field of cochlear implantation and to secure articles for the Charity's newsletters.

The Trustees believe it is important for the Charity to support initiatives intended to widen the

availability of cochlear implantation, secure funding for the continuation of the service and to maintain a high quality provision for cochlear implant users of all ages. The Trustees will continue to work with and support other charities, support groups and professionals who share these beliefs.

Finance and Fundraising

Uncertainty in the economy led to 2024 continuing to be a challenging time for small charities dealing with low incidence disabilities to attract donations. It remains apparent that the most likely source of financial support for the Charity is from the members and their contacts.

The Charity's policy of not having a membership fee enables all who would benefit from membership to do so, prevents families from being excluded from the group due to financial hardship, and ensures a diverse membership. In addition, the Trustees consider that the administrative burden of introducing an annual membership fee would be too great, and prefer instead to encourage members to make a donation no matter how small, and whenever possible to organise events such as coffee mornings or to ask their local schools, clubs or businesses to adopt the CICS Group as their Charity. With this in mind, the Charity continued its annual 'Voluntary Donations Month' scheme in April with an appeal to members to donate whatever they could afford and to seek out ways of raising money for the Charity. It is difficult to give an exact figure of the amount that this appeal attracts as families send amounts throughout the year, sometimes through online platforms, and some provide support by sponsoring runners who take part in the British 10k Run, but amounts definitely attributable to this appeal were £3,025.

The British 10k London event was the Charity's only major fundraising initiative. The Charity had a team of 34 runners. The Charity hosted a post-run event for runners and immediate family at the Cafe in the Crypt at St. Martin-in-the-Fields which proved to be an excellent choice of venue. Nett of expenses the event raised just over £12,000, less than initially hoped for, but nonetheless a good outcome.

During the year under review, in addition to various personal donations, the charity received notable amounts (over £3,000) of £6,000 from Cochlear Europe, £5,000 from each of Kintbury Capital, the Kaye Pemberton Trust and JUSACA Charitable Trust, £4,500 from the Dorothy Hay-Bolton Charitable Trust, three donations from Bloomberg LP totalling £4,354, and £3,000 from Hat Trick Productions.

90-year-old Colin Sutherland, grandparent of a young adult cochlear implant user, and loyal supporter of the Charity for around thirty years opened his garden to visitors to demonstrate his incredible working model railway. There were also local stalls, home-made cakes and a barbecue. The Group Coordinator helped with the catering and the event raised £1,200. Colin was awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Ruislip in September and the Group Coordinator was delighted to speak at the ceremony to talk about his charitable work and to thank him for his support for so many years. Very sadly Colin died shortly after this and the Group Coordinator attended his memorial service.

All donations, no matter how small were greatly appreciated and, in keeping with the general approach of the Charity, all were personally acknowledged. Wherever possible donors were encouraged to use the Gift Aid Scheme so that the tax on personal donations could be reclaimed thus increasing the value of those donations.

Given that the previous year's revenue included a large one-off donation from the winding up of The Ear Foundation, the financial outcome for the year, although down, was satisfactory despite an increase in the cost of production and postage of the newsletter, increased charges from venues which were higher than anticipated and were not passed on in full to families attending the events, and the costs involved in a new initiative involving sponsorship of a group of teenagers to attend a Summer Camp in Europe and the travel costs incurred by the two volunteer group leaders.

As ever, the Trustees remain acutely aware of the vulnerability of the small Charity dealing with a low incidence disability operating in difficult times and competing with larger high-profile charities for funds. The Trustees ensure that excess funds are invested in bank and building society accounts that pay attractive rates of interest and keep this situation under review.

The Charity has no office premises or employees, but in order to maintain and improve the Group's network and profile and indeed, as an integral part of meeting the aims of Charity's work, the Trustees deemed it appropriate to continue providing a quality printed newsletter so that it is available for all family members to see; to offer affordable events for families to get together and to give sponsorship to low income families to enable them to access the Charity's weekend events. Looking to the future, they will continue to be mindful of the expense involved in doing so and, as well as seeking new methods of fundraising, will continue to review ways of reducing costs. The Charity was fortunate to receive a higher number of donations of over £1,000 than in previous years which helped to cover some of the increased expenditure costs.

Accounts Preparation

The Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and with those of the governing instrument.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 30th October, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Kemp". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Chairperson
Mrs A. P. Kemp

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP
Statement of Financial Activities
for the period
1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

<u>Receipts and Payments</u>	2024			2023
	<u>Unrestricted Funds - £</u>	<u>Restricted Funds - £</u>	<u>Total £</u>	<u>Total £</u>
<u>Receipts</u>				
Donations and bequests	56,002		56,002	110,649
Fundraising activities	21,045		21,045	17,707
Events and activities		4,315	4,315	5,859
Family activity weekends		2,325	2,325	1,745
Alton Towers weekend		28,173	28,173	23,737
Chessington		9,276	9,276	8,205
Other income	-		-	261
Income tax recovered	4,603		4,603	1,670
Bank interest	6,973		6,973	4,113
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts	88,623	44,089	132,712	173,946
	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Payments</u>				
Postage	14,197		14,197	5,035
Printing and photocopying	18,481		18,481	28,971
Stationery	4,776		4,776	4,744
Telephone	403		403	288
Subscriptions	548		548	655
Events and activities		9,858	9,858	9,537
Family activity weekends		8,041	8,041	6,624
Alton Towers weekend		42,273	42,273	36,446
Chessington		17,331	17,331	19,838
Promotional items		2,045	2,045	1,063
Fundraising activities	6,177		6,177	7,125
Purchase of office equipment	-		-	2,272
Insurance	685		685	554
Children's Achievement Awards	707		707	922
Travel and conference attendance	4,206		4,206	3,432
Bank charges	63		63	65
Website and database management	331		331	377
Other expenses	102		102	12
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments	50,676	79,548	130,224	127,960
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Surplus/(Deficit)	£37,947	£(35,459)	£2,488	£ 45,986
	=====	=====	=====	=====


COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31st December 2024

	At 31.12.24	At 31.12.23
	£	£
Assets		
Cash at bank and on deposit	189,596	187,108
	-----	-----
Net Assets	£189,596	£187,108
	=====	=====
Funds		
Balance brought forward	187,108	141,122
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	2,488	45,986
	-----	-----
Balance carried forward	£189,596	£187,108
	=====	=====

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 30th October, 2025.



 A. P. Kemp
 Chairperson



 D. Tuffs
 Trustee

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting by Charities".

Restricted and unrestricted funds

Funds received by the charity that are earmarked either by donation or by the terms of the grant for particular projects are accounted for as restricted funds. All other funds are unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees deem it prudent to have sufficient reserves to enable the charity to carry out its objectives for the foreseeable future, and have deemed this to be approximately three years' annual expenditure. The reserves are held in a general fund to enable the charity to meet all needs as defined by its Constitution.

Income

Donations and income from fundraising activities are accounted for on a receipts basis.

Voluntary help and gifts in kind

The charity benefits from many voluntary hours contributed by Trustees and supporters. From time to time the charity also benefits from the support of the implant manufacturers, professionals and other organisations. It would be impossible to place a value on all these gifts in kind for which the charity is extremely grateful and without which much of its work could not be undertaken.

Expenditure

All expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities on a payments basis and has been classified under categories which most appropriately reflect the use of the resources.

Value Added Tax

As the charity is unable to reclaim value added tax, all expenditure in these financial statements is shown inclusive of value added tax where appropriate.

Depreciation and Stock

No depreciation is provided on office equipment, which is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period when purchased. The charity holds no stock.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

1) Income and Expenditure

		Restricted and Unrestricted Funds
		£
a)	Donations and bequests	
	Cochlear Europe	6,000
	Kaye Pemberton Trust	5,000
	JUSACA Charitable Trust	5,000
	Kintbury Capital	5,000
	Dorothy Hay-Bolton Charitable Trust	4,500
	Bloomberg LP	4,354
	Hat Trick Productions	3,000
	Advanced Bionics	2,600
	Matthews Wrightson Charitable Trust	2,000
	The Dyers Company	2,000
	KW Charitable Trust	1,000
	Charities Trust	935
	Stead Window Services	500
	Individual donations and bequests of £2,000 or less	14,113

		£56,002
		=====
b)	Fundraising Events	
	Sizeable fundraising events organised by and for the charity during 2024 included:	
	British London 10k (£18,235 - £ 6,177)	12,058
	Fundraising Event (Colin Sutherland Model Railway)	1,200
	Raffles	1,610

		£14,868
		=====
c)	Direct Expenditure	
	Family Activity Weekends (£8,041 - £2,325)	5,716
	Events & Activities (£2,341 - £1,165)*	1,176
	Alton Towers (£42,273 - £28,173)	14,100
	Chessington (£17,331 - £9,276)	8,055
	Euro Camp (£7,517 - £3,150)	4,367
	Children's Achievement Awards	707
	Telephone - family contact	403
	Printing, stationery and postage	37,454

		£71,978
		=====
	* Euro camp is separated from the Events and Activities	

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 (cont.)

1)	Income and Expenditure (cont.)	£
d)	Investment Income	
	Bank Interest	£6,973
		=====
e)	Management and Administration of Charity	
	Travel and conference attendance	4,206
	Subscriptions	548
	Insurance	685
	Bank charges	63
	Website and database administration	331
	Promotional items	2,045
	Other expenses	102

		£7,980
		=====
f)	Trustees' remuneration	
	<p>No trustees received any remuneration during the period but three Trustees were reimbursed expenses totalling £10,940 in respect of the administration costs of coordinating the four regions, attending and participating in specific physical and online conferences and making various purchases on behalf of the charity. This expenditure is allocated over various headings in the Statement of Financial Activities.</p>	
2)	Assets	
	Cash at bank: CAF Current Account	10,191
	CAF Deposit Account	17,915
	Cambridge and Counties	85,000
	Skipton Building Society	76,490

		£189,596
		=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Independent Examiner's Report on the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Registered charity number: 1097619

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31st December, 2024 as set out on pages 9 to 13.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 
M. Emanuel

M. Emanuel,
Chartered Accountants,
5, Lexham Gardens Mews,
Kensington,
London,
W8 5JQ.

Dated: 30th October, 2025

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP (CIC'S GROUP)

England & Wales - Charity number 1097619

Accounts

**Cochlear Implanted Children's
Support Group**

**Report and Financial Statements
for the period
1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023**

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

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THE COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

The Trustees

Mrs. A.P. Kemp (Chairperson)
Mrs. M. Fines (appointed 11th May 2023)
Mr. J.J. Foster
Ms. N. Mehta
Mr. H. Morgan (resigned 11th May 2023)
Mrs. A. O'Donovan
Ms. M. Ogwo
Ms. D. Tuffs

Registered Office

P.O. Box 28843
London
SW13 0WY

Charity registration number

1097619

Independent Examiner

M. Emanuel
Chartered Accountants
5, Lexham Gardens Mews
Kensington
London
W8 5JQ

Bankers

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

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Report of the Trustees for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Results

The statement of financial activities is set out on page 9 and shows the net income for the period.

Constitution

The Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group is registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1097619. Its affairs are governed by Declaration of Trust which restricts the use of the Charity's income, such that it must be applied solely towards the objects of the Charity.

Tax status

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax and income tax.

Principal objectives

The principal objectives and activities of the Charity are as stated in the Trust Deed:

'The relief of need of children who are deaf or have hearing impairment, in particular those who have cochlear implants or are considering cochlear implants and their families, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of advice, support and sponsoring research projects which further this object; and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said persons.'

Review of the Activities of the Charity

During 2023 the Charity organised more events than in any other year and welcomed a record number of new members.

To keep existing and new members informed of developments in the fields of cochlear implantation and deafness in general four editions of the Charity's newsletter were produced and distributed during the year. It is the only national newsletter dedicated to families whose children either already have cochlear implants or are being assessed for the procedure, and during the year under review each edition contained a mixture of articles by professionals, parents, implant manufacturers and cochlear implant users of all ages.

Feedback continued to indicate that families found personal stories and articles by parents and young implant users to be inspirational, they enjoyed reading the latest news from implant manufacturers, and they valued the tips, advice and research topics covered in articles by professionals. The section celebrating the achievements of all levels of accomplishments by children and young adults who use cochlear implants including those with considerable additional difficulties also continued to be popular. The younger children were sent a specially designed certificate, the older ones a celebratory card, and all received a small gift voucher.

The Trustees believe that the newsletter is an important part of what the Charity can offer to families and that there is great value in having a printed newsletter as it is left on coffee tables

in homes for the whole family to see, on stands at Auditory Implant Centres where it will be seen by families whose children are being assessed for cochlear implantation, and on conference stands where it raises awareness of the Charity's aims and activities amongst professionals. Newsletters tend to be lengthy so it is not practical to distribute them by email and the Trustees therefore intend to continue producing and distributing the newsletter in a printed format. Mindful of costs, however, the Group Coordinator liaises with the printers to ensure that any discounts available are utilised.

The vast majority of the Charity's outgoing mail is franked using its franking machine which provides a discount of approximately 22% on standard postage rates. By using return address labels any newsletters that are undelivered are returned to the Charity, the addressee is contacted by email or telephone to obtain updated details. If there is no response the addressee is removed from the mailing list. This system also helps to keep the Charity's address records up to date. Those wishing to opt out of the Charity's postal communications, which is only the newsletter, can do so by email, telephone or writing. However, the newsletter continues to be popular and the Group Coordinator continues to receive requests from non-members who are often professionals working in the field, to be added to the mailing list. It has proved virtually impossible to collect payment of the small amount that the Charity has been charging professionals for associate membership. The Trustees have taken the decision that the Charity will bear the cost of this as not only is it these people who can pass our details direct to the families with whom they work, but it is also a waste of the Group Coordinators' time and costs involved in chasing up payment of small invoices which, as evidenced in the last few years, are very rarely paid.

To foster contact between CICS Group members the Charity hosts an invitation-only Facebook group which is only available for CICS Group parents whose children have actually received cochlear implants. The number and content of messages posted on it give testament to the value of this forum. Hosted and monitored by one of the Charity's Trustees the forum's membership has grown rapidly and is a resource for lively discussion, questions, responses and the sharing of information. A similar monitored group for teenagers who are cochlear implant users and whose families belong to the CICS Group was set up in 2018 but was not successful, probably because there are so many opportunities available to teenagers on Facebook which are not monitored, and has since been discontinued..

One of the main aims of the Charity is to facilitate opportunities for families to meet others in similar circumstances. Nowadays many deaf children attend mainstream schools and do not know any other deaf children in their area. This can lead to a feeling of isolation for the children and, indeed their whole family. CICS events give them the opportunity to meet others who face the same daily challenges and to make friends with others who benefit from the same technology. Parents also make friends at these events and enjoy exchanging experiences and learning from one another. As the membership is widely spread across the country, the Charity organises a programme of weekend trips at various locations so as to be accessible to as many families as possible. These trips are all subsidised to some extent by the Charity and, in addition, the Family Sponsorship Scheme set up in 2015 provides funding to enable families on a low income or with exceptional circumstances to attend. During 2023 there were more applications to the scheme than ever before, but the Trustees were able to approve funding for all the families who applied for help and met the criteria of the scheme.

The Charity organised two weekends at an outdoor activity centre in the Peak District. The centre employs qualified instructors and provides specialist equipment necessary to enable children and parents alike to try a range of activities such as abseiling, canoeing and rock climbing. Both weekends included plenty of spare time to enable children to play together outside in a large field ideal for friendly football, on the basketball court and in the indoor games room. Parents enjoyed getting to know others, and many exchanged contact details and reported that they would be

applying to attend the following year's event. The Trustees believe these weekends to be of particular value to families who attend and was able to heavily subsidise the cost of these weekends.

A weekend at Alton Towers was the biggest the charity has ever organised with over sixty families attending and several left on a waiting list who could not be accommodated. Families came from all over the country to attend the event which began with an informal reception on the Friday evening with various games available for children as well as a volunteer face painter. This year included a short performance by nationally renowned Deaf SignSinger, Fletch which proved immensely popular with families many of whom had never seen anything like this before. Everyone enjoyed Saturday in the theme park, followed by a sit-down buffet and entertainment in the evening. A sign language interpreter was provided for the deaf parents and for those CI users who prefer to sign so that Saturday evening's event would be fully accessible for them. Stuart Wright, who provides the disco and photo booths enlisted the help of two young adult CI users whose families have been members of CICS for many years to lead the dancing showing the younger children how to do the set dance routines. Excitement was generated by a raffle with high value prizes, and donated cards were sold in aid of the charity. Most of the families opted to take advantage of an exclusive one hour use of the water park on the Sunday morning which the Charity books as an extra part of the package provided for families. This is particularly valuable as the water park gets very crowded during normal opening hours and it is stressful for families to keep watch over their young children in the crowds. As in previous years, feedback on the evaluation sheets was excellent with many parents expressing gratitude for the opportunity for their CI children being able to meet and spend time with other implant users and thanks to the organisers for the quality and organisation of the event.

There was also a weekend at Chessington World of Adventures which is a much smaller event than Alton Towers due to the limited capacity of the banqueting suite in the hotel for the Saturday evening dinner. Nothing formal was arranged for the Friday evening as most of the families had very young children and preferred to have an early night, although a few met up for an informal drink and chat. After a full day in the theme park on Saturday a sit-down buffet and family disco was arranged for the evening. Parents chatted whilst the younger children enjoyed the musical games before dinner, and later in the evening the older ones enjoyed the disco and trying out all the different props in the photobooth. On the Sunday some families used the hotel's leisure centre whilst others visited the onsite wildlife centre or made a second visit to the theme park. Feedback was excellent, but the possibility of future events at this venue will be kept under review as not only does the hotel require the Charity to book a minimum of twenty rooms, but it does not represent as high a value for money as provided by Alton Towers.

In addition to weekends away a record number of day-time events were organised during the year. The Midlands Coordinator organised an afternoon at Blackwell Adventure Centre at Bromsgrove, offering crate-stacking with opportunities to try the indoor climbing wall and a self-led obstacle course as well as a great deal of outdoor space for children to run around. There was also a bouncy castle for the younger children and a buffet style tea laid on for everyone. It was an action-packed afternoon and the feedback indicated that families greatly valued the opportunity to get together in a relaxed atmosphere where children were having fun and adults were able to chat.

An event at the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre near Bristol was hosted by the Bush family who are regular volunteers at CICS Group events. Table tennis, badminton and basketball as well as a giant bouncy castle were available during the morning followed by a buffet lunch, providing a short break for the children to recover their energy levels before a session for sixteen of those over the age of five on the very popular X-Height Adventure Climb whilst the rest tried out indoor go-karting. This has been a very popular event for many years and the Charity hopes to be able to continue using this venue.

Three family afternoons took place at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground, near Maidenhead, a specialist outdoor and indoor activity centre for children with disabilities including wheelchair users. This is always a popular event as it is a relaxed venue with plenty to do. Parents are able to chat in the knowledge that their children are in completely safe surroundings, and the event is particularly valuable for those who are considering an implant for their baby or child and want to meet others with first-hand experience. As at all the Charity's events, not only could parents and extended family who also attend ask questions about everyday life with children with cochlear implants, but they could also see first-hand how the children with cochlear implants were communicating and getting on with their lives. Teenagers with cochlear implants also attend these events as helpers and role models and parents regularly report the great value of spending some time with them.

In addition to the Charity's regular events described above, the Charity trialled a new venue, the Yorda Adventures Centre in Surrey. This is a centre offering a small outside space hosting a giant trampoline, bikes, trikes, sandpit and swings and indoor space with a bouncy castle, soft play and ball pond. There are also excellent catering facilities and ample space for tables and chairs for families to be seated whilst enjoying a buffet tea. This proved to be very popular. Being overall quite a small centre it was ideal for parents to mingle in a concentrated area. Some families whose children had instantly made new friendships immediately arranged to attend the Charity's weekend at Chessington later in the year. The first event at Yorda was so successful that a second one was booked for later in the year, and proved to be equally as successful.

Another new event arose from a collaboration with LapCI (the Finnish Association of Cochlear Implant Recipient Children). LapCI brought a group of Finnish CI teenagers to the UK for a week to learn a little about the country and to meet up with some CI users. The Charity arranged for a group of CICS teenagers to visit central London to join the Finnish group for a picnic in Green Park followed by a subsidised trip to the theatre to see Mamma Mia and a meal together after the show. Two of the British teenagers then joined the Finnish group for a few days' activities in Brighton. The teenagers who attended the theatre trip reported that they really enjoyed the opportunity to meet implant users from another country and hoped there would be similar occasions in the future.

In addition to the social events and activity weekends the Charity held its first Information Day since the pandemic. This took place at Arlington Arts Centre in Newbury and was partly sponsored by the CI manufacturers Advanced Bionics, Cochlear and MED-EL. There were three main presentations and a choice of several workshops.

The Trustees are very grateful to their team of volunteers who regularly help at the various events throughout the year. Parents and young adults help set up and clear away at events; meet and greet visitors; sell raffle tickets and Christmas cards in aid of the Charity; sort out seating plans and deal with queries.

Trustees and Coordinators

During the year Huw Morgan, a Trustee for nearly thirteen years stepped down from the position which was a great loss to the charity. He had been responsible for setting up the Charity's private Facebook group which he built up to a membership of 1,000 parents, managed the Charity's presence on Twitter, helped at many of the charity's events and taken part in several fundraising initiatives including running in 10k events. Over the years he and his wife Fiona have shared their experience and advice with many families and the Trustees are delighted that they will continue to do this.

The remaining six Trustees continued in their roles during the year under review and were delighted that Monika Fines accepted an invitation to join them on the board of Trustees. She is the parent of a bilaterally implanted young adult and has worked in education for many years.

She and her son have volunteered at many of the Charity's events, and she has now taken over Huw Morgan's role as administrator of the Charity's Facebook group.

In addition to their role as Trustees, Tricia Kemp and Angela O'Donovan continued as the Southern and Midlands Regions Coordinators respectively. Vicky Devine and Nicky Broekhuizen continued in their roles as Coordinators of the Northern and Scottish Region respectively.

Activities of the Trustees and Coordinators

The regional Coordinators continued to pay a great deal of attention to keeping the Charity's database of members up to date. Following a request for membership of the group, usually via the Charity's website, initial direct contact is made by telephone and prospective members have to respond to a standard GDPR compliance email before their membership is confirmed. If no response is received after three email reminders and a telephone call their details are removed from the Charity's system. The result is that a few families who apply to join do not actually become members, and although Coordinators' time has been wasted on the process it is hoped that the caller benefited from the initial conversation. In order for the Charity to maintain its personal contact approach and keep full details of families and their children's cochlear implants the Trustees believe the membership process is robust, although it is regrettable that some families cannot join as they do not complete the GDPR compliance requirement.

Day-to-day activities of the Trustees and Coordinators continued to include providing welcome packs to new members, dealing with telephone, written and e-mailed enquiries from members, non-members and professionals, preparing and distributing the Charity's newsletter, monitoring the Charity's email and Facebook page, liaising with cochlear implant manufacturers and with other groups involved with all aspects of deafness or hearing loss, providing articles for various publications, helping with relevant research projects, and during the year under review helping with the updating of Quality Standards guidelines. Patient involvement is now at the forefront of NHS initiatives and the Group Coordinator is involved in various working parties, in particular she is the patient representative on the Steering Group regarding the development of a National Registry of Cochlear Implants. Work on this has been ongoing for several years and it is hoped that a trial Registry will be launched during 2024.

Working with other Groups

The Charity maintained its relationships with other organisations sharing an interest in cochlear implantation, kept abreast of their activities and, where appropriate, promoted these to the CICS Group members. In particular there are strong links with The Elizabeth Foundation, Auditory Verbal UK, the National Cochlear Implant Users' Association (NCIUA) and the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action (CIICA) of which the Charity was a founding member. Whenever possible, one of the Trustees or Coordinators helped with any projects undertaken by these organisations during the year.

The Charity is an associate member of the British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG), and a member of UK Council on Deafness and of The Alliance which is campaigning to raise awareness of deafness generally.

In addition, the Charity is a member of the EURO-CIU which campaigns for improved quality of life for cochlear implant users of all ages across Europe. The CICS Group Coordinator also represents the Charity on the Adult Cochlear Implant Action Group ('ACIAG') which is campaigning to raise awareness of the benefits of cochlear implants and of the large number of adults who are suitable for, but not receiving cochlear implants. ACIAG is also lobbying for adult hearing screening, and for more research into bilateral implantation for adults. Having been heavily involved in the process of achieving the NICE guidance that recommended bilateral cochlear implantation for children, the

CICS Group is keen to help bring about the availability of this procedure for adults and to relax the audiological threshold criteria for cochlear implantation to be in line with other European countries. The aim of the organisation is to close the gap in cochlear implant provision and ensure lifelong support for all who could benefit, and they have organised several international webinars.

During 2023 two Trustees attended the BCIG's annual conference which took place in Cambridge, as well as the EURO-CIU Annual Meeting in Valencia. Both these events were not only valuable opportunities for raising awareness of the Charity and for networking with professionals, manufacturers and other voluntary support groups from all over the world, but were also excellent sources of interesting and up-to-date articles for the Charity's newsletters.

The regional Coordinators have also undertaken literature reviews and helped in a number of research projects organising contact with members whose children met certain criteria sought by researchers. The CICS Group Coordinator continued as Vice Chair of the NCIUA, as a member of a Specialist Sensory Academy, and an associate member of the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD). Other CICS Group Trustees and Coordinators take opportunities to keep up to date with developments in the wider field of cochlear implantation and to secure articles for the Charity's newsletters.

The Trustees believe it is important for the Charity to support initiatives intended to widen the availability of cochlear implantation, secure funding for the continuation of the service and to maintain a high quality provision for cochlear implant users of all ages. The Trustees will continue to work with and support other charities, support groups and professionals who share these beliefs.

Finance and Fundraising

As in 2022, uncertainty in the economy led to 2023 continuing to be a challenging time for small charities dealing with low incidence disabilities to attract donations. It remains apparent that the most likely source of financial support for the Charity is from the members and their contacts.

The Charity's policy of not having a membership fee enables all who would benefit from membership to do so, prevents families from being excluded from the group due to financial hardship, and ensures a diverse membership. In addition, the Trustees consider that the administrative burden of introducing an annual membership fee would be too great, and prefer instead to encourage members to make a donation no matter how small, and whenever possible to organise events such as coffee mornings or to ask their local schools, clubs or businesses to adopt the CICS Group as their Charity. With this in mind, the Charity continued its annual 'Voluntary Donations Month' scheme in April with an appeal to members to donate whatever they could afford and to seek out ways of raising money for the Charity. It is difficult to give an exact figure of the amount that this appeal attracts as families send amounts throughout the year, sometimes through online platforms, and some provide support by sponsoring runners who take part in the British 10k Run, but amounts definitely attributable to this appeal were £3,000.

The British 10k London event was the Charity's only major fundraising initiative. The Charity had a debenture block of thirty places of which 27 were filled. Historically the Charity has hosted a post-run event for runners and immediate family at Browns Restaurant in Covent Garden and qualified volunteer sports massage therapists were available to help runners recover. Unfortunately this venue has undergone considerable refurbishment leading to a substantial price increase making it unaffordable for the Charity's event. After careful investigation it was decided to use the Cafe in the Crypt at St. Martin-in-the-Fields which although not as ideal as Browns, was adequate in terms of space and the provision of refreshments. Nett of expenses the event raised just over £10,000, less than hoped for, but nonetheless a good outcome.

In spite of now being 90 years old Colin Sutherland, grandparent of a young adult cochlear implant

user, and loyal supporter of the Charity for around thirty years opened his garden to visitors to demonstrate his incredible working model railway. There were also local stalls, home-made cakes and a barbecue. The Group Coordinator helped with the catering and the event raised £1,000.

In addition to various personal donations the Charity was delighted to receive just over £8,000 raised by an uncle of a cochlear implant user who took part in the Isle of Wight challenge. This amount was received via various platforms and thus is shown in the Accounts as part of the total of individual donations. Other notable amounts received during the year were £5,000 from Kintbury Capital, £3,500 from the Dorothy Hay-Bolton Charitable Trust, £2,600 from Advanced Bionics, £2,000 from Jusaca Charitable Trust, £2,000 from The Dyers Company, £2,000 from Cochlear Europe and £1,000 from Matthews Wrightson Charity Trust. The most significant donation, however, was the receipt of £72,000.58 arising from the closure of The Ear Foundation.

All donations, no matter how small were greatly appreciated and, in keeping with the general approach of the Charity, all were personally acknowledged. Wherever possible donors were encouraged to use the Gift Aid Scheme so that the tax on personal donations could be reclaimed thus increasing the value of those donations.

Although the financial outcome for the year was much better than the previous year this is due to the receipt of a large donation from the demise of The Ear Foundation. Without this there would have been a loss of £ 26,015 which is accounted for by several factors, namely an increase in the cost of postage which affected the cost of distributing the newsletter, the Charity organising more events than in the previous year, namely the teenagers theatre outing in London and the Information Day, attendance at which is always subsidised, and by sponsoring more families than in previous years to attend the weekend events through the Family Sponsorship Scheme and a reduction in the amount raised from the 10k event.

As ever, the Trustees remain acutely aware of the vulnerability of the small Charity dealing with a low incidence disability operating in difficult times and competing with larger high-profile charities for funds.

The Charity has no office premises or employees, but in order to maintain and improve the Group's network and profile and indeed, as an integral part of meeting the aims of Charity's work, the Trustees deemed it appropriate to continue providing a quality printed newsletter so that it is available for all family members to see; to offer affordable events for families to get together and to give sponsorship to low income families to enable them to access the charity weekend events. Looking to the future, they will continue to be mindful of the expense involved in doing so and, as well as seeking new methods of fundraising, will continue to review ways of reducing costs.

Accounts Preparation

The Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and with those of the governing instrument.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 28th October, 2024.



.....
Chairperson
Mrs A. P. Kemp

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Statement of Financial Activities

for the period

1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

<u>Receipts and Payments</u>	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>			
Donations and bequests	110,649		110,649
Fundraising	17,707		17,707
Events and activities		5,859	5,859
Family activity weekends		1,745	1,745
Alton Towers weekend		23,737	23,737
Chessington		8,205	8,205
Other income	261		261
Income tax recovered	1,670		1,670
Bank interest	4,113		4,113
	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts	134,400	39,546	173,946
	-----	-----	-----
<u>Payments</u>			
Postage	16,163		16,163
Printing and photocopying	17,843		17,843
Stationery	4,744		4,744
Telephone	288		288
Subscriptions	655		655
Events and activities		9,537	9,537
Family activity weekends		6,624	6,624
Alton Towers weekend		36,446	36,446
Chessington		19,838	19,838
Promotional items		1,063	1,063
Fundraising activities	7,125		7,125
Purchase of office equipment	2,272		2,272
Insurance	554		554
Children's Achievement Awards	922		922
Travel and conference attendance	3,432		3,432
Bank charges	65		65
Website and database management	377		377
Other expenses	12		12
	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments	54,452	73,508	127,960
	-----	-----	-----
Surplus/(Deficit)	£79,948	£(33,962)	£45,986
	=====	=====	=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31st December 2023

	At 31.12.23 £	At 31.12.22 £
Assets		
Cash at Bank and on Deposit	187,108	141,122
	-----	-----
	187,108	141,122
Net Assets	£187,108	£141,122
	=====	=====
Funds		
Balance brought forward	141,122	146,462
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	45,986	(5,340)
	-----	-----
Balance carried forward	£187,108	£141,122
	=====	=====

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 28th October, 2024.



A. P. Kemp
Chairperson



N. Mehta
Trustee

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting by Charities".

Restricted and unrestricted funds

Funds received by the charity that are earmarked either by donation or by the terms of the grant for particular projects are accounted for as restricted funds. All other funds are unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees deem it prudent to have sufficient reserves to enable the charity to carry out its objectives for the foreseeable future, and have deemed this to be approximately three years' annual expenditure. The reserves are held in a general fund to enable the charity to meet all needs as defined by its Constitution.

Income

Donations and income from fundraising activities are accounted for on a receipts basis.

Voluntary help and gifts in kind

The charity benefits from many voluntary hours contributed by Trustees and supporters. From time to time the charity also benefits from the support of the implant manufacturers, professionals and other organisations. It would be impossible to place a value on all these gifts in kind for which the charity is extremely grateful and without which much of its work could not be undertaken.

Expenditure

All expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities on a payments basis and has been classified under categories which most appropriately reflect the use of the resources.

Value Added Tax

As the charity is unable to reclaim value added tax, all expenditure in these financial statements is shown inclusive of value added tax where appropriate.

Depreciation and Stock

No depreciation is provided on office equipment, which is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period when purchased. The charity holds no stock.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

1) Income and Expenditure

a)	Donations and bequests	Restricted and Unrestricted Funds £
	The Ear Foundation	72,001
	Kintbury Capital	5,000
	Dorothy Hay-Bolton Charitable Trust	3,500
	Advanced Bionics	2,600
	JUSACA Charitable Trust	2,000
	The Dyers Company	2,000
	Jonathan Friend	2,000
	Cochlear Europe	2,000
	Pipers Crisps	1,135
	Matthews Wrightson Charity Trust	1,000
	MED-EL UK Limited	600
	Charities Trust	541
	KW Charitable Trust	500
	Individual donations and bequests of less than £500	15,772

		£110,649
		=====
b)	Fundraising Events	
	Sizeable fundraising events organised by and for the charity during 2023 included:	
	British London 10k	17,322
	Annual Banstead garden party	1,000
	Drum Conner Homes Limited	600

		£18,922
		=====
c)	Direct Expenditure	
	Family Activity Weekends (£6,624 - £1,745)	4,879
	Events & Activities (£9,537 - £5,859)	3,678
	Alton Towers (£36,446 - £23,737)	12,709
	Chessington (£19,838 - £ 8,205)	11,633
	Children's Achievement Awards	922
	Telephone - family contact	288
	Printing, stationery and postage	38,750

		£72,859
		=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the period

1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 (cont.)

1)	Income and Expenditure (cont.)	£
	d) Investment Income	
	Bank Interest	£4,113
		=====
	e) Management and Administration of Charity	
	Travel and conference attendance	3,432
	Subscriptions	655
	Insurance	554
	Bank charges	65
	Website and database administration	377
	Purchase of computer equipment	2,272
	Other expenses	12

		£7,367
		=====
	f) Trustees' remuneration	
	<p>No trustees received any remuneration during the period but three Trustees were reimbursed expenses totalling £13,750 in respect of the administration costs of coordinating the four regions, attending and participating in specific physical and online conferences and making various purchases on behalf of the charity. This expenditure is allocated over various headings in the Statement of Financial Activities.</p>	
2)	Assets	
	Cash at bank: CAF Current Account	12,753
	CAF Deposit Account	15,491
	Cambridge & Counties Bank 95 Day Notice Account	85,000
	Skipton Building Society Community Saver Issue 10 Account	73,864

		£187,108
		=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP
Independent Examiner's Report
on the Income and Expenditure Accounts
for the period
1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Registered charity number: 1097619

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31st December, 2023 as set out on pages 9 to 13.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 
M. Emanuel

Dated: 28th October, 2024

M. Emanuel,
Chartered Accountants,
5, Lexham Gardens Mews,
Kensington,
London,
W8 5JQ.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP (CIC'S GROUP)

England & Wales - Charity number 1097619

Accounts

**Cochlear Implanted Children's
Support Group**

**Report and Financial Statements
for the period
1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022**

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

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8	Statement of Financial Activities
9	Statement of Year End Assets and Liabilities
10 - 12	Notes to the Financial Statements
13	Independent Examiner's Report

THE COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

The Trustees

Mrs. A.P. Kemp (Chairperson)
Mrs. M. Fines (appointed 11th May 2023)
Mr. J.J. Foster
Ms. N. Mehta (appointed 19th October, 2022)
Mr. H. Morgan (resigned 11th May 2023)
Mrs. A. O'Donovan
Ms. M. Ogwo
Ms. D. Tuffs

Registered Office

P.O. Box 28843
London
SW13 0WY

Charity registration number

1097619

Independent Examiner

M. Emanuel
Chartered Accountants
5, Lexham Gardens Mews
Kensington
London
W8 5JQ

Bankers

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

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Report of the Trustees for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Results

The statement of financial activities is set out on page 8 and shows the net income for the period.

Constitution

The Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group is registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1097619. Its affairs are governed by Declaration of Trust which restricts the use of the Charity's income, such that it must be applied solely towards the objects of the Charity.

Tax status

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax and income tax.

Principal objectives

The principal objectives and activities of the Charity are as stated in the Trust Deed:

'The relief of need of children who are deaf or have hearing impairment, in particular those who have cochlear implants or are considering cochlear implants and their families, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of advice, support and sponsoring research projects which further this object; and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said persons.'

Review of the Activities of the Charity

2022 heralded the return of pre-pandemic activity for the Charity. Membership continued to grow but at less of a rate than in the previous two years.

To keep existing and new members informed of developments in the fields of cochlear implantation and deafness in general four editions of the Charity's newsletter were produced and distributed during the year. It is the only national newsletter dedicated to families whose children either already have cochlear implants or are being assessed for the procedure, and during the year under review each edition contained a mixture of articles by professionals, parents, implant manufacturers and cochlear implant users of all ages.

Feedback indicated that families found personal stories and articles by parents and young implant users to be inspirational, they enjoyed reading the latest news from implant manufacturers, and they valued the tips, advice and research topics covered in articles by professionals. The section celebrating the achievements of all levels of accomplishments by children and young adults who use cochlear implants including those with considerable additional difficulties also continued to be popular. The younger children were sent a specially designed certificate, the older ones a celebratory card, and all received a small gift voucher.

The Trustees believe that the newsletter is an important part of what the Charity can offer to families and that there is great value in having a paper newsletter as it is left on coffee tables in homes for the whole family to see, on stands at Auditory Implant Centres where it will be seen by

families whose children are being assessed for cochlear implantation, and on conference stands where it raises awareness of the Charity's aims and activities amongst professionals. As newsletters are now often in excess of 60 pages in length it is also not practical to distribute them by email and the Trustees therefore intend to continue producing and distributing the newsletter in paper format. Mindful of costs, however, the Group Coordinator liaises with the printers to ensure that any discounts available are utilised.

The vast majority of the Charity's outgoing mail is franked using its franking machine which provides a discount of approximately 22% on standard postage rates. By using return address labels any newsletters that are undelivered are returned to the Charity, the addressee is contacted by email or telephone to obtain updated details. If there is no response the addressee is removed from the mailing list. This system also helps to keep the Charity's address records up to date. Those wishing to opt out of the Charity's postal communications, which is only the newsletter, can do so by email, telephone or writing. However, the newsletter continues to be popular and the Group Coordinator continues to receive requests from non-members who are often professionals working in the field, to be added to the mailing list. It has proved virtually impossible to collect payment of the small amount that the Charity has been charging professionals for associate membership. The Trustees have taken the decision that the Charity will bear the cost of this as not only is it these people who can pass our details direct to the families with whom they work, but it is also a waste of the Group Coordinators' time and costs involved in chasing up payment of small invoices which, as evidenced in the last few years, are rarely paid.

To foster contact between CICS Group members the Charity hosts an invitation-only Facebook group which is only available for CICS Group parents whose children have actually received cochlear implants. The number and content of messages posted on it give testament to the value of this forum. Hosted and monitored by one of the Charity's Trustees the forum's membership has grown rapidly and is a resource for lively discussion, questions, responses and the sharing of information. A similar group for teenagers who are cochlear implant users and whose families belong to the CICS Group was set up in 2018 and is monitored by a CICS Group parent who is a secondary school teacher. The Trustees, whilst mindful of the dangers that may be associated with social media, are also aware of the great advantages in putting teenagers in touch with one another in a safe forum. To date, however, the forum has not attracted many members, probably because there are so many opportunities available to teenagers on Facebook which are not monitored.

One of the main aims of the Charity is to facilitate opportunities for families to meet others in similar circumstances. Nowadays many deaf children attend mainstream schools and do not know any other deaf children in their area. This can lead to a feeling of isolation for the children and, indeed their whole family. CICS events give them the opportunity to meet others who face the same daily challenges and to make friends with others who benefit from the same technology. Parents also make friends at these events and enjoy exchanging experiences and learning from one another. As the membership is widely spread across the country, the Charity organises a programme of weekend trips at various locations so as to be accessible to as many families as possible. These trips are all subsidised to some extent by the Charity and, in addition, the Family Sponsorship Scheme set up in 2015 provides funding to enable families on a low income or with exceptional circumstances to attend. During 2022 the Trustees were able to approve funding for all the families who applied for help and met the criteria of the scheme.

The Charity organised and hosted two weekends of exclusive use of an outdoor activity centre in the Peak District. The centre employs qualified instructors and provides specialist equipment necessary to enable children and parents alike to try a range of activities such as abseiling, canoeing and rock climbing. There was also plenty of spare time to enable children to play together on the basketball court and in the field as well as in the indoor games room. Parents enjoyed getting to know others, and many exchanged contact details. The Trustees believe these weekends to be of particular value to families who attend and was able to heavily subsidise the cost of these weekends.

A weekend at Alton Towers proved to be even more popular than previous such events. Sixty families attended and several families were left on a waiting list and were not able to be accommodated. Families travelled from all over the country to attend the event which took the format of an informal reception on the Friday evening with various games available for children as well as a volunteer face painter, Saturday in the theme park, followed by a sit-down buffet and entertainment in the evening and a session of exclusive use of the water park on the Sunday. A sign language interpreter was provided for the deaf parents and for those CI users who prefer to sign so that Saturday evening's event would be fully accessible for them. Stuart Wright, who provides the disco and photo booths enlisted the help of two young adult CI users whose families have been members of CICS for many years to lead the dancing showing the younger children how to do the set dance routines. Feedback on the evaluation sheets for the event was excellent with several families offering deposits for the following year before this had even been booked. Many parents commented on the value of their CI children being able to meet and spend time with other implant users and there was considerable praise for the quality and organisation of the event.

There was also a weekend at Chessington World of Adventures which is a much smaller event than Alton Towers due to the limited capacity of a venue in the hotel for the Saturday evening dinner. Families arrived on the Friday evening and met for a brief reception, and then enjoyed Saturday in the theme park followed by a sit-down buffet and family disco in the evening. Parents chatted whilst the younger children enjoyed the musical games before dinner, and later in the evening the older ones enjoyed the disco and trying out all the different props in the photobooth. On the Sunday some families used the hotel's leisure centre whilst others visited the onsite wildlife centre or made a second visit to the theme park. Feedback was excellent, but the possibility of future events at this venue will be kept under review as the hotel now requires the Charity to book at least twenty rooms which has not always been possible in the past, and as the most expensive event for the charity to organise it will be dependent upon the availability of funds.

In addition to activity and fun weekends other get-together events were organised during the year. The Midlands Coordinator arranged an afternoon at Blackwell Adventure Centre at Bromsgrove, offering crate-stacking with opportunities to try the indoor climbing wall and a self-led obstacle course as well as a great deal of outdoor space for children to run around. There was also a bouncy castle for the younger children and a buffet style tea laid on for everyone. It was an action-packed event and the feedback from parents and children alike was excellent.

An activity event was held at the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre near Bristol. Table tennis, badminton and basketball as well as a giant bouncy castle were available during the morning followed by a buffet lunch for everyone to enjoy. Due to restriction of numbers allowed to take part at one time on the very popular X-Height Adventure Climb two sessions had to be booked. This activity was only for children over the age of 5, and those who did not want to take part, and also the younger ones were able to try out indoor go-karting instead. The event was hosted by the Bush family who are regular volunteers at CICS Group events.

Three family get-together events took place at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground, near Maidenhead, a specialist outdoor and indoor activity centre for children with disabilities including wheelchair users. Indoor activities are plentiful but always require a considerable amount of time to clear up at the end of the day. As the weather on all three occasions was good the volunteers took the decision to only offer the outside activities. This is always a popular event as it is a relaxed venue with plenty to do. Parents are able to chat in the knowledge that their children are in completely safe surroundings, and the event is particularly valuable for those who are considering an implant for their baby or child and want to meet others with first-hand experience. As at all the Charity's events, not only could parents and extended family who also attend ask questions about everyday life with children with cochlear implants, but they could also see first-hand how the children with cochlear implants were communicating and getting on with their lives. Teenagers

with cochlear implants also attend these events as helpers and role models and parents regularly report the great value of spending some time with them.

The Trustees are very grateful to their team of volunteers who regularly help at the various events throughout the year. Parents and young adults help set up and clear away at events; meet and greet visitors; sell raffle tickets and Christmas cards in aid of the Charity; sort out seating plans and deal with queries.

Trustees and Coordinators

The six Trustees continued in their roles during the year under review. The Trustees were delighted that Neha Mehta, whose young daughter is a cochlear implant user, accepted the role of Trustee and Honorary Treasurer, and was duly appointed on 19th October, 2022.

In addition to their role as Trustees, Tricia Kemp and Angela O'Donovan continued as the Southern and Midlands Regions Coordinators respectively.

Vicky Gilbertson and Nicky Broekhuizen continued in their roles as Coordinators of the Northern and Scottish Region respectively. However, Vicky Gilbertson married during the year and her surname will now be changed to Devine on all the Charity's communications.

Activities of the Trustees and Coordinators

The regional Coordinators continued to pay a great deal of attention to keeping the Charity's database of members up to date. Following a request for membership of the group, usually via the Charity's website, initial direct contact is made by telephone and prospective members have to respond to a standard GDPR compliance email before their membership is confirmed. If no response is received after three email reminders and a telephone call their details are removed from the Charity's system. The result is that a few families who apply to join do not actually become members, and although Coordinators' time has been wasted on the process it is hoped that the caller benefited from the initial conversation. In order for the Charity to maintain its personal contact approach and keep full details of families and their children's cochlear implants the Trustees believe the membership process is robust, although it is regrettable that some families cannot join as they do not complete the GDPR compliance requirement.

Day-to-day activities of the Trustees and Coordinators continued to include providing welcome packs to new members, dealing with telephone, written and e-mailed enquiries from members, non-members and professionals, preparing and distributing the Charity's newsletter, monitoring the Charity's email and Facebook page, liaising with cochlear implant manufacturers and with other groups involved with all aspects of deafness or hearing loss, providing articles for various publications, helping with relevant research projects, and during the year under review helping with the updating of Quality Standards guidelines.

Working with other Groups

The Charity maintained its relationships with other organisations sharing an interest in cochlear implantation, kept abreast of their activities and, where appropriate, promoted these to the CICS Group members. In particular there are strong links with The Elizabeth Foundation, Auditory Verbal UK and the National Cochlear Implant Users' Association (NCIUA). Whenever possible, one of the Trustees or Coordinators helped with any projects undertaken by these organisations during the year.

The Charity is an associate member of the British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG), a member of UK Council on Deafness and of The Alliance which is campaigning to raise awareness of deafness generally, and a founding member of the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action

(CIICA) which was launched in 2021 by Sue Archbold and Brian Lamb, both leading figures in the world of cochlear implants, to provide an online platform for meetings between cochlear implant users from all over the world with a particular focus on young adults.

In addition, the Charity is a member of the EURO-CIU which campaigns for improved quality of life for cochlear implant users of all ages across Europe. The CICS Group Coordinator also represents the Charity on the Adult Cochlear Implant Action Group ('ACIAG') which is campaigning to raise awareness of the benefits of cochlear implants and of the large number of adults who are suitable for, but not receiving cochlear implants. ACIAG is also lobbying for adult hearing screening, and for more research into bilateral implantation for adults. Having been heavily involved in the process of achieving the NICE guidance that recommended bilateral cochlear implantation for children, the CICS Group is keen to help bring about the availability of this procedure for adults and to relax the audiological threshold criteria for cochlear implantation to be in line with other European countries. The aim of the organisation is to close the gap in cochlear implant provision and ensure lifelong support for all who could benefit, and they have organised several international webinars.

During 2022 the Group Coordinator and Treasurer attended the BCIG's annual conference which took place in Cardiff, and the Group Coordinator and Trustee, Mary Ogwo attended the EURO-CIU Annual Meeting in Rotterdam. Both these events were not only valuable opportunities for raising awareness of the Charity and for networking with professionals, manufacturers and other voluntary support groups from all over the world, but were also excellent sources of interesting and up-to-date articles for the Charity's newsletters.

The regional Coordinators have also undertaken literature reviews and helped in a number of research projects organising contact with members whose children met certain criteria sought by researchers. The CICS Group Coordinator continued as Vice Chair of the NCIUA, as a member of a Specialist Sensory Academy, and an associate member of the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD). She also served as the patient representative on a steering group considering the implementation of a National Registry of cochlear implants. Several virtual meetings of the latter took place during the year and it is hoped that a trial of the Registry will be launched in 2023. She also continued as a patient representative on a working party reviewing the Quality Standards for Auditory Implant services in Wales which will be published during 2023, and sat on working parties on a number of initiatives for new resources to improve outcomes for paediatric cochlear implant users.

Other CICS Group Trustees and Coordinators take opportunities to keep up to date with developments in the wider field of cochlear implantation and to secure articles for the Charity's newsletters.

The Trustees believe it is important for the Charity to support initiatives intended to widen the availability of cochlear implantation, secure funding for the continuation of the service and to maintain a high quality provision for cochlear implant users of all ages. The Trustees will continue to work with and support other charities, support groups and professionals who share these beliefs.

Finance and Fundraising

Uncertainty in the economy led to 2022 continuing to be a challenging time for small charities dealing with low incidence disabilities to attract donations. It remains apparent that the most likely source of financial support for the Charity is from the members and their contacts.

The Charity's policy of not having a membership fee enables all who would benefit from membership to do so, prevents families from being excluded from the group due to financial hardship, and ensures a diverse membership. In addition, the Trustees consider that the administrative burden of introducing an annual membership fee would be too great, and prefer instead to encourage members to make a donation no matter how small, and whenever possible

to organise events such as coffee mornings or to ask their local schools, clubs or businesses to adopt the CICS Group as their Charity. However, the Charity continued its annual 'Voluntary Donations Month' scheme in April with an appeal to members to donate whatever they could afford and to seek out ways of raising money for the Charity. It is difficult to give an exact figure of the amount that this appeal attracts as families send amounts throughout the year, sometimes through online platforms, and some provide support by sponsoring runners who take part in the British 10k Run, but amounts definitely attributable to this appeal were £2,400.

The British 10k London event was the Charity's only major fundraising initiative. The Charity had a debenture block of thirty places of which sadly only 24 were filled. The Charity hosted a post-run event for runners and immediate family at Browns Restaurant in Covent Garden and qualified volunteer sports massage therapists were available to help runners recover. The event raised £16,107 (which included £5,764 relating to the previous year's 10k which was only received in 2022) less than in previous years, but nonetheless a good outcome, and the Trustees are very grateful for all the support received for this event.

Following the death of his wife Jean, Colin Sutherland, grandparent of a young adult cochlear implant user, and loyal supporter of the Charity for over twenty five years decided to continue the tradition of an annual garden party. The 2021 event had taken place virtually but in 2022 Colin was delighted to be able to open his garden to visitors once again and to demonstrate his incredible working model railway. As usual the Group Coordinator helped with the catering and the event raised £1,000.

Excluding various personal donations, notable amounts received during the year were £10,000 from the Kaye Pemberton Trust, £2,600 from Advanced Bionics, £2,000 from Jusaca Charitable Trust, £2,000 from the Dyers Co. Charitable Trust, £1,461 from Much Loved, £1,000 from Matthews Wrightson Charity Trust, £1,000 from Charities Trust Movement for Good, £761 from Pipers Crisps and £500 from State Street Global Advisors.

Small amounts were received from a scheme that recycles ink cartridges, and from the Amazon Smile initiative.

All donations, no matter how small were greatly appreciated and, in keeping with the general approach of the Charity, all were personally acknowledged. Wherever possible donors were encouraged to use the Gift Aid Scheme so that the tax on personal donations could be reclaimed thus increasing the value of those donations.

As ever, the Trustees remain acutely aware of the vulnerability of the small Charity dealing with a low incidence disability operating in difficult times and competing with larger high-profile charities for funds.

The Charity has no office premises or employees, but in order to maintain and improve the Group's network and profile and indeed, as an integral part of the Charity's work, the Trustees deemed it necessary in this unusual and challenging year to use available funds to continue to provide a good quality newsletter with a greater amount of content than usual. Looking to the future, they will continue to be mindful of the expense involved in doing so and, as well as seeking new methods of fundraising, will continue to review ways of reducing costs.

Accounts Preparation

The Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and with those of the governing instrument.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 24th October, 2023.

.....
 A.P. Kemp, Chairperson

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP
Statement of Financial Activities
for the period
1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

<u>Receipts and Payments</u>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total - 2022 £
<u>Receipts</u>			
Donations and bequests	40,536		40,536
Fundraising activities	20,781		20,781
Events and activities		763	763
Family activity weekends		1,200	1,200
Alton Towers weekend		21,599	21,599
Chessington		8,770	8,770
Other income		31	31
Bank interest	1,024		1,024
	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts	62,341	32,363	94,704
	-----	-----	-----
<u>Payments</u>			
Postage	9,140		9,140
Printing and photocopying	17,520		17,520
Stationery	2,694		2,694
Telephone	385		385
Subscriptions	750		750
Events and activities		1,561	1,561
Family activity weekends		6,813	6,813
Alton Towers weekend		33,725	33,725
Chessington		19,986	19,986
Promotional items		1,393	1,393
Fundraising activities	1,450		1,450
Purchase of office equipment	35		35
Insurance	535		535
Children's Achievement Awards	767		767
Travel and conference attendance	2,571		2,571
Bank charges	104		104
Website and database management	316		316
Other expenses	300		300
	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments	36,566	63,478	100,044
	-----	-----	-----
Surplus/(Deficit)	£25,775	£(31,115)	£(5,340)
	=====	=====	=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at 31st December 2022

		At 31.12.22	At 31.12.21
		£	£
Assets			
	Income Tax Recoverable	-	1,128
	Cash at Bank and on Deposit	141,122	145,334
		-----	-----
		141,122	146,462
		-----	-----
Net Assets		£141,122	£146,462
		=====	=====
Funds			
	Balance brought forward	146,462	141,148
	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(5,340)	5,314
		-----	-----
Balance carried forward		£141,122	£146,462
		=====	=====

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 24th October, 2023.



.....
A. P. Kemp
Chairperson



.....
N. Mehta
Trustee

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting by Charities".

Restricted and unrestricted funds

Funds received by the charity that are earmarked either by donation or by the terms of the grant for particular projects are accounted for as restricted funds. All other funds are unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees deem it prudent to have sufficient reserves to enable the charity to carry out its objectives for the foreseeable future, and have deemed this to be approximately three years' annual expenditure. The reserves are held in a general fund to enable the charity to meet all needs as defined by its Constitution.

Income

Donations and income from fundraising activities are accounted for on a receipts basis.

Voluntary help and gifts in kind

The charity benefits from many voluntary hours contributed by Trustees and supporters. From time to time the charity also benefits from the support of the implant manufacturers, professionals and other organisations. It would be impossible to place a value on all these gifts in kind for which the charity is extremely grateful and without which much of its work could not be undertaken.

Expenditure

All expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities on a payments basis and has been classified under categories which most appropriately reflect the use of the resources.

Value Added Tax

As the charity is unable to reclaim value added tax, all expenditure in these financial statements is shown inclusive of value added tax where appropriate.

Depreciation and Stock

No depreciation is provided on office equipment, which is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period when purchased. The charity holds no stock.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

1) Income and Expenditure

a)	Donations and bequests	Unrestricted Funds £
	Kaye Pemberton Trust	10,000
	Advanced Bionics	2,600
	C. Sutherland	2,000
	Matthews Wrightson Charity Trust	1,000
	JUSACA Charitable Trust	2,000
	Dyers Co. Charitable Trust	2,000
	Much Loved	1,461
	G. Evans	1,000
	Charities Trust - Movement for Good	1,000
	Jonathan Friend	1,000
	M. V. Stead	800
	Pipers	761
	State Street	500
	Individual donations and bequests of less than £500	14,414

		£40,536
		=====
b)	Fundraising Events	
	Sizeable fundraising events organised by and for the charity during 2022 included:	£
	British London 10k (nett of expenses of £1,449)	16,107
	Train day - Sutherland	1,000

		£17,107
		=====
c)	Investment Income	£
	Bank Interest	£1,024
		=====
d)	Direct Expenditure	£
	Family Activity Weekends (£6,813 - £1,200)	5,613
	Events & Activities (£1,561 - £763)	798
	Alton Towers (£33,725 - 21,599)	12,126
	Chessington (£19,986 - £ 8,770)	11,216
	Children's Achievement Awards	767
	Telephone - family contact	385
	Printing, stationery and postage	29,354

		£60,259
		=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the period

1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 (cont.)

1) Income and Expenditure (cont.)

e)	Management and Administration of Charity	£
	Travel and conference attendance	2,571
	Subscriptions	750
	Insurance	535
	Bank charges	104
	Website and database administration	316
	Purchase of computer equipment	35
	Other expenses	300

		£4,611
		=====

f) Trustees' remuneration

No trustees received any remuneration during the period but three Trustees were reimbursed expenses totalling £8,750 in respect of the administration costs of coordinating the four regions, attending and participating in specific physical and online conferences and making various purchases on behalf of the charity. This expenditure is allocated over various headings in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2) Assets

Cash at bank:	CAF Current Account	18,996
	CAF Deposit Account	13,211
	Virgin Charity Deposit Account	20,889
	Cambridge and Counties Bank	88,026

		£141,122
		=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Independent Examiner's Report on the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

Registered charity number: 1097619

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31st December, 2022 as set out on pages 8 to 12.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

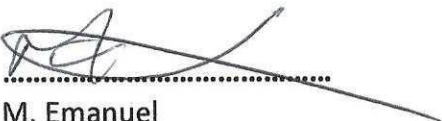
An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 
M. Emanuel

Dated: 24th October, 2023

M. Emanuel,
Chartered Accountants,
5, Lexham Gardens Mews,
Kensington,
London,
W8 5JQ.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP (CIC'S GROUP)

England & Wales - Charity number 1097619

Accounts

**Cochlear Implanted Children's
Support Group**

**Report and Financial Statements
for the period
1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021**

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

Contents

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13	Independent Examiner's Report

THE COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

The Trustees

Mrs. A.P. Kemp (Chairperson)
Mr. J.J. Foster
Mr. H. Morgan
Mrs. A. O'Donovan
Ms. M. Ogwo
Ms. D. Tuffs

Registered Office

P.O. Box 28843
London
SW13 0WY

Charity registration number

1097619

Independent Examiner

M. Emanuel
Chartered Accountants
5, Lexham Gardens Mews
Kensington
London
W8 5JQ

Bankers

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

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Report of the Trustees for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Results

The statement of financial activities is set out on page 8 and shows the net income for the period.

Constitution

The Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group is registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1097619. Its affairs are governed by Declaration of Trust which restricts the use of the Charity's income, such that it must be applied solely towards the objects of the Charity.

Tax status

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax and income tax.

Principal objectives

The principal objectives and activities of the Charity are as stated in the Trust Deed:

'The relief of need of children who are deaf or have hearing impairment, in particular those who have cochlear implants or are considering cochlear implants and their families, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of advice, support and sponsoring research projects which further this object; and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said persons.'

Review of the Activities of the Charity

The pandemic continued to affect the activities of the Charity, but some of the events were able to go ahead, albeit with restrictions in place in order to meet Government guidelines.

The membership continued to grow, and to keep existing and new members informed of developments in the fields of cochlear implantation and deafness in general four editions of the Charity's newsletter were produced and distributed during the year. It is the only national newsletter dedicated to families whose children either already have cochlear implants or are being assessed for the procedure, and during the year under review each edition contained a mixture of articles by professionals, parents, implant manufacturers and cochlear implant users of all ages.

Feedback indicated that families found personal stories and articles by parents and young implant users to be inspirational, they enjoyed reading the latest news from implant manufacturers, and they valued the tips, advice and research topics covered in articles by professionals. The section celebrating the achievements of all levels of accomplishments by children and young adults who use cochlear implants including those with considerable additional difficulties also continued to be popular. The younger children were sent a specially designed certificate, the older ones a celebratory card, and all received a small gift voucher.

The Trustees believe that the newsletter is an important part of what the Charity can offer to families and that there is great value in having a paper newsletter as it is left on coffee tables in homes for the whole family to see, on stands at Auditory Implant Centres where it will be seen by families whose children are being assessed for cochlear implantation, and on conference stands where it raises awareness of the Charity's aims and activities amongst professionals. As newsletters have grown to be in excess of fifty pages it is also not practical to distribute them by email and the Trustees therefore intend to continue producing and distributing the newsletter in paper format. Mindful of costs, however, the Group Coordinator liaises with the printers to ensure that any discounts available are utilised.

The vast majority of the Charity's outgoing mail is franked using its franking machine which provides a discount of approximately 25% on standard postage rates. By using return address labels any newsletters that are undelivered are returned to the Charity, the addressee is contacted by email or telephone to obtain updated details but if there is no response the addressee is removed from the mailing list. This system also helps to keep the Charity's address records up to date. Those wishing to opt out of the Charity's postal communications, which is only the newsletter, can do so by email, telephone or writing. However, the newsletter continues to be popular and the Group Coordinator continues to receive requests from non-members to be added to the mailing list, in which case a small fee is requested to cover printing and postage.

To foster contact between CICS Group members the Charity hosts an invitation-only Facebook group which is only available for CICS Group parents whose children have actually received cochlear implants. The number and content of messages posted on it give testament to the value of this forum. Hosted and monitored by one of the Charity's Trustees the forum's membership has increased considerably during the pandemic and is a resource for lively discussion, questions, responses and the sharing of information. A similar group for teenagers who are cochlear implant users and whose families belong to the CICS Group was set up in 2018 and is monitored by a CICS Group parent who is a secondary school teacher. The Trustees, whilst mindful of the dangers that may be associated with social media, are also aware of the great advantages in putting teenagers in touch with one another in a safe forum. To date, however, the forum has not attracted many members, probably because there are so many opportunities available to teenagers on Facebook which are not monitored.

One of the main aims of the Charity is to facilitate opportunities for families to meet others in similar circumstances. Nowadays many deaf children attend mainstream schools and do not know any other deaf children in their area. This can lead to a feeling of isolation for the children and, indeed their whole family. CICS events give them the opportunity to meet others who face the same daily challenges and to make friends with others who benefit from the same technology. Parents also make friends at these events and enjoy exchanging experiences and learning from one another. As the membership is widely spread across the country, the Charity organises a programme of weekend trips at various locations so as to be accessible to as many families as possible. These trips are all subsidised to some extent by the Charity and, in addition, the Family Sponsorship Scheme set up in 2015 provides funding to enable families on a low income or with exceptional circumstances to attend. During 2021 the Trustees were able to approve funding for all the families who applied for help and met the criteria of the scheme.

The Charity was able to offer one of the usual two annual weekends providing exclusive use of an outdoor activity centre in the Peak District. The centre employs qualified instructors and provides specialist equipment necessary to enable children and parents alike to try a range of activities such as abseiling, canoeing and rock climbing. There was also plenty of spare time to enable children to play together on the basketball court and in the field as well as in the indoor games room. Parents enjoyed getting to know others, and many exchanged contact details. Due to funding received to

subsidise activity weekends the cost for families was considerably reduced and the weekend was fully booked with a waiting list, partly due to the Centre having to reduce the number of places that could be offered due to restrictions in place as a result of the pandemic.

A weekend at Alton Towers proved more popular than ever with record numbers attending and a few families on a waiting list. Families travelled from all over the country to attend. The format of the event was an informal reception on the Friday evening with various games available for children as well as a volunteer face painter, Saturday in the theme park, followed by a sit-down buffet and entertainment in the evening and a session of exclusive use of the water park on the Sunday. About half of the families had attended a previous CICS Group weekend at Alton Towers, a quarter had been to another previous CICS event and the remainder were attending their first CICS event. Many parents commented on the value of their CI children being able to meet and spend time with other implant users. A sign language interpreter was provided for the deaf parents and for those CI users who prefer to sign so that Saturday evening's event would be fully accessible for them. Stuart Wright, who provides the disco and photo booths enlisted the help of two young adult CI users whose families have been members of CICS for many years to lead the dancing showing the younger children how to do the set dance routines. Feedback on the evaluation sheets for the event was excellent with several families offering deposits for the following year before this had even been booked.

There was also a weekend at Chessington World of Adventures but unlike in previous years the Charity was not able to offer a day option only as the hotel insisted the Charity book twenty rooms meaning that capacity was reached for the Saturday evening venue. Families arrived on the Friday evening and met for a brief reception, and enjoyed Saturday in the theme park followed by a sit-down buffet and family disco in the evening. Parents chatted whilst the younger children enjoyed the musical games before dinner, and later in the evening the older ones enjoyed the disco and trying out all the different props in the photobooth. On the Sunday some families used the hotel's leisure centre whilst others visited the onsite wildlife centre or made a second visit to the theme park. Feedback was excellent, but the possibility of future events at this venue will be kept under review in view of the hotel's requirement for the Charity to book twenty rooms which proved to be a challenge in 2021.

The Charity's afternoon-only events were limited due to Government restrictions in place for part of the year but the Midlands Coordinator was able to organise an afternoon at Blackwell Adventure Centre at Bromsgrove, offering crate-stacking with opportunities to try the indoor climbing wall and a self-led obstacle course as well as a great deal of outdoor space for children to run around. There was also a bouncy castle for the younger children and a buffet style tea laid on for everyone. Families were extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend an event after the lockdown period and the feedback was excellent.

Two of the usual three family days took place at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground, a specialist outdoor and indoor activity centre for children with disabilities including wheelchair users. Indoor activities were not available to the Charity, but fortunately the weather was good on both occasions so there was plenty to occupy the children. This is always a popular event as it is a relaxed venue with plenty to do. Parents are able to chat in the knowledge that their children are in completely safe surroundings, and the event is particularly valuable for those who are considering an implant for their baby or child and want to meet others with first-hand experience. As at all the Charity's events, not only could parents and extended family who also attend ask questions about everyday life with children with cochlear implants, but they could also see first-hand how the children with cochlear implants were communicating and getting on with their lives. Teenagers with cochlear implants also attend these events as helpers and role models and parents regularly report the great value of spending some time with them.

Trustees and Coordinators

The six Trustees continued in their roles during the year under review. In addition to their role as Trustees, Tricia Kemp and Angela O'Donovan were the Southern and Midlands Regions Coordinators respectively. Vicky Gilbertson continued as the Northern Region Coordinator and Nicky Broekhuizen as the Scottish Region Coordinator.

In the year ending 31st December 2022, an additional Trustee will be appointed who will also act as the charity's Treasurer.

Activities of the Trustees and Coordinators

The regional Coordinators continued to pay a great deal of attention to keeping the Charity's database of members up to date. Following a request for membership of the group, usually via the Charity's website, initial direct contact is made by telephone and prospective members have to respond to a standard GDPR compliance email before their membership is confirmed. If no response is received after three email reminders and a telephone call their details are removed from the Charity's system. The result is that a few families who apply to join do not actually become members, and although Coordinators' time has been wasted on the process it is hoped that the caller benefited from the initial conversation. In order for the Charity to maintain its personal contact approach and keep full details of families and their children's cochlear implants the Trustees believe the membership process is robust, although it is regrettable that some families cannot join as they do not complete the GDPR compliance requirement.

Day-to-day activities of the Trustees and Coordinators continued to include providing welcome packs to new members, dealing with telephone, written and e-mailed enquiries from members, non-members and professionals, preparing and distributing the Charity's newsletter, monitoring the Charity's email and Facebook page, liaising with cochlear implant manufacturers and with other groups involved with all aspects of deafness or hearing loss, providing articles for various publications, and helping with relevant research projects.

Working with other Groups

In spite of difficult conditions, the Charity maintained its relationships with other organisations sharing an interest in cochlear implantation, kept abreast of their activities and, where appropriate, promoted these to the CICS Group members. In particular there are strong links with The Elizabeth Foundation, Auditory Verbal UK and the National Cochlear Implant Users' Association (NCIUA). Whenever possible, one of the Trustees or Coordinators helped with any projects undertaken by these organisations during the year.

The Charity is an associate member of the BCIG, and a member of UK Council on Deafness and of The Alliance which is campaigning to raise awareness of deafness generally. In addition, the Charity is a member of the EURO-CIU which campaigns for improved quality of life for cochlear implant users of all ages across Europe. The CICS Group Coordinator also represents the Charity on the Adult Cochlear Implant Action Group ('ACIAG') which is campaigning to raise awareness of the benefits of cochlear implants and of the large number of adults who are suitable for, but not receiving cochlear implants. ACIAG is also lobbying for adult hearing screening, and for more research into bilateral implantation for adults. Having been heavily involved in the process of achieving the NICE guidance that recommended bilateral cochlear implantation for children, the CICS Group is keen to help bring about the availability of this procedure for adults and to relax the audiological threshold criteria for cochlear implantation to be in line with other European countries. During the year the CICS Group became a founding member of the Cochlear Implant International Community of Action which was launched by Sue Archbold and Brian Lamb, both leading figures in the world of cochlear implants.

The aim of the organisation is to close the gap in cochlear implant provision and ensure lifelong support for all who could benefit, and they have organised several international webinars.

During 2021 the Group Coordinator was able to attend the British Cochlear Implant Group's (BCIG) annual conference which took place online as well as the European Association of Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU) Annual General Meeting which was held virtually. When held in person both these events are excellent sources of interesting and up-to-date articles for the Charity's newsletters but these opportunities were severely reduced by the events being online only.

The Trustees believe it is important for the Charity to support initiatives intended to widen the availability of cochlear implantation, secure funding for the continuation of the service and to maintain a high quality provision for cochlear implant users of all ages. The Trustees will continue to work with and support other charities, support groups and professionals who share these beliefs.

The regional Coordinators have also undertaken literature reviews and helped in a number of research projects organising contact with members whose children met certain criteria sought by researchers. The CICS Group Coordinator continued as Vice Chair of the NCIUA, as a member of a Specialist Sensory Academy, and an associate member of the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD). She also served as the patient representative on a steering group considering the implementation of a National Registry of cochlear implants. Several virtual meetings of the latter took place during the year and it is hoped that the Registry will be launched within the next eighteen months. Furthermore she was a patient representative on a working party reviewing the Quality Standards for Auditory Implant services in Wales.

Other CICS Group Trustees and Coordinators take opportunities to keep up to date with developments in the wider field of cochlear implantation and to secure articles for the Charity's newsletters.

Finance and Fundraising

Due to the continuing pandemic giving rise to an increasing number of high profile worthy appeals and to people having less disposable income, 2021 was a challenging time for small charities dealing with low incidence disabilities to attract donations. It remains apparent that the most likely source of financial support for the Charity is from the members and their contacts.

The Charity's policy of not having a membership fee enables all who would benefit from membership to do so, prevents families from being excluded from the group due to financial hardship, and ensures a diverse membership. In addition, the Trustees consider that the administrative burden of introducing an annual membership fee would be too great, and prefer instead to encourage members to make a donation no matter how small, and whenever possible to organise events such as coffee mornings or to ask their local schools, clubs or businesses to adopt the CICS Group as their Charity. However, the Charity continued its annual 'Voluntary Donations Month' scheme in April with an appeal to members to donate whatever they could afford and to seek out ways of raising money for the Charity. It is difficult to give an exact figure of the amount that this appeal attracts as families send amounts throughout the year, sometimes through online platforms, and some provide support by sponsoring runners who take part in the British 10k Run, but amounts definitely attributable to this appeal were £2,830.

The Trustees were delighted that the British 10k London event was able to take place. The Charity had a debenture block of thirty places of which 26 were filled. The Charity hosted a post-run event for runners and immediate family at Browns Restaurant in Covent Garden and qualified volunteer sports massage therapists were available to help runners recover. So far the event raised £17,101 but some matched sponsorship is still outstanding which is anticipated to increase this amount by approximately £5,500, to be accounted for in next year's Accounts.

Colin and Jean Sutherland, grandparents of a young adult cochlear implant user, and loyal supporters of the Charity for over twenty years were not able to hold their annual garden party due to the pandemic but kindly organised an online 'no garden party' event which raised £1,000 for the Charity. Excluding other personal donations, notable amounts received during the year were £5,000 from Kintbury Capital, £6,750 from the Dorothy Hay Bolton Charitable Trust, £1,893.37 from Bloomberg LP, £1,400 from Benevity Charitable Giving, £1,000 from Matthews Wrightson Charity Trust, £1,000 from Movement for Good and £500 from the KW Charitable Trust.

Furthermore, the Trustees were delighted that the organisers of the Heart of England Country Music Festival having been unable to hold their annual event in 2020, chose to continue their pre-pandemic support of the Charity, and the Jepson family who have a young daughter with cochlear implants attended an evening of country music and dancing to receive a cheque for £2,000.

Small amounts were received from Waitrose Community Matters, a scheme that recycles ink cartridges, and from the Amazon Smile initiative.

All donations, no matter how small were greatly appreciated and, in keeping with the general approach of the Charity, all were personally acknowledged. Wherever possible donors were encouraged to use the Gift Aid Scheme so that the tax on personal donations could be reclaimed thus increasing the value of those donations.

As ever, the Trustees remain acutely aware of the vulnerability of the small Charity dealing with a low incidence disability operating in difficult times and competing with larger high-profile charities for funds.

The Charity has no office premises or employees, but in order to maintain and improve the Group's network and profile and indeed, as an integral part of the Charity's work, the Trustees deemed it necessary in this unusual and challenging year to use available funds to continue to provide a good quality newsletter with a greater amount of content than usual. Looking to the future, they will continue to be mindful of the expense involved in doing so and, as well as seeking new methods of fundraising, will continue to review ways of reducing costs.

Accounts Preparation

The Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and with those of the governing instrument.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 19th October, 2022.



.....
Chairperson
Mrs A. P. Kemp

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Statement of Financial Activities for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

<u>Receipts and Payments</u>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total - 2021 £
<u>Receipts</u>			
Donations and bequests	36,349		36,349
Fundraising activities	17,434		17,434
Events and activities		410	410
Family activity weekends		615	615
Alton Towers weekend		23,424	23,424
Chessington		7,697	7,697
Other income		2,674	2,674
Investment income	1,064		1,064
Income Tax recoverable	1,128		1,128
Christmas cards	65		65
	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts	56,040	34,819	90,859
<u>Payments</u>			
Postage	11,767		11,767
Printing and photocopying	16,001		16,001
Stationery	2,101		2,101
Telephone	529		529
Subscriptions	222		222
Events and activities		530	530
Family activity weekends		3,568	3,568
Alton Towers weekend		26,615	26,615
Chessington		18,394	18,394
Promotional items		1,022	1,022
Fundraising activities	1,670		1,670
Purchase of office equipment	699		699
Insurance	514		514
Children's Achievement Awards	922		922
Travel and conference attendance	500		500
Bank charges	99		99
Website and database management	232		232
Other expenses	160		160
	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments	35,416	50,128	85,545
	-----	-----	-----
Surplus/(Deficit)	£20,623	£(15,309)	£5,314
	=====	=====	=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

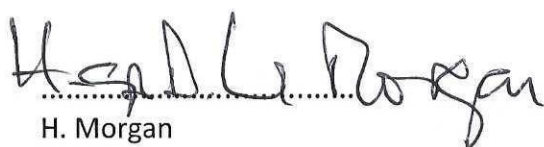
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2021

	At 31.12.21	At 31.12.20
	£	£
Assets		
Debtors: Income Tax Recoverable	1,128	1,111
Deposits paid for the following year's events	-	2,300
Cash at Bank and on Deposit	145,334	143,611
	146,462	147,022
Liabilities	-	(5,874)
Net Assets	£146,462	£141,148
	=====	=====
Funds		
Balance brought forward	141,148	145,907
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	5,314	(4,759)
Balance carried forward	£ 146,462	£141,148
	=====	=====

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 19th October, 2022.



A. P. Kemp
Chairperson



H. Morgan
Trustee

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting by Charities'.

Restricted and unrestricted funds

Funds received by the charity that are earmarked either by donation or by the terms of the grant for particular projects are accounted for as restricted funds. All other funds are unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees deem it prudent to have sufficient reserves to enable the charity to carry out its objectives for the foreseeable future, and have deemed this to be approximately three years' annual expenditure. The reserves are held in a general fund to enable the charity to meet all needs as defined by its Constitution.

Income

Donations and income from fundraising activities are accounted for on a receipts basis.

Voluntary help and gifts in kind

The charity benefits from many voluntary hours contributed by Trustees and supporters. From time to time the charity also benefits from the support of the implant manufacturers, professionals and other organisations. It would be impossible to place a value on all these gifts in kind for which the charity is extremely grateful and without which much of its work could not be undertaken.

Expenditure

All expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities on a payments basis and has been classified under categories which most appropriately reflect the use of the resources.

Value Added Tax

As the charity is unable to reclaim value added tax, all expenditure in these financial statements is shown inclusive of value added tax where appropriate.

Depreciation and Stock

No depreciation is provided on office equipment, which is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period when purchased. The charity holds no stock.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

1) Income and Expenditure

		Unrestricted Funds
		£
a)	Donations and bequests	
	Dorothy Hay Bolton	6,750
	Kintbury Capital	5,000
	Bloomberg	1,893
	K.W. Charitable Trust	500
	Matthews Wrightson Ch. Trust	1,000
	Movement for Good	1,000
	Benevity Charitable Giving	1,400
	Heart of England Country Music Festival	2,000
	The Sutherland family garden party	1,000
	Individual donations and bequests of less than £500	15,806

		£36,349
		=====
b)	Fundraising Events	
	Sizeable fundraising events organised by and for the charity during 2021 included:	£
	British London 10k (net of expenses of £1,120)	15,981
	Other amounts of £500 or less	333

		£16,314
		=====
c)	Investment Income	
	Bank Interest	£1,064
		=====
d)	Direct Charitable Expenditure	
	Family activity weekends (£3,568 - £615)	2,953
	Events and activities (£530 - £410)	120
	Alton Towers (£26,615 - £23,424)	3,191
	Chessington (£18,394 - £7,697)	10,697
	Children's Achievement Awards	922
	Telephone - family contact	529
	Printing, stationery and postage	29,869

		£ 48,281
		=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the period

1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 (cont.)

1) Income and Expenditure (cont.)

e) Management and Administration of Charity	£
Travel & Conference attendance	500
Subscriptions	222
Insurance	514
Bank charges	99
Website and Database Administration	232
Purchase of office equipment	699
Other expenses	160

	£ 2,426
	=====

f) Trustees' remuneration

No trustees received any remuneration during the period but three Trustees were reimbursed expenses totalling £6,999 in respect of the administration costs of coordinating the four regions, attending and participating in specific physical and online conferences and making various purchases on behalf of the charity. This expenditure is allocated over various headings in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2) Assets

Cash at bank:	CAF Current Account	26,186
	CAF Deposit Account	11,160
	Virgin Charity Deposit Account	20,834
	Cambridge and Counties Bank	87,154

		£ 145,334
		=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Independent Examiner's Report on the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

Registered charity number: 1097619

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31st December, 2021, as set out on pages 8 to 12.

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

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

M. Emanuel

Date: 19th October, 2022

M. Emanuel,
Chartered Accountants,
5, Lexham Gardens Mews,
Kensington,
London,
W8 5JQ.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP (CIC'S GROUP)

England & Wales - Charity number 1097619

Accounts

**Cochlear Implanted Children's
Support Group**

**Report and Financial Statements
for the period
1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020**

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

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THE COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

The Trustees

Mrs. A.P. Kemp (Chairperson)
Mr. J.J. Foster
Mr. H. Morgan
Mrs. A. O'Donovan
Ms. M. Ogwo
Ms. D. Tuffs

Registered Office

P.O. Box 28843
London
SW13 0WY

Charity registration number

1097619

Independent Examiner

M. Emanuel
Chartered Accountants
5, Lexham Gardens Mews
Kensington
London
W8 5JQ

Bankers

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

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Report of the Trustees for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Results

The statement of financial activities is set out on page 7 and shows the net income for the period.

Constitution

The Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group is registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1097619. Its affairs are governed by Declaration of Trust which restricts the use of the Charity's income, such that it must be applied solely towards the objects of the Charity.

Tax status

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax and income tax.

Principal objectives

The principal objectives and activities of the Charity are as stated in the Trust Deed:

'The relief of need of children who are deaf or have hearing impairment, in particular those who have cochlear implants or are considering cochlear implants and their families, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of advice, support and sponsoring research projects which further this object; and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said persons.'

Review of the Activities of the Charity

The pandemic severely affected the activities of the charity, and all the planned events for the year had to be cancelled.

However, more families joined the group during 2020 than in any prior year. To keep them and existing members informed of developments in the fields of cochlear implantation and hearing impairment in general four editions of the Charity's newsletter were produced and distributed during the year. It is the only national newsletter dedicated to families whose children either already have cochlear implants or are being assessed for the procedure, and during the year under review each edition contained a mixture of articles by professionals, parents, implant manufacturers and cochlear implant users of all ages.

Feedback indicated that families found personal stories and articles by parents and young implant users to be inspirational, they enjoyed reading the latest news from implant manufacturers, and they valued the tips, advice and research topics covered in articles by professionals. The section celebrating the achievements of all levels of accomplishments by children and young adults who use cochlear implants including those with considerable additional difficulties, continued to be popular and October's edition featured a record number of achievement awards. The younger children were sent a specially designed certificate, the older ones a celebratory card, and all received a small gift voucher.

The Trustees believe that the newsletter is an important part of what the Charity can offer to families, and particularly in 2020 when the Group was not able to organise events due to the pandemic. They also believe there is great value in having a paper newsletter as it is left on coffee tables in homes for the whole family to see, on stands at Auditory Implant Centres where it will be seen by families whose children are being assessed for cochlear implantation, and on conference stands where it raises awareness of the Charity's aims and activities amongst professionals. The Trustees therefore intend to continue producing and distributing the newsletter in paper format rather than by email. Mindful of costs, however, the Group Coordinator liaises with the printers to ensure that any discounts available are utilised.

The vast majority of the Charity's outgoing mail is franked using its franking machine which provides a discount of approximately 25% on standard postage rates. By using return address labels any newsletters that are undelivered are returned to the Charity, the addressee is contacted by email or telephone to obtain updated details but if there is no response the addressee is removed from the mailing list. This system also helps to keep the Charity's address records up to date. Those wishing to opt out of the Charity's postal communications, which is only the newsletter, can do so by email, telephone or writing. However, the newsletter continues to be popular and the Group Coordinator continues to receive requests from non-members to be added to the mailing list, in which case a small fee is requested to cover printing and postage.

To foster contact between CICS Group members the Charity hosts an invitation-only Facebook group which is only available for CICS Group parents whose children have actually received cochlear implants. The number and content of messages posted on it give testament to the value of this forum. Hosted and monitored by one of the Charity's Trustees the forum's membership increased very considerably during 2020 and continues to be a resource for lively discussion, questions, responses and the sharing of information. A similar group for teenagers who are cochlear implant users and whose families belong to the CICS Group was set up in 2018 and is monitored by a CICS Group parent who is a secondary school teacher. The Trustees, whilst mindful of the dangers that may be associated with social media, are also aware of the great advantages in putting teenagers in touch with one another in a safe forum. To date, however, the forum has not attracted many members, probably because there are so many opportunities available to teenagers on Facebook which are not monitored.

Trustees and Coordinators

The six Trustees continued in their roles during the year under review. In addition to their role as Trustees, Tricia Kemp and Angela O'Donovan were the Southern and Midlands Regions Coordinators respectively. Vicky Gilbertson continued as the Northern Region Coordinator and Nicky Broekhuizen as the Scottish Region Coordinator.

Activities of the Trustees and Coordinators

The regional Coordinators continued to pay a great deal of attention to keeping the Charity's database of members up to date. Following a request for membership of the group, usually via the Charity's website, initial direct contact is made by telephone and prospective members have to respond to a standard GDPR compliance email before their membership is confirmed. If no response is received after three email reminders and a telephone call their details are removed from the Charity's system. The result is that not all families who apply to join do actually become members, and although Coordinators' time has been wasted on the process it is hoped that the caller benefited from the initial conversation. In order for the Charity to maintain its personal contact approach and keep full details of families and their children's cochlear implants the Trustees believe the membership process is robust, although it is regrettable that some families cannot join as they do not complete the GDPR compliance requirement.

Day-to-day activities of the Trustees and Coordinators continued to include providing welcome packs to new members, dealing with telephone, written and e-mailed enquiries from members, non-members and professionals, preparing and distributing the Charity's newsletter, monitoring the Charity's email and Facebook page, liaising with cochlear implant manufacturers and with other groups involved with all aspects of hearing impairment, providing articles for various publications, and helping with relevant research projects.

Unfortunately the charity was not able to organise any events during 2020 due to the pandemic. However, more work than was anticipated was involved in cancelling events. Deposits already paid by the charity were moved forward to be held against 2021 events. Deposits for events already paid to the charity were refunded, but in a few cases these were converted to donations.

As a result of the pandemic and the reduction in workload associated with events Coordinators had more time to contact members by phone and email and undertook a major project to update as many of the members' records as possible. This coincided with a problem that occurred with the Group's outgoing emails whereby it transpired that when an email was sent to the whole group over 700 of these were not reaching the intended recipients. All of these were contacted by phone and in most cases it was necessary for them to re-subscribe to the Group's emails.

Working with other Groups

In spite of difficult conditions, the Charity maintained its relationships with other organisations sharing an interest in cochlear implantation, kept abreast of their activities and, where appropriate, promoted these to the CICS Group members. In particular there are strong links with The Elizabeth Foundation, Auditory Verbal UK, the National Cochlear Implant Users' Association (NCIUA), the Home Counties Cochlear Implant Group and The Ear Foundation, although sadly the latter went into liquidation in March, 2020. Whenever possible, one of the Trustees or Coordinators helped with any projects undertaken by these organisations during the year.

During 2020 the Group Coordinator was able to attend the British Cochlear Implant Group's (BCIG) annual conference which took place two days before lockdown began. The European Association of Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU) Annual General Meeting was held virtually. Both these events provided sources of interesting and up-to-date articles for the Charity's newsletters, and the BCIG conference also raised awareness of the CICS Group amongst professionals.

The Charity is an associate member of the BCIG, and a member of UK Council on Deafness and of The Alliance which is campaigning to raise awareness of deafness generally. In addition, the Charity is a member of the EURO-CIU which campaigns for improved quality of life for cochlear implant users of all ages across Europe. The CICS Group Coordinator also represents the Charity on the Adult Cochlear Implant Action Group ('ACIAG') which is campaigning to raise awareness of the benefits of cochlear implants and of the large number of adults who are suitable for, but not receiving cochlear implants. ACIAG is also lobbying for adult hearing screening, and for more research into bilateral implantation for adults. Having been heavily involved in the process of achieving the NICE guidance that recommended bilateral cochlear implantation for children, the CICS Group is keen to help bring about the availability of this procedure for adults and to relax the audiological threshold criteria for cochlear implantation to be in line with other European countries.

The Trustees believe it is important for the Charity to support initiatives intended to widen the availability of cochlear implantation, secure funding for the continuation of the service and to maintain a high quality provision for cochlear implant users of all ages. The Trustees will continue to work with and support other charities, support groups and professionals who share these beliefs.

The regional Coordinators have also undertaken literature reviews and helped in a number of research projects organising contact with members whose children met certain criteria sought by

researchers. The total number of requests received during the year was greater than in previous years and came from an ENT surgeon, several Speech and Language Therapists and PhD students.

The CICS Group Coordinator was one of the co-authors of an article entitled 'Prevalence of cochlear implants in Europe: trend between 2010 and 2016' which was published in the prestigious 'Cochlear Implants International' online in June, 2020, and in paper format in September, 2020. She continued as Vice Chair of the NCIUA, a Governor of a school for the Deaf, an associate member of the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD) and was a Trustee of The Ear Foundation until it went into liquidation in March, 2020. She also serves as the patient representative on a steering group considering the implementation of a National Registry of cochlear implants. Several meetings of the latter took place virtually and as a part of her role the CICS Group Coordinator was asked to conduct a major survey to ascertain the views of cochlear implant users and their families regarding the development of the Registry and to ascertain what information they would like it to include. Several groups were contacted and over 2,000 surveys were sent by email. The data was analysed and presented to the Steering Group.

CICS Group Trustees and Coordinators take opportunities to keep up to date with developments in the wider field of cochlear implantation and to secure articles for the Charity's newsletters.

Finance and Fundraising

Due to the pandemic, an increasing number of high profile worthy appeals and to people having less disposable income, 2020 was a particularly challenging time for small charities dealing with low incidence disabilities to attract donations. It remains apparent that the most likely source of financial support for the Charity is from the members and their contacts.

The Charity appealed to members to organise local events to celebrate International Cochlear Implant Day on 25th February and to use this as an opportunity not only to raise awareness of cochlear implants but also to fundraise for the Charity. As last year, the fundraising outcome of this initiative was disappointing, but several schools held Assemblies to raise awareness of cochlear implants which, of course, is one of the charity's aims.

The Charity continued its annual 'Voluntary Donations Month' scheme in April with an appeal to members to donate whatever they could afford and to seek out ways of raising money for the Charity. Avoiding having a membership fee prevents families from being excluded from the group due to financial hardship, and ensures a diverse membership. In addition, the Trustees consider that the administrative burden of introducing an annual membership fee would be too great, and prefer instead to encourage members to make a donation no matter how small, to organise events such as coffee mornings or to ask their local schools, clubs or businesses to adopt the CICS Group as their Charity.

The Charity had a debenture block of thirty places in the British 10K London Run, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. This is the Charity's only major fundraising event so the cancellation was a considerable blow. The Debenture places are valid for a future year's event and the Trustees are hopeful that this will take place in 2021.

Several CICS members who had signed up for the above event decided to run their own individual 10ks, and the Trustees are grateful to Jane Demain, Mike Gush, Andi Jepson, and Huw Morgan all of whom completed the challenge and raised money for the CICS Group.

Colin and Jean Sutherland, grandparents of a young adult cochlear implant user, and loyal supporters of the Charity for over twenty years were not able to hold their annual garden party due to the pandemic but kindly organised an online 'no garden party' event which raised £1,000 for the Charity.

The Trustees are very grateful to Jane Foreman's family who kindly chose the CICS Group as the charity for donations in her memory. Jane sadly passed away in September, 2020. She had been a CICS Group member since 1997, helped at the Charity's events, was responsible for the initial creation and subsequent update of the Group's database to a later version of Microsoft Access, and is very greatly missed by all who knew her.

Excluding other personal donations, notable amounts received during the year were £5,000 from Kintbury Capital, £2,000 from the Jusaca Charitable Trust, £1,000 from Matthews Wrightson Charity Trust, £1,000 from PIA Financial Group, £500 from the Drapers' Charitable Fund, and £500 from Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Small amounts were received from a scheme that recycles ink cartridges, and from the Amazon Smile initiative.

All donations, no matter how small were greatly appreciated and, in keeping with the general approach of the Charity, all were personally acknowledged. Wherever possible donors were encouraged to use the Gift Aid Scheme so that the tax on personal donations could be reclaimed thus increasing the value of those donations.

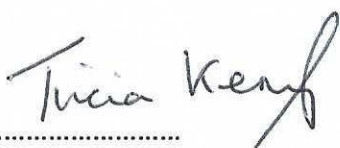
As ever, the Trustees remain acutely aware of the vulnerability of the small Charity dealing with a low incidence disability operating in difficult times and competing with larger high-profile charities for funds.

The Charity has no office premises or employees, but in order to maintain and improve the Group's network and profile and indeed, as an integral part of the Charity's work, the Trustees deemed it necessary in this unusual and challenging year to use available funds to continue to provide a good quality newsletter with a greater amount of content than usual. Looking to the future, they will continue to be mindful of the expense involved in doing so and, as well as seeking new methods of fundraising, will continue to review ways of reducing costs.

Accounts Preparation

The Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and with those of the governing instrument.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 18th October, 2021.



.....
Chairperson
Mrs A. P. Kemp

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Statement of Financial Activities for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

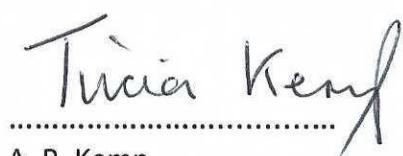
<u>Receipts and Payments</u>	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total - 2020
	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>			
Donations and bequests	18,166		18,166
Donations - Gift Aid	3,488		3,488
Fundraising activities	14,084		14,084
Events and activities	809		809
Family activity weekends		0	0
Alton Towers weekend		815	815
Chessington		142	142
Information Day		0	0
Investment income	1,567		1,567
Income Tax recoverable	1,311		1,311
Raffles	0		0
	-----	-----	-----
Total Receipts	39,425	957	40,382
<u>Payments</u>			
Postage	13,835		13,835
Printing and photocopying	20,782		20,782
Stationery	3,484		3,484
Telephone	260		260
Office equipment maintenance	220		220
Subscriptions	736		736
Events and activities	433		433
Family activity weekends		0	0
Alton Towers weekend		815	815
Chessington		142	142
Information Day		0	0
Fundraising activities	546		546
Insurance	507		507
Children's Achievement Awards	710		710
Travel and conference attendance	676		676
Bank charges	65		65
Website and database management	83		83
Leaflet design and promotion	860		860
Purchase of computer equipment	987		987
	-----	-----	-----
Total Payments	44,184	957	45,141
	-----	-----	-----
Deficit	£(4,759)	0	£(4,759)
	=====	=====	=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

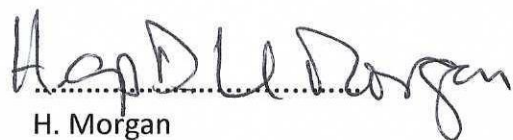
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2020

	At 31.12.20	At 31.12.19
	£	£
Assets		
Debtors: Income Tax Recoverable	1,111	1,246
Deposits paid for the following year's events	2,300	2,294
Cash at Bank and on Deposit	143,611	142,367
	-----	-----
	147,022	145,907
Liabilities	(5,874)	-
	-----	-----
Net Assets	£141,148	£145,907
	=====	=====
Funds		
Balance brought forward	145,907	137,692
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(4,759)	8,215
	-----	-----
Balance carried forward	£141,148	£145,907
	=====	=====

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 18th October, 2021.



.....
A. P. Kemp
Chairperson



.....
H. Morgan
Trustee

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting by Charities".

Restricted and unrestricted funds

Funds received by the charity that are earmarked either by donation or by the terms of the grant for particular projects are accounted for as restricted funds. All other funds are unrestricted.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees deem it prudent to have sufficient reserves to enable the charity to carry out its objectives for the foreseeable future, and have deemed this to be approximately three years' annual expenditure. The reserves are held in a general fund to enable the charity to meet all needs as defined by its Constitution.

Income

Donations and income from fundraising activities are accounted for on a receipts basis.

Voluntary help and gifts in kind

The charity benefits from many voluntary hours contributed by Trustees and supporters. From time to time the charity also benefits from the support of the implant manufacturers, professionals and other organisations. It would be impossible to place a value on all these gifts in kind for which the charity is extremely grateful and without which much of its work could not be undertaken.

Expenditure

All expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities on a payments basis and has been classified under categories which most appropriately reflect the use of the resources.

Value Added Tax

As the charity is unable to reclaim value added tax, all expenditure in these financial statements is shown inclusive of value added tax where appropriate.

Depreciation and Stock

No depreciation is provided on office equipment, which is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period when purchased. The charity holds no stock.

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period

1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 (cont.)

1) Income and Expenditure

a)	Donations and bequests	Unrestricted Funds £
	Advanced Bionics	2,600
	PIA Financial Group	1,000
	Drapers' Charitable Fund	500
	Jusaca Charitable Trust	2,000
	Kintbury Capital	5,000
	Ecclesiastical	500
	Matthews Wrightson Charity Trust	1,000
	Individual donations and bequests of less than £500	5,566
		----- £18,166 =====
b)	Fundraising Events	
	Proceeds of sizeable fundraising events organised by and for the charity during 2020 included:	£
	London 10k	2,037
	100 Miles	534
	41 Club Gibraltar	3,173
	The Sutherland's No Train Day	1,000
	Pilkington	2,240
	Other amounts of £500 or less	5,100
		----- £14,084 =====
c)	Investment Income	£
	Bank Interest	£1,567 =====
d)	Direct Expenditure	£
	Events (£433 - £809)	(376)
	Alton Towers (£815 - £815)	0
	Chessington (£142 - £142)	0
	Children's Achievement Awards	710
	Telephone - family contact	260
	Printing, stationery and postage	38,101
	Leaflet design and promotion	860
		----- £39,555 =====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the period

1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 (cont.)

1) Income and Expenditure (cont.)

e) Management and Administration of Charity

	£
Travel and conference attendance	676
Subscriptions	736
Insurance	507
Bank charges	65
Website and database administration	83
Equipment maintenance	220
Purchase of computer equipment	987

	£3,274
	=====

f) Trustees' remuneration

No trustees received any remuneration during the period but three Trustees were reimbursed expenses totalling £4,612.38 in respect of the administration costs of coordinating the four regions, attending and participating in specific physical and online conferences and making various purchases on behalf of the charity. This expenditure is allocated over various headings in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2) Assets

Cash at bank:	CAF Current Account	29,470
	CAF Deposit Account	7,217
	Virgin Charity Deposit Account	20,806
	Cambridge and Counties Bank	86,118

		£143,611
		=====

3) Liabilities

Donations for future events	5,000
Bradley Stoke	95
Dukes Barn	50
Alton Towers	530
Chessington	199

	£5,874
	=====

COCHLEAR IMPLANTED CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Independent Examiner's Report on the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

Registered charity number: 1097619

Responsibilities and basis of Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31st December, 2020, as set out on pages 7 to 11.

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

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 
M. Emanuel

Date: 18th October, 2021

M. Emanuel,
Chartered Accountants,
5, Lexham Gardens Mews,
Kensington,
London,
W8 5JQ.