

Bedfordshire Down's Syndrome Support Group

**Charity Number 1102599 (governed by constitution last amended
10 July 2018)**

**Principal Address for finance matters: 35 Lansdowne Road, Bedford,
MK40 2BY**

Annual Report

Trustees during period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022:

Karen Forrester, Tracey Johnson, Linda Smith, Teresa Hurley (Chairman), Heather Petty, Derek Hrydziusko (Treasurer), Emma Hrydziusko and Kelly Mathias

The Support Group has had another very successful and very busy year. And we have been fortunate in being able to continue to provide numerous and varied services and activities for our families.

Education & Development is an important part of the Support Group's provision and we have been delighted that our **Early Development Group** has been so successful this year with 7 children now attending. We are so pleased to be able to help their number, reading and social skills, and to help the children fulfil their full potential. The Group is also a great opportunity for families to get to know each other and socialise. Thank you to Sue and Helen for their continued hard work and dedication to this vital service for our families.

Our **Speech Therapy** sessions continue to be well attended, with 20 different children attending over the last year. Speech and language delay affects the majority of our children in some form or another and thus we are dedicated to continuing this essential service. Huge thanks to Rachel, Sue and Pui for all their hard work and support for our families. Thanks too to Emma for continuing to oversee the admin for the sessions, a time consuming and not always easy task, but vital for the success of this provision

We have run our **Education Training Workshops for professionals** for many years, including changing to online sessions during the pandemic. So, it was extremely disappointing that we had to cancel the sessions this year due to insufficient numbers. We sincerely hope that we will have a better uptake next year as this is such an important provision to help teachers and TA's support our children in their education setting in the best way possible. We hope that next year more parents will encourage their child's school to take advantage of these excellent sessions.

However, this year we were successful in providing an **Information Day for parents of the Under 5's**. The session was well received and gave parents information, ideas, and strategies on how to support their child's learning and development. Many thanks to Helen for providing the session for us.

Social activities are also a very important aspect of the Support Group's provision. We are dedicated to providing social opportunities for our children, youngsters, and adults with Down's syndrome and for the family as a whole.

Our **Under 5's** Group have now been in full swing for a whole year. We are extremely grateful to Aimee Leconte for organising the sessions for us and thus enabling us to resurrect this essential activity for our young families. The Group enables families with young children to socialise together, on a monthly basis and have include many trips to soft play, Ashridge, Woodside farm, Mead open Farm and many other activities.

The group has seen the growth of many friendships and vital support for the children, siblings, and parents. It is also often families first introduction to the Support Group as a whole and has led on to families joining our Speech Therapy, Early Development Group, and other Support Group social activities.

Our **Teen Club** continues to be very popular and we have had many teenagers attending. Outings have included trampolining, bowling and pirate golf, as well as activities in the church hall of a movie night, dance evening, arts & crafts, and a Pizza evening. Sincere thanks to Lynn for continuing to organise the activities and to give such excellent kind and friendly support to our teenagers. Special thanks too, to our volunteers, Ben, Ellie, Evie and Dan, and Jayne, without their help we would not be able to provide these vital social opportunities for our youngsters, where they can have fun, make friends and be safe.

Our **Adult Group** also continues to go from strength to strength, and we now have how many regular attendees and more due to transition from the Teen Club early next year when they become 18. Activities have included bowling, trampolining, pirate golf and a trip to the bird of prey centre. We are so grateful to Leanne for her amazing support and kindness and for organising the monthly events. We would also like to thank our volunteers, Paul, Jasmin and Emma Wright, without whose help we would not be able to provide the sessions. The Adult Group provides such an important social opportunity for our members, and it has been wonderful to see their friendships grow and strengthen and see how they support and help each other.

We continue to provide our weekly online **Dance Class** with Jade from Spectrum Community Arts. We would love to return to face to face sessions but unfortunately, we have not been able to do so due to the small number attending and the cost of a venue, however, we have continued to provide sessions free of charge to our members. The sessions still provide our youngsters with the chance to stay fit, have fun and see their friends. Thanks to Jade for always making the sessions fun and enjoyable and always encouraging our youngsters who learn the dance routines so well and perform with such enthusiasm!

This year we have provided **13 different Social activities** for our families. As always, we kicked off the year with our trip to the **Panto** at Milton Keynes, one of our most popular events with 42 families/124 people attending. Thanks to Jenny for organising the tickets.

Then in April we had our annual family **Sledging** at the Snozone Milton Keynes. 16 families/49 people attended, aged from 7 years to adult. Everyone had a great time, and it was a great chance for our youngsters to experience an activity they may not ordinarily be able to access, and of course the hot chocolate and cookies afterwards provided the ideal opportunity for families to relax and chat together.

In May we had our wonderful **PGL Activity Weekend** with our highest number of attendees of 30 families/91 people joining the fun! It was a fantastic weekend with activities such as canoeing, archery, giant swing, zip wire & climbing with both children and adults surprising themselves on their achievements. The weekend had a wonderful, relaxed atmosphere of fun and being part of a friendly, supportive community. Thanks to Helen and Teresa for organising.

In June we organised a new adventure and visited **Herrings Green Farm**. We had 14 families/46 people attend. It was a lovely day out and everyone had the opportunity to handle some owls, a skunk and a ferret, feed the goats and watch the birds of prey flying display. Afterwards the children were free to play. A lovely day and the staff were fantastic in looking after us. Definitely one to visit again next year.

In July we had our **Family BBQ**, and we would like to thank Jenny & Andrew Asbury for again hosting this lovely family day in their home and creating such a friendly atmosphere. We had 25 families/95 people attend and be able to relax and enjoy the good food, good company, and even have a swim! Always a lovely family day!

This year we were delighted to be able to provide our full complement of summer outings with an activity arranged for each week of the summer holidays. We visited **pirate golf, Southend on Sea, pony riding, Mead Open Farm, Wicksteed Park, ten pin bowling, and Paradise Wildlife Park**. The trips were well attended, some with as many as 21 families attending. Thank you to Kelly, Karen, Jenny, Carrie and Teresa for organising. These trips provide vital fun activities for our youngsters during the summer holidays when many of their regular activities may have stopped. It is also a great chance for all the family to enjoy a day out and to socialise with other families and make new friends.

In October we were lucky enough to be given 60 tickets for a performance by **Circus Starr**. All the tickets were quickly booked up and everyone had an enjoyable afternoon seeing the clowns and acrobats. Many thanks to Tracey for obtaining the tickets for us.

And of course, this coming Sunday we will have our very popular **Christmas Party** with over 120 people attending and looking forward to good food, great music and a visit from Santa! Thanks to Karen for organising and to Jenny for doing the catering.

We would also like to say thank you to Jenny for hosting our monthly **Coffee Mornings** and being such a good representative for the Support Group.

We try to fund the person with Down's syndrome and a carer for most activities and indeed, some activities are free for the whole family. But all of this comes at a cost and all of our funds come from fundraising and donations. We now need over £20,000 a year to provide all our services and activities.

Our fundraising team organised a **Family Quiz** in May which was attended by over 40 people and raised over £600. It was a great evening as always.

And of course, the team have just organised our annual **Christmas Fayre** with wonderful stalls, festive food and of course a special visit from Santa! The event raised an amazing £1,800. We would like to thank all the stall holders, everyone who visited the fayre, & all those who helped, either by donating or helping on the day, before, during and after the event. An enormous amount of work goes on behind the scenes and I would like to say a special thank you to our fundraising team of Karen, Kelly, Emma, Tracey and Jenny and their helpers Kathy and Carol.

The rest of our funds come from the kind donations and fundraising of others. And we would like to say a huge and sincere thank you to everyone who donates, whatever amount big or small, and to those who fundraise for us. It all helps us to provide the vital services and activities for our families and we are eternally grateful.

We would also like to thank John Asbury and Josh Hurley for their continued support with our website, and Di Herbert for auditing our accounts each year. We are very grateful for all their help.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for attending events and activities and for being a part of the Support Group and for making it such a success and being part of our amazing community.

I would also like to thank all the committee, Emma, Derek, Tracey, Linda, Karen, Kelly, Helen, Heather and Jenny for their hard work and dedication, for giving so much of their time and effort and for continuing to be motivated to provide so many fantastic opportunities for our families. Without them there would be no Support Group!

And as I reflect upon this last year, I am, as always, in awe of our fantastic children, from the babies to the adults, of their wonderful, varied and individual personalities, abilities and achievements, and of the happiness they bring, not just to their families, but to their friends, and to the world as a whole. And I continue to feel privileged to be part of our wonderful, friendly, positive community and I look forward to all the fun, laughter and friendship that being part of the Support Group will bring in 2023.

Teresa Hurley

Chairman

THE TRUSTEES DECLARE THAT THEY HAVE APPROVED THE TRUSTEE'S REPORT ABOVE AS FORMING PART OF THE APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE AGM HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2022

SIGNATURE:



FULL NAME:

DEREK HRYDZIVSKYLO

POSITION

TREASURER

DATE:

30 / 1 / 23

BEDFORDSHIRE DOWN'S SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP

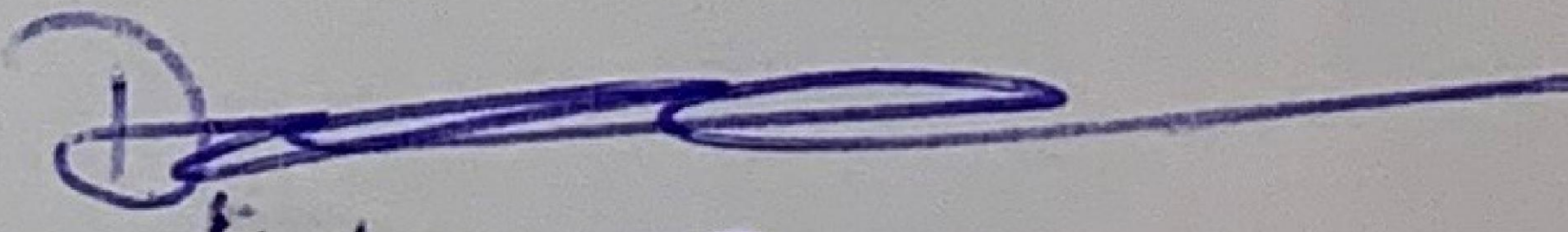
Registered Charity number 1102599

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations and gifts	3,534	150	3,684	4,061	-	4,061
Fundraising and raffles	9,759	-	9,759	4,829	-	4,829
Outings/socials/events	-	9,087	9,087	-	2,106	2,106
Speech Therapy	-	2,270	2,270	-	360	360
Education courses	-	2,125	2,125	-	890	890
Dance Events	-	42	42	-	-	-
U5s/Teen/Adult Groups	-	596	596	-	80	80
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
	13,293	14,270	27,563	8,890	3,436	12,326
Expenditure						
Outings/socials/events	97	10,352	10,449	1,177	2,106	3,283
Fundraising costs	1,106	-	1,106	-	-	-
Speech Therapy	2,870	2,270	5,140	2,200	360	2,560
Education courses	774	2,125	2,899	-	839	839
General/Postage/stationery	583	-	583	552	-	552
Dance Events	918	42	960	1,038	-	1,038
U5s/Teen/Adult Groups	1,871	596	2,467	257	80	337
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8,219	15,385	23,604	5,224	3,385	8,609
Surplus/(Deficit for the year)	5,074	(1,115)	3,959	3,666	51	3,717

Approved on behalf of the Trustees:-

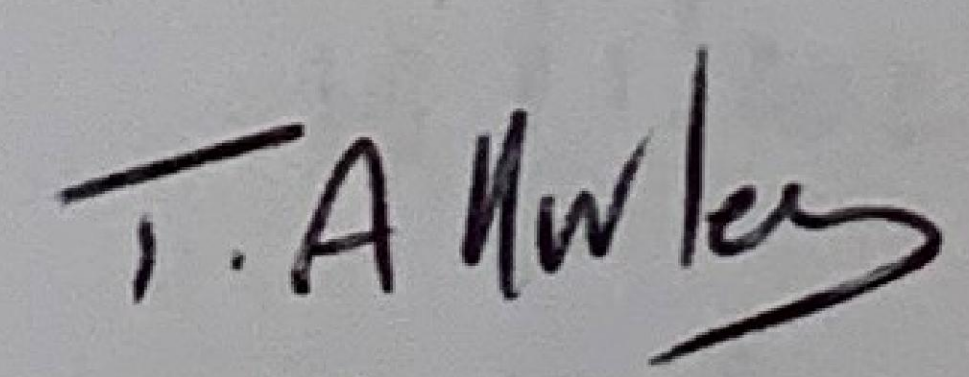
Name: Derek Hrydziusko

Signature: 

Position: Treasurer

Date: 19/11/2023

Name: Teresa Hurley

Signature: 

Position: Chairperson

Date: 19/11/2023

BEDFORDSHIRE DOWN'S SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP

Registered Charity number 1102599

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted 2021 £	Restricted 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	46,755	150	46,905	41,681	1,265	42,946
Net Assets	<u>46,755</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>46,905</u>	<u>41,681</u>	<u>1,265</u>	<u>42,946</u>

Represented by:

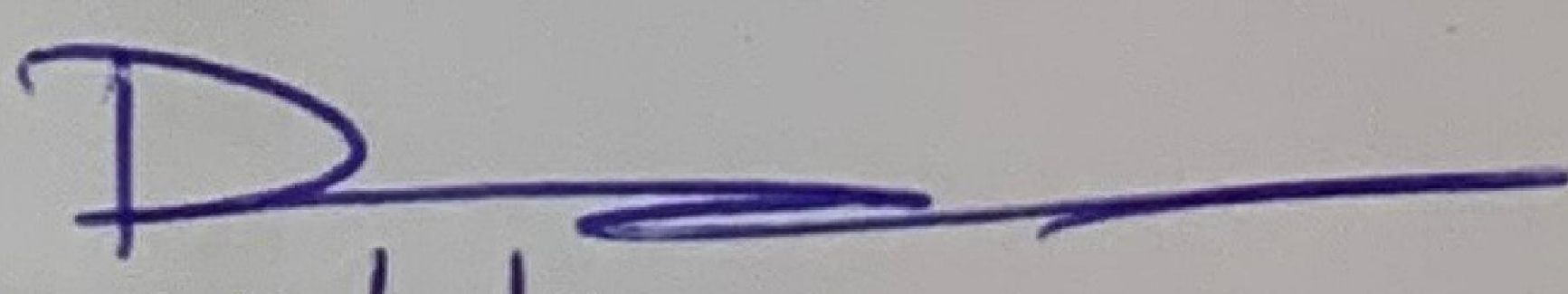
Brought forward at 1 April	41,681	1,265	42,946	38,015	1,214	39,229
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	5,074	(1,115)	3,959	3,666	51	3,717
Balance at 31 March	<u>46,755</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>46,905</u>	<u>41,681</u>	<u>1,265</u>	<u>42,946</u>

Cash at bank and in hand

	Santander £	Cash £	Total £
Opening bank balance	42,946	-	42,946
Receipts	27,563	-	27,563
Payments	(23,604)	-	(23,604)
Closing balance	<u>46,905</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,905</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees:-

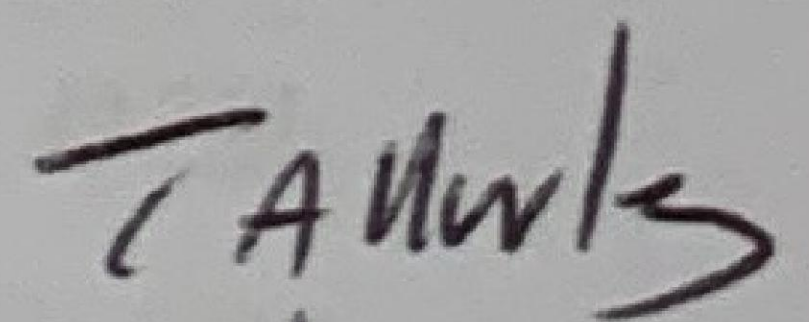
Name: Derek Hrydziuszko

Signature: 

Position: Treasurer

Date: 19/1/2023

Name: Teresa Hurley

Signature: 

Position: Chairperson

Date: 19/1/2023

BEDFORDSHIRE DOWN'S SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP
Registered Charity number 1102599
Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2022

<u>INCOME</u>	£
Donations, Membership and Gifts	
Donations and Gifts	3,684
Membership and Miscellaneous	-
	<u>3,684</u>
Fundraising activities and events	
General fundraising activities/events	9,399
Virtual Online Quizzes	360
	<u>9,759</u>
Outings, parties, social events etc.	
PGL Deposits and Payments	6,762
Contributions to other outings, parties, social events etc.	2,325
	<u>9,087</u>
Education events	
Education Training Package Attendance	1,605
Early Development Group Places	520
	<u>2,125</u>
Regular Events	
Speech Therapy Subs	2,270
Teen Group Subs	175
Adult Group Subs	375
Dance Events Subs	42
U5s Events	46
	<u>2,908</u>
Total income	<u>27,563</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Outings, parties, social events etc.	
Theatre Trips	2,255
PGL Weekend	5,181
Sledging	999
Other Social Events, Xmas Party and Summer Outings	2,014
	<u>10,449</u>
General	
Fundraising costs	1,106
General costs/Postage/Stationery/Website	583
	<u>1,689</u>
Education events	
Education Training Package	830
Early Development Group	2,069
	<u>2,899</u>
Regular Events	
Speech Therapy	5,140
Teen Group	912
Adult Group	1,395
Dance events	960
Under 5s Group	160
	<u>8,567</u>
Total expenditure	<u>23,604</u>
Surplus/(Deficit for the year)	<u>3,959</u>

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bedfordshire Down's Syndrome Support Group Charity Number 1102599

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Bedfordshire Down's Syndrome Support Group ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

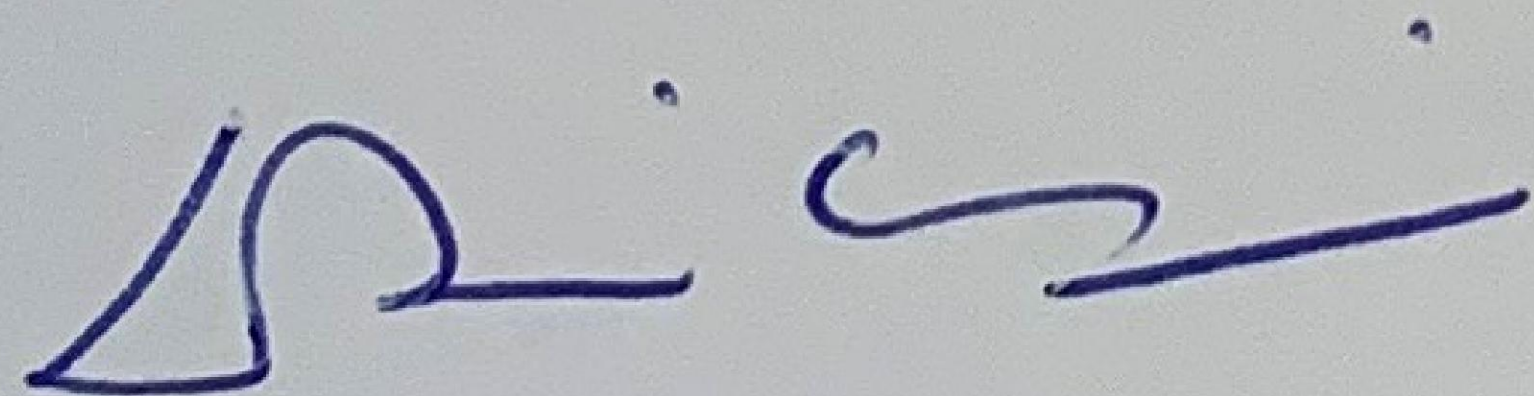
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Name: Diane Herbert

Relevant professional qualification or body: FCA, DhCA

Date: 19 January 2023