

Disability Assist for Independent Living

England & Wales · Charity number 1107079

Details

Other names	CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING KENT LIMITED, CILK
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04854897
Registered	2004-12-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Disability Assist Maidstone Innovation Centre Gibbs Pond Way Kent Medical Campus ME14 5FY
Phone	01233633187
Email	info@disabilityassist.org.uk
Website	www.disabilityassist.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROVIDE AND PROMOTE ENABLING INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES DIRECT TO DISABLED PEOPLE RESIDENT PRIMARILY , BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY IN THE COUNTY OF KENT BY THE PROVISION OF ADVOCACY, PEER SUPPORT, ADVICE, INFORMATION AND OTHER SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE SERVICES WHICH FACILITATE THEIR INDEPENDENCE AS FULL AND EQUAL CITIZENS IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

Activities: Disability Assist for Independent Living provides and promotes enabling independent living services to disabled people in Kent and Medway. It offers advocacy, peer support, advice, information and a range of support and assistance services which facilitate their independence as full and equal citizens in all aspects of life and the wider community.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WITHIN THE COUNTY OF KENT.
- Kent
- Medway

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£278,483	£264,994	-	-
2024-03-31	£266,868	£262,315	-	-
2023-03-31	£246,542	£283,043	-	-
2022-03-31	£143,500	£171,550	-	-
2021-03-31	£176,341	£128,601	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CLIVE BASSANT	Chair	2021-10-21
Bojan Koltaj		2025-09-17
CHRISTOPHER WISE		
Dr Andrew Robertson		2019-07-30
Hannah Elizabeth Tutt		2013-09-30
Helen Joy Greenard		2025-07-23
Natalie Marguerite Jessica-Ann Eacersall		2025-07-23
Piers Kenneth Anscomb		2025-07-23
Sonia Jannette Weaver-Mallion		2016-09-08
VICTORIA GRACE CHITTENDEN		

Accounts

Registered company number - 04854897

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Number 1107079

CONTENTS

	Pages
Trustees' Annual Report	1 - 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 - 16

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**Charity Registration Number**

1107079

Company Registration Number

04854897

Registered Office

The Marlowe Innovation Centre
Marlowe Way
Ramsgate
Kent
CT12 6FA

Trustees/Directors

Sonia Weaver-Mallion

Secretary

Victoria Chittenden

Christopher Wise

Dr Andrew Robertson

Clive Bassant

Chair

Hannah Tutt

Vice Chair

Piers Anscomb

(appointed 23.7.25)

Natalie Eacersall

(appointed 23.7.25)

Helen Greenard

(appointed 23.7.25)

Bankers

HSBC UK Bank Plc
39 High Street
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8TG

Independent Examiner

Mr S J Wren FCCA

Accountancy Matters (Kent) Limited

The Marlowe Innovation Centre

Marlowe Way

Ramsgate

Kent

CT12 6FA

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OUR HISTORY

Disability Assist was previously known as Centre for Independent Living Kent (CiLK).

CiLK was formed in April 2022 to support the positive promotion and uptake of Direct Payments and independent living for disabled people living in Kent.

Until this point, disabled people in Kent had been struggling to set up a Centre for Independent Living but had not been supported or able to gain funding to achieve it so establishing CiLK was a turning point.

In December 2015, CiLK joined forces with the Simon Paul Foundation, a physical disability organisation based in North West Kent so that disabled people across the county could benefit from universal services with just one point of contact.

The coming together of the two organisations was seen as a very positive step in CiLK's history and enabled CiLK to retain Simon Paul Foundation's staff and the valuable links the organisation had with the North West Kent communities.

On 28 March 2022 the charity changed its name from Centre for Independent Living Kent Limited to Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**Governing document**

Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 4 August 2003 and registered as a charity on 1 December 2004. It was established under a memorandum of association and is governed by its articles of association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustee directors

The directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the number of Trustees must not be less than five. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

New Trustees are provided with an induction into the charity's work and the duties and responsibilities of the Trustee Board.

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board oversees the running of the charity. The CEO has day to day responsibility for the provision of services in line with the policies and plans agreed by the Board.

Related parties

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Risk assessment

The Trustees conduct regular reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures are established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**Objectives and Activities**

Disability Assist for Independent Living, previously known as Centre for Independent Living Kent was set up in 2002 to promote enabling independent living services to disabled people in Kent and Medway. Our vision is a world where disabled people can live as independently as possible, with the same access to the opportunities enjoyed by their non-disabled peers and are included in society as full and equal citizens.

The purpose of the charity is to help disabled people to be self-advocates, to take control over their own lives and to have real choice. Our job is whatever is required to support disabled people to lead a more independent life, from helping people access the right services and information to campaigning for change.

We provide advocacy, peer support, advice, information and a range of support and assistance services which facilitate disabled people's independence.

Activities and Performance

Disability Assist has now completed the third year of our contract with Kent County Council, supporting our front-line services and staff, including four Information Officers who deliver our Information and Benefits Support service. We have benefitted from the support of the Lloyds Bank Foundation, particularly in relation to our governance.

In January, we were delighted to secure funding to be able to deliver this successful service to residents of Medway and have built new relationships with Medway charities, organisations and residents.

Our CEO's Research and Training Fellowship at the University of Kent, as part of the Kent Research Partnership between Kent County Council and the University, came to an end in April 2025. The completion of this study into Multiple Sclerosis and employment is particularly timely with the Welfare reform Bill proposals.

The demand for our services continues to grow and we remain committed to supporting disabled people across Kent. We continue to represent the voice of Kent's physically disabled residents, fighting for inclusion, equity and respect and aiming to make sure that disabled peoples' needs are considered at all levels.

Together with our partners, funders and supporters, we are working towards a future where every disabled person has the opportunity to thrive in society.

Our Impact

We believe that the correct information, advocacy, and support delivered at the right time can change someone's life for the better. This belief is reflected in everything we do and can be seen in the lives of thousands of disabled people that we have helped this year. It has been a challenging year. The rising cost of living, persistent barriers to services, and increased strain on health and care systems have left many feeling forgotten or pushed to the margins. This is where we come in as a trusted, independent, user-led organisation that listens, understands, and acts on our clients' best interests.

Here's what our year looked like in numbers:

- * 3,412 clients supported, with more than 1,100 people contacting us for the first time.
- * £1,675,681.80 in benefits secured.
- * 131 advocacy cases managed with almost 800 hours of direct advocacy support.
- * We received 765 referrals via our webforms.
- * Our monthly e-newsletter now reaches over 1,600 people each month.
- * Our website has seen up to 840 unique visitors per quarter, many of whom are accessing self-help guides, news which affects them, or making referrals.
- * We have supported people with 19,894 interactions or queries, via our online presence and call centre.

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Activities and Performance*Feedback*

Behind the statistics are stories. The numbers represent people who have felt unheard or overwhelmed and, often, people who were unsure where to turn until they found us. Our team's compassion, expertise and peer-led approach makes all the difference. Whether working with clients or other professionals, we have been able to make a difference to many.

"Thank you to Disability Assist for overseeing my challenging times, especially when I had minimal resources of help (means a lot for me). I don't know how things will be for me in future, however. Age is against me with my diagnosis. I'm now able to eat healthier thanks to the extra funding which, when you have Graves' disease or any condition, a healthier diet is a must. I'm concerned about my bone density condition being 45 and speaking with those who have osteoporosis. It can take 10 years to reverse the damage... so I really just need to take care of myself and not overdo it, which is what I have been doing this past 18 months. The system wasn't supportive...until I found your services!" (A Client)

Thank You to Our Funders

Kent County Council
Lloyds Bank Foundation
Philips and Connie Phillips Foundation
The Henry Smith Charity
Medway Voluntary Action (Joy Seed Funding)
Kent Community Foundation

FINANCIAL REVIEW**Financial Overview**

The financial overview for the year to 31 March 2025 is as follows:

Income: £278,483 Expenditure: £264,994

Net income: £13,489 (comprising an unrestricted surplus of £10,232 and a restricted surplus of £3,257 after transfers)

Balance brought forward: £111,944 (of which £17,714 was restricted)

Balance carried forward: £125,433 (of which £20,971 was restricted)

The charity made an unrestricted (general) surplus of £10,232 after transfers. This reflects an increase in funding from Kent County Council coupled with successful fundraising and will enable the charity to cover rising costs in the coming year and maintain its reserves in an uncertain funding environment. The increase in restricted funds for the year was due to the securing of funds to be spent in the next financial year.

Principal Funding Sources

In the year to 31 March 2025, the majority of the charity's income was secured from a Wellbeing contract from Kent County Council. The charity also received income for an advocacy service, grants from Trusts and Foundations, income from the University of Kent for a Research and Training Fellowship, a grant from Lloyds Bank Foundation's d/Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations Fund and new grant funding to establish a service in Medway. Income was also received to cover support costs under Access to Work. A small number of donations were also received.

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Reserves Policy

Disability Assist recognises that there is no legal definition of "reserves" in relation to charities and no specific legal rule about the amount or proportion of funds that should be held as reserve.

Disability Assist is dependent on funding from external sources, and this cannot be guaranteed. The Board of Trustees deem that it is necessary to ensure that Disability Assist has sufficient reserves to continue to operate for a period of three to six months should all funding cease. This time period would allow the Board to identify alternative sources of funding, or if unsuccessful to meet all its obligations to creditors and to cease operating in a considered manner that safeguards the interests of staff, volunteers, service users and stakeholders.

Disability Assist will maintain an appropriate level of reserves through careful budget management. This policy will be reviewed annually, taking into account:

- * The reliability of each source of income and the prospects for securing new funds;
- * Forecasts for expenditure in future years on the basis of planned activity;
- * Analysis of any future needs, opportunities, contingencies or risks, the effects of which are not likely to be able to be met out of income if and when they arise;
- * Assessment, on the best evidence reasonably available, of the likelihood of each of those needs etc. arising and the potential consequences for the charity of not being able to meet them.

At 31 March 2025, the charity's reserves (unrestricted funds less fixed assets) were £103,903.

Going Concern

The charity is considered to be a going concern. The majority of the charity's expenditure is met from committed public sector funds, with additional funds raised from an ongoing programme of fundraising from trusts, foundations and the lottery and the participation in funded projects. Funds are held in reserve to cover any losses of income or for unforeseen expenditure.

Investment policy and activities

The Trustees operate a policy of holding any reserves in an interest-bearing savings account.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The charity will continue to deliver the Wellbeing contract for Kent County Council along with projects and services to support disabled people.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and are confident the objectives and activities undertaken provide significant benefit to the public and are in accordance with its charitable objects, as described in the annual report.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees by :

Clive Bassant - Chairman

Date : 17 September 2025

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 7 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 386 of the 2006 Act other than any requirements that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

S J Wren FCCA
Accountancy Matters (Kent) Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Marlowe Innovation Centre
Marlowe Way
Ramsgate
Kent
CT12 6FA

Date : 26 September 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
INCOME					
Donations and grants	2	32,630	68,296	100,926	90,493
Charitable activities	3	176,540	-	176,540	175,703
Investment income	4	1,017	-	1,017	672
TOTAL INCOME		210,187	68,296	278,483	266,868
EXPENDITURE					
Cost of raising funds	5	14,696	-	14,696	15,268
Charitable activities	5	223,402	26,896	250,298	247,047
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		238,098	26,896	264,994	262,315
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TRANSFERS	6	(27,911)	41,400	13,489	4,553
Transfers between funds	12	38,143	(38,143)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		10,232	3,257	13,489	4,553
Balance as at 1 April 2024		94,230	17,714	111,944	107,391
BALANCE AS AT 31 MARCH 2025		104,462	20,971	125,433	111,944

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	559	2,931
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	9	24,456	63,360
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>137,746</u>	<u>74,061</u>
		162,202	137,421
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>37,328</u>	<u>28,408</u>
		124,874	109,013
NET ASSETS	11	<u>125,433</u>	<u>111,944</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	.		
Unrestricted general fund	12	104,462	94,230
Designated funds	12	-	-
Restricted funds	12	<u>20,971</u>	<u>17,714</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>125,433</u>	<u>111,944</u>

Represented by:

For the financial year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under s.477 Companies Act 2006 and no members have deposited a notice under s.476 requiring an audit.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with s.386 of the Act for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and in accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102.

Approved and signed for issue by the trustees on 17 September 2025.

Victoria Chittenden - Trustee

Clive Bassant - Chair

Company registration number - 04854897

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**a) Basis of accounting**

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

Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd is considered to be a going concern. The majority of the charity's expenditure is met from committed public sector funds, with additional funds raised from an ongoing programme of fundraising from trusts, foundations and the lottery and the participation in funded projects. Funds are held in reserve to cover any losses of income or unforeseen expenditure.

The Trustees consider that Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd is able to operate as a going concern for at least the twelve months from the date these accounts are formally approved. Funding is in place and sufficient reserves are held for the service to continue to operate.

c) Income

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

Donations and legacies - Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable - Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Government grants - Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

d) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes VAT where applicable. All expenditure directly related to the provision of the advisory services is included within the charitable expenditure. Other costs incurred have been allocated between activities for generating funds and governance as appropriate. Where such costs relate to more than one functional cost category they have been split on an estimate of time spent.

e) Significant judgements and estimates

No significant judgements or estimates have had to be made by the Trustees in preparing these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

f) Depreciation of fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £200 are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows :

Office equipment 33% straight line (previously 10% reducing balance)

g) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources receivable by the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds relates to income to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
2 DONATIONS AND GRANTS				
Donations and legacies:				
Donations from individuals	3,830	-	3,830	1,858
Grants including capital grants:				
Access to Work	-	20,799	20,799	30,034
University of Kent	-	32,547	32,547	30,601
Kent Community Foundation	-	-	-	7,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
Cobtree Charitable Trust	-	-	-	4,700
Lloyds Bank Foundation	25,150	-	25,150	6,250
EK 360	-	-	-	50
NHS Kent and Medway	2,000	-	2,000	-
DRUK - Disability Rights UK	400	-	400	-
The Philip and Connie Phillips Foundation	-	9,950	9,950	-
The Henry Smith Charity	1,250	-	1,250	-
Medway Voluntary Action	-	5,000	5,000	-
	<u>32,630</u>	<u>68,296</u>	<u>100,926</u>	<u>90,493</u>
3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
KCC contract income	155,000	-	155,000	148,616
Advocacy income	21,410	-	21,410	27,087
Other income	130	-	130	-
	<u>176,540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>176,540</u>	<u>175,703</u>
4 INVESTMENT INCOME				
Bank interest receivable	<u>1,017</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,017</u>	<u>672</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

5 EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Costs of raising funds :				
Wages and salaries	9,456	-	9,456	8,706
Professional fees	5,013	-	5,013	6,312
Advertising	227	-	227	250
	<u>14,696</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,696</u>	<u>15,268</u>
Charitable activities				
Wages and salaries	118,109	24,257	142,366	131,472
Travel and subsistence	6,431	755	7,186	8,464
Telephone	3,519	-	3,519	2,666
Training	640	220	860	708
Professional fees	-	967	967	-
Sundries	323	380	703	66
Support costs				
Wages and salaries	53,479	-	53,479	70,054
Venue hire and refreshments	768	-	768	368
Insurance	1,979	-	1,979	1,819
Computer costs and IT support	3,200	272	3,472	3,848
Office expenses	387	45	432	583
Printing post and stationery	436	-	436	575
Legal and professional	14,418	-	14,418	11,315
Accountancy fees	4,514	-	4,514	4,903
Payroll costs	330	-	330	330
Bank charges	104	-	104	86
Depreciation	2,372	-	2,372	326
Governance costs				
Wages and salaries	7,092	-	7,092	6,530
Trustee recruitment	1,155	-	1,155	-
Legal and professional	2,586	-	2,586	1,464
Independent Examiner's fee	1,560	-	1,560	1,470
	<u>223,402</u>	<u>26,896</u>	<u>250,298</u>	<u>247,047</u>
Total expenditure	<u>238,098</u>	<u>26,896</u>	<u>264,994</u>	<u>262,315</u>

Of the total expenditure in 2024 of £262,315, £189,522 was unrestricted and £72,793 was restricted.

Following the change of Independent Examiner, the Trustees have reviewed the presentation of the charity's expenditure and although the total expenditure for 2024 has not changed, the breakdown of expenditure has been restated to be consistent with the new presentation.

6 NET INCOME		2025	2024
		£	£
This is stated after charging:			
Depreciation		293	326
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	-
Independent Examiner's remuneration :			
Aims Accountants for Business:	Payroll fees	330	330
	Independent Examiners' fee	-	1,470
Accountancy Matters (Kent) Ltd:	Independent Examiners' fee	1,560	-

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

7 INFORMATION REGARDING EMPLOYEES

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	198,326	203,719
Social security costs	15,674	11,683
Pension contributions	3,393	2,303
Employment Allowance	(5,000)	(5,000)
	<u>212,393</u>	<u>212,705</u>

The average monthly head count was 10 staff (2024 - 12 staff).

The average number of employees based on full time equivalents analysed by function was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Service delivery	4	4
Management and administration	2	2
Support (Access to Work)	1	1
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year or the preceding year.

No trustees received remuneration or were reimbursed expenses (2024 - no trustee received remuneration, but one trustee reimbursed expenses of £39) in their capacity as a trustee.

The total employee benefits (including employers national insurance) of the key management personnel of the charity were £47,278 (2024 - £44,959)

8 FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment	Total £
Cost		
As at 1 April 2024	4,344	4,344
Additions	-	-
Disposals	(729)	(729)
As at 31 March 2025	<u>3,615</u>	<u>3,615</u>
Depreciation		
As at 1 April 2024	1,413	1,413
Charge for the year	2,372	2,372
Disposals	(729)	(729)
As at 31 March 2025	<u>3,056</u>	<u>3,056</u>
Net book value		
As at 31 March 2025	<u>559</u>	<u>559</u>
As at 31 March 2024	<u>2,931</u>	<u>2,931</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

9	DEBTORS	2025 £	2024 £		
	Trade debtors	21,586	61,766		
	Prepayments	2,870	1,594		
		24,456	63,360		
10	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2025 £	2024 £		
	Trade creditors	3,410	3,559		
	Other creditors	1,493	1,399		
	Taxation and social security	5,971	4,543		
	Accruals	3,954	157		
	Deferred income	22,500	18,750		
		37,328	28,408		
11	ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUND				
		General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
	Fixed assets	559	-	-	559
	Current assets	141,231	-	20,971	162,202
	Current liabilities	(37,328)	-	-	(37,328)
	Net assets as at 31 March 2025	104,462	-	20,971	125,433
	ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUND - PREVIOUS YEAR				
		General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
	Fixed assets	2,931	-	-	2,931
	Current assets	119,443	-	17,714	137,157
	Current liabilities	(28,144)	-	-	(28,144)
	Net assets as at 31 March 2024	94,230	-	17,714	111,944

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

12 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	As at 1 04 2024 £	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	As at 31 03 2025 £
		£	£	£	
Restricted funds					
Kent Community Foundation	4,000	-	-	(4,000)	-
Kent Research Partnership	10,727	32,547	(2,639)	(31,900)	8,735
Advice sessions - Maidstone	2,987	-	-	(2,987)	-
Access to Work	-	20,799	(22,318)	1,519	-
Medway Information Officer	-	14,950	(1,939)	(775)	12,236
Total restricted funds	17,714	68,296	(26,896)	(38,143)	20,971
Unrestricted general funds	94,230	210,187	(238,098)	38,143	104,462
Total funds	111,944	278,483	(264,994)	-	125,433

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Kent Community Foundation

The funds were awarded in the previous financial year from the Foundation's Annual Application Route and contribute to the charity's running costs. The funds comprise two grants of £3,000 from the Lawson Endowment for Kent and £4,000 from the Vulnerable Adults Fund. As the funds were a contribution towards running costs, they are shown as a transfer to unrestricted funds.

Kent Research Partnership

The funding is for a research fellowship by Sophie Fournel, CEO, to work on "An exploratory study into how Adult Social Care can better support adults with Multiple Sclerosis to access employment in Kent". The fellowship is part of Kent Research Partnership, University of Kent, funded from the National Institute for Health and Care Research. Funds were spent on staff, research and office costs and the work will be completed in 2025. The transfer to unrestricted funds represents the contribution from the grant towards staffing and running costs.

Advice sessions - Maidstone

The grant from Cobtree Charity Trust was used to deliver advice sessions in Maidstone to help disabled adults to secure benefits that they are entitled to. The grant was spent on staff and delivery costs. The transfer to unrestricted funds represents the contribution from the grant towards staffing and running costs.

Access to work

The grants were from a government programme to help disabled people stay in work. The funds were used for support costs. The transfer from unrestricted funds represents the additional costs met from general funds and not reclaimed

Medway Information Officer

The funding comprises two grants, from Medway Voluntary Action Joy Project Seed Funding (£5,000) and The Philip and Connie Phillips Foundation (£9,950), to establish a service in Medway to support people with a physical disability or long-term disabling health condition to claim eligible benefits, including claims, assessments and support at tribunals. The grant was spent on staff and running costs and continues into 2025. The transfer to unrestricted funds represents the contribution from the grant towards staffing and running costs

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - PREVIOUS YEAR

	As at 1 04 2023 £	Income	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 03 2024 £
Restricted funds					
Access to work	-	30,034	(30,034)	-	-
Ashford Borough Council	4,011	-	(4,011)	-	-
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Kent Community Foundation	-	7,000	(3,000)	-	4,000
University of Kent	-	30,601	(19,035)	(839)	10,727
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Cobtree Charity Trust	-	4,700	(1,713)	-	2,987
Total restricted funds	9,011	82,335	(72,793)	(839)	17,714
Unrestricted general funds	98,380	184,533	(189,522)	839	94,230
Total funds	107,391	266,868	(262,315)	-	111,944

RESTRICTED FUNDS - PREVIOUS YEAR

Access to work

The grants were from a government programme to help disabled people stay in work. The funds were used for support costs.

Ashford Borough Council

The grant was awarded by the Welfare advisory Group towards the costs of a project to support people in Ashford with claims for Personal Independent Payment (PIP), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claims, assessments and support at tribunals, providing tailored, one- to -one practical help with form filling, support to prepare for an assessment and support during that assessment if needed. The grant was spent on staff and delivery costs.

Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust

The grant was awarded as a Stabilising Grant towards back office costs including CEO salary to enable the charity to develop new ideas and relationships, champion disability , mentor the staff team and help to secure funding for long term sustainability. The grant was spent on staff costs.

Kent Community Foundation

The funds were awarded from the Foundation's Annual Application Route and contribute to the charity's running costs. The funds comprise two grants of £3,000 from the Lawson Endowment for Kent and £4,000 from the Vulnerable Adults Fund. The grant was spent on core running costs and spend will be completed in 2024/25.

University of Kent

The funding is for a research fellowship by Sophie Fournel, CEO, to work on "An exploratory study into how Adult Social Care can better support adults with Multiple Sclerosis to access employment in Kent". The fellowship is part of Kent Research Partnership, funded from the National Institute for Health and Care Research. Funds were spent on staff, research and office costs and the work continues into 2024/25. The transfer relates to the purchase of a fixed asset.

Garfield Weston Foundation

The grant was used to contribute to the charity's core operating costs.

Cobtree Charity Trust

The grant was used to deliver advice sessions in Maidstone to help disabled adults to secure benefits that they are entitled to. The grant was spent on staff and delivery costs.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

13 MEMBERS LIABILITY

The company is a company limited by guarantee. Every member of the Charity undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1, to the Charity's assets if it should be wound up while they are a member or within one year after they ceased to be a member, for the costs of winding up and for the adjustment of the rights of persons who have contributed to the Charity's assets.

14 CORPORATION TAXATION

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

15 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The charity did not undertake any transactions with related parties that require disclosure.

Accounts

Company registration number: 04854897

Charity registration number: 1107079

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Alison & Gary Robinson
Aims Accountants for Business
New Stonehill Farm
Stone Hill Road
Egerton
Kent
TN27 9DU

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Contents

Trustees' Report	1 to 12
Independent Examiner's Report	13 to 14
Statement of Financial Activities	15 to 16
Balance Sheet	17
Notes to the Financial Statements	18 to 28

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

About Us

Disability Assist was previously known as Centre for Independent Living Kent. We rebranded in April 2022, with a new name and image.

Our Vision

Disability Assist's vision is a world where disabled people can live as independently as possible.

This means that they have the same access to the opportunities enjoyed by their non-disabled peers and are included in society as full and equal citizens.

Our Mission

We exist to help disabled people in Kent to be self-advocates, to take control over their own lives and to have real choice.

Our job is whatever is required to support disabled people to lead a more independent life, from helping people access the right services and information to campaigning for change.

Our Values

We get it!

We are a user led organisation which means we are run by disabled people. We know the issues because we have lived experience of disability.

We are practical

We offer bespoke support and work with the individual to find the best approach to suit them.

We want to empower

We want to help disabled people to take control and have real choice for a better, more independent life.

We are resourceful

We have the necessary skills, know how to find the appropriate help and who to contact to get the right results.

We are Inclusive

We are a pan-disability organisation and can help adults in Kent with any physical disability or long-term disabling health condition.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Our History

Disability Assist was previously known as Centre for Independent Living Kent (CiLK).

CiLK was formed in April 2002 to support the positive promotion and uptake of Direct Payments and independent living for disabled people living in Kent.

Until this point, disabled people in Kent had been struggling to set up a Centre for Independent Living but had not been supported or able to gain funding to achieve it so establishing CiLK was a turning point.

In December 2015, CiLK joined forces with The Simon Paul Foundation, a physical disability organisation based in North West Kent, so that disabled people across the county could benefit from universal services with just one point of contact.

The coming together of the two organisations was seen as a very positive step in CiLK's history and enabled CiLK to retain Simon Paul Foundation's staff and the valuable links the organisation had with the North West Kent communities.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and are confident the objectives and activities undertaken provide significant benefit to the public and are in accordance with its charitable objects, as described in the annual report.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and Performance

CEO Report

Our second year as Disability Assist has been amazingly successful. The rebrand in 2022 was a turning point in becoming an organisation that people see and understand exactly what we do and who we are here to support. I believe our successes and the number of people reached prove that our efforts and the hard work of every member of the team has contributed to making this a reality, taking Disability Assist further than we thought we could.

The Wellbeing contract funded by Kent County Council is about to enter the third year. The funding pays for front-line services and staff, including four Information Officers who deliver our Information and Benefits Support service.

We continue working as a delivery partner for The Advocacy People, delivering community advocacy to disabled people.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

In July, I started a Research and Training Fellowship at the University of Kent as part of the Kent Research Partnership between Kent County Council and the University. For a long time, we have seen lots of people out of work, struggling with all aspects of their lives and quite removed from society. We have also struggled to recruit disabled people with the necessary skills and experience to roles within the charity. My goal with this fellowship is to understand how disabled people who have been long-term unemployed can be supported to think bigger, have goals and succeed. As an organisation, we want to improve how we work with people, to give them greater choice and control and to get into employment, and also how we can use that understanding in designing future services. Dividing my time between these two roles has been a challenge but I have been supported by a number of colleagues old and new along the way.

At the end of the year, we said goodbye to Angie, an Information officer who has been with us since 2016. Angie is going to be enjoying a well-deserved retirement and we wish her all the best and thank her for her hard work.

Staff Team

During 23/24 the Disability Assist staff team consisted of:

Myself – Chief Executive Officer / Advocate
Donna Francis – Senior Information Officer
Angie Berkley – Information Officer (Left April 2024)
Hannah Daley – Information Officer
Stephen Saxby - Information Officer/Benefits
Luci Conington – Finance
Lizell Williams – Advocate
Tania Nadarajah – Communications Lead

We have continued to work with the following contractors to provide specialist support to the organisation:

Jason Martin – Business Development
Charlie Fox – Fundraising and operational support
Peter Dyer – Finance review and strategic finance support

We have continued with the same accountant, Aims Accountancy, who manage our accounts and run our payroll. They ensure we are doing everything that we need to do now that we are a bigger organisation. Luci Conington, together with Peter Dyer, oversee our finance systems and procedures.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

KCC Wellbeing Contract

Throughout the second year of the Wellbeing contract, I have been meeting regularly with Kent County Council commissioners who monitor the work we are doing, our Key Performance Indicators and the outcomes of the services we are providing. They remain satisfied that the work we are doing is meeting the needs of our beneficiaries and we are exceeding the targets set. In agreement with commissioners, for year three, we have amended some of our outcomes so that they are more in line with the work we are doing and make sense to the people we are supporting. The new outcomes we have added to the existing ones are:

I am supported to have more choice and control

I feel more confident

I feel more optimistic about the future

By supporting people to access information and advice, and they say that they feel listened to and supported to live more independently as a result. Our benefits support service has continued to be our most in-demand service as everyone feels the effects of the cost of living crisis.

Advocacy

During the year we continued working as a delivery partner for The Advocacy People providing community, non-statutory advocacy. Lizell Williams remains as our full time advocate, working to support community advocacy clients.

Disabled Person's voice, raising important issues

I am no longer chair of the Kent Physical Disability Forum, as this has now been ended and a new model established. Regardless, Disability Assist has continued to be a voice for disabled people, highlighting the issues and concerns that are brought to our attention and escalating to decision-makers.

Over the year, we have spoken out about numerous issues including:

Local government funding and cuts to much-needed services. I spoke to Channel 4 News' Paul Macnamara about what this means to disabled people and the voluntary community sector.

Technology and how it may be developed to keep some disabled people more connected, while pointing out to ITV Meridian News that this cannot be the 'go to' option with the need to get out and be a part of society is still crucial.

Accessible public toilets. BBC Radio Kent was interested to hear how the lack of these public conveniences impact on disabled people being able to get out and about.

Disability Assist remains a member of Disability Rights UK and has a seat on Our Voices, the Disability Rights UK forum of Disabled Peoples User Led Organisations from across the country.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Communications

I remain staggered at the success of our e-newsletter and website with growing self-help information resources.

Our clear, user-friendly website showcases the organisation and is constantly developing with self-help information, news about Disability Assist and all the services we can provide. It also has clear referral pathways, and our webforms have received over 650 new referrals during the year, with many more people referring via phone and email.

Our e-newsletter is performing better than the industry average and the number of subscribers has increased by 348%. That means we are now reaching over 1300 people who are opening it, reading it and accessing the information we share.

Medway & non-physical disabilities

Our resources remained limited and focus remains on contracts and agreements we have. We do not currently receive funding to support disabled people within Medway or people with other, non-physical, disabilities but rest assured that we haven't forgotten them. While we continue to seek additional funding, we highlight information for Medway residents through our newsletter and social media platforms. Our self-help guides are designed to be universally relevant.

We are reaching more people than ever before at a time when it is very clear people need us. That is something the whole of Disability Assist is very proud to have achieved and we will continue to build on this success to serve the community going forwards!

Sophie Fournel

Chairman's Report

Our contribution to Kent was acknowledged in September when we were shortlisted in the Kent Charity of the Year Awards. The team enjoyed an evening out at the Great Danes Hotel in Maidstone to celebrate the work of the Voluntary and Community Sector. This year we hope that our efforts will be noticed yet again and perhaps we could even win it!

We continue to complement statutory service providers, with 75% of our Web referrals from public bodies and statutory providers. Our team has supported clients to access available services, to have their voice heard and to live the life they choose.

As our environment becomes more hostile towards disabled people the need for high quality, peer-led support is a lifeline for disabled people in crisis situations who are struggling to pay for basic necessities like food, heating and care costs. During this year, almost 90% of our referrals have been for support with disability benefits claims, including Personal Independence Payments and Attendance Allowance. We are the only organisation in Kent offering a bespoke, personalised service that supports individuals all the way through the benefits process, from completing the forms through to tribunal. We have supported our clients to secure over £3m in eligible benefits; an astounding achievement that makes an immeasurable difference to people's day to day lives.

Our staff team continues to work remotely; minimising core costs and enabling us to focus resources on frontline support for our disabled clients.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

It only remains for myself and all the board of Trustees to thank all of the staff at Disability Assist for their continued hard work and dedication in delivering a service of excellence for many disabled people who have needed to have support over this past year.

Clive is the current Chair but, during the course of the year, Hannah Tutt was Interim Chair for a period.

Clive Bassant

Information Officers Report

I cannot believe that we have completed our second year as Disability Assist delivering the Kent County Council Physical Disability Wellbeing Contract. It has been an extremely busy year supporting thousands of clients across Kent enabling them to be more independent and get the help they need.

The Team

We had a slightly smaller team this year so the workload was bigger for each team member but we have achieved so much. The Information Officers team covers different areas of the county:

Donna, Senior Information Officer covering East Kent and heading up the team

Stephen, Information Officer covering East and West Kent

Angie, Information Officer covering North and West Kent (Angie left us at the end of March, thank you, Angie, for all you have done and for all your hard work)

Hannah, Information Officer covering East Kent

The team met up regularly every couple of months either in person or online to talk through any issues, updates and training needs. We have started having a regular weekly check in on Teams to say hello, talk about our weekend and our working week ahead.

Work Completed

We have worked with a total of 3,085 clients this year, of which 1,237 were new clients.

We have continued to see clients in the community using various venues and only visiting clients in their own homes when needed. The venues we have used are:

- One You, Ashford
- Fusion, Maidstone
- ASDA in Folkestone and Canterbury
- Freedom Centre, Sheerness
- Charlton Centre, Dover (although we have now stopped using this venue)
- Westwood Cross, Broadstairs
- Sure Start, Herne Bay

We have had stands at various events over the year including the Ashford Chronic Pain Group Information Day, Reach Out Event at Folkestone Job Centre, Market Place Event in Ashford, Rise for Disability Event and Kent Care Summit.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Looking ahead

This year feels like it has zoomed passed, it has been very busy with a constant workload and lots of clients to work with. The Information Officers team has been amazing. It is great to work with people who are so passionate and committed to supporting disabled people across Kent. Thank you to each and every one of you.

The only way is up for Disability Assist. We are now well known as an organisation who support disabled people and will continue to do so. I love that we are an organisation run by disabled people supporting other disabled people. I know that our clients really appreciate and value this.

I have been so grateful to the support from the wider team too – Sophie, Tania, and Luci. Thank you to my amazing Personal Assistant, Dawn too. I could not do my job without her.

Let's see what the next year brings for Disability Assist!

Our Impact

Our KCC project is described as a wellbeing service, but in reality it is a lifeline for disabled people in crisis situations who are struggling to pay for basic necessities like food, heating and care costs. Since the start of the cost of living crisis around 90% of the enquiries we receive relate to disability benefits and accessing this support can literally be a matter of life and death for our clients.

During the year our team has supported disabled clients to secure £2,072,419 in eligible benefits. Our calculation is based on the amount of benefits awarded for one year and does not account for the multi-year awards that are the norm.

During the year we continued working as a delivery partner for The Advocacy People providing community, non-statutory advocacy; we have been allocated 111 cases and have invested case time of over 988 hours.

Our website is visited by 550-700 people every quarter. We have created self-help resources including Money Saving Tips & Discounts, Cost of Living Crisis and Benefits Tribunals.

We have continued to raise awareness of the challenges faced by disabled people, and sought to have their voice heard. We have been interviewed by Channel 4, BBC TV and radio, ITV, Kent Online and the Disability News Service. We have given talks to various services, groups and networks including the Stroke Group West Kent, Kent Fire & Rescue, Celebration of Social Care Research, the Medway Neurological Network, a Kent MS Society event, the Kent Care Summit and at the Rise 4 Disability event.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Client Success Stories

We have supported our clients through a wide range of issues and queries this year. Here is some feedback we have received from clients that we have helped with specific queries.

"Your tireless dedication and help throughout this process have been nothing short of phenomenal. I truly would not be in this position without your support. I turned to you at a time when every door was closed, when none of the expected avenues of assistance proved helpful (this included medical teams, social care teams and even Citizen's advice). But you did. You took on a task that I now appreciate is even more substantial than I initially realised. If you hadn't stepped in to help me at that pivotal moment, I would have been stranded, without any viable alternatives and definitely given up. It leaves me wondering how others manage in similar situations without someone as supportive as you in their lives."

"I am so pleased with outcome and now I know how to question an award. Your help has given me more confidence and hope"

"I'm so very grateful for the help and support. Before I met you I didn't have anyone to ask and was feeling quite desperate."

"A brilliant service, thank you."

"I couldn't have filled out the form without your support and I will always be thankful for your patience and kindness."

"Fantastic service! Now I have money to go places."

"I am so grateful that my benefit has been reinstated, I can't thank you enough."

Thank You

Kent County Council

Ashford Borough Council, Welfare advisory Group Grant

Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust

Kent Community Foundation

Garfield Weston Foundation

Cobtree Charity Trust

Lloyds Bank Foundation

One You, Ashford

Fusion, Maidstone

ASDA in Folkestone and Canterbury

Freedom Centre, Sheerness

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Charlton Centre, Dover

Westwood Cross, Broadstairs

Sure Start, Herne Bay

Spadework, West Malling

Financial review

The financial overview for the year to 31 March 2024 is as follows:

Income: £266,868 Expenditure: £262,315

Net income: £4,553 (comprising an unrestricted deficit of (£4,150) and a restricted surplus of £8,703 after transfers)

Balance brought forward: £107,391 (of which £9,011 was restricted)

Balance carried forward: £111,944 (of which £17,714 was restricted)

The charity made an unrestricted (general) deficit of £4,150 after transfers. The deficit was due to a planned investment from the charity's reserves to expand and strengthen the organisation as part of the delivery of the new KCC Wellbeing contract. The increase in restricted funds for the year was due to the securing of funds to be spent in the next financial year.

Policy on reserves

Disability Assist recognises that there is no legal definition of "reserves" in relation to charities and no specific legal rule about the amount or proportion of funds that should be held as reserve.

Disability Assist is dependent on funding from external sources, and this cannot be guaranteed. The Board of Trustees deem that it is necessary to ensure that Disability Assist has sufficient reserves to continue to operate for a period of three to six months should all funding cease. This time period would allow the Board to identify alternative sources of funding, or if unsuccessful to meet all its obligations to creditors and to cease operating in a considered manner that safeguards the interests of staff, volunteers, service users and stakeholders.

Disability Assist will maintain an appropriate level of reserves through careful budget management. This policy will be reviewed annually, taking into account:

- The reliability of each source of income and the prospects for securing new funds;
- Forecasts for expenditure in future years on the basis of planned activity;
- Analysis of any future needs, opportunities, contingencies or risks, the effects of which are not likely to be able to be met out of income if and when they arise;
- Assessment, on the best evidence reasonably available, of the likelihood of each of those needs etc. arising and the potential consequences for the charity of not being able to meet them.

At 31 March 2024, the charity's reserves (unrestricted funds less fixed assets) were £91,299.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Principal funding sources

In the year to 31 March 2024, the majority of the charity's income was secured from a Wellbeing contract from Kent County Council. The charity also received income for an advocacy service, grants from Trusts and Foundations, income from the University of Kent for a Research and Training Fellowship, and a new, three year grant from Lloyds Bank Foundation's d/Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations Fund. Income was also received to cover support costs under Access to Work. A small number of donations were also received.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees operate a policy of holding any reserves held in an interest-bearing savings account.

Plans for future periods

Activities planned to achieve aims

The charity will continue to deliver the Wellbeing contract for Kent County Council along with projects and services to support disabled people.

Going concern

The charity is considered to be a going concern. The majority of the charity's expenditure is met from committed public sector funds, with additional funds raised from an ongoing programme of fundraising from trusts, foundations and the lottery and the participation in funded projects. Funds are held in reserve to cover any losses of income or for unforeseen expenditure.

Trustees and Officers

Trustees: Sonia Jannette WEAVER-MALLION

Paul BURCHETT (resigned 6th December 2023)

Victoria Grace CHITTENDEN

Christopher William Maxwell WISE

Dr Andrew James ROBERTSON

Clive William BASSANT

Hannah Elizabeth TUTT

Chairman: Clive William BASSANT

Vice-Chairman: Hannah Elizabeth TUTT

Secretary: Sonia Jannette WEAVER-MALLION

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 4 August 2003 and registered as a charity on 1 December 2004. The company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

On 28 March 2022 the charity changed its name from Centre for Independent Living Kent Limited to Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the number of Trustees must be not less than five. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

New Trustees are provided with an induction into the charity's work and the duties and responsibilities of the Trustee Board.

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board oversees the running of the charity. The CEO has day to day responsibility for the provision of services in line with the policies and plans agreed by the Board.

Relationships with related parties

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Risk management

The Trustees conduct regular reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures are established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006. The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 13th November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Victoria Grace CHITTENDEN
Trustee

.....
Clive William BASSANT
Trustee

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

**Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD ('the Company')**

.....

Aims Accountants for Business
New Stonehill Farm
Stone Hill Road
Egerton
Kent
TN27 9DU

13 November 2024

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	35,245	82,335	117,580
Charitable activities	4	148,616	-	148,616
Other income		672	-	672
Total income		184,533	82,335	266,868
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(189,522)	(72,793)	(262,315)
Total expenditure		(189,522)	(72,793)	(262,315)
Net (expenditure)/income		(4,989)	9,542	4,553
Transfers between funds		839	(839)	-
Net movement in funds		(4,150)	8,703	4,553
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		98,380	9,011	107,391
Total funds carried forward	14	94,230	17,714	111,944
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	36,064	61,496	97,560
Charitable activities	4	148,616	-	148,616
Other income		366	-	366
Total income		185,046	61,496	246,542
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	(228,036)	(55,007)	(283,043)
Total expenditure		(228,036)	(55,007)	(283,043)
Net (expenditure)/income		(42,990)	6,489	(36,501)
Net movement in funds		(42,990)	6,489	(36,501)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		141,370	2,522	143,892
Total funds carried forward	14	98,380	9,011	107,391

The notes on pages 18 to 28 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
(Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and
Losses)**

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 18 to 28 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

(Registration number: 04854897)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	2,931	1,579
Current assets			
Debtors	11	44,610	47,824
Cash at bank and in hand	12	73,797	66,477
		118,407	114,301
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(9,394)	(8,489)
Net current assets		109,013	105,812
Net assets		111,944	107,391
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	14	17,714	9,011
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		94,230	98,380
Total funds	14	111,944	107,391

For the financial year ending 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 15 to 28 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 13 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Victoria Grace CHITTENDEN
Trustee

.....
Clive William BASSANT
Trustee

The notes on pages 18 to 28 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

R&B Star Units 9 & 10 Nimbus Enterprise Park
Liphook Way
Allington
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 0FZ

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 13 November 2024.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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

Basis of preparation

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The charity is considered to be a going concern. The majority of the charity's expenditure is met from committed public sector funds, with additional funds raised from an ongoing programme of fundraising from trusts, foundations and the lottery and the participation in funded projects. Funds are held in reserve to cover any losses of income or for unforeseen expenditure.

Income and endowments

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

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £200.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture & equipment	10% reducing balance

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments

The Charity only has basic financial instruments (assets or liabilities).

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	1,858	-	1,858
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants	33,387	82,335	115,722
Total for 2024	35,245	82,335	117,580
Total for 2023	36,064	61,496	97,560

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £
Contract income	148,616	148,616
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Contract income	148,616	148,616

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Office and premises costs		16,541	4,453	20,994
General running costs		21,687	490	22,177
Service delivery costs		547	5,184	5,731
Staff costs		150,747	62,666	213,413
Total for 2024		<u>189,522</u>	<u>72,793</u>	<u>262,315</u>
Total for 2023		<u>228,036</u>	<u>55,007</u>	<u>283,043</u>

	Grant funding of activity £	Total expenditure £
Total for 2023	<u>290,352</u>	<u>290,352</u>

Of the unrestricted expenditure above the following costs were support costs;

Accountancy fees £6,703 (£2,592 March 2023)

Wages & salaries £4,949 (£2,211 March 2023)

6 Government grants

Government Grants to assist in providing support to those who want to live independently and want to manage, monitor and pay directly for their own support and assistance requirements.

The amount of grants recognised in the financial statements was £30,034 (2023 - £45,746).

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	203,719	174,851
Social security costs	6,683	(182)
Pension costs	2,303	2,678
Other staff costs	708	11,183
	<u>213,413</u>	<u>188,530</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Employees	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £40,732 (2023 - £38,783).

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	2,666	2,666
Additions	<u>1,678</u>	<u>1,678</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,344</u>	<u>4,344</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	1,087	1,087
Charge for the year	<u>326</u>	<u>326</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,413</u>	<u>1,413</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,931</u>	<u>2,931</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,579</u>	<u>1,579</u>

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	61,766	46,543
Prepayments	<u>(17,156)</u>	<u>1,281</u>
	<u>44,610</u>	<u>47,824</u>

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	42,949	6,301
Short-term deposits	<u>30,848</u>	<u>60,176</u>
	<u>73,797</u>	<u>66,477</u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	8,517	5,261
Other taxation and social security	984	3,230
Other creditors	(264)	(242)
Accruals	157	240
	<u>9,394</u>	<u>8,489</u>

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
Unrestricted	98,380	184,533	(189,522)	839	94,230
Restricted funds					
Access to Work	-	30,034	(30,034)	-	-
Ashford Borough Council	4,011	-	(4,011)	-	-
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Kent Community Foundation	-	7,000	(3,000)	-	4,000
University of Kent	-	30,601	(19,035)	(839)	10,727
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Cobtree Charity Trust	-	4,700	(1,713)	-	2,987
Total restricted funds	<u>9,011</u>	<u>82,335</u>	<u>(72,793)</u>	<u>(839)</u>	<u>17,714</u>
Total funds	<u>107,391</u>	<u>266,868</u>	<u>(262,315)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,944</u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
Unrestricted	141,370	185,046	(228,036)	98,380
Restricted				
Access to Work	-	33,263	(33,263)	-
Ashford Borough Council	-	4,983	(972)	4,011
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust	-	5,000	-	5,000
Medway Council Medway Together	2,522	18,250	(20,772)	-
Total restricted funds	<u>2,522</u>	<u>61,496</u>	<u>(55,007)</u>	<u>9,011</u>
Total funds	<u>143,892</u>	<u>246,542</u>	<u>(283,043)</u>	<u>107,391</u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Access to Work

The grants were from a government programme to help disabled people stay in work. The funds were used for support costs.

Ashford Borough Council

The grant was awarded by the Welfare Advisory Group towards the costs of a project to support people in Ashford with claims for Personal Independent Payment (PIP), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claims, assessments and support at tribunals, providing tailored, one-to-one practical help with form filling, support to prepare for an assessment and support during that assessment if needed. The grant was spent on staff and delivery costs.

Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust

The grant was awarded as a Stabilising Grant towards back office costs including CEO's salary, to enable the charity to develop new ideas and relationships, champion disability, mentor the staff team and help to secure funding for long term sustainability. The grant was spent on staff costs.

Kent Community Foundation

The funds were awarded from the Foundation's Annual Application Route and contribute to the charity's running costs. The funds comprise two grants of £3,000 from the Lawson Endowment for Kent and £4,000 from the Vulnerable Adults Fund. The grant was spent on core running costs and spend will be completed in 2024/2025.

University of Kent

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The funding is for a research fellowship by Sophie Fournel, CEO, to work on “An exploratory study into how Adult Social Care can better support adults with Multiple Sclerosis to access employment in Kent.”. The Fellowship is part the Kent Research Partnership, funded from the National Institute for Health and Care Research. Funds were spent on staff, research and office costs and the work continues into 2024/2025. The transfer relates to the purchase of a fixed asset.

Garfield Weston Foundation

The grant was used to contribute to the charity’s core operating costs.

Cobtree Charity Trust

The grant was used to deliver advice sessions in Maidstone to help disabled adults to secure benefits that they are entitled to. The grant was spent on staff and delivery costs.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,931	-	2,931
Current assets	100,693	17,714	118,407
Current liabilities	(9,394)	-	(9,394)
Total net assets	<u>94,230</u>	<u>17,714</u>	<u>111,944</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,579	-	1,579
Current assets	105,290	9,011	114,301
Current liabilities	(8,489)	-	(8,489)
Total net assets	<u>98,380</u>	<u>9,011</u>	<u>107,391</u>

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	66,477	7,320	73,797
Net debt	<u>66,477</u>	<u>7,320</u>	<u>73,797</u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	At 1 April 2022 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>143,830</u>	<u>(77,353)</u>	<u>66,477</u>
Net debt	<u>143,830</u>	<u>(77,353)</u>	<u>66,477</u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Unrestricted Funds

	Total Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	35,245	36,064
Charitable activities	148,616	148,616
Other income	672	366
Total income	184,533	185,046
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	(189,522)	(228,036)
Total expenditure	(189,522)	(228,036)
Net expenditure	(4,989)	(42,990)
Transfers between funds	839	-
Net movement in funds	(4,150)	(42,990)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	98,380	141,370
Total funds carried forward	94,230	98,380

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Restricted Funds

	Total Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Restricted Funds 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	82,335	61,496
Total income	82,335	61,496
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	(72,793)	(55,007)
Total expenditure	(72,793)	(55,007)
Net income	9,542	6,489
Transfers between funds	(839)	-
Net movement in funds	8,703	6,489
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	9,011	2,522
Total funds carried forward	17,714	9,011

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies (analysed below)	117,580	97,560
Charitable activities (analysed below)	148,616	148,616
Other income (analysed below)	672	366
	<u>266,868</u>	<u>246,542</u>
Total income		
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities (analysed below)	(262,315)	(283,043)
	<u>(262,315)</u>	<u>(283,043)</u>
Total expenditure		
Net income/(expenditure)	4,553	(36,501)
Net movement in funds	4,553	(36,501)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	107,391	143,892
Total funds carried forward	<u>111,944</u>	<u>107,391</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<i>Donations and legacies</i>		
Appeals and donations	1,858	1,785
Corporate Appeals and donations	-	750
Access to Work income	-	26,779
Access to Work income	30,034	33,263
Advocacy income	27,087	7,750
Grants received	6,300	-
Grants received	52,301	9,983
Other contract income	-	(1,000)
Other contract income	-	18,250
	<u>117,580</u>	<u>97,560</u>
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
KCC Contract Income	<u>148,616</u>	<u>148,616</u>
	<u>148,616</u>	<u>148,616</u>
<i>Other income</i>		
Other income	<u>672</u>	<u>366</u>
	<u>672</u>	<u>366</u>
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Wages and salaries	(141,543)	(137,539)
Wages and salaries	(62,176)	(37,312)
Staff NIC (Employers)	(6,683)	182
Staff NIC (Employers)	(3,129)	(594)
Staff pensions (Other) - pension scheme 1	(2,303)	(2,678)
Staff pensions (Other) - pension scheme 1	(928)	(278)
Staff training	(218)	(993)
Staff training	(490)	-
Staff welfare	-	(201)
Travelling	-	(9,989)
Insurance	(1,819)	(1,463)
Telephone and fax	(2,666)	(2,439)
Office expenses	(547)	(499)
Office expenses	(490)	-
Computer software and maintenance costs	(3,527)	(5,011)
Computer software and maintenance costs	(321)	-
Printing, postage and stationery	(575)	(448)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Subscriptions	-	(875)
Travel and subsistence	(7,779)	-
Travel and subsistence	(685)	(880)
Advertising	(175)	(41)
Advertising	(75)	(1,334)
Accountancy fees	(6,703)	(2,592)
Legal and professional fees	(14,592)	(63,157)
Legal and professional fees	(4,499)	(14,609)
Bank charges	(66)	(117)
Depreciation of office equipment	(326)	(176)
	<u>(262,315)</u>	<u>(283,043)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Accounts

Company registration number: 04854897

Charity registration number: 1107079

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Alison & Gary Robinson
Aims Accountants for Business
New Stonehill Farm
Stone Hill Road
Egerton
Kent
TN27 9DU

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Contents

Trustees' Report	1 to 13
Independent Examiner's Report	14
Statement of Financial Activities	15
Balance Sheet	16
Notes to the Financial Statements	17 to 27

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

About Us

Disability Assist was previously known as Centre for Independent Living Kent. We rebranded in April 2022, with a new name and image.

Our Vision

Disability Assist's vision is a world where disabled people can live as independently as possible.

This means that they have the same access to the opportunities enjoyed by their non-disabled peers and are included in society as full and equal citizens.

Our Mission

We exist to help disabled people in Kent to be self-advocates, to take control over their own lives and to have real choice.

Our job is whatever is required to support disabled people to lead a more independent life, from helping people access the right services and information to campaigning for change.

Our Values

We get it.

We are practical

We offer bespoke support and work with the individual to find the best approach to suit them.

We want to empower

We want to help disabled people to take control and have real choice for a better, more independent life.

We are resourceful

We have the necessary skills, know how to find the appropriate help and who to contact to get the right results.

We are Inclusive

We are a pan-disability organisation and can help adults in Kent with any physical disability or long-term disabling health condition.

Our History

Disability Assist was previously known as Centre for Independent Living Kent (CiLK).

CiLK was formed in April 2002 to support the positive promotion and uptake of Direct Payments and independent living for disabled people living in Kent.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Until this point, disabled people in Kent had been struggling to set up a Centre for Independent Living but had not been supported or able to gain funding to achieve it so establishing CiLK was a turning point.

In December 2015, CiLK joined forces with The Simon Paul Foundation, a physical disability organisation based in North West Kent, so that disabled people across the county could benefit from universal services with just one point of contact.

The coming together of the two organisations was seen as a very positive step in CiLK's history and enabled CiLK to retain Simon Paul Foundation's staff and the valuable links the organisation had with the North West Kent communities.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and are confident the objectives and activities undertaken provide significant benefit to the public and are in accordance with its charitable objects, as described in the annual report.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

CEO Report

New Year, Fresh Start

This year, 2022-2023, has been one of great change. We are now called Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd.

We kicked off the year with a massive rebrand project, changing our name and image to ensure we were instantly recognisable for who we are and what we do. I am excited to say that we have achieved this!

I am immensely proud of all our hard work and the way the staff and trustee teams pulled together to transform the organisation to Disability Assist in time to start our new Physical Disability Wellbeing contract!

This contract is commissioned and funded by Kent County Council and is specifically to support the wellbeing of people living with a Physical Disability in Kent. The funding pays for front line services and staff, including four Information Officers who deliver our Information and Benefits Support service.

In previous years, we received grant funding through the council on an annual basis. This method of funding has now ended and I am delighted that Disability Assist has now been awarded a longer-term contract which will help stabilise the charity for 3-5 years.

We have implemented new systems to ensure we keep records in line with GDPR rules and ensure we are able to capture and monitor the outcomes we are supporting our beneficiaries to achieve.

Our staff team has grown and we have brought in new team members to help service the contract, to develop our communications and to work with our beneficiaries.

Rebranding and investing in communications has realised our belief that there were a lot of disabled people in Kent needing our support who we just weren't reaching. A combination of newsletters, media promotions, advertising and presentations to statutory and non-statutory organisations sees us reaching more people than we could ever have imagined. And once people found us and benefitted from clear information and knowledgeable, friendly support team, they have been spreading the word to others.

It has been a learning curve for us all to navigate new ways of working but it has been a real privilege to lead such a dedicated and hard-working organisation.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

We still hold the same ethos and believe that being user led, disabled people supporting disabled people, makes us the best people to be working with our beneficiaries and peers.

Staff Team

During 22/23, the Disability Assist Staff team consisted of:

Myself – Chief Executive Officer
Donna Francis – Senior Information Officer
Angie Berkley – Information Officer
Hannah Daley – Information Officer
Stephen Saxby - Information Officer/Benefits
Madlin Brinton – Administrator
Luci Conington – Finance
Lizell Williams – Advocate
Tania Nadarajah – Marketing & Communications Lead

We have been working with the following contractors to provide specialist support to the organisation:

Jason Martin – Business Development
Charlie Fox – Contract Mobilisation, Fundraising and operational support
Peter Dyer – Finance review and accounts

We have changed our accountant to Aims Accountants for Business, who manage our accounts and run our payroll. This is important as we are now a much bigger organisation.

Our previous bookkeeper, Madlin Brinton, has stepped aside but we remain in touch and are looking for a role for her into the future. She has such a wealth of knowledge and been a part of our organisation for so long that we remain in regular contact.

We have since been joined by Luci Conington who, along with Peter Dyer, are bringing our finance systems and procedures in line with how they need to be for an organisation that has grown and is looking to the future.

KCC Wellbeing Contract

The Wellbeing Contract has introduced new ways of working for all of us. I am pleased to say that the first year of the contract has been a huge success thanks to the very hard work of everyone in the organisation.

I meet regularly with Kent County Council, who monitor the work we are doing, our Key Performance Indicators, the outcomes of the services we are providing. They are very pleased with our first year and we are working with them to ensure our KPIs are sensible and representative of the work we are doing.

We have supported people to access information and advice, and they say that they feel listened to and supported to live more independently as a result. Our benefits support service has also been particularly in demand this year as everyone feels the effects of the cost of living crisis. However, we are particularly proud to have helped people to receive new or increased benefits totaling over £900,000 in the last year alone. This figure represents an excellent return for Kent County Council on their investment in Disability Assist and, most importantly, is an important increase in funds for people who are most in need.

Advocacy

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

During the year we continued working as a delivery partner for The Advocacy People providing community, non-statutory advocacy. Lizell Williams is now our full time advocate, working to support community advocacy clients.

Over the last year, we have been allocated 102 cases and have invested case time of over 1003hours.

Raising important issues

I remained Chair of the Kent Physical Disability Forum during the year. However, we understand that this Forum is to be replaced with a new way of working, although our requests for information on what this will be has not been answered by the organisers of the Forum yet. Regardless, Disability Assist will continue to be a voice for disabled people, highlighting the issues and concerns that are brought to our attention.

Disability Assist remains a member of Disability Rights UK and has a seat on Our Voices, the Disability Rights UK forum of Disabled Peoples User Led Organisations from across the country.

Communications

I am truly amazed by the progress made with our communications.

Our clear, user-friendly website showcases the organisation and is constantly developing with self-help information, news about Disability Assist and all the services we can provide. It also has clear referral pathways, and our webforms have received over 1000 new referrals in the first year. Our Newsletter is performing better than the industry average and the number of subscribers has increased by 348%. That means we are now reaching over 1300 people who are opening it, reading it and accessing the information within.

Medway & non-physical disabilities

Our resources are limited and are being used to service the contracts and agreements we have. We do not currently receive funding to support disabled people within Medway or people with other, non-physical, disabilities but rest assured that we haven't forgotten them. We are seeking the funding to resource additional services to support those people who currently fall outside of our service remit. In the meantime, through our Newsletter and social media platforms, we highlight information for Medway residents and our self-help guides are designed to be universally beneficial.

We are reaching more people than ever before at a time when it is very clear people need us. That is something the whole of Disability Assist is very proud to have achieved and we will continue to build on this success to serve the community going forwards!

Sophie Fournel

Chairman's Report

Over the past year, myself and the board of Trustees have continued to be very impressed with Sophie Fournel's leadership of the organisation which continues to go from strength to strength. During the year, steps have been taken to professionalise the financial reporting for Disability Assist. This has included employing a part time book keeper, out sourcing payroll and retaining the services of Starling Support CIC to assist with presenting quarterly management information to the board of trustees.

The cost of living crisis has hit many of the service users of Disability Assist hard and I am pleased with the response of the organisation to provide much needed support and advice. Results of our ongoing feedback surveys are very encouraging and show the dedication of the staff at Disability Assist in delivering the KCC contracted services.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

During the year, the staff have been involved in several development days, helping to keep the team informed and work on the organisation. This is especially important given the remote nature the organisation operates with no fixed premises and all staff working from home.

The CEO has been working closely with Starling Support CIC and Cap Enterprises to secure additional grant funding to assist with the financial stability of Disability Assist; we await the decision on several grant applications later on in the year.

It only remains for myself and all the board of Trustees to thank all of the staff at Disability Assist for their continued hard work and dedication in delivering a service of excellence for many disabled people who have needed to have support over this past year.

Dr Andrew Robertson

Information Officer's Report

What a year! Our first as Disability Assist delivering the Kent County Council Physical Disability Wellbeing Contract. To sum up the first year in just a few words – busy, exhausting, fulfilling, challenging, rewarding and positive.

The Team

This year we gained two new Disability Assist staff members – Stephen and Hannah – I do not know how we would manage without them now!

Sarah and Donna from KASBAH joined us for the year, it was really helpful to have them on board covering North Kent.

The Information Officers team was made up of:

myself, Senior Information Officer covering East Kent and heading up the team

Stephen, Information Officer covering East and West Kent

Angie, Information Officer covering West Kent

Hannah, Information Officer covering East and West Kent

Sarah (from KASBAH) covering North Kent

Donna (from KASBAH) covering North Kent

The team met up regularly every 6 weeks either in person or online to talk through any issues, updates and training needs.

Work Completed

From April 2022 we have operated a duty system where each of the team (apart from the KASBAH staff) were allocated a day or two to cover the phones and emails dealing with enquiries as they came in. At times, this has been extremely busy. We have continued to use our online database to record clients details and the work completed with them.

The total number of clients supported this year was 1,857. This is a huge number and a testament to the hard work the Information Officers have put in. Benefits work is still the most popular enquiry and we have seen a huge number of clients being supported by us in this area with positive results.

This year, we have been able to see clients face to face again which has been great. We are still mindful of Covid so take regular tests. We now have a fixed number of venues that we use to see clients, including the following:

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

One You, Ashford
Fusion, Maidstone
ASDA in Folkestone and Canterbury
Freedom Centre, Sheerness
Charlton Centre, Dover
Westwood Cross, Broadstairs

Training

The team have completed a number of training sessions this year including suicide awareness, mental health, GDPR and staff wellbeing. These are always really helpful sessions and ensures we are kept up to date and that our own wellbeing is looked after.

Looking ahead

I feel that Disability Assist is firmly on the map in Kent and I look forward to supporting even more disabled people. I think we need to continue to get our message out there, letting people know we are here, who we can support and with what issues. I have really appreciated the amazing Information Officers team and have enjoyed seeing the team come together, work as a team and support each other. Thank you to each and everyone of you.

I have been so grateful to the support from the wider team too – Sophie, Tania, Charlie, Jason, Madlin and it has been great to welcome Luci in recent months.

Thank you to my amazing Personal Assistant, Dawn, too. I could not do my job without her.

Let's see what the next year brings for Disability Assist!

Donna Francis

Our Impact

A Name that Speaks Volumes

In 2022, the charity underwent a transformation, marking a pivotal moment in our twenty-year journey. We began by rebranding in April 2022, which saw us shedding our old identity of Centre for Independent Living Kent (CiLK) to embrace the new name "Disability Assist". This change was a strategic move to better align with our mission, be more recognisable and help us communicate our purpose more clearly. The new identity echoes our commitment to provide support and assistance to individuals with disabilities.

Extending Our Reach

Central to our transformation was a comprehensive marketing and communications initiative that aimed to amplify our presence across the county. We reached out to stakeholders, bridging the gap through digital activity on our website, social media channels, and through an engaging monthly newsletter.

We also maximised our opportunities to speak directly to our target audiences. During launch, our staff and trustees participated in media interviews to publicise the work of the charity and gave interviews on BBC Radio Kent, ITV Meridian and other broadcast channels as well as on podcasts and in local newspapers. Our CEO also chaired 20 forums and groups, ensuring that the voice of disabled people was heard and considered across all levels.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

We delivered over 34 presentations to professionals working across the county in health, social care and other services, as well as attended nine community events to speak to various groups. Engaging with professionals increased awareness of our charity and helped them understand how we can help the disabled people that they work with. This allowed a more collaborative way of working, encouraged referrals to our service and gave professionals working within the community further support for their clients.

Forging Pathways Through Collaboration

Collaboration is at the heart of our success and we know that we can achieve more by working with like-minded organizations to give clients the support that is right for them. Our partnership with KASBAH allowed us to expand our services to Dartford, Gravesham, and Swanley. Furthermore, as a trusted delivery partner in the Kent Advocacy Partnership, we championed the power of disabled voices through community advocacy. This non-statutory service empowered clients to raise issues, understand their choices and navigate challenges with confidence.

A Vision Fulfilled

The culmination of our efforts reflects an unwavering commitment to transforming lives. Through rebranding, expanded outreach and strategic collaboration, Disability Assist has reached more individuals than ever before.

As we reflect on this transformative year, we are proud of the collective dedication of our staff, trustees and partners and will continue working to change more disabled peoples' lives than ever.

We supported 1,857 disabled people - that's 10x more clients than last year!

Over £913,000 of benefits secured for clients

348% increase in e-newsletter subscribers

94% of clients recommend us

Over 3,500 unique visitors to our website

145,000+ social media reach

Clients tell us that we have supported them to

Live more independently

Feel listened to by someone who really understands

Feel less lonely

"The support given to me was very professional"

"There is absolutely no way I would have been able to get through that assessment without your help"

Client Feedback

We have helped to support clients through a wide range of issues and queries and have received some fantastic feedback as a result. Here, two of our clients explain how we were able to help them.

We helped Mrs X, a client with numerous disabling health conditions, who required support with grant applications. This is what she had to say:

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

"Your tireless dedication and help throughout this process have been nothing short of phenomenal. I truly would not be in this position without your support. I turned to you at a time when every door was closed, when none of the expected avenues of assistance proved helpful (this included medical teams, social care teams and even Citizens Advice). But you did. You took on a task that I now appreciate is even more substantial than I initially realised. If you hadn't stepped in to help me at that pivotal moment, I would have been stranded, without any viable alternatives and definitely given up. It leaves me wondering how others manage in similar situations without someone as supportive as you in their lives."

We also helped Mrs Y, who has various disabling health conditions. We were able to support her with her PIP tribunal, including all of the preparations as well as attending this with her on the day. This led to a successful outcome for her.

"I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for the service I have received through Disability Assist. From my initial telephone call to a number provided by a friend, to a home visit by a representative who helped me appeal my second rejection for Personal Independence payments. The onward visits to talk me through the appeals process and finally accompaniment on the day of my tribunal after my third attempt. I have been given impartial, empathetic advice and guidance."

Donna in particular really listened and assisted me to explain to my health needs with a patient, compassionate approach. The fact that home visits were possible, made the whole process so much easier and comfortable to deal with."

I am so grateful for this wonderful service and would not hesitate to recommend to anyone navigating disability services. In fact, I have already on a number of occasions! Well done to the team behind this fabulous provision and thank you for making a difficult time so much easier to bear."

Thank You

Disability Assist would like to thank the following groups and organisations for all their help and support during the year:

Access to Work

Ashford Borough Council

CAP Enterprises

Disability Rights UK

Involve Kent

KASBAH

Keep Talking Services

Kent Association for the Blind (KAB)

Kent County Council and Commissioners

Kent Community Foundation

Medway Voluntary Action

Ross Care

South East Network of Disabled People's Organisations (SENDPO)

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Starlings Support

The Advocacy People/Kent Advocacy Partnership,

We would also like to thank all our members and other individuals who have supported us with their valuable time.

Financial review

The financial overview for the year to 31 March 2023 is as follows:

Income: £246,542 Expenditure: £283,043

Net expenditure: (£36,501) (comprising an unrestricted deficit of (£42,990) and a restricted surplus of £6,489)

Balance brought forward: £143,892 (of which £2,522 was restricted)

Balance carried forward: £107,391 (of which £9,011 was restricted)

The charity made an unrestricted (general) deficit of £42,990. The deficit was due to a planned investment from the charity's reserves to expand and strengthen the organisation as part of the delivery of the new KCC Wellbeing contract. The increase in restricted funds for the year was due to the securing of funds to be spent in the next financial year.

Policy on reserves

Disability Assist recognises that there is no legal definition of "reserves" in relation to charities and no specific legal rule about the amount or proportion of funds that should be held as reserve.

Disability Assist is dependent on funding from external sources, and this cannot be guaranteed. The Board of Trustees deem that it is necessary to ensure that Disability Assist has sufficient reserves to continue to operate for a period of three to six months should all funding cease. This time period would allow the Board to identify alternative sources of funding, or if unsuccessful to meet all its obligations to creditors and to cease operating in a considered manner that safeguards the interests of staff, volunteers, service users and stakeholders.

Disability Assist will maintain an appropriate level of reserves through careful budget management. This policy will be reviewed annually, taking into account:

- The reliability of each source of income and the prospects for securing new funds;
- Forecasts for expenditure in future years on the basis of planned activity;
- Analysis of any future needs, opportunities, contingencies or risks, the effects of which are not likely to be able to be met out of income if and when they arise;
- Assessment, on the best evidence reasonably available, of the likelihood of each of those needs etc. arising and the potential consequences for the charity of not being able to meet them.

At 31 March 2023, the charity's reserves (unrestricted funds less fixed assets) were £96,801.

Principal funding sources

In the year to 31 March 2023, the majority of the charity's income was secured from a Wellbeing contract from Kent County Council. The charity also received income for an advocacy service, income for projects and to cover support costs under Access to Work. A small number of donations were also received.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees operate a policy of holding any reserves held in an interest-bearing savings account.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Plans for future periods

Activities planned to achieve aims

The charity will continue to deliver the Wellbeing contract for Kent County Council along with projects and services to support disabled people.

Going concern

The charity is considered to be a going concern. The majority of the charity's expenditure is met from committed public sector funds, with additional funds raised from an ongoing programme of fundraising from trusts, foundations and the lottery and the participation in funded projects. Funds are held in reserve to cover any losses of income or for unforeseen expenditure.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Registration Number: 1107079 Company Registration Number: 04854897

The charity is incorporated in England & Wales.

Registered Office: R&B Star Units 9 & 10 Nimbus Enterprise Park Liphook Way

Allington Maidstone Kent ME16 0LQ

Independent Examiner: Alison & Gary Robinson

Accountants: Alison & Gary Robinson

Aims Accountants for Business New Stonehill Farm

Stone Hill Road Egerton

Kent

TN27 9DU

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees: Sonia Jannette WEAVER-MALLION

Paul BURCHETT

Victoria Grace CHITTENDEN

Christopher William Maxwell WISE

Catherine Michelle FINNIS, Treasurer, resigned 21 July 2023)

Dr Andrew James ROBERTSON

Clive William BASSANT

Hannah Elizabeth TUTT

Chairman: Dr Andrew James ROBERTSON (to 26 September 2023)

Acting Chair: Hannah Elizabeth TUTT (from 26 September 2023)

Secretary: Sonia Jannette WEAVER-MALLION

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 4 August 2003 and registered as a charity on 1 December 2004. The company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

On 28 March 2022 the charity changed its name from Centre for Independent Living Kent Limited to Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the number of Trustees must be not less than five. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

New Trustees are provided with an induction into the charity's work and the duties and responsibilities of the Trustee Board.

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board oversees the running of the charity. The CEO has day to day responsibility for the provision of services in line with the policies and plans agreed by the Board.

Relationships with related parties

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Risk management

The Trustees conduct regular reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures are established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006. The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 6th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

.....
Victoria Grace CHITTENDEN
Trustee

.....
Clive William BASSANT
Trustee

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD ("the Company")

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

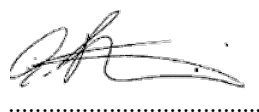
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.


.....

Aims Accountants for Business
New Stonehill Farm
Stone Hill Road
Egerton
Kent
TN27 9DU

6 December 2023

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	36,064	61,496	97,560
Charitable activities	4	148,616	-	148,616
Other income		366	-	366
Total income		<u>185,046</u>	<u>61,496</u>	<u>246,542</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(228,036)</u>	<u>(55,007)</u>	<u>(283,043)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(228,036)</u>	<u>(55,007)</u>	<u>(283,043)</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>(42,990)</u>	<u>6,489</u>	<u>(36,501)</u>
Net movement in funds		(42,990)	6,489	(36,501)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>141,370</u>	<u>2,522</u>	<u>143,892</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>98,380</u>	<u>9,011</u>	<u>107,391</u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	35,116	108,365	143,481
Other income		19	-	19
Total income		<u>35,135</u>	<u>108,365</u>	<u>143,500</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	5	<u>(20,469)</u>	<u>(151,081)</u>	<u>(171,550)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(20,469)</u>	<u>(151,081)</u>	<u>(171,550)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>14,666</u>	<u>(42,716)</u>	<u>(28,050)</u>
Net movement in funds		14,666	(42,716)	(28,050)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>126,704</u>	<u>45,238</u>	<u>171,942</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>141,370</u>	<u>2,522</u>	<u>143,892</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

(Registration number: 04854897)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	1,579	1,755
Current assets			
Debtors	11	47,824	10,663
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>66,477</u>	<u>143,830</u>
		114,301	154,493
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(8,489)</u>	<u>(12,356)</u>
Net current assets		<u>105,812</u>	<u>142,137</u>
Net assets		<u>107,391</u>	<u>143,892</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	14	9,011	2,522
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>98,380</u>	<u>141,370</u>
Total funds	14	<u>107,391</u>	<u>143,892</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements on pages 15 to 27 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 6 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Victoria Grace CHITTENDEN
Trustee

.....
Clive William BASSANT
Trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

R&B Star Units 9 & 10 Nimbus Enterprise Park
Liphook Way
Allington
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 0LQ

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 6 December 2023.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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

Basis of preparation

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The charity is considered to be a going concern. The majority of the charity's expenditure is met from committed public sector funds, with additional funds raised from an ongoing programme of fundraising from trusts, foundations and the lottery and the participation in funded projects. Funds are held in reserve to cover any losses of income or for unforeseen expenditure.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £200.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture & equipment	10% reducing balance

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments

The Charity only has basic financial instruments (assets or liabilities).

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	750	-	750
Donations from individuals	1,785	-	1,785
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants	33,529	61,496	95,025
Total for 2023	36,064	61,496	97,560
Total for 2022	35,116	108,365	143,481

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Contract income	148,616	148,616
		Total 2022 £

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Office and premises costs		10,277	2,206	12,483
General running costs		66,042	-	66,042
Service delivery costs		499	15,489	15,988
Staff costs		151,218	37,312	188,530
Total for 2023		<u>228,036</u>	<u>55,007</u>	<u>283,043</u>
Total for 2022		<u>20,469</u>	<u>151,081</u>	<u>171,550</u>

	Grant funding of activity £	Total expenditure £
Support for disabled individuals	<u>290,352</u>	<u>290,352</u>
Total for 2022	<u>171,550</u>	<u>171,550</u>

Of the unrestricted expenditure above the following costs were support costs;

Accountancy fees £2,592 (£2,700 March 2022)

Wages & salaries £2,211 (£1,367 March 2022)

6 Government grants

Government Grants to assist in providing support to those who want to live independently and want to manage, monitor and pay directly for their own support and assistance requirements.

The amount of grants recognised in the financial statements was £45,746 (2022 - £86,005).

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	174,851	118,591
Social security costs	(182)	-
Pension costs	2,678	-
Other staff costs	11,183	1,891
	<u>188,530</u>	<u>120,482</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Employees	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £38,783 (2022 - £36,103).

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2022	<u>2,666</u>	<u>2,666</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>2,666</u>	<u>2,666</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2022	911	911
Charge for the year	<u>176</u>	<u>176</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,087</u>	<u>1,087</u>
Net book value		
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,579</u>	<u>1,579</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,755</u>	<u>1,755</u>

11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	46,543	-
Prepayments	1,281	480
Accrued income	-	10,183
	<u>47,824</u>	<u>10,663</u>

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank	6,301	124,802
Short-term deposits	<u>60,176</u>	<u>19,028</u>
	<u>66,477</u>	<u>143,830</u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	5,261	-
Other taxation and social security	3,230	(212)
Other creditors	(242)	10,000
Accruals	240	2,568
	<u>8,489</u>	<u>12,356</u>

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
Unrestricted	141,370	185,046	(228,036)	98,380
Restricted funds				
Ashford Borough Council	-	4,983	(972)	4,011
Access to Work	-	33,263	(33,263)	-
Medway Council Medway Together	2,522	18,250	(20,772)	-
Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust	-	5,000	-	5,000
Total restricted funds	<u>2,522</u>	<u>61,496</u>	<u>(55,007)</u>	<u>9,011</u>
Total funds	<u>143,892</u>	<u>246,542</u>	<u>(283,043)</u>	<u>107,391</u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
Unrestricted	126,704	35,135	(20,469)	141,370
Restricted				
National Lottery Community Fund	9,800	-	(9,800)	-
Sport England Tackling Inequalities Fund	2,575	-	(2,575)	-
Disability Action DPO Covid Fund	5,220	-	(5,220)	-
Kent Community Foundation Fidelity UK Foundation Community Development Fund	5,816	-	(5,816)	-
Kent County Council Contain Outbreak Management Fund	-	7,308	(7,308)	-
Kent Community Foundation Kent County Council Strategic Recovery Fund	-	9,360	(9,360)	-
Kent County Council Service Grant	21,827	59,684	(81,511)	-
Access to Work	-	19,013	(19,013)	-
Medway Council Medway Together	-	13,000	(10,478)	2,522
Total restricted funds	<u>45,238</u>	<u>108,365</u>	<u>(151,081)</u>	<u>2,522</u>
Total funds	<u>171,942</u>	<u>143,500</u>	<u>(171,550)</u>	<u>143,892</u>

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Medway Council Medway Together

The grant was used to deliver a partnership project called Medway Together, funded under the UK Government Community Renewal Fund. The charity was one of a number of delivery partners and delivered employability support. The funds were used for support costs, fees, advertising and expenses.

National Lottery Community Fund

The grant was used to extend the SafetyNet project for a further 9 months in order to meet the growing need from isolated, scared and vulnerable disabled people across Kent and Medway for welfare support phone calls. The funds were used for staff costs for a Project Coordinator to recruit and support volunteers, match them with clients and monitor and oversee the project, along with project running costs.

Sport England Tackling Inequalities Fund

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The grant was used to deliver activities to improve health and wellbeing. The funds were used for project fees and support costs.

Disability Action DPO Covid Fund

The grant was used to provide AIG, community Advocacy and benefits support – form filling right through to Tribunal, along with counselling support to staff who have found the pandemic a challenge and who have also been working with people with very complex issues. The funds were used for staff costs, project fees and delivery costs.

Kent Community Foundation Fidelity UK Foundation Community Development Fund

The grant was used to run a research project to shape future services and support provision, gathering evidence of the support needs of people in Kent and Medway living with a disability. Funds were used for research and business development fees and project running costs.

Kent County Council Contain Outbreak Management Fund

The grant was used to raise awareness of the services and support available to physically disabled people across Kent, with the aim to engage new people, and to develop new resources to support each client to plan and action an improvement in their mental health and wellbeing. The funds were used for staff costs.

Kent Community Foundation Kent County Council Strategic Recovery Fund

The grant was used to deliver a project called Future Engagement Now, to develop a new client engagement and communication strategy, helping to rebuild channels for supporting, consulting and advising isolated disabled people across the county. The funds were used for the costs of engaging a digital marketing agency.

Kent County Council Service Grant

The grant was used to deliver services and support for disabled people living in Kent, to help people live independently. Funds were used for staff, service delivery and running costs.

Access to Work

The grants were from a government programme to help disabled people stay in work. The funds were used for support costs.

Ashford Borough Council

The grant was awarded by the Welfare Advisory Group towards the costs of a project to support people in Ashford with claims for Personal Independent Payment (PIP), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claims, assessments and support at tribunals, providing tailored, one-to-one practical help with form filling, support to prepare for an assessment and support during that assessment if needed. The grant was spent on staff costs and continues into 2023/2024.

Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust

The grant was awarded as a Stabilising Grant towards back office costs including CEO's salary, to enable the charity to develop new ideas and relationships, champion disability, mentor the staff team and help to secure funding for long term sustainability. The grant was received in the financial year but will be spent in 2023/2024.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,579	-	1,579
Current assets	105,290	9,011	114,301
Current liabilities	(8,489)	-	(8,489)
Total net assets	98,380	9,011	107,391
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,755	-	1,755
Current assets	151,971	2,522	154,493
Current liabilities	(12,356)	-	(12,356)
Total net assets	141,370	2,522	143,892

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	143,830	(77,353)	66,477
Net debt	143,830	(77,353)	66,477
	At 1 April 2021 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	170,575	(26,745)	143,830
Net debt	170,575	(26,745)	143,830

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Unrestricted Funds

	Total Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	36,064	35,116
Charitable activities	148,616	-
Other income	366	19
Total income	<u>185,046</u>	<u>35,135</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	<u>(228,036)</u>	<u>(20,469)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(228,036)</u>	<u>(20,469)</u>
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(42,990)</u>	<u>14,666</u>
Net movement in funds	(42,990)	14,666
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>141,370</u>	<u>126,704</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>98,380</u>	<u>141,370</u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Restricted Funds

	Total Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Restricted Funds 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	<u>61,496</u>	<u>108,365</u>
Total income	<u>61,496</u>	<u>108,365</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	<u>(55,007)</u>	<u>(151,081)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(55,007)</u>	<u>(151,081)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>6,489</u>	<u>(42,716)</u>
Net movement in funds	6,489	(42,716)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>2,522</u>	<u>45,238</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>9,011</u></u>	<u><u>2,522</u></u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies (analysed below)	97,560	143,481
Charitable activities (analysed below)	148,616	-
Other income (analysed below)	366	19
	<u>246,542</u>	<u>143,500</u>
Total income		
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities (analysed below)	<u>(283,043)</u>	<u>(171,550)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(283,043)</u>	<u>(171,550)</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(36,501)</u>	<u>(28,050)</u>
Net movement in funds	(36,501)	(28,050)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>143,892</u>	<u>171,942</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>107,391</u></u>	<u><u>143,892</u></u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<i>Donations and legacies</i>		
Appeals and donations	1,785	170
Corporate Appeals and donations	750	-
Access to Work income	26,779	-
Access to Work income	33,263	19,013
Advocacy income	7,750	17,696
Grants received	9,983	29,668
KCC income	-	59,684
Other contract income	(1,000)	17,250
Other contract income	18,250	-
	<u>97,560</u>	<u>143,481</u>
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
KCC Contract Income	148,616	-
	<u>148,616</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Other income</i>		
Other income	366	19
	<u>366</u>	<u>19</u>
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Wages and salaries	(137,539)	(17,088)
Wages and salaries	(37,312)	(101,503)
Staff NIC (Employers)	182	-
Staff NIC (Employers)	(594)	-
Staff pensions (Other) - pension scheme 1	(2,678)	-
Staff pensions (Other) - pension scheme 1	(278)	-
Staff training	(993)	-
Staff training	-	(1,891)
Staff welfare	(201)	-
Travelling	(9,989)	-
Rates	-	80
Insurance	(1,463)	-
Insurance	-	(545)
Telephone and fax	(2,439)	-
Telephone and fax	-	(1,392)
Office expenses	(499)	(414)
Office expenses	-	(548)
Computer software and maintenance costs	(5,011)	-
Computer software and maintenance costs	-	(2,819)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Printing, postage and stationery	(448)	(94)
Printing, postage and stationery	-	(453)
Subscriptions	(875)	-
Travel and subsistence	(880)	(1,801)
Advertising	(41)	-
Advertising	(1,334)	-
Accountancy fees	(2,592)	(2,700)
Legal and professional fees	(63,157)	(43)
Legal and professional fees	(14,609)	(40,129)
Bank charges	(117)	(15)
Depreciation of office equipment	(176)	(195)
	<u>(283,043)</u>	<u>(171,550)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Accounts

Company registration number: 04854897

Charity registration number: 1107079

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Alison & Gary Robinson
Aims Accountants for Business
New Stonehill Farm
Stone Hill Road
Egerton
Kent
TN27 9DU

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Contents

Trustees' Report	1 to 12
Independent Examiner's Report	13
Statement of Financial Activities	14
Balance Sheet	15
Notes to the Financial Statements	16 to 25

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Disability Assist for Independent Living provides and promotes enabling independent living services to disabled people in Kent and Medway. It offers advocacy, peer support, advice, information and a range of support and assistance services which facilitate their independence as full and equal citizens in all aspects of life and the wider community.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and are confident the objectives and activities undertaken provide significant benefit to the public and are in accordance with its charitable objects, as described in the annual report.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

From April 2022, we changed our name from Centre for Independent Living Kent (CiLK) to Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd, or Disability Assist. Our services and commitment to helping disabled people across Kent will remain unchanged but we will have a fresh new look and name. Further information about the rebrand is available on our website and will be in the next Annual Report.

ABOUT DISABILITY ASSIST

Disability Assist is a social model, pan-disability organisation of disabled people, established in 2002 to provide enabling support services for disabled people across Kent. Our target audience is primarily those who want to live independently and want to manage, monitor and pay directly for their own support and assistance requirements with a Personal Budget using the Direct Payment option or other resources to do so.

What makes us unique is that we are an independent organisation, run and controlled by disabled people, working towards full and equal citizenship for all disabled people. Directors and staff have lived experience of disability, so Disability Assist is in the control of people who understand the challenges from their own first-hand experience.

Disability Assist exists to help its members and others who share its philosophy to be self-advocates, to take control over their own lives and to have real choice, free from the prescriptive services of government agencies. We believe that by drawing on our own experiences, disabled people are best placed to advise and support each other to independent living

We also offer the following support and assistance services: advocacy / self-advocacy / independent living advocacy, information and support on independent living, access issues, Direct Payments advice and support, disability equality training, peer support, personal development courses and volunteering opportunities.

Disability Assist is committed to:

- The social model of disability, where it's regarded as not the ill-health that is the issue but the barriers we face in society
- The 12 basic needs / rights required for independent living, as defined by disabled people and which non-disabled take for granted

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

- Promoting and maintaining professional standards in all our activities
- Continually working to improve the lives of disabled people in Kent

CEO Report

This year 2021 – 2022 has been one of a lot of change for us at Disability Assist.

With Lockdown coming to an end yet Covid still being very much a part of all of our lives we have continued to be very mindful of the way we work and our service delivery. We are very aware that both staff and beneficiaries are particularly vulnerable to the disease and continue to do all that we can to keep all those people as safe as we can.

We have been following the guidance but also our own safeguards and procedures on top of this that go above and beyond what is expected of us. We are still lateral flow testing ahead of any group or client work, ensuring we can wear masks or visors and requesting we meet in well ventilated spaces.

During 21/22 the Disability Assist Staff team consisted of:

- Myself – Chief Executive Officer / Advocate
- Donna Francis – Senior Information Officer / Advocate
- Angie Berkley – Information Officer / Advocate
- Becky Jones – Information Officer / Advocate
- Madlin Brinton – Administrator
- Lizell Williams – Safety Net Project Lead
- Jason Martin – Business Development (Contractor)
- Tania Nadarajah – Marketing & Communications Officer (Contractor, from January 2022)

We have been continuing to deliver our key services during the year:

Community Advocacy

Peer Support

Benefits Support

Information, Advice & Guidance

In addition to that we continued to run Safety Net, our Covid response project providing telephone befriending. As restrictions have eased there has been less demand for telephone befriending. Clients have become more in need of face-to-face befriending and a buddy or support to go out and about in the community. Unfortunately, this is not a service that we are able to provide at this time and a number of our volunteers needed to return to the workplace and other commitments due to the change in Covid restrictions.

We decided to end this project and are very grateful to the funders who enabled it to happen and the volunteers who worked so hard to support disabled and isolated people during this very difficult time.

Lizell Williams has agreed to remain with us and has become an Advocate supporting our Community Advocacy clients.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Medway Together

We worked with the YMCA and the University of Greenwich to support their Medway Together project. This looked to support people as we come out of the Pandemic. The aim was to get more people in to work. We worked with two people with Lived Experience of Disability, Abi Smith and Andy Isbister. They worked hard on this project to identify and connect with disabled people.

It soon became clear that this was not the position Disabled People in Medway were in. Two years of shielding or isolation has had a very negative impact on people who even before Covid were struggling. We were able to stretch the project and funding to supporting people to look to moving forward, whatever moving forward meant to the individual. The project being short, time limited was a real challenge and really highlighted the need for additional support in Medway. Funding to resource and support people in Medway remains high on our agenda and part of our future strategic plan.

Disabled Person's voice and raising important issues

I remain as Chair of the Kent Physical Disability Forum. I represent Disability Assist and the Forum at different meetings including the All Party Parliamentary Groups at Westminster. All of these have been held online via Zoom and Teams. Participation numbers in the forum has decreased but some new people have joined us who prefer the virtual participation.

However, participation in the APPGs has rocketed with regularly over 100 people attending from DPULOs (Disabled People's User Led Organisations) all over the country.

Alongside this I sit on:

Our Voices the Disability Rights UK forum of Disabled Peoples User Led Organisations across the country.

SENDPO, South East Network of Disabled Peoples' Organisations

PD Net, a network for those supporting learners with Physical Disabilities.

New staff and goodbye to Becky

At the end of this year we said goodbye to Becky Jones who joined us during the Pandemic as an Information Officer. We very much enjoyed working with Becky and wish her every success in the future. I am sure that as an organisation we will remain in contact with her.

Following a recruitment drive we are very happy that we will be welcoming a new member of the team, another Information Officer who will be joining us in 2022.

New KCC Contract

For many years we have enjoyed grant funding from Kent County Council. For about the last four years they had been talking about withdrawing this and many other community grants with a move to contracted services. Many delays later and this tender process started. We worked with Jason Martin to prepare a tender bid to deliver the Kent Wide Physical Disability Wellbeing contract. I am very please to report that the incredibly hard work paid off and we won the tender. During the next three years we will be working with our service delivery partner, KASBAH, to deliver wellbeing support to those with a Physical Disability. The contract is for three years with the potential to extend this for two additional years. This is a very exciting time and the new service will be delivered under our new name, Disability Assist.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Looking to the future

This was the last year that we would be known as Centre for Independent Living Kent. In line with our Strategic Development Plan we worked hard during the year on Rebranding the organisation. Our reason for doing so is to bring the organisation up to date. To ensure that we reach more people by being clear about who we are, what we do and who we are here to support.

Centre for Independent Living Kent was established in 2002 when each county in England had a Centre for Independent Living that worked alongside the National Centre for Independent Living. At the time this was inline with the national movement but over time this became less clear and the national organisation merged with others and the regional organisations have been rebranding since. We felt it was really important that we ensured the organisation was forward thinking and fit for the future.

Working with The Good Company, the name Disability Assist for Independent Living was agreed and we are to be known as Disability Assist from the beginning of the next financial year!

The rebrand process has been long and very hard work. We feel strongly that this is a positive step forward and we maintain the values and ethos of Centre for Independent Living Kent.

Communications

High on our strategic plan is the need to increase the number of people we support each year, reaching disabled people has always been a great challenge. A grant from Kent County Council during the Pandemic enabled us to work with a Marketing and Communications professional. Tania Nadarajah, a Paralympian, was known to the organisation and we brought her onboard.

Tania has been working with us on the rebrand and has prepared a Marketing Communications strategy. This was vital during the pandemic to help us reach new people and to get the message out there that we are here and able to support them. I am really pleased that we are able to write the communications role in to our Wellbeing Contract and Tania will be remaining with us into the future. The impact of her role has been great and made a huge difference to our reach.

Sad News

We very sadly said goodbye to Allen Jones Chairman of CiLK for very many years, disability campaigner and friend.

Thank you, Allen, for all that you did for us, our organisation and all the thousands of people who have benefitted from what you set up. Your legacy - We promise we will carry forward. The name may have changed but the ethos, the reason for its being, that remains the same and as strong as ever.

- Sophie Fournel

Chairman's Report

Over the last year there have been many exciting changes to the organisation, culminating in the successful bid to provide welfare services to disabled people in Kent. This is especially poignant given that during the year two similar organisations (DISK and CROP) sadly closed.

As we have come out of COVID times the staff have done an incredibly good job of adapting to the new 'norm' conducting both remote and in person visits in a safe and effective manner.

This has been my first year as Chairman and I have taken the opportunity to meeting in person with several long-standing members of staff. Their dedication to the organisation speaks volumes of the leadership shown by the CEO, who I remain very impressed with.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Over the last year the pace of change was rapid at times but this was necessary to prepare to deliver to the new contract with KCC. These changes involved re-branding, re-naming and re-launching the organisations website.

There are exciting times ahead for the charity and I am confident that the team in place are well equipped to meet the needs of the organisation.

Dr. Andrew Robinson

Making the Difference

The effects of Covid continue to be felt throughout our operations and we experienced limitations in the number of people we could reach due to restrictions in meeting face-to-face and through our usual outreach activity.

As a result of this, we have looked into alternative methods for maximising our reach by focusing on a marketing and communications plan that both increases our digital activity and promotes our services to professionals who are working with disabled people across the county. We also did a considerable amount of work in the first quarter of 2022 towards rebranding the organisation so that we had clear branding and messaging that allowed people to understand who we are and the type of support we can offer.

The new way of working also extended to staff, who continued working largely from home which had an impact on the way we are able to share information internally. To ensure we were working effectively, we moved our client data to an online CRM system which allows us to record data in a more efficient way and share vital information internally so that we can better support our clients.

As a result of our efforts, during the 2021-2022 year, we were able to work with numerous clients to support them with a wide range of needs that were tailored to the individual's requirements.

Our impact 2021 - 2022:

- 205 clients supported. Support was provided via a mixture of online, telephone and in-person services, adhering to government guidelines at all times.
- 30 clients supported by befriending phone calls via the SafetyNet project. We stopped actively promoting the project in November 2021 due to the reduced number of volunteers, growing waiting lists and knowing we were drawing the project to a close in March 2022.
- 15 trained volunteers; of these, 10 remained active during this period
- 78 Advocacy cases, totalling 723.9 hours of work.

Client Feedback

We have helped to support clients through a wide range of issues and queries and have received some fantastic feedback as a result. Here, two of our clients explain how we were able to help them.

Mrs X is hearing impaired and needed support with a PIP tribunal. She required a face to face hearing and our Information Officer was able to support her throughout the process.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Mrs X said, "The support given to me was extremely professional and I will admit that without it, I would not have continued with DLA / PIP application which I found very confusing and unsupportive to me as an individual. I would and do recommend to others to contact you for guidance and advice for help with their disability, most of whom have hidden needs and not visible disability aids. It was a disturbing experience with dealing with the authorities at times but when your Information Officer explained things to me, she made me feel human and was so supportive it was truly a blessing. It is not just a question of receiving benefits, it is more to do with understanding the needs of those affected with a disability and how they are unable to cope with basic every day issues."

Another client, Ms Y, needed assistance with multiple issues, including contacting social services, applying for benefits and also advocacy. Our Information Officer was able to offer support across all of these areas to reassure the client and help with often complicated processes.

Ms Y said, "I was very capable of handling matters 2 years ago when my mother died, and I did tell the Information Officer that I've done these forms for others with success and thought I could do it on my own. Throughout all that time, she still stood by, checked in with me, and continued to offer help in completing an overdue PIP from 2018! I had a realisation at one point there was no way I could do it on my own. But she was right there, on the phone with me, to the assessors and the customer service- she backed me up 100 percent to assist me in stating my needs, or inform them of my multi life situations and, when we did eventually get that face to face meeting, there is absolutely no way I would have been able to get through that assessment without her."

Information Officers Report

Overview

This past year continued to be a challenge due to Covid but we carried on supporting disabled people in the ways we could. Most of our work was carried out remotely via phone, email and online platforms. However we did start to see clients face to face again in line with Government guidelines.

The Information Officer team was made up of Donna Francis, Senior Information Officer covering East Kent, Angie Berkley Information Officer covering West Kent, including Medway, and Becky Jones Information Officer covering the whole of Kent and Medway. Becky left us at the end of the year and we wish her well for the future. I want to thank Becky for all the hard work she gave along with her knowledge and calmness. She has been missed.

Work Completed

We continued to cover a range of issues including benefits, housing, accessing services alongside providing information, advice and guidance on issues around independent living such as how to get wheelchair, support at home, aids and equipment and much more. The Information Officers continued to be advocates under the work we completed with Kent Advocacy. We also continued to advertise the telephone befriending service.

Angie and Becky worked on the Older People's project in West Kent which saw people aged over 55 be supported.

We were able to attend some venues/organisations face to face and continued to attend some online. This meant that we could continue to let people know what services we were offering and that we were still here despite lockdowns and a pandemic. This included The Hub at Cheriton Baptist Church, Kent MS Therapy Centre in Canterbury, the Glo Community Hub in Thanet, Ashford Chronic Pain Group and Talk in Out in Deal.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

During this past year benefit assessments and tribunals opened up again. We were able to support clients at their assessments/tribunals over the phone and via video. This was more challenging as we did not always meet the client face to face but we made it work and continued to offer the best support we could. We were able to help client's prepare for their assessments and attend them too often being added to the telephone call by the assessment/tribunal service. This ensured that client's continued to be supported.

The Information Officers attended training around benefits, safeguarding and webinars covering various topics. This ensured that our knowledge was kept up to date.

Challenges

Working around lockdowns and restrictions continued to be a challenge during this year but we rose above them as a team. Although we couldn't always meet together as a team face to face we made sure that we met regularly online with monthly team meetings. Looking out for each other during this time was particularly important.

Client cases were challenging at times with many not having seen someone for so long. A number of cases were complex, we took time listening to the client and seeing what support we could offer to enable them to get the support they needed.

Looking Ahead

I personally have been very grateful to my fellow Information Officers for their support during this last year which was tough at times. I have also really appreciated support from Sophie, Jason, Lizell and Madlin.

I have welcomed a new PA, Dawn, who is now supporting me in my role. Dawn has slotted in so well and I can't imagine not having her as my PA.

As we move into a new year it has been all change, with a new name, new members of staff to join the Information Officers team, Stephen, Hannah and Sarah (who works with KASBAH) who have all settled in so quickly and a new role for me leading the Information Officers team. We are now a team made up of 5 and I am very grateful to each one of them. All of our roles have changed slightly as we move ahead with the KCC contract, and I am proud of us all for how we have embraced the change and continue to be there to support disabled people in Kent.

It has also been great to welcome Charlie and Tania to the wider team, their knowledge and support have been extremely valuable.

I am excited about our future. Never has there been more need for a user-led organisation to support the many disabled people in Kent. Just to hear the relief in a client's voice when they hear that you are a fellow disabled person is all the encouragement we need to keep on going in our roles.

Our Services

This year, we focused on keeping our services running safely in the pandemic and helping disabled people through all the changes. We also took some of our activities online and provided the vital information that people needed through our website and social media channels.

Donna Francis

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Thank You

Centre for Independent Living Kent Ltd / Disability Assist for Independent Living would like to thank the following groups and organisations for all their help and support during the year:

Access to Work

Ashford Borough Council

Awards for All

DIAL Kent

DISK (Disability Information Services Kent)

Disability Rights UK

Involve Kent

KASBAH

KCC Families and Social Care

Kent Advocacy

South East Network of Disabled People's Organisations (SENDPO)

Spectrum CIL

The Good Company

Medway Voluntary Action

Wheelchair Users' Group

We would also like to thank all our members and all those other individuals who have supported us with their valuable time.

Financial review

The financial overview for the year to 31 March 2022 is as follows:

Income: £143,500

Expenditure: £171,550

Net expenditure: (£28,050) (comprising an unrestricted surplus of £14,666 and a restricted deficit of (£42,716))

Balance brought forward: £171,492 (of which £45,238 was restricted)

Balance carried forward: £143,892 (of which £2,522 was restricted)

The charity made an unrestricted (general) surplus of £14,666. The reduction in restricted funds for the year was due to the spending of funds brought forward from the previous financial year.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Policy on reserves

The charity recognises that:

- There is no legal definition of "reserves" in relation to organisations and charities and no specific legal rule about the amount or proportion of an organisation and charity's income funds that it is allowed to hold as reserve.
- Trustees are under a general legal duty to apply an organisation and charity funds within a reasonable time of receiving them, and holding these funds in reserve does not comply with this duty. If it is done without justification, the holding of income in reserve may amount to a breach of trust.

As with most voluntary organisations, the charity relies on funding from external sources, and this funding cannot be guaranteed. The Trustees believe that it is therefore necessary to ensure the charity has sufficient reserves to continue to operate for a period of three - six months should all funding cease. This time period would allow the charity to attempt to identify alternative sources of funding, and if this was not fruitful to wind down the service, giving employees a generous notice of redundancy. The charity is currently working to hold reserves that would cover this period, and will endeavour to maintain it by adhering to an agreed annual budget of expenditure.

The annual budget, this policy, and the level of reserves needed will be reviewed annually, taking into account:

- The reliability of each source of income and the prospects for opening up new sources;
- Forecasts for expenditure in future years on the basis of planned activity;
- Analysis of any future needs, opportunities, contingencies or risks, the effects of which are not likely to be able to be met out of income if and when they arise;
- Assessment, on the best evidence reasonably available, of the likelihood of each of those needs etc arising and the potential consequences for the charity of not being able to meet them.

At 31 March 2022, the charity's reserves (unrestricted funds less fixed assets) were £139,615. In the coming finance year 2022-2023, expenditure is budgeted to increase significantly, to £290,568.

Principal funding sources

In the year to 31 March 2022, the majority of the charity's income was secured from grant funding, with the largest single source from Kent County Council. The charity also received income for an advocacy service, income for projects and organisational strengthening and to cover support costs under Access to Work. A small number of donations were also received.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees operate a policy of holding any reserves held in an interest-bearing savings account.

Plans for future periods

Activities planned to achieve aims

In the year 2022-2023 the charity was successful in securing a Kent County Council contract for services, which has enabled the charity to expand its work and recruit additional staff.

Going concern

The charity is considered to be a going concern. The majority of the charity's expenditure is met from committed public sector funds, with additional funds raised from an ongoing programme of fundraising from trusts, foundations and the lottery and the participation in funded projects. Funds are held in reserve to cover any losses of income or for unforeseen expenditure.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Registration Number:	1107079
Company Registration Number:	04854897
	The charity is incorporated in England & Wales.
Registered Office:	R&B Star Units 9 & 10 Nimbus Enterprise Park Liphook Way Allington Maidstone Kent ME16 0LQ
Independent Examiner:	Alison & Gary Robinson Aims Accountants for Business New Stonehill Farm Stone Hill Road Egerton Kent TN27 9DU
Accountants:	Alison & Gary Robinson Aims Accountants for Business New Stonehill Farm Stone Hill Road Egerton Kent TN27 9DU

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Sonia Jannette WEAVER-MALLION Paul BURCHETT Victoria Grace CHITTENDEN Christopher William Maxwell WISE Catherine Michelle FINNIS, Treasurer, Treasurer Dr Andrew James ROBERTSON Clive William BASSANT (appointed 21 October 2021) Hannah Elizabeth TUTT
Chairman:	Dr Andrew James ROBERTSON
Secretary:	Sonia Jannette WEAVER-MALLION

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 4 August 2003 and registered as a charity on 1 December 2004. The company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

On 28 March 2022 the charity changed its name from Centre for Independent Living Kent Limited to Disability Assist for Independent Living Ltd.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the number of Trustees must be not less than five. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

New Trustees are provided with an induction into the charity's work and the duties and responsibilities of the Trustee Board.

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board oversees the running of the charity. The CEO has day to day responsibility for the provision of services in line with the policies and plans agreed by the Board.

Relationships with related parties

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Risk management

The Trustees conduct regular reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures are established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

Cash Grant £10,000

The charity held a grant of £10,000 from Henry Smith Charity on behalf of CAP Enterprise.

This is shown on the Balance Sheet as Other Creditors and within Cash at bank and in hand. This grant was transferred to the recipient during the 2022/2023 financial year.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Trustees' Report

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 26 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Victoria Grace CHITTENDEN
Trustee

.....
Dr Andrew James ROBERTSON
Chairman and Trustee

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD ("the Company")

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.



.....

Aims Accountants for Business
New Stonehill Farm
Stone Hill Road
Egerton
Kent
TN27 9DU

26 January 2023

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	35,116	108,365	143,481
Other income		19	-	19
Total income		35,135	108,365	143,500
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	4	(20,469)	(151,081)	(171,550)
Total expenditure		(20,469)	(151,081)	(171,550)
Net income/(expenditure)		14,666	(42,716)	(28,050)
Net movement in funds		14,666	(42,716)	(28,050)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		126,704	45,238	171,942
Total funds carried forward	14	141,370	2,522	143,892
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	15,814	160,619	176,433
Other income		77	-	77
Total income		15,891	160,619	176,510
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	4	(13,456)	(115,381)	(128,837)
Total expenditure		(13,456)	(115,381)	(128,837)
Net income		2,435	45,238	47,673
Net movement in funds		2,435	45,238	47,673
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		124,269	-	124,269
Total funds carried forward	14	126,704	45,238	171,942

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2021 is shown in note 14.

The notes on pages 16 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

(Registration number: 04854897)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	1,755	1,367
Current assets			
Debtors	11	10,663	-
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>143,830</u>	<u>170,575</u>
		154,493	170,575
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(12,356)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net current assets		<u>142,137</u>	<u>170,575</u>
Net assets		<u>143,892</u>	<u>171,942</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	14	2,522	45,238
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>141,370</u>	<u>126,704</u>
Total funds	14	<u>143,892</u>	<u>171,942</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

The financial statements on pages 14 to 25 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 26 January 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Victoria Grace CHITTENDEN
Trustee

.....
Dr Andrew James ROBERTSON
Chairman and Trustee

The notes on pages 16 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

R&B Star Units 9 & 10 Nimbus Enterprise Park
Liphook Way
Allington
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 0LQ

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on 26 January 2023.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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

Basis of preparation

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The charity is considered to be a going concern. The majority of the charity's expenditure is met from committed public sector funds, with additional funds raised from an ongoing programme of fundraising from trusts, foundations and the lottery and the participation in funded projects. Funds are held in reserve to cover any losses of income or for unforeseen expenditure.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £200.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture & equipment	10% reducing balance

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Financial instruments

The Charity only has basic financial instruments (assets or liabilities).

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	170	-	170
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants	34,946	108,365	143,311
Total for 2022	35,116	108,365	143,481
Total for 2021	15,814	160,619	176,433

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Office and premises costs		14	5,209	5,223
General running costs		2,953	548	3,501
Service delivery costs		414	41,930	42,344
Staff costs		17,088	103,394	120,482
Total for 2022		<u>20,469</u>	<u>151,081</u>	<u>171,550</u>
Total for 2021		<u>13,456</u>	<u>115,381</u>	<u>128,837</u>

	Grant funding of activity £	Total expenditure £
Support for disabled individuals	<u>171,550</u>	<u>171,550</u>
Total for 2021	<u>128,837</u>	<u>128,837</u>

Of the unrestricted expenditure above the following costs were support costs;

Accountancy fees £2,700 (£300 March 2021)

Wages & salaries £1,367 (£1,367 March 2021)

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

5 Government grants

Government Grants to assist in providing support to those who want to live independently and want to manage, monitor and pay directly for their own support and assistance requirements.

The amount of grants recognised in the financial statements was £86,005 (2021 - £113,294).

6 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

2022
£

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	118,591	98,945
Other staff costs	<u>1,891</u>	<u>704</u>
	<u>120,482</u>	<u>99,649</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2022 No	2021 No
Employees	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £36,103 (2021 - £31,746).

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2021	2,083	2,083
Additions	583	583
At 31 March 2022	2,666	2,666
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2021	716	716
Charge for the year	195	195
At 31 March 2022	911	911
Net book value		
At 31 March 2022	1,755	1,755
At 31 March 2021	1,367	1,367

11 Debtors

	2022 £
Prepayments	480
Accrued income	10,183
	10,663

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank	124,802	154,782
Short-term deposits	19,028	15,793
	143,830	170,575

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	(212)
Other creditors	10,000
Accruals	2,568
	<u>12,356</u>

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
Unrestricted	126,704	35,135	(20,469)	141,370
Restricted funds				
National Lottery Community Fund	9,800	-	(9,800)	-
Sport England Tackling Inequalities Fund	2,575	-	(2,575)	-
Disability Action DPO Covid Fund	5,220	-	(5,220)	-
Kent Community Foundation Fidelity UK Foundation Community Development Fund	5,816	-	(5,816)	-
Kent County Council Contain Outbreak Management Fund	-	7,308	(7,308)	-
Kent Community Foundation Kent County Council Strategic Recovery Fund	-	9,360	(9,360)	-
Kent County Council Service Grant	21,827	59,684	(81,511)	-
Access to Work	-	19,013	(19,013)	-
Medway Council Medway Together	-	13,000	(10,478)	2,522
Total restricted funds	<u>45,238</u>	<u>108,365</u>	<u>(151,081)</u>	<u>2,522</u>
Total funds	<u>171,942</u>	<u>143,500</u>	<u>(171,550)</u>	<u>143,892</u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
Unrestricted	124,269	15,891	(13,456)	126,704
Restricted				
National Lottery Community Fund	-	9,800	-	9,800
NSUN Covid Fund	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Kent Community Foundation	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
National Lottery Covid 19 grant	-	9,650	(9,650)	-
Sport England Tackling Inequalities Fund	-	8,155	(5,580)	2,575
Disability Action DPO Covid Fund	-	10,875	(5,655)	5,220
Kent Community Foundation Fidelity UK Foundation Community Development Fund	-	13,000	(7,184)	5,816
Ashford Borough Council 1	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
Ashford Borough Council 2	-	2,050	(2,050)	-
Kent County Council Service Grant	-	80,908	(59,081)	21,827
Access to Work	-	20,181	(20,181)	-
Total restricted funds	-	160,619	(115,381)	45,238
Total funds	124,269	176,510	(128,837)	171,942

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Medway Council Medway Together

The grant was used to deliver a partnership project called Medway Together, funded under the UK Government Community Renewal Fund. The charity was one of a number of delivery partners and delivered employability support. The funds were used for support costs, fees, advertising and expenses. The project continues in 2022/23.

National Lottery Community Fund

The grant was used to extend the SafetyNet project for a further 9 months in order to meet the growing need from isolated, scared and vulnerable disabled people across Kent and Medway for welfare support phone calls. The funds were used for staff costs for a Project Coordinator to recruit and support volunteers, match them with clients and monitor and oversee the project, along with project running costs.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Sport England Tackling Inequalities Fund

The grant was used to deliver activities to improve health and wellbeing. The funds were used for project fees and support costs.

Disability Action DPO Covid Fund

The grant was used to provide AIG, community Advocacy and benefits support – form filling right through to Tribunal, along with counselling support to CiLK staff who have found the pandemic a challenge and who have also been working with people with very complex issues. The funds were used for staff costs, project fees and delivery costs.

Kent Community Foundation Fidelity UK Foundation Community Development Fund

The grant was used to run a research project to shape future services and support provision, gathering evidence of the support needs of people in Kent and Medway living with a disability. Funds were used for research and business development fees and project running costs.

Kent County Council Contain Outbreak Management Fund

The grant was used to raise awareness of the services and support available to physically disabled people across Kent, with the aim to engage new people, and to develop new resources to support each client to plan and action an improvement in their mental health and wellbeing. The funds were used for staff costs.

Kent Community Foundation Kent County Council Strategic Recovery Fund

The grant was used to deliver a project called Future Engagement Now, to develop a new client engagement and communication strategy, helping to rebuild channels for supporting, consulting and advising isolated disabled people across the county. The funds were used for the costs of engaging a digital marketing agency.

Kent County Council Service Grant

The grant was used to deliver services and support for disabled people living in Kent, to help people live independently. Funds were used for staff, service delivery and running costs.

Access to Work

The grants were from a government programme to help disabled people stay in work. The funds were used for support costs.

NSUN Covid-19 Fund

The grant, from the National Survivor User Network (NSUN) was used to support peer support, community action and mutual aid for mental health during Covid-19. Funds were used for IT and project delivery support costs.

National Lottery Community Fund Covid 19 grant

The grant was used to establish the SafetyNet project, to maintain contact with Kent/Medway-based disabled people at heightened risk of serious health and mental wellbeing issues in order to ensure they were connected into the support and care they needed during COVID-19 lockdown and afterwards. Funds were used for staff project delivery, volunteer support and service delivery costs.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Ashford Borough Council Coronavirus Community Fund (1 & 2)

The grants were used to support the organisation during Covid-19. Funds were used towards staff costs for the SafetyNet project (grant 1) and towards shared premises costs (grant 2).

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 March 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,755	1,755
Current assets	154,493	154,493
Current liabilities	(12,356)	(12,356)
Total net assets	143,892	143,892
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 March 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,367	1,367
Current assets	170,575	170,575
Total net assets	171,942	171,942

16 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 April 2021 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	170,575	(26,745)	143,830
Net debt	170,575	(26,745)	143,830
	At 1 April 2020 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 March 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	122,751	47,824	170,575
Net debt	122,751	47,824	170,575

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Unrestricted Funds

	Total Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	35,116	15,814
Other income	<u>19</u>	<u>77</u>
Total income	<u>35,135</u>	<u>15,891</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	<u>(20,469)</u>	<u>(13,456)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(20,469)</u>	<u>(13,456)</u>
Net income	<u>14,666</u>	<u>2,435</u>
Net movement in funds	14,666	2,435
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>126,704</u>	<u>124,269</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>141,370</u></u>	<u><u>126,704</u></u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Restricted Funds

	Total Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Restricted Funds 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	<u>108,365</u>	<u>160,619</u>
Total income	<u>108,365</u>	<u>160,619</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	<u>(151,081)</u>	<u>(115,381)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(151,081)</u>	<u>(115,381)</u>
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(42,716)</u>	<u>45,238</u>
Net movement in funds	(42,716)	45,238
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>45,238</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>2,522</u></u>	<u><u>45,238</u></u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies (analysed below)	143,481	176,433
Other income (analysed below)	<u>19</u>	<u>77</u>
Total income	<u>143,500</u>	<u>176,510</u>
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities (analysed below)	<u>(171,550)</u>	<u>(128,837)</u>
Total expenditure	<u>(171,550)</u>	<u>(128,837)</u>
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(28,050)</u>	<u>47,673</u>
Net movement in funds	(28,050)	47,673
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	<u>171,942</u>	<u>124,269</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>143,892</u></u>	<u><u>171,942</u></u>

DISABILITY ASSIST FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING LTD

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<i>Donations and legacies</i>		
Appeals and donations	170	100
Access to Work income	19,013	20,181
Advocacy income	17,696	15,714
Grants received	29,668	59,530
KCC income	59,684	80,908
Other contract income	17,250	-
	<u>143,481</u>	<u>176,433</u>
<i>Other income</i>		
Other income	19	77
	<u>19</u>	<u>77</u>
<i>Charitable activities</i>		
Wages and salaries	(17,088)	(12,489)
Wages and salaries	(101,503)	(86,456)
Staff training	-	(319)
Staff training	(1,891)	(385)
Rent	-	(2,100)
Rates	80	-
Light, heat and power	-	(229)
Insurance	-	1
Insurance	(545)	(1,711)
Telephone and fax	(1,392)	(2,330)
Office expenses	(414)	-
Office expenses	(548)	(7,534)
Computer software and maintenance costs	(2,819)	(623)
Printing, postage and stationery	(94)	(184)
Printing, postage and stationery	(453)	(709)
Travel and subsistence	(1,801)	(634)
Accountancy fees	(2,700)	(300)
Legal and professional fees	(43)	(13)
Legal and professional fees	(40,129)	(12,670)
Bank charges	(15)	-
Depreciation of office equipment	(195)	(152)
	<u>(171,550)</u>	<u>(128,837)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Accounts

Company Number: 4854897

Registered Charity: 1107079



centre for
independent
living kent Limited

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2020-21



Centre for Independent Living Kent Ltd

Registered Office: CiLK C/O R&B Star, Units 9 & 10, Nimbus Enterprise Park,
Liphook Way, Allington, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0LQ



01233 633187



enquiries@cilk.org.uk



www.cilk.org.uk

TRUSTEES / DIRECTORS 2020-21

Hannah Tutt	Honorary Chairperson
Andrew Robertson	Deputy Chairperson
Cathy Finnis	Treasurer
Sonia Mallion	Secretary
Christopher Wise	
Vicci Chittenden	
Paul Burchett	

The trustees are also directors of the charity for the purpose of the Companies Act

CiLK is a Company Limited by Guarantee with no Shareholders

Staff

Sophie Fournel	CEO (& Service Manager)
Donna Francis	Senior Information Officer
Angie Berkley	Information Officer
Rebecca Jones	Information Officer (From November 2020)
Neville Dack	Operation Safety Net (To November 2020)
Lizell Williams	Operation Safety Net (From November 2020)
Madlin Brinton	Bookkeeper / Admin
Lisa Shoebridge	Staff PA Support Worker (Occasional)
Lana Loveland	Staff PA Support Worker
Claire Patchett	Staff PA Support Worker
Jessica Richardson	Staff PA Support Worker
Jason Martin	Consultant (Jan 2020 - Dec 2021)

ABOUT CiLK

CiLK is working towards full and equal citizenship for all disabled people, to have real choice and be free of the prescriptive services of government agencies. By drawing on our own experience of exclusion, we believe we're best placed to advise and support others.

Our Values: CiLK is committed to:

- ♦ The social model of disability, where it's regarded as not the ill-health that is the issue but the barriers we face in society
- ♦ The 12 basic needs / rights required for independent living, as defined by disabled people and which non-disabled take for granted, ie:

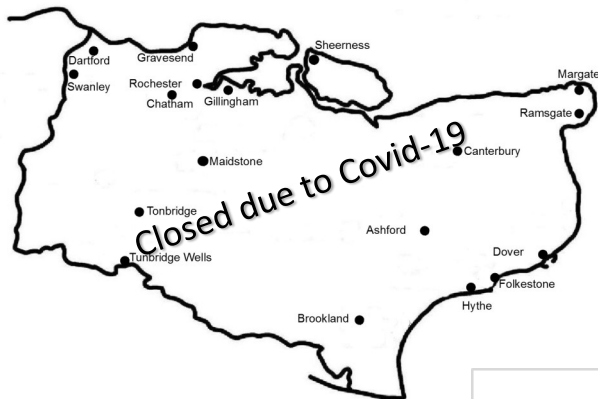
The original seven were:

Information: appropriate / accessible
 Peer support / counselling
 Housing: accessible / adapted
 Technical aids / equipment
 Personal assistance
 Accessible transport system
 Access to the environment

Added to these:

Advocacy (towards self-advocacy)
 Employments, equal opportunities
 Education & training (inclusive)
 Income / benefits (adequate)
 Appropriate / accessible healthcare

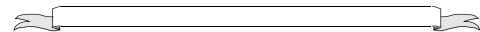
- ♦ Promoting an environment based on social justice, inclusivity, equality, diversity and dignity
- ♦ Promoting and maintaining professional standards in all our activities
- ♦ Continually working to improve the lives of disabled people in Kent



OUTREACH: Places Visited 2020-21

Website Visits 2020-21

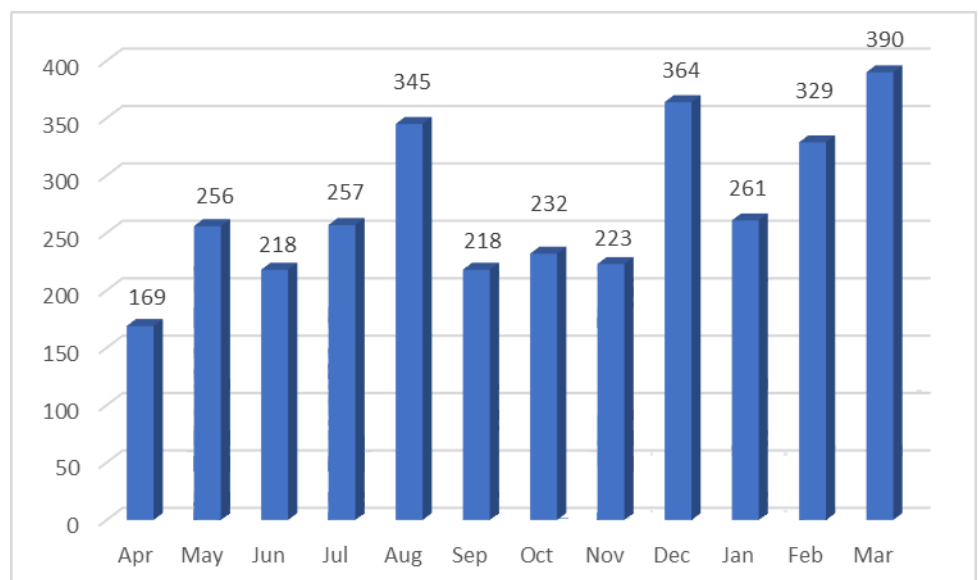
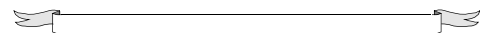
Total: 3262



Advocacy:

61 Cases

486.53 Hours



CEO / Service Manager's Report

What a year it has been!

This year has been such a strange one. Tragic, frightening and very difficult for so many people. Instructions to shield and everyone told to stay at home turned normal life on its head and we all had to find new ways of living, coping and working.

During this time CiLK reacted quickly to ensure we could still support people in Kent and Medway. We identified that disabled people and people with long-term health conditions were likely to find the situation particularly difficult and needed to ensure we could still support them.

Our services switched to online, remote working and we established a Telephone Befriending Service that we call SafetyNet. It is just that, a Safety Net, connecting people with services that they may be unaware of, a friendly voice to chat to, a connection from outside of the home. It has been wonderful to work with volunteers, giving us their time and making a real difference. Now that restrictions are beginning to lift and the vaccine rollout is continuing we are starting to look to the future, while very aware that the virus is still out there and of the impact of the last 18 months and that for many people it still feels a long way from 'back to normal'.

We have used this period to develop a robust database to ensure we are recording all of our interactions with individuals and organisations and also the impact our work has.

During 20/21 the CiLK Staff team consisted of:

- Myself – Chief Executive Officer / Advocate
- Donna – Senior Information Officer / Advocate
 - Angie – Information Officer / Advocate
 - Becky – Information Officer / Advocate
 - Madlin – Administrator
- Lizell – Safety Net Project Lead, replacing Neville Dack
 - Jason – Business Development

Core Services

♦Community Advocacy

CiLK is a delivery partner for the Kent Advocacy Partnership. This has been delivered remotely via telephone and online platforms.

Over the year we received 61 Advocacy referrals and delivered 486.5 Advocacy hours.

The issues included a wide range of subjects including benefits tribunals and assessment, housing, communicating with Social Services and many other concerns.

♦Peer Support

If an individual requires support in a way that is not classed as advocacy we provide 1-2-1 peer support, helping people to navigate the social care and health systems or to signpost them to relevant services.

♦Cilk Enquiries

We continue to receive enquiries via telephone and email. These can vary in nature and complexity.

♦Outreach

During the pandemic this has not been happening but more recently some of these outreach venues have started to use Zoom or Teams and we have attended a couple. It made us realise how much we rely on these sessions for reaching out to people.

♦Kent Physical Disability Forum

I remain as Chair of the Kent Physical Disability Forum. I represent CiLK and the Forum at different meetings including the All Party Parliamentary Groups at Westminster. All of these have been held online via Zoom and Teams. Participation numbers in the forum has decreased but some new people have joined us who prefer the virtual participation. However, participation in the APPGs has rocketed with regularly over 100 people attending from DPULOs (Disabled People's User Led Organisations) all over the country.

♦Wheelchair Service

Over the year I have continued to work with the East Kent Clinical Commissioning Group to encourage change to the service and the way the provider is working to improve the experiences and service disabled people receive. This has all been online.

♦Pilot Counselling Service in the East of Kent

During the pandemic the counselling was put on hold due to the sensitive and face-to-face nature of the service.

In other news...

The Kent County Council commissioning process for the Physical Disability Wellbeing contract is now well under way. CiLK is working with partners to ensure we submit a strong bid so that we can continue to support the people of Kent.

Thanks to the hard work of Jason we have been fortunate to received additional funding from a number of different sources this year:

- Fidelity
- NSUN (National Survivors Network)
- Kent Community Foundation
- The National Lottery
- NET COVID Grant

This Funding has enabled us to:

- Implement and deliver Safety Net Telephone Befriending
- Employ Becky Jones as an additional information officer, initially to cover staff planned absence but this role has been made permanent.

- Carry out research: working with the University of Kent we designed and circulated a questionnaire and held focus groups to understand how CiLK can best support our beneficiaries Thank you to all those who took the time to respond.
- Review our Communications Strategy and Image.

We were very sad to learn that Tony Wright, a long-time supporter of CiLK, trustee for many years and someone who was around at the very start of the organisation, passed away in April. Tony was a good friend to many of us and we will miss him.

Thank you to staff and directors for your continued support and encouragement. And to the team of PAs, funded by Access to Work, who work closely with us all and enable us to carry out our roles.

Take care and stay safe.

☎ 01233 633 187

enquiries@cilk.org.uk

Sophie Fournel

Information Officers' Report

Overview

It has been a very different year, not one we would ever have imagined, with the pandemic and working from home. However we were still there for our clients supporting them in the best way we could remotely via phone, email and online platforms such as Skype and Zoom.

The Information Officers are made up of Donna Francis, Senior Information Officer covering East Kent; Angie Berkley, covering West Kent and Medway and since November, Becky Jones covering Kent and Medway.

Work completed

All of the information officers have attended numerous meetings over the year via online platforms covering a range of topics including benefits, wheelchair services and dealing with the pandemic. We have also taken this opportunity to undertake various courses including benefits, mental health, safeguarding and learning disabilities.

Part of the role of an information officer is to attend outreach locations throughout Kent and Medway which may be existing support groups or groups that are run for disabled people. At the start of the pandemic we had to cancel these. However we have attended a few of these via online platforms, some of which have resulted in enquiries and/or advocacy referrals.

A new database was introduced so we have spent a lot of time learning how to use it and getting the best out of it.

The advocacy side of things with clients has been varied with anything from housing to health and direct payments.

Working with clients under peer support has included a lot of enquiries, some benefit work and helping clients with on-line forms, signposting etc.

We have continued to support clients and take in new referrals for advocacy, benefit and peer support, the figures are:

Advocacy – 33 clients

Peer Support, including benefits – 46

From May 2020 to March 2021 one of our information officers recorded the number of contacts with, or on behalf of, a client so the numbers are a lot higher:

Advocacy – 263

Peer support, including benefits – 357

If all of our statistics were recorded like this the numbers would be a lot higher.

Successes and Feedback

A success I remember is seeking funding to replace a boiler for a deaf couple, who were disadvantaged and had communication difficulties. They could not afford a new one and the British Gas scheme was closed; also many charities only provide to community groups not individuals. I was able to get funding for the whole cost through Kent Community Foundation. The service was quick and easy. The contact person was very helpful. The clients were very happy and said thank you.

My last PIP tribunal I attended the client attended and was successful in getting his high rate mobility indefinitely. He cried when he got out of the tribunal room with happiness and relief. He did send in a Thank You card saying ‘thank you for all your support over the last year and thank you for all your help on Friday (Tribunal)’.

One client I supported had an ESA assessment and she was successful in being put in the Limited Capability for Work and Work Related Activity group which means she does not need to look for work. Client said she could not have got through it without my support.

I supported a client with his PIP review form, then the mandatory reconsideration followed by requesting a tribunal. Before the tribunal went ahead the PIP decision was changed and the client was awarded PIP. Client was very grateful for my support and has recommended CiLK’s services to others.

Challenges

There have been many challenges over the last year mainly stemming from the pandemic, lockdowns and having to work from home. However we have overcome them and all learnt how to use online platforms such as Zoom, Teams and Skype pretty quickly! During the first lockdown the weekly meetings attended by CiLK trustees and staff were a great help. The information officers now have regular meetings to talk through cases, training needs and to catch up.

Over the last year one of our information officers has had a number of issues relating to housing, rehousing, applying to Homechoice wanting support to find somewhere new to live. For one client I asked her to get a letter from GP confirming diagnosis as it will be needed as part of evidence of medical need, she never answered her phone or email again. After many attempts to contact her I closed my involvement.

Working with the clients we do can sometimes be challenging especially when there are a lot of issues going on. For some clients they find it hard to let go of what has happened in the past for example previous problems with social services this can then stop them from moving forward.

We are there to support clients and be their voice however the client needs to work with us, most of the time this happens however in cases when it does not happen it can make the work harder or not possible at all.

Moving forward

I, Donna, want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow information officers, Sophie, Jason, Lizell, Madlin and the CiLK trustees for their support during this very challenging time. I think it is great how we have all worked together and have enabled CiLK to continue to run during a pandemic. Thank you also goes to my PA, Rob, who retired during this time. I really appreciate all the work he has done in supporting me in my role over the last number of years.

Since the restrictions have started to ease from April 2021 onwards the number of clients being referred and contacting CiLK has increased a lot. We will continue to support clients and be their voice when needed. CiLK continues to be needed and a great resource to the disabled people community. Long may we continue.

Donna Francis

SafetyNet Project

Recruitment & Training commenced September & October 2020 by Neville Dack and taken over by Lizell Williams in November 2020.

SafetyNet has recruited volunteers via free online platforms hosted by MVA (Medway Voluntary Action), AVC (Ashford Volunteer Centre), Kent Coast Volunteering & Simply Connect. However Kent Recruitment and Facebook Advertising have been the most successful in reaching a wide audience and attracting interest. Not unusual in recruitment for there to be high number of expressions of interest but a lower conversion rate. eg: 10 expressions of interest, 7 interviews, converts to 5 suitable candidates invited to training, resulting in 3 new volunteers. Whilst a lot of time is spent recruiting, none of these are missed opportunities to chat about CiLK and promote the work the charity strives to do. We keep a record of interviewed candidates who have not been able to attend training or whose circumstances have changed but who wish to be invited in the future.

Due to high demand for the service, the processing turnaround time for a volunteer (from point of interview to actively matched with a beneficiary) needed to be reduced from 3-4 weeks to 1-2 weeks in addition to creating flexibility in training delivery that covered essential information, was time efficient and cost effective. This has been achieved by:

- volunteers attending a group Induction Training session (2-3 hours) via Zoom hosted by an Information Officer and Lizell Williams,
- completing Safeguarding E-learning via SEK Social Enterprise Kent; volunteer has the option to sit 90 minutes or mini sessions over a 2 week period, the volunteer's understanding is tested, SafetyNet can monitor progress and certificate of completion is issued (this is an added bonus for the volunteer who can add this to their CV), attending free Suicide Prevention Awareness Training, a 3 hour session, hosted by Mid Kent Mind via Zoom , and only requiring a Standard DBS processed online with cost covered by CiLK, processing time can be as short as 24 hours.

SafetyNet secured **2 free PR opportunities on the airwaves** to promote our befriending service and awareness of our volunteering with Donna being interviewed by Ashford Radio during a prime lunch time slot on 6th May and Lizell interviewed by Medway Pride Radio on 13th May which was aired at several news slots during the day in May and June.

On the 19th May we conducted a training session for 3 new volunteers who have also completed training in Safeguarding and Suicide Prevention. They have cleared Basic DBS checking and are currently supporting 5 clients. Unfortunately, one of the volunteers is returning to her home country for the Summer but plans to re-join from September.

Volunteers' week was hosted in the week of 1st to 7th June inclusive. SafetyNet participated in MVA's Giant Volunteer Jigsaw banner which was displayed on the front of the MVA building in Chatham.

MVA's Volunteers Week video is on Youtube via this link: https://youtu.be/13uu_IPoko0

On Tuesday 1st June, as a token of our appreciation we issued each of our 9 volunteers a £10 Costa e-Voucher and emailed a Volunteers' Week Certificate acknowledging all that they have done and continue to do for people in our community who have found the lockdowns really challenging and who, despite restrictions lifting, still feel left behind.

Lizell hosted a virtual lunch for our Volunteers on the 3rd June during which we reflected on their contribution & achievements over the past few months including feedback from our working partners and clients, and the thanks expressed by Medway Voluntary Action and Ashford Volunteer Centre.

Feedback from clients & referrers 2020/21:

"Thank you for listening to me"

"Such a relief to find a befriending service for younger people (under 50) to access"

"Always so kind, warm and friendly"

"Fantastic to find a service offering support over a weekend"

"Wonderful service, joined-up working"

"Your support has helped me get answers to questions I was struggling to deal with"

Feedback from volunteers during the virtual lunch:

"As a physically disabled person during the pandemic, I felt I was restricted in how I could help others. When I found this Telephone Befriending, I could easily apply myself, feel empowered" – Clair

"During lockdown I had lots of time and felt I needed to maintain good mental wellbeing. Volunteering was the perfect way. I look forward to making my calls and enjoy our conversation, hearing about their lives/history. I've made good friendships" – Colleen

"During lockdown I had lots of time on my hands and knew I needed to find something to maintain health and mental wellbeing through social contact.

Since befriending, I've made great friendships and find it mutually rewarding."

"Great boost for my CV, putting my skills and time to good use by helping others" – JB

"I'm always learning & growing with every call"

"In my culture, getting involved with your community & being there for others is part of life. I'm glad I can continue this through volunteering" – Milka

"Volunteering is rewarding, it's made me re-access my values and be grateful for all that I have taken for granted previously. Feels great hearing a client laugh and share" - Elizabeth

Lizell has created a Volunteer Application form and an Equality and Diversity Monitoring form which are now in use. We are also currently reviewing CiLK policies that apply to employees and those that may differ or apply to volunteers.

Statistics: Since October 2020:

- we have recruited & trained 15 members of the Kent community to become telephone befrienders

Since November 2020:

- 32 adults registered for befriending, this does not include those who we have provided information and signposting who are not registered with CiLK
- 5 clients have withdrawn as they are in better supported position eg: care package in place, more suitable accommodation, or taking steps to reconnect since the lift in restrictions
- 5 clients have lapsed as we've lost contact with them despite our best efforts to get in touch via phone / text / letter

Currently we have 9 active volunteers as well as Lizell providing weekly / fortnightly calls to 22 clients.

SafetyNet has lost volunteers due to a change in their own health, family or work commitments. Lizell continues to stay in contact with these volunteers.

Challenges SafetyNet and our clients face:

Time is being spent supporting clients who have only received partial support by other organisations eg: someone provided with a tablet but not had any assistance on how to access and use the device and no-one has followed up with them to check how they are getting on with it.

We have a couple of clients who are really struggling with their mental health and feel that the emergency response to these by their crisis teams has been slow.

There is a small number of clients who continue to request face-to-face befriending; whilst AGE UK has resumed providing this service it is stretched and waiting lists are not being operated.

There is a wide gap in services available to the vulnerable community. Groups are still closed, and their neighbourly support is returning to work or other commitments as life resumes eg: to accompany disabled to shops or outings; AGE UK are offering this service again from £18 per hour which is unaffordable.

The summer & school holidays means lives are generally becoming busier and fewer people are working from home, this is resulting in fewer people responding to calls for volunteers as they have limited timeframes they can participate in training sessions or conduct befriending telephone calls.

Lizell Williams

Here are some comments we have received:

"I feel 5x more positive and optimistic, feeling someone is on your side is so encouraging. You can have many people around you but finding and being able to talk with someone not emotionally upset by your conditions is such a big relief after so many years carrying on."

"I can't thank you enough for the help you gave me, you and the work you do are a Godsend and I can't put into words what this means to me. The new place will be next to local shops, my GP and bus stop it will have a massive positive effect on my life. Once again thank you so much."

"Thank you so much Sophie, this situation has really affected my health and wellbeing in a negative way, although thanks to you there have been some positives. I contacted adult social services and they are referring me for a needs assessment, although will take some time due to current conditions. I just telephoned UC and got thru and the advisor I spoke to gave me permission to leave my home for one month. And now yr message gives me some leeway if required. I appreciate you taking the time to help me, the hardest part for me has been made to realise and accepting that I do need extra help especially in today's global crisis. Once again thank you"

Bookkeeper's Financial statement:

This is the fourth year running that CILK has ended on a surplus – and a very nice one, which I've no doubt Jason should take the credit for. This has helped put us in a much more secure position for now, but as ever we have no space for complacency. Thanks to taking on extra staff (definitely needed) it has also raised our running costs again. However, we are saving as well by not running an office, so that helps.

Obviously this is a time for hopeful optimism, but we must always have that contingency plan in case it all goes belly-up. Our current reserves give us much better breathing space.



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of Centre for Independent Living Kent (CiLK)

On accounts for the year ended 31/3/2021 Charity no (if any) 1107079

Set out on pages (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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

1

IER

March 2012

Signed:

Date:

23/07/2021

Name:

KEVIN SCANLON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

M.I.A.B. I.A.A.P.

Address:

FIRBANK, BLACKHOUSE HILL
MYTHE
CT21 5UN

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Centre for Independent Living Kent Ltd

Income & Expenditure Accounts 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Income:	2021	2020	CILK	KCC	DWP
b/f	122,751	119,533	122,751		
Adjustment	-84		-84		
Grants	174,313	108,762	73,224	80,908	20,181
Bank Interest	47	236	47		
Donations	100	453	100		
Office	2,050	980	2,050		
Total:	299,176	229,964	198,087	80,908	20,181
Expenditure:					
	2021	2020	CILK	KCC	DWP
Wages	111,615	81,649	19,407	71,263	20,945
Premises Costs	3,101	5,535		3,101	
Travel	634	3,343		634	
Printing					
Stationery	639	605	185	455	
Phone / Post	2,396	2,247		2,396	
Insurance	937	941		937	
Staff Training	704	1,339	704		
Misc	7,462	11,555	4,962	2,500	
Office	1,111		1,111		
Total:	128,601	107,213	26,369	81,286	20,945
Balances:	170,575	122,751	171,718	-379	-765

Reserves Policy

CiLK recognises that:

- ◆ There is no legal definition of “reserves” in relation to organisations and charities and no specific legal rule about the amount or proportion of an organisation and charity’s income funds that it is allowed to hold as reserve.
- ◆ Trustees are under a general legal duty to apply an organisation and charity funds within a reasonable time of receiving them, and holding these funds in reserve does not comply with this duty. If it is done **without justification**, the holding of income in reserve may amount to a breach of trust.

As with most voluntary organisations, CiLK relies on funding from external sources, and this funding cannot be guaranteed. The EMC believes that it is therefore necessary to ensure CiLK has sufficient reserves to continue to operate for a period of three - six months should all funding cease. This time period would allow the EMC to attempt to identify alternative sources of funding, and if this was not fruitful to wind down the service, giving employees a generous notice of redundancy. CiLK is currently working to hold reserves that would cover this period, and will endeavour to maintain it by adhering to an agreed annual budget of expenditure.

The annual budget, this policy, and the level of reserves needed will be reviewed annually, taking into account:

- The reliability of each source of income and the prospects for opening up new sources;
- Forecasts for expenditure in future years on the basis of planned activity;
- Analysis of any future needs, opportunities, contingencies or risks, the effects of which are not likely to be able to be met out of income if and when they arise;
- Assessment, on the best evidence reasonably available, of the likelihood of each of those needs etc arising and the potential consequences for the charity of not being able to meet them.

Centre for Independent Living Kent Ltd

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2021

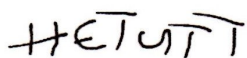
Fixed Assets:	2021	2020
Office Equipment	392	436
Less Depreciation 10%	-39	-44
Desktop Computers	531	590
Laptop Computers	354	394
Less Depreciation 10%	-89	-98
Tablets & Phones (2 each)	241	267
Less Depreciation 10%	-24	-27
Net Book Value	1,367	1,518
Current Assets:		
HSBC	170,575	122,666
Petty Cash		84
Total:	170,575	122,751
Balance at 31/03/2020		124,269
Balance at 31/03/2021	171,942	
Net movement in funds	47,824	3,217
Net movement in funds including depreciation	47,976	3,049

Directors' Statement

For the year ending 31/03/2019 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

SIGNED AND DATED THIS 27th DAY OF JULY 2021



Hannah Tutt Director



Cathy Finnis Director

Centre for Independent Living Kent Ltd would like to thank the following groups and organisations for all their help and support during the year:

Access to Work
Ashford Borough Council
Awards for All
County Square Shopping Centre
DIAL Kent
DISK (Disability Information Services Kent)
Disability Rights UK
Involve Kent
KASBAH
KCC Families and Social Care
Kent Advocacy
South East Network of Disabled People's Organisations (SENDPO)
Spectrum CIL
Medway Voluntary Action
Wheelchair Users' Group

We would also like to thank all our members
and all those other individuals who have supported us
with their valuable time.

Centre for Independent Living Kent Ltd
c/o R&B Star
Units 9 & 10, Nimbus Enterprise Park
Liphook Way, Allington
Maidstone,
Kent ME16 0LQ

☎ 01233 633187

General E-mail: enquiries@cilk.org.uk

Website: cilk.org.uk



Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered Number 4854897

Registered as a Charity number 1107079

CiLK is a member of: Disability Rights UK, Involve Kent and
South East Network of Disabled People's Organisations (SENDPO)