

DUDLEY VOICES FOR CHOICE

England & Wales · Charity number 1155463

Details

Other names	DVC
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-01-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Dudley Voices for Choice c/o Holloway House Martin Hill Street Dudley West Midlands DY2 8RT
Phone	07930636552
Email	DUDLEYVOICESFORCHOICE@GMAIL.COM
Website	www.dudleyvoicesforchoice.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONG INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES LIVING IN ENGLAND IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY BY1.PROVIDING A LOCAL NETWORK GROUP THAT ENCOURAGES AND ENABLES THEM TO PARTICIPATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY;2.INCREASING, OR CO-ORDINATING, OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO ENGAGE WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS, TO ENABLE THOSE PROVIDES TO ADAPT SERVICES TO BETTER MEET THEIR NEEDS;3.RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES;4.PROVIDING WORKSHOPS, FORUMS, ADVOCACY AND GENERAL SUPPORT.

Activities: Self advocacy for people with learning disabilities and/or autism in the Dudley Borough council area. Supporting Dudley people to have their voices heard across the West Midlands. Hosting and overseeing the West Midlands Self advocacy network for the duration of the lottery funded project.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- Dudley
- Sandwell
- Walsall
- Wolverhampton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£285,749	£350,785	-	-
2024-03-31	£347,427	£310,950	-	-
2023-03-31	£429,767	£275,772	-	-
2022-03-31	£279,534	£185,293	-	-
2021-03-31	£181,736	£125,290	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ann Parkes	Chair	2015-09-29
Emma Durnall		2023-04-01
Sally-Anne Richardson BSc ACIB		2021-09-25
Stephen Terry		2023-04-01
Steven Hardy		2023-07-06

Accounts

Document Details

Filename:	Dudley Voices For Choice YE 31-03-2025 Accounts.PDF
Client of:	Lewis Smith & Co.

Signature Details

Name:	Sarah Offley
Email:	dudleyvoicesforchoice@gmail.com
Date & Time:	08/12/2025 12:52:17 PM (GMT)
IP Address:	31.113.58.238
Signing Statement:	The directors and trustees approve the financial statements.

Digital Certificate

The approved PDF file has been digitally certified. Please check the Digital Certificate information in your PDF viewer to verify the Digital Certificate authenticity and the PDF has not been tampered with.

On behalf of:	Lewis Smith & Co.
PDF digital certificate:	IRIS Software Group Limited
Digital certificate issued by:	GlobalSign

Please keep a copy of this document for your records.

Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025
for
Dudley Voices for Choice

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Dudley Voices for Choice

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees	2 to 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9 to 10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11 to 16
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	17 to 18

Dudley Voices for Choice

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

TRUSTEES

Mrs A Parkes
Ms S A Richardson
Ms K Pritchard
Mr S Hardy
Mr S Terry
Ms E Durnall

REGISTERED OFFICE

C/o Holloway House
Martin Hill Street
Dudley
West Midlands
DY2 8RT

**REGISTERED COMPANY
NUMBER**

CE000698 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1155463

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

BANKERS

The Co-Operative Bank
P/O. Box 250
Skelmersdale
Wigan
Greater Manchester
WN8 6WT

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities living in England in particular but not exclusively within Dudley Metropolitan Borough who are socially excluded from society, or parts of society by:

1. Providing a local network group that encourages and enables participation more effectively in the wider community.
2. Increasing, or co-ordinating, opportunities for people to engage with service providers; to enable those providers to adapt services to better meet their needs.
3. Raising public awareness of the issues affecting the needs of people with disabilities and learning disabilities.
4. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support.

Nothing in the constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the charitable incorporated organisation for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Introduction

The period spanning April 2024 to March 2025 has been a remarkable year of transformation, growth, and dynamic action across our organisation. With each new initiative, campaign, and collaboration, we have continued our commitment to empowering people with learning disabilities and autism, promoting inclusion, and giving voice to lived experiences. This annual report details our milestones, key events, capacity-building activities, and the outstanding contributions of our self-advocates, staff, and partners.

Moving Into Our Own Offices

A defining moment for our organisation this year was the transition into our own dedicated offices. This new space has provided us with a sense of permanence, autonomy, and opportunity. It has enabled us to expand our services, host more events, and create a welcoming environment for everyone in our community. The move symbolises our growth and the increasing impact of our work.

Key Events and Conferences

- Positive Voices Conference 2024: This flagship event brought together self-advocates, professionals, families, and supporters to share insights, stories, and strategies for positive change. The conference was not only a platform for inspiration but also for practical learning and networking.
- Learning Disability Week 2024: Our organisation played a leading role in celebrating and raising awareness during Learning Disability Week. Activities included workshops, awareness campaigns, and creative projects highlighting the talents and achievements of individuals with learning disabilities.
- Autism Week 2024: We marked Autism Week with a series of inclusive events-sensory-friendly workshops, panel discussions, and creative showcases-that celebrated neurodiversity and promoted understanding within the wider community.
- Elephant in the Room 2024: This powerful event addressed often-overlooked issues facing people with learning disabilities and autism, encouraging open conversation and advocacy for better support systems.
- Respite Event: "Should We Really Call It Respite?": This thought-provoking gathering challenged traditional notions of respite care. Participants discussed what meaningful breaks and genuine support mean to them, leading to new ideas for future service provision.
- Visit to London: Laughing Boy Theatre Production: A group from the organisation travelled to London to experience the acclaimed theatre production of "Laughing Boy." The visit was not only culturally enriching but also fostered strong bonds among attendees.
- Hustings Prior to the Election: We organised a local hustings event, giving people an opportunity to hear from political candidates and ask questions before making informed voting decisions. This initiative emphasised the importance of civic engagement and accessible democracy.
- BBC News Visit: BBC News attended our hustings, interviewing attendees to capture their views on the elections and the issues that matter most to our community. This media spotlight helped amplify the voices of people with lived experience.
- Talent Shows by Vicky and Owen: Two joyous talent shows were organised by Vicky and Owen, shining a spotlight on the creativity and confidence of our members. These events were a testament to the power of self-expression.

Training and Professional Development

- Shout Out Academy Training Session: Our team participated in the Shout Out Academy, developing skills in advocacy, communication, and leadership.

- Bespoke Training Sessions: We delivered and received bespoke training tailored to the specific needs of our staff and self-advocates, covering a wide range of relevant topics.
- Oliver McGowan Training: Our commitment to the highest standards of care and understanding was reinforced through the Oliver McGowan mandatory training in learning disability and autism.
- Mental Capacity Training with Steve Hardy: All staff and self-advocates received in-depth mental capacity training, enhancing our ability to support informed decision-making.
- Gloriously Ordinary Lives Training: Staff attended sessions aimed at promoting authentic, meaningful lives for people with learning disabilities.
- Race Equality Training with Ramandeep Kaur: To foster diversity and inclusion, DVC welcomed Ramandeep Kaur to lead a vital training session on race equality.
- British Human Rights Training and Community Reporting: We have deepened our understanding of rights and reporting, equipping our team to better advocate and support others.

Our People: Experts with Lived Experience

We are exceptionally proud to employ 13 expert trainers with lived experience. Their unique perspectives and depth of understanding have enriched every project, training session, and advocacy effort. By centring the voices of those with lived experience, we ensure our work remains grounded, relevant, and impactful.

Research and Project Innovation

- IncludeAge & DigiHealth: Our research capacity expanded significantly through two major projects. IncludeAge focuses on age-inclusive advocacy, while DigiHealth explores digital tools to improve health outcomes for people with learning disabilities and autism.
- Small Supports Co-Production: We worked alongside partners to co-produce the Small Supports project, developing models of personalised support.
- Change of Practice Using Co-Production Project: By embedding co-production at the heart of our operations, we have enhanced practice and improved service delivery.
- Pilot and Peer Reviews: We initiated peer review processes to ensure high-quality, person-centred support across our programmes.
- Health Inequalities Projects: We have tackled health inequalities through projects such as Out and Abouters, Let's First Ate, and the Crafty Club with Lunch on The Run-providing opportunities for social connection, practical support, and improved wellbeing.
- Part of LDE Experiences in Health Project: Our participation in national projects has brought new ideas and recognition to our local work.

Supporting and Empowering Our Community

- Expanded Community Groups: The number and diversity of our community groups have grown, fostering belonging and mutual support.
- Monthly Social Bowling at Merry Hill: Led by Katie, this new initiative has quickly become a highlight for many, providing a regular, inclusive, and fun social outlet.
- Foodbank Collections: We have collected and distributed resources to those in need, strengthening our community's resilience.

Dudley Voices for Choice

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

- Supporting Patients in Care and Treatment Reviews: Our team has played an instrumental role in advocating for individuals' rights and best interests during care reviews.
- Co-Produced Easy Read Materials: We have developed accessible information for Black Country Women's Aid, the ICB, and other partners, ensuring everyone has access to crucial resources.
- Protesting at the Local LeDeR Event: Standing up for better health outcomes, we joined in protest at a local LeDeR event, championing the rights of people with learning disabilities.
- Supporting People to Vote: Our election support extended beyond information, helping people navigate voting processes and exercise their rights at the ballot box.
- Extra Support for Individuals: Whenever someone in our community needed additional help to have their voice heard, our staff and self-advocates have been there-whether for advocacy, practical support, or simply a listening ear.

Talent and Leadership

- Matty: Continues to co-chair the Black Country Learning Disability and Autism Board, bringing lived experience and strategic insight to key decisions.
- Cameron: Chairs the Learning Disability Partnership Board in Dudley, providing a strong voice for advocacy and action.
- Vince: Chairs the Autism Partnership Board in Dudley, championing the needs and aspirations of autistic individuals across the area.
- Keynote Speakers and Conferences: Our presence was felt at the LDE conference, Blackpool conference, BILD conference in Liverpool (where we delivered a keynote address), and Kate Mercer's advocacy conference.

Professional and Personal Development

- NVQ 3 Training: Three team members are currently working towards their NVQ Level 3 qualifications, enhancing their skills and future career prospects.
- Staff and Self-Advocate Growth: Ongoing internal and external training has ensured our team is always learning, growing, and adapting to new challenges.

Strategic Developments

- Learning Disability Strategy for Dudley: We have co-designed and co-written a new learning disability strategy, engaging citizens from across the borough to capture a rich diversity of voices and perspectives.
- Autism Strategy for Dudley: Work has begun on developing an autism strategy, using co-production to ensure that lived experience shapes every stage of its development.
- Restructure Following End of WMSAN Funding: The conclusion of West Midlands Self Advocacy Network funding has necessitated a restructure within our network. We remain committed to sustaining and evolving our self-advocacy work through creative solutions and new partnerships.

Reflections and Looking Ahead

As we reflect on an extraordinary year, we are filled with pride for all that has been achieved. Our journey has been one of collaboration, courage, and relentless pursuit of justice and inclusion. Every project, event, and act of advocacy has contributed to a stronger, more connected community. The coming year presents new opportunities, and we are poised to continue this important work-amplifying voices, challenging injustices, and building a world where everyone is truly included.

With heartfelt thanks to all our staff, self-advocates, partners, and community members who made 2024-2025 a year of impact and hope.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025 shows income for the year of £285,749 (2024 - £347,427) and expenditure for the year of £350,785 (2024 - £345,996). This gave a net deficit of income over expenditure for the year of £65,036 (2024 - surplus of £1,431).

The charity's total funds at the end of the year were £484,641 (2024 - £549,677). This included unrestricted funds of £457,438 (2024 - £473,867) and restricted funds of £27,203 (2024 - £75,810)

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to retain sufficient funds to meet the ongoing liabilities of the charity together with funds for the development of the charities objectives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (last amended 24 January 2014).

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

As set out in the charity's constitution, new trustees are appointed by the board of trustees.

Organisational structure

The charity is run by a board of trustees who are responsible for the overall strategic management of the organisation. The body of trustees consists of a minimum of three trustees.

Trustees Information

The names of the trustees are listed on page one within Reference and Administrative Details.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees receive a full copy of the constitution, a copy of the latest trustees report and accounts and any other information necessary for them to undertake their role within the charity.

Key management

The charity is mainly run by its Chief Officer Mrs S Offley., who is not a trustee of the charity.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs A Parkes - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dudley Voices for Choice ('the Company')

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

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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can 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 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.

Mr C A Beale
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Date:

Dudley Voices for Choice

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	-	-	-	59
Charitable activities	4				
Grants receivable		263,058	-	263,058	328,209
Other trading activities	3	22,691	-	22,691	19,159
Total		<u>285,749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>285,749</u>	<u>347,427</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct costs		289,951	18,731	308,682	310,950
Support costs		41,628	475	42,103	35,046
Total		<u>331,579</u>	<u>19,206</u>	<u>350,785</u>	<u>345,996</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(45,830)	(19,206)	(65,036)	1,431
Transfers between funds	12	<u>29,401</u>	<u>(29,401)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(16,429)	(48,607)	(65,036)	1,431
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		473,867	75,810	549,677	548,246
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>457,438</u></u>	<u><u>27,203</u></u>	<u><u>484,641</u></u>	<u><u>549,677</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dudley Voices for Choice

Balance Sheet

31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	4,849	-	4,849	5,039
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	1,265	-	1,265	1,619
Cash at bank and in hand		458,402	27,203	485,605	557,589
		<u>459,667</u>	<u>27,203</u>	<u>486,870</u>	<u>559,208</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(7,078)	-	(7,078)	(14,570)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>452,589</u>	<u>27,203</u>	<u>479,792</u>	<u>544,638</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>457,438</u>	<u>27,203</u>	<u>484,641</u>	<u>549,677</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>457,438</u>	<u>27,203</u>	<u>484,641</u>	<u>549,677</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				457,438	473,867
Restricted funds				27,203	75,810
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>484,641</u>	<u>549,677</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dudley Voices for Choice

Balance Sheet - continued

31 March 2025

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs A Parkes - Trustee

.....
Ms S A Richardson - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Government grants are recognised at the point that they are receivable and there is reasonable assurance that the company will comply with the conditions attached to them. They are valued at the consideration received or to be received.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Office equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

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

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

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Donations	-	59
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Other income	22,691	19,159
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	Grants receivable	Total activities
	£	£
Grants	263,058	328,209
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Dudley MBC	65,468	38,081
NHS	150,112	272,646
Other	47,478	17,482
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	263,058	328,209
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	3,700	3,317
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

7. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Wages and salaries	215,905	215,600
Social security costs	7,865	9,236
Other pension costs	3,573	2,775
	<u>227,343</u>	<u>227,611</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	13	16
Number of employees	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	59	-	59
Charitable activities			
Grants receivable	328,209	-	328,209
Other trading activities	19,159	-	19,159
Total	<u>347,427</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>347,427</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Direct costs	277,324	33,626	310,950
Support costs	32,836	2,210	35,046
Total	<u>310,160</u>	<u>35,836</u>	<u>345,996</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	37,267	(35,836)	1,431
Transfers between funds	39,513	(39,513)	-
Net movement in funds	<u>76,780</u>	<u>(75,349)</u>	<u>1,431</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	397,087	151,159	548,246
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>473,867</u>	<u>75,810</u>	<u>549,677</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2024	12,997
Additions	3,510
Disposals	(3,810)
At 31 March 2025	12,697
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2024	7,958
Charge for year	3,700
Eliminated on disposal	(3,810)
At 31 March 2025	7,848
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	4,849
At 31 March 2024	5,039

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Prepayments	1,265	1,619

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	3,560	4,921
Pension creditor	1,209	5,328
Accruals and deferred income	2,309	4,321
	7,078	14,570

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	473,867	(45,830)	29,401	457,438
Restricted funds				
National Lottery Community Fund	75,810	(19,206)	(29,401)	27,203
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>549,677</u>	<u>(65,036)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>484,641</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	285,749	(331,579)	(45,830)
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	-	(19,206)	(19,206)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>285,749</u>	<u>(350,785)</u>	<u>(65,036)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	397,087	37,267	39,513	473,867
Restricted funds				
National Lottery Community Fund	151,159	(35,836)	(39,513)	75,810
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>548,246</u>	<u>1,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>549,677</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	347,427	(310,160)	37,267
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	-	(35,836)	(35,836)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>347,427</u>	<u>(345,996)</u>	<u>1,431</u>

Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted General Fund

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds

National Lottery Community Fund

This money is to be used for West Midlands regional self advocacy work. The grant was paid half yearly until July 2022 and the charity is currently using the remaining surplus of the fund.

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

14. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by the trustees as listed in the Report of the Trustees.

Dudley Voices for Choice

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	-	59
Other trading activities		
Other income	22,691	19,159
Charitable activities		
Grants	263,058	328,209
Total incoming resources	285,749	347,427
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	215,905	215,600
Social security	7,865	9,236
Pensions	3,573	2,775
Rent	9,878	9,270
Autism Cafe	5,800	15,400
Training	34,381	35,455
Room hire and storage	3,433	1,966
App and website	1,597	2,347
Event costs and services	26,250	18,901
	308,682	310,950
Support costs		
Other		
Insurance	385	372
Telephone	2,879	2,372
Printing, postage, stationery and advertising	2,045	978
Sundry expenses	36	195
Resources, repairs & renewals	4,807	3,877
Travelling and expenses	11,803	9,939
Internet and IT costs	886	1,082
Meeting refreshments	3,056	3,735
Subscriptions	6,579	6,408
DBS checks	100	148
Legal fees	1,618	-
Accountancy	3,162	2,160
Gifts, cards and flowers	1,047	463
Carried forward	38,403	31,729

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Dudley Voices for Choice

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Other		
Brought forward	38,403	31,729
Depreciation of office equipment	3,700	3,317
	42,103	35,046
Total resources expended	350,785	345,996
Net (expenditure)/income	(65,036)	1,431

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

Document Details

Filename:	Dudley Voices For Choice - YE 31-03-2024 Accounts.PDF
Client of:	Lewis Smith & Co.

Signature Details

Name:	Sarah Offley
Email:	dudleyvoicesforchoice@gmail.com
Date & Time:	02/01/2025 09:39:08 AM (GMT)
IP Address:	82.34.166.251
Signing Statement:	The trusees approve the financial statements.

Digital Certificate

The approved PDF file has been digitally certified. Please check the Digital Certificate information in your PDF viewer to verify the Digital Certificate authenticity and the PDF has not been tampered with.

On behalf of:	Lewis Smith & Co.
PDF digital certificate:	IRIS Software Group Limited
Digital certificate issued by:	GlobalSign

Please keep a copy of this document for your records.

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE000698 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1155463

Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
for
Dudley Voices for Choice

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Dudley Voices for Choice

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees	2 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7 to 8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 15
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	16 to 17

Dudley Voices for Choice

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

TRUSTEES

Mrs A Parkes
Ms S A Richardson
Ms K Pritchard (appointed 1.9.23)
Mr S Hardy (appointed 6.7.23)
Mr S Terry (appointed 1.4.23)
Ms E Durnall (appointed 1.4.23)

REGISTERED OFFICE

DY1 Building
Stafford Street
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 1RT

**REGISTERED COMPANY
NUMBER**

CE000698 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1155463

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

BANKERS

The Co-Operative Bank
P/O. Box 250
Skelmersdale
Wigan
Greater Manchester
WN8 6WT

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities living in England in particular but not exclusively within Dudley Metropolitan Borough who are socially excluded from society, or parts of society by:

1. Providing a local network group that encourages and enables participation more effectively in the wider community.
2. Increasing, or co-ordinating, opportunities for people to engage with service providers; to enable those providers to adapt services to better meet their needs.
3. Raising public awareness of the issues affecting the needs of people with disabilities and learning disabilities.
4. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support.

Nothing in the constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the charitable incorporated organisation for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Another successful year for the charity, firstly we would like to thank all the people who we have had the pleasure of working with year. It has been a year of campaigning to make a difference in the lives of the people we work alongside with learning disabilities and/or autism. We have made lots of changes to the way we are working and are now working Black Country Wide making sure the voices of Dudley citizens are heard wherever decision-makers sit.

We maintain the chair positions in Dudley Autism and Learning Disability partnership boards, supporting experts with lived experience to make real change in their communities across the borough. Alongside this, DVC supports the Black Country Learning Disability and Autism Board co-chair to be an active part of decision-making across a wider footprint.

Our projects are continuing and going from strength to strength:

ShoutOut Academy continues delivering the Oliver McGowan training at both Tier 1 and Tier 2 levels to health and social care professionals.

The Community Team has continued to connect with established groups to share and gather information for the boards and decision-makers, building networks of support and friendships.

Our work in the secure units continues to create safe spaces for people to share their thoughts and concerns by finding ways together to find a resolution that works for everyone. Alongside gaining their opinions and views to share with other projects we are working on. Making sure their voices are still heard and valued.

West Midlands Self Advocacy Network lottery funding came to an end and work is now happening to continue and maintain the network and the great work it does.

We have held our third national conference at Aston University. Positive Voices saw 146 self-advocates from across the country come together to share their work and look at how we can work together to amplify the voices of people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

Sadly, we said goodbye to our founder member Kate Ochel who was our north star at DVC.

Like every business and charity across the country, we are very aware of the economy and how this will impact the people we work with and our charity so reflecting to make sure we are doing everything we can in the most cost-effective way without impacting the quality of the work we are doing.

Thank you to our board of trustees who continue to guide us throughout the year and of course to the staff team who continue to drive the charity forward with their hard work and dedication.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024 shows income for the year of £347,427 (2023 - £429,767) and expenditure for the year of £345,996 (2023 - £275,772). This gave a net surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £1,431 (2023 - £153,995).

The charity's total funds at the end of the year were £549,677 (2023 - £548,246). This included unrestricted funds of £473,867 (2023 - £397,087) and restricted funds of £75,810 (2023 - £151,159).

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to retain sufficient funds to meet the ongoing liabilities of the charity together with funds for the development of the charities objectives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (last amended 24 January 2014).

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

As set out in the charity's constitution, new trustees are appointed by the board of trustees.

Organisational structure

The charity is run by a board of trustees who are responsible for the overall strategic management of the organisation. The body of trustees consists of a minimum of three trustees.

Trustees Information

The names of the trustees are listed on page one within Reference and Administrative Details.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees receive a full copy of the constitution, a copy of the latest trustees report and accounts and any other information necessary for them to undertake their role within the charity.

Key management

The charity is mainly run by its Chief Officer Mrs S Offley., who is not a trustee of the charity.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs A Parkes - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dudley Voices for Choice ('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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can 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 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.

Mr C A Beale
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Date:

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	59	-	59	7,921
Charitable activities	4				
Grants receivable		328,209	-	328,209	409,757
Other trading activities	3	19,159	-	19,159	12,089
Total		<u>347,427</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>347,427</u>	<u>429,767</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct costs		279,652	33,626	313,278	247,752
Support costs		28,348	2,210	30,558	28,020
Grants receivable		2,160	-	2,160	-
Total		<u>310,160</u>	<u>35,836</u>	<u>345,996</u>	<u>275,772</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		37,267	(35,836)	1,431	153,995
Transfers between funds	12	<u>39,513</u>	<u>(39,513)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		76,780	(75,349)	1,431	153,995
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		397,087	151,159	548,246	394,251
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>473,867</u></u>	<u><u>75,810</u></u>	<u><u>549,677</u></u>	<u><u>548,246</u></u>

Dudley Voices for Choice

Balance Sheet

31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	5,039	-	5,039	3,655
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	1,619	-	1,619	3,490
Cash at bank and in hand		481,779	75,810	557,589	545,518
		<u>483,398</u>	<u>75,810</u>	<u>559,208</u>	<u>549,008</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(14,570)	-	(14,570)	(4,417)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>468,828</u>	<u>75,810</u>	<u>544,638</u>	<u>544,591</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>473,867</u>	<u>75,810</u>	<u>549,677</u>	<u>548,246</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>473,867</u>	<u>75,810</u>	<u>549,677</u>	<u>548,246</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				473,867	397,087
Restricted funds				<u>75,810</u>	<u>151,159</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>549,677</u>	<u>548,246</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dudley Voices for Choice

Balance Sheet - continued

31 March 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs A Parkes - Trustee

.....
Ms S A Richardson - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Government grants are recognised at the point that they are receivable and there is reasonable assurance that the company will comply with the conditions attached to them. They are valued at the consideration received or to be received.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Office equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

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

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

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

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

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Donations	59	7,921
	<u>59</u>	<u>7,921</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Other income	19,159	12,089
	<u>19,159</u>	<u>12,089</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	Grants receivable £	Total activities £
Grants	328,209	409,757
	<u>328,209</u>	<u>409,757</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Dudley MBC	38,081	47,900
National Lottery Community Fund	-	48,983
NHS	272,646	301,874
Other	17,482	11,000
	<u>328,209</u>	<u>409,757</u>

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	3,317	1,904
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	-	298
	<u>3,317</u>	<u>2,202</u>

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

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

7. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	215,600	142,295
Social security costs	9,236	5,774
Other pension costs	2,775	1,462
	<u>227,611</u>	<u>149,531</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	16	14
Number of employees	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	7,921	-	7,921
Charitable activities			
Grants receivable	360,774	48,983	409,757
Other trading activities	12,089	-	12,089
Total	<u>380,784</u>	<u>48,983</u>	<u>429,767</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Direct costs	160,096	87,656	247,752
Support costs	26,276	1,744	28,020
Total	<u>186,372</u>	<u>89,400</u>	<u>275,772</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	194,412	(40,417)	153,995

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	202,675	191,576	394,251
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>397,087</u>	<u>151,159</u>	<u>548,246</u>

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2023	8,296
Additions	<u>4,701</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>12,997</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2023	4,641
Charge for year	<u>3,317</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>7,958</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	<u>5,039</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,655</u>

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Prepayments	<u>1,619</u>	<u>3,490</u>

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

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	4,921	1,436
Net wages creditor	-	217
Pension creditor	5,328	604
Accruals and deferred income	4,321	2,160
	<u>14,570</u>	<u>4,417</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	397,087	37,267	39,513	473,867
Restricted funds				
National Lottery Community Fund	151,159	(35,836)	(39,513)	75,810
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>548,246</u>	<u>1,431</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>549,677</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	347,427	(310,160)	37,267
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	-	(35,836)	(35,836)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>347,427</u>	<u>(345,996)</u>	<u>1,431</u>

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

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	202,675	194,412	397,087
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	191,576	(40,417)	151,159
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>394,251</u>	<u>153,995</u>	<u>548,246</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	380,784	(186,372)	194,412
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	48,983	(89,400)	(40,417)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>429,767</u>	<u>(275,772)</u>	<u>153,995</u>

Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted General Fund

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds

National Lottery Community Fund

This money is to be used for West Midlands regional self advocacy work. The grant is to be paid half yearly until July 2022.

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

14. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by the trustees as listed in the Report of the Trustees.

Dudley Voices for Choice

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

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	59	7,921
Other trading activities		
Other income	19,159	12,089
Charitable activities		
Grants	328,209	409,757
Total incoming resources	347,427	429,767
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	215,600	142,295
Social security	9,236	5,774
Pensions	2,775	1,462
Rent	9,270	10,250
Autism Cafe	15,400	17,600
Training	35,455	55,286
Room hire	1,966	625
App	2,347	2,251
Event costs and services	18,901	12,660
	310,950	248,203
Support costs		
Other		
Insurance	372	385
Telephone	2,372	1,846
Printing, postage, stationery and advertising	978	2,309
Sundry expenses	195	248
Resources, repairs & renewals	3,877	3,654
Travelling	9,939	7,193
Internet and IT costs	1,082	190
Meeting refreshments	3,735	1,062
Subscriptions	6,408	4,183
DBS checks	148	76
Accountancy	2,160	2,610
Gifts, cards and flowers	463	1,610
Depreciation of office equipment	3,317	1,905
Carried forward	35,046	27,271

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Dudley Voices for Choice

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

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Other		
Brought forward	35,046	27,271
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	-	298
	35,046	27,569
Total resources expended	345,996	275,772
Net income	1,431	153,995

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

Document Details

Filename:	Dudley Voices For Choice - YE 31-03-2023 Accounts.PDF
Client of:	Lewis Smith & Co.

Signature Details

Name:	Sarah Offley
Email:	dudleyvoicesforchoice@gmail.com
Date & Time:	03/06/2024 15:09:23 PM (BST)
IP Address:	82.34.166.251
Signing Statement:	The trustees approve the financial statements and confirm that we will file with the Charity Commission accordingly.

Digital Certificate

The approved PDF file has been digitally certified. Please check the Digital Certificate information in your PDF viewer to verify the Digital Certificate authenticity and the PDF has not been tampered with.

On behalf of:	Lewis Smith & Co.
PDF digital certificate:	IRIS Software Group Limited
Digital certificate issued by:	GlobalSign

Please keep a copy of this document for your records.

Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
for
Dudley Voices for Choice

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Dudley Voices for Choice

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees	2 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7 to 8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 15
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	16 to 17

Dudley Voices for Choice

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

TRUSTEES

Mrs C Ochel (resigned 22.9.22)
Mrs A Parkes
Mrs A Ochel (resigned 11.5.22)
Mr S Nickolls (appointed 27.9.22) (resigned 30.3.23)
Ms S A Richardson (appointed 27.9.22)
Ms K Pritchard (appointed 1.9.23)
Mr S Hardy (appointed 6.7.23)
Mr S Terry (appointed 1.4.23)
Ms E Durnall (appointed 1.4.23)

REGISTERED OFFICE

DY1 Building
Stafford Street
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 1RT

**REGISTERED COMPANY
NUMBER**

CE000698 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1155463

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

BANKERS

The Co-Operative Bank
P/O. Box 250
Skelmersdale
Wigan
Greater Manchester
WN8 6WT

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities living in England in particular but not exclusively within Dudley Metropolitan Borough who are socially excluded from society, or parts of society by:

1. Providing a local network group that encourages and enables participation more effectively in the wider community.
2. Increasing, or co-ordinating, opportunities for people to engage with service providers; to enable those providers to adapt services to better meet their needs.
3. Raising public awareness of the issues affecting the needs of people with disabilities and learning disabilities.
4. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support.

Nothing in the constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the charitable incorporated organisation for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Trustees Foreword

A year full of exciting opportunities and activity following an unusually quieter prior year.

Work has continued with a range of partners such as universities, hospitals and GP's alongside other public and private organisations to promote the engagement of people with learning disabilities and autism to make improvements for services for all.

The team has re-established local networks following pandemic disruption and is enjoying being able to meet face to face with providers, people with lived experience and their peers whilst continuing to use zoom and online opportunities for those who choose to supporting people to remain connected.

The lottery funded self-advocacy network project has remained active and continues to develop the skills of the link workers this has included working on a health project and supporting NHS engagement with our local communities.

The demand for services that DVC offers is continuing to increase, and we are in the process of recruiting additional support staff to ensure a positive response to demand. We are also recruiting additional trustees to expand the skill base of the team in response to the growth of business.

The trustees wish to thank and congratulate our staff team for continuing to develop our services and maintain such high standards during this year. We look forward to facing exciting challenges in 2023/24 and continuing to make a positive difference to the lives of people with a learning disability and autism across the Black Country and West Midlands.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Chief Officer Annual Review Financial Year 2022/23

Our response has remained the same in that the people we work with are always at the forefront of everything we do.

Working in unique and person-centred ways we have supported people with learning disabilities and autistic people to be a part of new projects from design to delivery. We have done this using technology and have continued to learn and develop all our skills.

We have designed and co-developed several new training programmes including showing others how to make information accessible to everyone.

The family peer worker team was developed and continues to work with parents supporting other parents with people who are in secure hospitals or at risk of admission. There has been a significant reduced use of services and the evaluation shows the real impact the team have had in the community.

The team continue to be independent critical friends on CeTRs and CTRs to support patients to be a part of their admissions and discharge plans.

We have continued to share experiences with all three local universities. Supporting learning disability nurses, student social workers and student psychologists.

This year we were finalists in three categories at The National Learning Disabilities and Autism awards.

We are over halfway through the lottery project and now looking towards self-sustainable ways to continue the West Midlands Self Advocacy Network.

The self-advocates continue to guide and share their ideas to shape future for their charity so that opportunities can be found and developed to make things happen.

We are looking forward to our a year of interactive and challenging work within the community and continuing to grow and make our communities a place for everyone.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023 shows income for the year of £429,767 (2022 - £279,535) and expenditure for the year of £275,772 (2022 - £185,294). This gave a net surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £153,995 (2022 - £94,241).

The charity's total funds at the end of the year were £548,246 (2022 - £394,251). This included unrestricted funds of £397,087 (£202,675) and restricted funds of £151,159 (2022 - £191,576).

The increase in income, net surplus and restricted funds this year is due to the money received from the NHS, which can be seen in note 4 of the accounts.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to retain sufficient funds to meet the ongoing liabilities of the charity together with funds for the development of the charities objectives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (last amended 24 January 2014).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

As set out in the charity's constitution, new trustees are appointed by the board of trustees.

Organisational structure

The charity is run by a board of trustees who are responsible for the overall strategic management of the organisation. The body of trustees consists of a minimum of three trustees.

Trustees Information

The names of the trustees are listed on page one within Reference and Administrative Details.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees receive a full copy of the constitution, a copy of the latest trustees report and accounts and any other information necessary for them to undertake their role within the charity.

Key management

The charity is mainly run by its Chief Officer Mrs S Offley., who is not a trustee of the charity.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs A Parkes - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dudley Voices for Choice ('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 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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can 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 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.

Mr C A Beale
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Date:

Dudley Voices for Choice

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	7,921	-	7,921	100
Charitable activities	4				
Grants receivable		360,774	48,983	409,757	262,146
Other trading activities	3	12,089	-	12,089	17,289
Total		<u>380,784</u>	<u>48,983</u>	<u>429,767</u>	<u>279,535</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct costs		160,096	87,656	247,752	173,164
Support costs		26,276	1,744	28,020	12,130
Total		<u>186,372</u>	<u>89,400</u>	<u>275,772</u>	<u>185,294</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		194,412	(40,417)	153,995	94,241
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		202,675	191,576	394,251	300,010
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>397,087</u></u>	<u><u>151,159</u></u>	<u><u>548,246</u></u>	<u><u>394,251</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dudley Voices for Choice

Balance Sheet

31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	3,655	-	3,655	2,793
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	2,090	1,400	3,490	72,750
Cash at bank and in hand		395,759	149,759	545,518	320,201
		<u>397,849</u>	<u>151,159</u>	<u>549,008</u>	<u>392,951</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(4,417)	-	(4,417)	(1,493)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>393,432</u>	<u>151,159</u>	<u>544,591</u>	<u>391,458</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>397,087</u>	<u>151,159</u>	<u>548,246</u>	<u>394,251</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>397,087</u>	<u>151,159</u>	<u>548,246</u>	<u>394,251</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				397,087	202,675
Restricted funds				<u>151,159</u>	<u>191,576</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>548,246</u>	<u>394,251</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dudley Voices for Choice

Balance Sheet - continued

31 March 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs A Parkes - Trustee

.....
Ms S A Richardson - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Government grants are recognised at the point that they are receivable and there is reasonable assurance that the company will comply with the conditions attached to them. They are valued at the consideration received or to be received.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Office equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

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

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

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

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

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Donations	7,921	100
	<u>7,921</u>	<u>100</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Other income	12,089	17,289
	<u>12,089</u>	<u>17,289</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	Grants receivable £	Total activities £
Grants	409,757	262,146
	<u>409,757</u>	<u>262,146</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Dudley MBC	47,900	164,766
National Lottery Community Fund	48,983	97,380
NHS	301,874	-
Shropshire Council	11,000	-
	<u>409,757</u>	<u>262,146</u>

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	1,904	1,642
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	298	-
	<u>2,202</u>	<u>1,642</u>

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

7. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	142,295	103,235
Social security costs	5,774	1,173
Other pension costs	1,462	1,157
	<u>149,531</u>	<u>105,565</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	14	8
Number of employees	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	100	-	100
Charitable activities			
Grants receivable	164,766	97,380	262,146
Other trading activities	17,288	1	17,289
Total	<u>182,154</u>	<u>97,381</u>	<u>279,535</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Direct costs	131,699	41,465	173,164
Support costs	11,485	645	12,130
Total	<u>143,184</u>	<u>42,110</u>	<u>185,294</u>
NET INCOME	38,970	55,271	94,241
Transfers between funds	31,304	(31,304)	-
Net movement in funds	<u>70,274</u>	<u>23,967</u>	<u>94,241</u>

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	132,401	167,609	300,010
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>202,675</u>	<u>191,576</u>	<u>394,251</u>

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2022	8,406
Additions	3,064
Disposals	(3,174)
At 31 March 2023	8,296
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2022	5,613
Charge for year	1,904
Eliminated on disposal	(2,876)
At 31 March 2023	4,641
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	3,655
At 31 March 2022	2,793

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Trade debtors	-	18,427
Other debtors	-	2,074
Accrued income	-	48,983
Prepayments	3,490	3,266
	<u>3,490</u>	<u>72,750</u>

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

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	1,436	-
Net wages creditor	217	-
Pension creditor	604	744
Accruals and deferred income	2,160	749
	<u>4,417</u>	<u>1,493</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	202,675	194,412	397,087
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	191,576	(40,417)	151,159
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>394,251</u>	<u>153,995</u>	<u>548,246</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	380,784	(186,372)	194,412
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	48,983	(89,400)	(40,417)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>429,767</u>	<u>(275,772)</u>	<u>153,995</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	132,401	38,970	31,304	202,675
Restricted funds				
Shine 2017	1,048	-	(1,048)	-
Regional Forums	6,139	-	(6,139)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	160,422	55,271	(24,117)	191,576
	<u>167,609</u>	<u>55,271</u>	<u>(31,304)</u>	<u>191,576</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>300,010</u>	<u>94,241</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>394,251</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	182,154	(143,184)	38,970
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	97,381	(42,110)	55,271
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>279,535</u>	<u>(185,294)</u>	<u>94,241</u>

Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted General Fund

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds

National Lottery Community Fund

This money is to be used for West Midlands regional self advocacy work. The grant is to be paid half yearly until July 2022.

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

14. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by the trustees as listed in the Report of the Trustees.

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

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	7,921	100
Other trading activities		
Other income	12,089	17,289
Charitable activities		
Grants	409,757	262,146
Total incoming resources	429,767	279,535
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	142,295	103,235
Social security	5,774	1,173
Pensions	1,462	1,157
Rent	10,250	6,000
Autism Cafe	17,600	2,400
Training	55,286	57,129
Room hire	625	270
App	1,800	1,800
Event costs and services	12,660	-
	247,752	173,164
Support costs		
Other		
Insurance	385	289
Telephone	1,846	1,125
Printing, postage, stationery and advertising	2,309	1,025
Sundry expenses	248	1,051
Resources, repairs & renewals	3,654	476
Travelling	7,193	1,242
Internet and IT costs	2,610	2,483
Meeting refreshments	1,062	500
Subscriptions	2,214	942
DBS checks	76	380
Payroll services	-	275
Accountancy	2,610	700
Gifts, cards and flowers	1,610	-
Carried forward	25,817	10,488

Dudley Voices for Choice

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

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Other		
Brought forward	25,817	10,488
Depreciation of office equipment	1,905	1,642
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	298	-
	28,020	12,130
Total resources expended	275,772	185,294
Net income	153,995	94,241

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE000698 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1155463

Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022
for
Dudley Voices for Choice

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees	2 to 4
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 14
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	15

Dudley Voices for Choice

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES

Mrs C Ochel
Mrs A Parkes
Mrs A Evett (resigned 25.9.21)
Mr J A A Cokeley (resigned 25.9.21)
Mrs A Ochel
Mr S Nickolls (appointed 27.9.22)
Ms S A Richardson (appointed 27.9.22)

CHIEF OFFICER

Mrs S Offley

REGISTERED OFFICE

DY1 Building
Stafford Street
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 1RT

**REGISTERED COMPANY
NUMBER**

CE000698 (England and Wales)

**REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER**

1155463

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

BANKERS

The Co-Operative Bank
P/O. Box 250
Skelmersdale
Wigan
Greater Manchester
WN8 6WT

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities living in England in particular but not exclusively within Dudley Metropolitan Borough who are socially excluded from society, or parts of society by:

1. Providing a local network group that encourages and enables participation more effectively in the wider community.
2. Increasing, or co-ordinating, opportunities for people to engage with service providers; to enable those providers to adapt services to better meet their needs.
3. Raising public awareness of the issues affecting the needs of people with disabilities and learning disabilities.
4. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support.

Nothing in the constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the charitable incorporated organisation for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Trustees Foreward

A year disrupted by Covid 19, trustees are happy to report that DVC has continued not only to successfully support people with a learning disability and autism through a pandemic but to also maintain existing and develop new programmes.

The team has continued to drive the engagement element of the 'Regional Transforming care project' with the model achieving recognition as an example of excellent practice.

Work has continued with a range of partners such as universities, hospitals and GP's alongside other public and private organisations to promote the engagement of people with learning disabilities and autism to make improvements for services for all.

The team is re-establishing local networks following pandemic disruption and is slowly re-introducing face to face meetings whilst maintaining the use of zoom to keep people connected.

Adaptions have been made to ensure training programmes continue to be delivered remotely and the lottery funded self advocacy network project has remained active and continues to develop the skills of the link workers.

The demand for services that DVC offers is continuing to increase and we are in the process of recruiting additional support staff to ensure a positive response to demand. We are also recruiting additional trustees to expand the skill base of the team in response to the growth of business.

The trustees wish to thank and congratulate our staff team for continuing to develop our services and maintain such high standards during this challenging year. We look forward to facing exciting challenges in 2022/23 and continuing to make a positive difference to the lives of people with a learning disability and autism across the Black Country and West Midlands.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Chief Officer Annual Review Financial Year 2021/2022

COVID 19 has continued to dominate the way in which we have been allowed to work and develop the charity.

Our response has remained the same in that the people we work with are always at the forefront of everything we do.

Working in unique and person-centred ways we have supported people with learning disabilities and autistic people to be a part of new projects from design to delivery. We have done this using technology and have continued to learn and develop all our skills.

We have designed and co-developed several new training programmes including showing others how to make information accessible to everyone.

The family peer worker team was developed and is now live with parents supporting other parents with people who are in secure hospitals or at risk of admission.

The team continue to be independent critical friends on CeTRs and CTRs to support patients to be a part of their admissions and discharge plans.

We have made sure all COVID 19 information is clear and shared with people in the community.

We have continued to share experiences with all three local universities. Supporting learning disability nurses, student social workers and student psychologists.

Our team continues to grow along with demand for support, our trainees programme has supported 4 people to gain their entry level 3 in customer care.

Our plans for exiting covid 19 have been challenged with lockdowns lifted then restated but each time responded to in ways that suit what needed to be done to keep people safe.

This year we were finalists in three categories at The National Learning Disabilities and Autism awards.

We are over halfway through the lottery project and now looking towards self-sustainable ways to continue the West Midlands Self Advocacy Network.

The self-advocates continue to guide and share their ideas to shape future for their charity so that opportunities can be found and developed to make things happen.

We are looking forward to re-introducing our work back into the community and continuing to grow and make our communities a place for everyone.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022 shows income for the year of £279,534 (2021 - £181,736) and expenditure for the year of £185,293 (2021 - £125,290). This gave a net surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £94,241 (2021 - £56,446).

The charity's total funds at the end of the year were £394,251 (2021 - £300,010). This included unrestricted funds of £202,675 (2021 - £132,401) and restricted funds of £191,576 (2021 - £167,609).

The increase in income, net surplus and restricted funds this year is due to the money received from the National Lottery, as mentioned above and as can be seen in note 11 of the accounts.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to retain sufficient funds to meet the ongoing liabilities of the charity together with funds for the development of the charities objectives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (last amended 24 January 2014).

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

As set out in the charity's constitution, new trustees are appointed by the board of trustees.

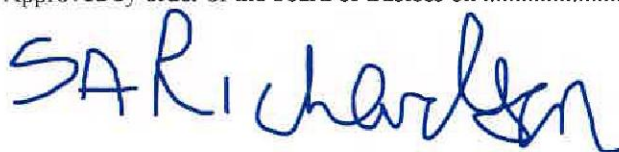
Organisational structure

The charity is run by a board of trustees who are responsible for the overall strategic management of the organisation. The body of trustees consists of a minimum of three trustees.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees receive a full copy of the constitution, a copy of the latest trustees report and accounts and any other information necessary for them to undertake their role within the charity.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SARichardson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'S' and 'R'.

.....
Mrs C Ochel - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Dudley Voices for Choice

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dudley Voices for Choice ('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 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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of FCCA 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 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.

Mr C A Beale
FCCA
Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Date:

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	100	-	100	1,291
Charitable activities					
Grants receivable		164,766	97,380	262,146	171,767
Other trading activities	3	17,287	1	17,288	8,678
Total		<u>182,153</u>	<u>97,381</u>	<u>279,534</u>	<u>181,736</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct costs		131,737	41,465	173,202	113,687
Support costs		11,446	645	12,091	11,603
Total		<u>143,183</u>	<u>42,110</u>	<u>185,293</u>	<u>125,290</u>
NET INCOME		38,970	55,271	94,241	56,446
Transfers between funds	12	31,304	(31,304)	-	-
Net movement in funds		70,274	23,967	94,241	56,446
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		132,401	167,609	300,010	243,564
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>202,675</u>	<u>191,576</u>	<u>394,251</u>	<u>300,010</u>

Balance Sheet
31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	2,793	-	2,793	2,167
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	23,767	48,983	72,750	20,595
Cash at bank and in hand		177,608	142,593	320,201	284,609
		201,375	191,576	392,951	305,204
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(1,493)	-	(1,493)	(7,361)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		199,882	191,576	391,458	297,843
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		202,675	191,576	394,251	300,010
NET ASSETS		202,675	191,576	394,251	300,010
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				202,675	132,401
Restricted funds				191,576	167,609
TOTAL FUNDS				394,251	300,010

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:



 Mrs C Ochel - Trustee


 SA RICHARDSON

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Government grants are recognised at the point that they are receivable and there is reasonable assurance that the company will comply with the conditions attached to them. They are valued at the consideration received or to be received.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

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

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

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

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

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Donations	100	1,291
	<u>100</u>	<u>1,291</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Other income	17,288	8,678
	<u>17,288</u>	<u>8,678</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	Grants receivable	Total activities
	£	£
Grants	262,146	171,767
	<u>262,146</u>	<u>171,767</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Dudley MBC	164,766	72,422
National Lottery Community Fund	97,380	96,344
Furlough grants	-	3,001
	<u>262,146</u>	<u>171,767</u>

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	1,642	1,486
	<u>1,642</u>	<u>1,486</u>

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

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

7. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Wages and salaries	103,235	72,933
Social security costs	1,173	297
Other pension costs	1,157	887
	<u>105,565</u>	<u>74,117</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.22	31.3.21
Number of employees	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	1,291	-	1,291
Charitable activities			
Grants receivable	75,423	96,344	171,767
Other trading activities	8,678	-	8,678
Total	<u>85,392</u>	<u>96,344</u>	<u>181,736</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Direct costs	68,747	44,940	113,687
Support costs	10,130	1,473	11,603
Total	<u>78,877</u>	<u>46,413</u>	<u>125,290</u>
NET INCOME	6,515	49,931	56,446
Transfers between funds	31,996	(31,996)	-
Net movement in funds	38,511	17,935	56,446
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	93,891	149,673	243,564
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>132,402</u>	<u>167,608</u>	<u>300,010</u>

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

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2021	6,138
Additions	2,268
At 31 March 2022	8,406
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2021	3,971
Charge for year	1,642
At 31 March 2022	5,613
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2022	2,793
At 31 March 2021	2,167

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Trade debtors	18,427	13,910
Other debtors	2,074	1,434
Prepayments and accrued income	48,983	-
Prepayments	3,266	5,251
	72,750	20,595

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	5,796
Social security and other taxes	-	814
Pension creditor	744	-
Accruals and deferred income	749	751
	1,493	7,361

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

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	132,401	38,970	31,304	202,675
Restricted funds				
Shine 2017	1,048	-	(1,048)	-
Regional Forums	6,139	-	(6,139)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	160,422	55,271	(24,117)	191,576
	<u>167,609</u>	<u>55,271</u>	<u>(31,304)</u>	<u>191,576</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>300,010</u>	<u>94,241</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>394,251</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	182,153	(143,183)	38,970
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	97,381	(42,110)	55,271
	<u>279,534</u>	<u>(185,293)</u>	<u>94,241</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>279,534</u>	<u>(185,293)</u>	<u>94,241</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	93,891	6,514	31,996	132,401
Restricted funds				
Shine 2017	1,048	-	-	1,048
Regional Forums	6,139	-	-	6,139
National Lottery Community Fund	142,486	49,932	(31,996)	160,422
	<u>149,673</u>	<u>49,932</u>	<u>(31,996)</u>	<u>167,609</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>243,564</u>	<u>56,446</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300,010</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	85,392	(78,878)	6,514
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	96,344	(46,412)	49,932
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>181,736</u>	<u>(125,290)</u>	<u>56,446</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	93,891	45,484	63,300	202,675
Restricted funds				
Shine 2017	1,048	-	(1,048)	-
Regional Forums	6,139	-	(6,139)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	<u>142,486</u>	<u>105,203</u>	<u>(56,113)</u>	<u>191,576</u>
	<u>149,673</u>	<u>105,203</u>	<u>(63,300)</u>	<u>191,576</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>243,564</u>	<u>150,687</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>394,251</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	267,545	(222,061)	45,484
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	193,725	(88,522)	105,203
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>461,270</u>	<u>(310,583)</u>	<u>150,687</u>

Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted General Fund

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Shine 2017

This money was raised from Shine 2016 ticket sales and was intended to be used for the Shine 2017 festival. A SHINE event will now be happening in 2021 as we were unable to source a suitable venue. Money from this restricted fund will be used for this purpose as previously mentioned.

Regional Forums

This money is to be used for the work of regional forum only. The regional forum is a collective group of self-advocacy groups from across the West Midlands. The money is to be used to support the forums which includes paying for meeting rooms, support staff and expenses incurred by the group.

National Lottery Community Fund

This money is to be used for West Midlands regional self advocacy work. The grant is to be paid half yearly until July 2022.

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022.

14. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by the trustees as listed in the Report of the Trustees.

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

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	100	1,291
Other trading activities		
Other income	17,288	8,678
Charitable activities		
Grants	262,146	171,767
Total incoming resources	279,534	181,736
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	103,235	72,933
Social security	1,173	297
Pensions	1,157	887
Rent	6,000	3,750
Autism Cafe	2,400	-
Literature	38	8
Training	57,129	35,042
Room hire	270	-
App	1,800	770
	173,202	113,687
Support costs		
Other		
Insurance	289	385
Telephone	1,125	1,487
Printing and stationery	1,025	573
Sundry expenses	1,051	359
Resources, repairs & renewals	438	1,216
Travelling	651	1,548
Internet and IT costs	2,483	1,527
Meeting refreshments	500	153
Subscriptions	942	1,115
DBS checks	380	344
Payroll services	275	660
Accountancy	700	750
Mileage	590	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,642	1,486
	12,091	11,603
Total resources expended	185,293	125,290
Net income	94,241	56,446

DUDLEY VOICES FOR CHOICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1155463

Accounts

Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021
for
Dudley Voices for Choice

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Dudley Voices for Choice

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees	2 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 15
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	16 to 17

Dudley Voices for Choice

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

TRUSTEES

Mrs C Ochel
Mrs A Parkes
Mrs A Evett
Mr J A A Cokeley
Mrs A Ochel

CHIEF OFFICER

Mrs S Offley

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

DY1 Building
Stafford Street
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 1RT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1155463

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

BANKERS

NatWest Bank plc
Chatham Customer Service Centre
Waterside Court
Chatham Maritime
Chatham
ME4 4RT

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities living in England in particular but not exclusively within Dudley Metropolitan Borough who are socially excluded from society, or parts of society by:

1. Providing a local network group that encourages and enables participation more effectively in the wider community.
2. Increasing, or co-ordinating, opportunities for people to engage with service providers; to enable those providers to adapt services to better meet their needs.
3. Raising public awareness of the issues affecting the needs of people with disabilities and learning disabilities.
4. Providing workshops, forums, advocacy and general support.

Nothing in the constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the charitable incorporated organisation for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit

The objects of the charity are to promote social inclusion among individuals with disabilities and learning disabilities.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Trustees Foreward

A year disrupted by Covid 19, trustees are happy to report that DVC has continued not only to successfully support people with a learning disability and autism through a pandemic but to also maintain existing and develop new programmes.

The team has continued to drive the engagement element of the 'Regional Transforming care project' with the model achieving recognition as an example of excellent practice.

Work has continued with a range of partners such as universities, hospitals and GP's alongside other public and private organisations to promote the engagement of people with learning disabilities and autism to make improvements for services for all.

The team is re-establishing local networks following pandemic disruption and is slowly re-introducing face to face meetings whilst maintaining the use of zoom to keep people connected.

Adaptions have been made to ensure training programmes continue to be delivered remotely and the lottery funded self advocacy network project has remained active and continues to develop the skills of the link workers.

The demand for services that DVC offers is continuing to increase and we are in the process of recruiting additional support staff to ensure a positive response to demand. We are also recruiting additional trustees to expand the skill base of the team in response to the growth of business.

The trustees wish to thank and congratulate our staff team for continuing to develop our services and maintain such high standards during this challenging year. We look forward to facing exciting challenges in 2021/22 and continuing to make a positive difference to the lives of people with a learning disability and autism across the Black Country and West Midlands.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Chief Officer Annual Review Financial Year 2020/2021

In a year where the world stood still because of the Covid 19 pandemic I am proud to say that our team learnt a new way of working and were able to create and deliver a limited and robust support network for the people we work alongside and create new opportunities using technology innovatively and for some the first time ever. There have been times of pure desperation and soul searching looking for ways to make sure everyone is safe and well, and getting the interactions they need to prevent isolation for those that live alone but in amongst all of this there has been some outstanding achievements and we can proudly say that we have all survived relatively unscathed. There have of course been lots of positives these have included:

- Learning new skills using technology.
- Engagement has increased as more people have time to partake.
- We have joined together with other groups from around the country and have all worked together to make change and influence decision making in particular around vaccinations and making sure that information is accessible to all with us all collectively sharing easy read documents to all of the self advocates, this has happened locally, regionally and nationally.
- We have supported people who have spent time in Assessment and Treatment units to share their experiences with decision makers to influence changes in practice.
- We have held weekly sessions with self advocates on zoom to share peoples thoughts and ideas for the post pandemic world.
- We were successful in gaining funding from NHSe, supporting a family peer support network for people who are on the risk register in the Black Country.
- We have worked locally and regionally with self advocates to make sure that their voices are prominent and heard in meetings where decisions are made about their services and their communities.
- We continue to co-chair the Learning Disability Partnership Board and Autism Partnership Board.
- We have supported the SEND strategic team to gather information and engage on the new strategy in Dudley, particularly the 16-25 years old.
- We have developed training sessions and presented to the local authority, University of Wolverhampton and University of Birmingham and Birmingham City University.
- We have trained 314 student medical professionals in our bespoke simulation training in partnership with Dudley Group of Hospitals.
- We have campaigned against the use of DNAR's for people with learning disabilities and people with autism, raising significant awareness that resulted in the CCG's responding and challenging all DNAR's.
- We have continued to support the LeDeR team making sure that where engagement can happen it does and that information is accessible to all.
- We have supported Care and Treatment Reviews and Care Education Treatment Reviews using microsoft teams.
- Supported and built new relationships, friendships, self confidence, self esteem and overall good well being of the self advocates and the team.
- We have worked in partnership with Mary Stevens Hospice and Jed Jerwood to create the #NoBarriers work reducing inequalities in end of life care. This work has created opportunities which have included delivering co produced and co developed sessions with people who have a learning disability and/or autism, speaking and sharing on national BBC news and the making of the short film #nobarriers No Barriers Here .
- The West Midlands Self Advocacy network has grown and has used technology to benefit and upskill the link workers who are employed by the project again whilst maintaining contact to support good health and wellbeing.

Whilst we celebrate all of the great work achieved we have saved the best to last, in 2020 Dudley Voices for Choice were acknowledged and presented with the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. We are so proud and pleased to have this award and will be celebrating when it is safe to do so.

We have survived the pandemic and have come out stronger for it. Self advocacy and the voices of people who live with disabilities is in the forefront of people's minds. We need to use this to benefit, influence and empower in all aspects of life including better housing, more employment opportunities, and an equitable life for all.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2021 shows income for the year of £181,736 (2020 - £247,770) and expenditure for the year of £125,290 (2020 - £101,331). This gave a net surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £56,446 (2020 - £146,439).

The charity's total funds at the end of the year were £300,010 (2020 - £243,564). This included unrestricted funds of £132,401 (2020 - £93,891) and restricted funds of £167,609 (2020 - £149,673).

The increase in income, net surplus and restricted funds this year is due to the money received from the National Lottery, as mentioned above and as can be seen in note 11 of the accounts.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy is to retain sufficient funds to meet the ongoing liabilities of the charity together with funds for the development of the charities objectives.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (last amended 24 January 2014).

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

As set out in the charity's constitution, new trustees are appointed by the board of trustees.

Organisational structure

The charity is run by a board of trustees who are responsible for the overall strategic management of the organisation. The body of trustees consists of a minimum of three trustees.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees receive a full copy of the constitution, a copy of the latest trustees report and accounts and any other information necessary for them to undertake their role within the charity.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs A Evett - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dudley Voices for Choice

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Dudley Voices for Choice (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Mr C A Beale
FCCA
Lewis Smith & Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
The Old Doctor's House
74 Grange Road
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2AW

Date:

Dudley Voices for Choice

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	1,291	-	1,291	18
Charitable activities					
Grants receivable	4	75,423	96,344	171,767	235,913
Other trading activities	3	8,678	-	8,678	11,839
Total		85,392	96,344	181,736	247,770
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Direct costs		69,933	45,240	115,173	93,628
Support costs		8,944	1,173	10,117	7,703
Total		78,877	46,413	125,290	101,331
NET INCOME		6,515	49,931	56,446	146,439
Transfers between funds	11	31,996	(31,996)	-	-
Net movement in funds		38,511	17,935	56,446	146,439
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		93,891	149,673	243,564	97,125
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		132,402	167,608	300,010	243,564

The notes form part of these financial statements

Dudley Voices for Choice

Balance Sheet

31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	1,868	299	2,167	1,035
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	20,434	161	20,595	1,997
Cash at bank and in hand		117,460	167,149	284,609	243,303
		<u>137,894</u>	<u>167,310</u>	<u>305,204</u>	<u>245,300</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(7,361)	-	(7,361)	(2,771)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>130,533</u>	<u>167,310</u>	<u>297,843</u>	<u>242,529</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>132,401</u>	<u>167,609</u>	<u>300,010</u>	<u>243,564</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>132,401</u>	<u>167,609</u>	<u>300,010</u>	<u>243,564</u>
FUNDS	11				
Unrestricted funds				132,401	93,891
Restricted funds				<u>167,609</u>	<u>149,673</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>300,010</u>	<u>243,564</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs A Evett - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Government grants are recognised at the point that they are receivable and there is reasonable assurance that the company will comply with the conditions attached to them. They are valued at the consideration received or to be received.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

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

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

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

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

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Donations	1,291	18
	<u>1,291</u>	<u>18</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Other income	8,678	11,839
	<u>8,678</u>	<u>11,839</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	Grants receivable	Total activities
	£	£
Grants	171,767	235,913
	<u>171,767</u>	<u>235,913</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Dudley MBC	72,422	72,900
National Lottery Community Fund	96,344	163,013
Furlough grants	3,001	-
	<u>171,767</u>	<u>235,913</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2021 nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

6. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Wages and salaries	72,933	65,670
Social security costs	297	799
Other pension costs	887	919
	<u>74,117</u>	<u>67,388</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.21	31.3.20
Number of employees	7	7
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

6. STAFF COSTS - continued

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	18	-	18
Charitable activities			
Grants receivable	72,900	163,013	235,913
Other trading activities	11,839	-	11,839
Total	84,757	163,013	247,770
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Direct costs	74,462	19,166	93,628
Support costs	6,341	1,362	7,703
Total	80,803	20,528	101,331
NET INCOME	3,954	142,485	146,439
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	89,938	7,187	97,125
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	93,892	149,672	243,564

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2020	3,520
Additions	2,618
At 31 March 2021	6,138
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2020	2,485
Charge for year	1,486
At 31 March 2021	3,971
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2021	2,167
At 31 March 2020	1,035

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Trade debtors	13,910	921
Other debtors	1,434	-
Prepayments	5,251	1,076
	20,595	1,997

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Trade creditors	5,796	348
Taxation and social security	814	1,537
Other creditors	751	886
	7,361	2,771

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	93,891	6,514	31,996	132,401
Restricted funds				
Shine 2017	1,048	-	-	1,048
Regional Forums	6,139	-	-	6,139
National Lottery Community Fund	142,486	49,932	(31,996)	160,422
	<u>149,673</u>	<u>49,932</u>	<u>(31,996)</u>	<u>167,609</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>243,564</u>	<u>56,446</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300,010</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	85,392	(78,878)	6,514
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	96,344	(46,412)	49,932
	<u>181,736</u>	<u>(125,290)</u>	<u>56,446</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>181,736</u>	<u>(125,290)</u>	<u>56,446</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	89,938	3,953	93,891
Restricted funds			
Shine 2017	1,048	-	1,048
Regional Forums	6,139	-	6,139
National Lottery Community Fund	-	142,486	142,486
	<u>7,187</u>	<u>142,486</u>	<u>149,673</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>97,125</u>	<u>146,439</u>	<u>243,564</u>

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	84,757	(80,804)	3,953
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	163,013	(20,527)	142,486
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>247,770</u>	<u>(101,331)</u>	<u>146,439</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	89,938	10,467	31,996	132,401
Restricted funds				
Shine 2017	1,048	-	-	1,048
Regional Forums	6,139	-	-	6,139
National Lottery Community Fund	-	192,418	(31,996)	160,422
	<u>7,187</u>	<u>192,418</u>	<u>(31,996)</u>	<u>167,609</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>97,125</u>	<u>202,885</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300,010</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	170,149	(159,682)	10,467
Restricted funds			
National Lottery Community Fund	259,357	(66,939)	192,418
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>429,506</u>	<u>(226,621)</u>	<u>202,885</u>

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted General Fund

This fund represents the free funds of the charity that are not designated for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds

Shine 2017

This money was raised from Shine 2016 ticket sales and was intended to be used for the Shine 2017 festival. A SHINE event will now be happening in 2021 as we were unable to source a suitable venue. Money from this restricted fund will be used for this purpose as previously mentioned.

Regional Forums

This money is to be used for the work of regional forum only. The regional forum is a collective group of self-advocacy groups from across the West Midlands. The money is to be used to support the forums which includes paying for meeting rooms, support staff and expenses incurred by the group.

National Lottery Community Fund

This money is to be used for West Midlands regional self advocacy work. The grant is to be paid half yearly until July 2022.

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021.

13. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by the trustees as listed in the Report of the Trustees.

Dudley Voices for Choice

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	1,291	18
Other trading activities		
Other income	8,678	11,839
Charitable activities		
Grants	171,767	235,913
Total incoming resources	181,736	247,770
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	72,933	65,670
Social security	297	799
Pensions	887	919
Rent	3,750	6,950
Literature	8	16
Training	35,042	15,900
Room hire	-	766
App	770	-
	113,687	91,020
Support costs		
Other		
Insurance	385	385
Telephone	1,487	1,413
Printing and stationery	573	510
Sundry expenses	359	10
Resources, repairs & renewals	1,216	649
Travelling	1,548	2,710
Internet and IT costs	1,527	614
Meeting refreshments	153	1,038
Subscriptions	1,115	842
DBS checks	344	24
Payroll services	660	450
Accountancy	750	670
Bank charges	-	4
Depreciation of computer equipment	1,486	992
	11,603	10,311

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Dudley Voices for Choice

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Total resources expended	125,290	101,331
Net income	56,446	146,439

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements