

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

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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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