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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

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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>

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

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	<u>8,296</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2022	5,613
Charge for year	1,904
Eliminated on disposal	(2,876)
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,641</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	<u>3,655</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,793</u>

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.

Dudley Voices for Choice

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

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 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