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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

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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
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