

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
FOR
DEAFvibe UK**

Known as Deafvibe / DVUK

DEAFyibe UK- 31ST DECEMBER 2024

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DEAFvibe UK
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of DEAFvibe UK for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

(1) The relief of Deaf, Deafened Hard of Hearing and Deafblind people, including their families and carers, resident in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and surrounding areas by the provision of services, information, support, advice, education and facilities in the interests of social welfare and other leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of such people.

(2) The advancement of public education including but not limited to raising awareness of issues of deafness to the wider public.

DEAFvibe aims to support people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind as well as their families, friends and carers in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

It is DEAFvibe's belief that all deaf people should be treated equally and with respect, that access to information & communication is provided without barriers or prejudice, promoting equal participation and opportunities in life.

Communication whether it be written, verbal or through visual information is a vital need to have a sense of belonging in society.

Our vision is:

- To create a safe, friendly and relaxed environment where individuals can communicate, share feelings and offer support to each other;
- To create a safe, friendly and relaxed environment where individuals can communicate, share feelings and offer support to each other;
- To create opportunities for individuals to accept and develop skills in coping with their own experiences of deafness or deafblindness.
- To encourage individuals to use their expertise and knowledge to empower others;

DEAFvibe's philosophy is "Deafness = Equality & Access = Fairness"

VIBE is linked with what it means to have a hearing loss:

- The feeling of sound through vibration;
- Picking up on vibes through visual clues;
- The sharing of experiences of knowing what it is like to be deaf.

V.I.B.E. = "Visually Inclusive by Everyone"

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Public benefit

During 2024, DEAFvibe continued with its monthly Café DEAFvibe on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Bradwell Lodge Community Centre, Newcastle under Lyme. The Cafés continue to be attended by BSL users, hard of hearing, deafened, deafblind people as well as hearing family and friends.

Trustees have been really pleased with attendance which demonstrates that the Cafés are valuable to the community that we serve. Whilst these Cafés are held on a monthly basis – the numbers attending (between 40 – 60) and has seen a positive increase in numbers throughout 2024 with new faces and old friends returning. This shows the value and importance particularly as we encourage and promote integration and inclusion for all by provision of BSL Interpreters and Remote Speech to Text Reporter (STTR) – captioning.

The weekly VIBE sessions by two committed volunteers for hard of hearing and deafened people who would otherwise be isolated have continued throughout 2024. These sessions also support the Christmas Sign Singing fundraising efforts.

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

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

As in previous years, DEAFvibe were able to re-negotiate with the Board of Trustees at Bradwell Lodge Community Centre a favourable rate for the permanent use / room hire of the DEAFvibe (Room Two) for 2024.

In addition to above room hire, there continues to be a separate charge for the hire of the main hall to deliver the monthly Café DEAFvibe sessions as a separate fee from Room 2. This fee also included the relevant charitable discount.

As in November 2023, DEAFvibe were successful in receiving a Grant of £20,600 (Restricted Funds) from the Fisher Foundation Charitable Trust to support with the room hire costs and rent at Bradwell Lodge Community Centre for 2 years to November 2025. It was imperative that DEAFvibe were in a position to maximise our own funding and the Grant from the Fisher Family Trust to benefit DEAFvibe and by paying for the main hall separately ensured that should we need to cancel a Café sessions, DEAFvibe would not lose out financially.

Trustees informed Friends of DEAFvibe at the monthly Cafés throughout 2023/2024 including the Fisher Family of the work we have been undertaking in identifying partner organisations to support DEAFvibe UK and to ensure its sustainability for the long-term future. We have reassured Friends that it is imperative that wherever possible that we are able to retain the name DEAFvibe UK particularly as this links us to the Queens Award for Voluntary Services as achieved in 2014.

DEAFvibe have achieved successful outcomes in relation to the above discussions and it has been agreed with all Trustees involved to work in partnership with Action Deafness moving forwards from end of 2023 / early January 2024. This news was favourably received by Friends of DEAFvibe as it was imperative to ensure openness, honesty and transparency with everyone involved. 2024 has seen the Hubs Connect Manager participate in the monthly Cafés and we have seen attendance increase which has been a positive.

Current Trustees of DEAFvibe have provided reassurance that they continue to remain committed to DEAFvibe for the foreseeable future and towards the partnership working with Action Deafness. This is in the best interests of the Trustees and for the future sustainability of DEAFvibe UK.

DEAFvibe UK have supported Rising Brook Community Church with the delivery of BSL classes in the DEAFvibe Room at Bradwell Lodge Community Centre via support of a donation. Students attending these BSL classes have benefited from attendance at the monthly Café DEAFvibe to support their learning and interaction with the Deaf community.

Action Deafness have delivered Information, Advice and Guidance sessions within the DEAFvibe room. This support has been invaluable as a pilot project. The aim of the IAG sessions is to empower individuals to make informed choices and decisions about specific decision-making at that point in their lives.

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As in previous years, ongoing commitment from Trustees due to other responsibilities such as increased pressure due to paid employment commitments, ongoing health issues and family care needs as well as carer responsibilities continue to impact on DEAFvibe's long-term sustainability. This has meant that Trustees have had limited opportunities and time to apply for funding streams as this requires a commitment to oversee, deliver and evaluate projects particularly as DEAFvibe do not have paid staff to support with this and are reliant on the Board of Trustees, Volunteers and Friends of DEAFvibe to support and assist with the running of DEAFvibe alongside any fundraising activities and donations. As a consequence, DEAFvibe continue to be entirely dependent on fundraising and donations.

For the existing Board of Trustees, it has been important for everyone to retain their reconnection with each other and strengthen attendance at the monthly Cafés and to support them in this transition of partnership working between DEAFvibe UK and Action Deafness. The slow progression and reassurance throughout 2024 has been vital for those who have attended DEAFvibe over 14 years and for them to be reassured that both organisations (Action Deafness and DEAFvibe) have the best interests of DEAFvibe at heart and that it will be in Action Deafness safe hands in terms of its long-term sustainability. Attendance at the monthly Café by the HUBS Connect manager has been a vital and valuable journey.

Financial review

DEAFvibe is heavily reliant on fundraising activities by DEAFvibe Volunteers. We also receive donations from Friends of DEAFvibe and members of the public. The support of Action Deafness in applying for funding and managing projects will be vital moving forwards to ensure the long-term sustainability of DEAFvibe.

However, due to funding constraints it has become more difficult for the wider voluntary sector to obtain / access funding streams successfully and this means that DEAFvibe needs to be more creative in exploring funding opportunities. However, without paid staff - we are at a disadvantage as a charity. Hence the importance of our partnership working with Action Deafness and use of their expertise and knowledge in applying for funding and managing project streams.

By raising the profile of the work we do, results in donations by individuals and other groups / organisation being made to support our work in the community which are very much appreciated.

Policy on reserves

The trustees have designated £12,000 of unrestricted funds to ensure they have sufficient funds to pay for room hire costs and the use of professional communication support (BSL Interpreters and Electronic Notetakers) at DEAFvibe activities to ensure the activities throughout the year. This ensures our activities are accessible and inclusive. This remains of particular importance particularly as fundraising activities throughout 2024 have continued to be limited due to Trustees restrictions.

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name: DEAFvibe UK
Other name the charity uses: DVUK
Registered Charity number: 1169810
Principal address: Suite 21, 2-4 Beaumont Road, Tunstall, Stoke on Trent, ST6 6BE

Charity Trustees:
Mrs Julie Hart - Appointed 20/02/2010
Alison Catherine France - Appointed 20/02/2010
Rowena Estell Toon - Appointed 20/02/2010
Jayne Oakes - Appointed 26/08/2015

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Julie Hart

Mrs Julie Hart

Chair

Date:

22/10/2025

DEAFvibe UK
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
Receipts					
Grants	-	-	-	-	20,600
Donations	1,400	3,814	-	5,214	1,544
Fundraising events	1,629	-	-	1,629	805
Café, raffle and refreshments	2,498	-	-	2,498	3,447
Sub total	5,527	3,814	-	9,341	26,396
Asset and investment sales					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,527	3,814	-	9,341	26,396
Payments					
Fundraising Expenses - General	77	-	-	77	-
Café and Refreshment Expenses - General	556	-	-	556	1,393
Administrative Expenses - General	1,444	-	-	1,444	890
Communication Support - Fisher Charitable Trust	-	4,240	-	4,240	1,369
Communication Support - General	-	-	-	-	2,661
Room Hire - Fisher Charitable Trust	-	6,012	-	6,012	7,884
Room Hire - General	-	-	-	-	4,604
Mailbox - General	240	-	-	240	-
Insurance - General	490	-	-	490	500
Accountancy - General	567	-	-	567	1,056
Volunteer Expenses - General	-	-	-	-	62
Sub total	3,374	10,252	-	13,626	20,419
Asset and investment purchases					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,374	10,252	-	13,626	20,419
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,153	6,438	-	4,285	5,977
Transfers between funds					
Cash funds last year end	18,585	17,744	-	36,329	30,352
Cash funds this year end	20,738	11,306	-	32,044	36,329

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £
Cash funds	Bank account	20,738	11,306	-
	Cash	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	20,738	11,306	-

	Details	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £
Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Investment assets	None	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Assets retained for the charity's own use	None	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Liabilities	None	-	-	-

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Julie Hart
 Mrs Julie Hart
 Chair
 Date: 22/10/2025.