THE DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL NETWORK

England & Wales · Charity number 1175863

Details

Other names	DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2017-11-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Bodmin Road Church Office Padstow Close Hull HU7 4HE
Phone	01482420160
Email	ENQUIRIES@DOWNRIGHTSPECIAL.CO.UK
Website	www.downrightspecial.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO CREATE AND DEVELOP THE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL ENABLE PEOPLE WITH DOWN'S SYNDROME TO ATTAIN THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, AND TO UNDERTAKE ANY OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH DOWN SYNDROME IN THE HULL AND EAST YORKSHIRE REGION {AND OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME THINK FIT).

Activities: We provide pastoral support to families of children with Down syndrome. We run a weekly group session which provides education, fun and play for babies and children with Down syndrome. School-age children attend fortnightly with their teaching assistants. We provide training for parents, teachers and other professionals. We provide consultancy work within schools to ensure effective inclusion.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

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Geography

- East Riding Of Yorkshire
- Kingston Upon Hull City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-31	£133,511	£130,320	-	-
2024-10-31	£108,331	£119,189	-	-
2023-10-31	£126,365	£113,833	-	-
2022-10-31	£108,682	£113,720	-	-
2021-10-31	£104,357	£94,896	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Lizann Lowson	Chair	2019-10-07
Emily Lauren Barnett		2025-04-02
Emma Louise M Tudor		2025-09-10
Huw Llewelyn Jones		2025-06-17
Michelle Marie		2022-04-06
Neil William George Findlay		2022-10-12

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THE DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1175863

Accounts

DOWNRIGHT Special

Hull and East Yorkshire
Down Syndrome Support






ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

1ST NOV 2024
TO
31ST OCT 2025






Downright Special
Bodmin Road Church Office, Padstow Close, Bodmin Road, Bransholme, Hull HU7 4HE
Tel: 01482 420160 E-mail: enquiries@downrightspecial.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1175863

www.downrightspecial.co.uk

Registered with FR FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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Foreword from the Chair



Over the past year, Downright Special has continued to strengthen and expand its support for children and young people with Down syndrome and their families, responding to growing need with care and expertise. Our work remains grounded in partnership – listening to families, working collaboratively with schools and health services, and advocating for systems that enable children and young people to thrive.

Education continues to be a central focus for the charity, with particular emphasis on increasing our support to mainstream secondary schools and strengthening practice across key stages. Our specialist team has worked closely with schools, families and local authorities to promote effective inclusion, provide tailored advice and resources, and build understanding of the learning profile of children and young people with Down syndrome. This work has been especially important as more of our young people continue their education in mainstream secondary settings.

Our Friday early development groups have continued to provide a vital foundation for young children, combining evidence-based learning approaches with opportunities for play, communication and social development. Just as importantly, these sessions offer parents and carers a welcoming space to connect with others, share experiences and build supportive relationships that are so central to family wellbeing.

Supporting families remains at the heart of everything we do. This year we have seen increasing pressures on families navigating the SEND system, and we have responded by dedicating additional capacity to provide advice, advocacy and practical support around EHCPs, school placements and access to services. Alongside this, our health work has continued to develop, with a strong focus on improving understanding of the Down Syndrome Care Pathway, supporting families with complex health needs, and working collaboratively with NHS partners to improve care and awareness.

Our social and youth activities have continued to grow in both range and impact. Through inclusive family events, age-specific sessions and the continued success of Downright Dance, children and young people have had opportunities to build friendships, confidence and independence, while families have been able to connect and support one another within a strong and inclusive community.

None of this work would be possible without the commitment of our staff, trustees and volunteers, or the generosity of our funders and supporters. Securing significant grant funding this year has provided welcome stability at a time of increasing demand, allowing us to continue delivering essential services while planning carefully for the future.

As we reflect on the year, we are proud of the progress made and the impact achieved, but most of all of the relationships that underpin our work. Looking ahead, we remain committed to listening to families, responding to need and working collaboratively to build brighter futures for children and young people with Down syndrome.

Lizann Lowson
Chair of Trustees

Background

The Downright Special Network was established in June 2007 to:

- Provide and operate such support, materials and events so both parents/carers and professionals in health and education may be assisted in helping children with Down syndrome to achieve the best possible outcomes throughout their education, social, physical and emotional development.
- Produce antenatal support and information to prospective parents and emotional and practical support to new parents.
- Strive to build a brighter future for children with Down syndrome in our area.

The work undertaken by staff, because of the fundraising and donations received, allows us to focus on our enduring priorities of:

- Education
- Support
- Health
- Advocacy
- Training

Our Pledge

Downright Special recognises that each individual with Down syndrome is unique and that some may have more complex needs. We pledge to create an environment where all individuals and their families feel welcome and supported, regardless of diagnosis or ability.

Safeguarding Statement

Downright Special is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults with a care and support need, engaged in the breadth of its activities. Downright Special believes that everyone has the right to be safe from harm and should be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Downright Special takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children extremely seriously and we believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We follow safer recruiting guidelines. All Downright Special posts are subject to enhanced DBS disclosure. All our staff and volunteers who have contact with families must attend Level 1 Safeguarding training as a minimum with several of our staff receiving further training including safer recruiting, vulnerable babies and Makaton safeguarding workshop. Our safeguarding policies can be found on our website https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/our-story/about-downright-special/#policies

Meet the Team

Our Trustees

This year we said farewell to Angela Broekhuizen and Gavin Beresford who had both served as trustees for many years. We were delighted to welcome three new trustees to the board this year – Emily Barnett, Huw Jones and Emma Tudor.

	Lizann Lowson Appointed October 2019 Chair since July 2020		Angela Broekhuizen Appointed June 2016 Resigned February 2025
	Gavin Beresford Appointed May 2017 Resigned October 2025		Michelle Marie Appointed April 2022
	Neil Findlay Appointed October 2022		Emily Barnett Appointed April 2025
	Huw Jones Appointed June 2025		Emma Tudor Appointed September 2025

Our Staff

We have eight part-time members of staff who: ensure the smooth running of the charity; deliver our Friday education sessions; deliver outreach work in schools; deliver training courses for parents and professionals and who develop our work on health and wellbeing.

The team members are:

	Gillian Bowlas Charity Manager		Louise Smith Charity Organiser
	Claire Chilton Health Lead		Katie Bewell Specialist Teacher (KS1) & Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Laura Nichols Early Years Advisor		Dr Nicola O'Riordan Advisory Teacher (KS2 to KS4)
	Sarah Hyde Toddler Group Leader		Susanne Townhill Baby Group Leader & New Parent Contact

Our Volunteers



To keep our costs as low as possible, the Charity uses many volunteers, including several parents, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to each one of them who helped us this year.

These volunteers assisted with running Friday sessions, laminating resources, organising social and fundraising events, designing publications and resources, managing our website and IT systems, running our bookstall, charity tin collections and helping with our book-keeping.

Many thanks to: Lisa Bell, Poppy Bell, Harry Bewell, Rose Bielby, Lisa Bloomer, Bob Bloomer, Rachel Bowlas, Angela Broekhuizen, Tone Broomfield, Louise Brown, Toni Bullock, Becky Constable, Neil Findlay, Jill Lambert, Jessica Ross, Jess Shields, Karl Svenson, Lauren Ward and all the amazing volunteers who helped at our Christmas and Awareness Week events this year.

Our Families

Over the years we have supported over 160 children and young people with Down syndrome. We currently have around 120 families registered with Downright Special and accessing our services. It is free to register with us, and we ensure our family activities are free or heavily subsidised as we do not want cost being a barrier to anyone receiving the support they need.

Review of our Activities of the Year

Education

OUR PRIORITY WAS TO INCREASE OUR SUPPORT TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND SUPPORT TRANSITION BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL STAGES IN PARTICULAR SECONDARY TO POST-16 COLLEGES.

Downright Special Fridays: Early Development Groups



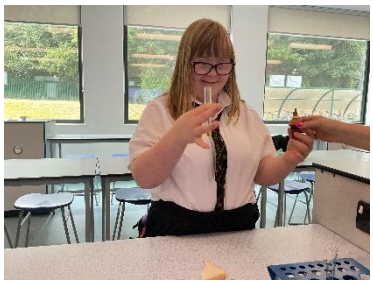
Our Downright Special early development groups run on a Friday during term time and continue to be a great success for children from birth to approximately five years old. In this year had around 15 children who attended Friday mornings and we delivered 37 sessions. These sessions are a chance for parents to get together, have a coffee, share experiences and provide mutual support. The children get the chance to play and make friends. Most importantly the sessions also incorporate 'lesson time' when the children are put in small groups to work on their speech, language and communication skills, numeracy and literacy in a way that is tailored to the specific learning profile of children with Down syndrome. We provide lots of bespoke visual resources to support the children's learning and parents are given these to continue the work at home. We use Makaton sign language throughout the morning, helping parents and children learn the signs they need to communicate with each other and help with learning new words. We have established a tried and tested curriculum of activities which is reviewed annually to ensure the latest teaching methods are used. The curriculum also helps us to track progress and record milestones for each child.



Our baby group continues to be incorporated into Friday mornings, with our youngest children enjoying a range of sensory activities and learning some of the early skills, such as taking turns and making early speech sounds in a relaxed and fun environment. It is also a chance for parents to see a demonstration of some the activities they can do at home to support their child's development and for parents to learn some of the most useful sign language to help with their baby's communication skills.

Also, an aspect which is crucially important, Downright Special Fridays offer parents and carers the opportunity to chat over coffee, share their experiences and offer peer-to-peer support whilst the children play in a safe environment. However good a statutory agency may be, there are some things that only another parent will understand and be able to offer the mutual support which is so often needed. The Friday group is striking visual evidence that there is no "type" of parent who will have a child with Down syndrome, and we have a diversity of ages and cultures in the group. New dads can also be reassured it certainly isn't a "mother and baby" group, as we have several fathers attending regularly.

Downright Special Education Outreach Work with Schools



Downright Special Education aims to support effective inclusion in mainstream schools. Our three part-time members of staff provide support to 52 children in mainstream nurseries, pre-schools and schools. We have continued to increase our support to mainstream secondary schools as more of our children choose to continue their education this way. We supported nine children in mainstream secondary. The number of schools and nurseries receiving direct support from us is around 45. Our specialist teachers have visited schools to assess children and advise teaching staff, provided training for schools on the learning profile of children with Down syndrome, assisted with formulating effective Individual Education Plans (IEPs), written reports for the Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) process, and attended annual reviews and transition meetings. We also continue to provide Education Resource Packs for each child we support when they begin their formal education.

"[They have] gained confidence when interacting socially with other adults and peers at school. An increase in time engaged in activities and more understanding of the setting and routines which has ultimately improved self-regulation and behaviour throughout the day. Overall happiness and enthusiasm have improved for coming into school and the setting, as well as improvement with speech and communication in all aspects."

Laura Nichols is our Early Years Advisor and, in addition to leading a Friday morning early intervention group, Laura's remit is to provide support and advice on inclusion of a child with Down syndrome in mainstream nursery or pre-school settings. She ensures our children get the best start to their education before they even reach statutory school age. Laura had 11 children on her caseload.

Katie Bewell is our Specialist Teacher, delivering groups on Friday mornings and afternoons with her outreach work focused on children in Key Stage 1. She supports school staff with differentiated resources and advice, modelling the evidence-based interventions recommended for each individual child. Katie had 13 children on her caseload this year.



Dr Nicola O'Riordan is our Key Stage 2-4 Advisory Teacher. Nicola has been instrumental in providing outreach support to our KS2-KS4 children and supporting the children, staff and parents in the transition to secondary school. Nicola had 25 children on her case load. This year Nicola has completed building a bank of science resources for secondary schools, with the content checked by qualified science teachers. We are now working with the national organisation DSUK on how this can be rolled out more widely across the UK, as well as working with them on other secondary resources.

We also continued monthly groups for school-age children who have recently moved into KS2 and are ready to do some focused work on developing comprehension skills using a heavily scaffolded version of the 'Language for Thinking' speech and language programme. This year, we had 5 children attending these monthly afternoon sessions with their teaching assistant from school. Having the TAs attend means they can see a demonstration of how to practically apply the specific teaching techniques which ensure our children's learning is maximised. They are given resources they can take away for use in the classroom and have plenty of opportunity to ask for advice on any issues they may be facing in the

classroom, or to get guidance on next steps. It is also useful for them to meet other TAs to share experiences and learn from each other.

Feedback from Teaching Assistants

"My overall confidence has improved to feel I am supporting the child in the best way I possibly can. Ensuring I am doing all to make sure that the child's school life is giving what's needed to help with progress in all aspects of the child's life not just educational. And working to that child's needs and specific goals rather than pushing a curriculum that doesn't meet their needs. Just my overall understanding has greatly improved so as a TA I feel like I have the tools needed to give that child the most suitable support."

"The whole team at Downright special have been amazing! The support and care they have given me, the child and the parents is first class. They have taught me so much and guided me in so many areas of how to ensure the child has all his needs met. I am truly grateful to each and every one of them for everything they have done for us all. Amazing, kind, hardworking and care so much for every child, parent and carer they come in contact with. Lovely, genuine people."

Support to Families

Our priorities during the year were to offer a variety of social events including social event opportunities for older children/ young adults and to continue to offer support in all aspects of care, health and education

Social Events

Parents told us how important it is to them to have social events and chances to meet up with other families. Social events allow our families to get together, share experiences, pass on tips, support each other, and celebrate their children's achievements. The events also give the children a chance to make friends with other children with Down syndrome and develop what we hope will be lifelong friendships and support networks. These events are just as important as our formal activities and this year we made it a priority to offer as many social events as possible with a mixture of events for all ages and the whole family and age-specific events. We knew how much our older children valued events just for them where they could socialise with their peers of the same age.

We organised 14 social events in total this year. For each event we have considered the suggestions from parents of children with complex needs to help make the events as inclusive as possible. We have:



- Used a 'complex needs checklist' when assessing venues for events
- Planned some repeated events in safe/familiar places with the same routine
- Written social stories in advance of each event
- Where possible chosen venues with quiet rooms or spaces to cater for different needs.





Social Events for All Ages

- Christmas Crafts – 18 children attended
- Christmas Party at Lazaat's. 57 children plus their families came along.
- Bowling for 24 children at Hollywood Bowl
- Easter Egg Hunt – 43 children and young people
- Humber Llamas Outing – 16 enjoyed meeting the animals, and having a picnic in the grounds





In addition to these whole-family events, we ran the following sessions for different age groups with over 70 of our children attending at least one event this year.

Pre-school/Primary age events:

- 2 dance sessions with Joanna from The Little Yorkshire Dance Academy
- Soft Play pizza party at Monkey Bizness
- Adventure Play Town Role Play party





Youth Club Events (12-25)

- 2 Dance sessions with Joanna
- Tie-Dye Workshop at Dinkie Pinkie's
- Summer Mocktail-making at Humber St Gallery
- Christmas Night Out at Humber St Gallery Cafe

Downright Dance



Our weekly dance group for age 11-25 has been going from strength to strength with 11 young people attending every Monday evening. They all feedback every week how much they love it. It has been amazing to see the friendships develop, their confidence growing as well as seeing them learn new skills to build their fitness and strength. You can hear what the young people think about Downright Dance in this short video: https://vimeo.com/1117877834

Other Support

New and Expectant Parents



We continued to support families new to parenting a baby with Down syndrome to offer support and information and this year welcomed seven new babies to our special family. Through the hospital and health visiting teams, families are usually put in contact with us within a week of the birth or if a parent knows antenatally then we provide support through the pregnancy. We set straight to work not as lone "advisors" but instead using the extensive network we have built up to put the new parents in touch with others. As our network has grown to over 160 local families, we can now go so far as to match new parents to those of similar ages, situations and with babies who have similar medical conditions. For a new parent, there is nothing better than speaking to somebody who knows exactly what they are going through and can give them a glimpse of easier times a couple of years down the road, and there is nothing that our families with older children like better than reaching out to give new parents support, reassurance, advice and hope for the future. Fantastically, our families are working together for mutual benefit, which was always our ambition.

Parent Feedback

"Five months ago we knew nothing about Downright Special, and then in July all that changed. Downright Special has been a lifeline in a sea of misinformation and outdated stereotypes, of long hospital stays and bumps in the road. They've been with us every step of the way since day one."

SEND LAW – New Service

Sadly, we have been finding that families have increasingly been experiencing difficulties with the SEND system in both of our local authorities including issues such as poor quality and unlawful Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), lack of a suitable school/college placement and being incorrectly refused transport. This creates huge amounts of stress for families and has a negative effect on the children and young people's education. 94% of our East Riding families who have a child age 4-11 have experience significant difficulties. As a result, this year we have dedicated extra hours within our team to support families to navigate the SEND system with over thirteen different families receiving support from general advice to intense support include writing letters, attending meetings and reviewing draft EHCPs.

Advice

Our team are on hand throughout the week to give advice on all aspects of the care and education of children and young people with Down syndrome.

We have a closed Facebook group for parents, giving them a safe place to share useful information, ask questions and provide mutual support.

We have been able to help seven families with their applications for claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or appealing against decisions.

Downright Special Health

To continue to develop the health agenda with a focus on the care pathway, maternity services and understanding best practice around supporting children with dual diagnosis.



Our work to improve health and wellbeing outcomes continues to be an integral part of our work. This year we continued to fund the role of our Downright Special Health Lead. Downright Special has always had a strong focus on education, and the aim of the Health Lead role is to bring this same level of expertise and knowledge to the understanding of the health needs of children with Down syndrome. After Sam moved on from the role, we were delighted that Claire Chilton joined us in March to continue the work.

Working with the local NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB)we remain the lead organisation for reviewing and updating the Hull and East Yorkshire Down Syndrome Care Pathway: https://humberandnorthyorkshire.org.uk/our-work/downsyndromepathway/. This year we chose to focus on widening awareness of the pathway with primary care and launched a short webinar for GPs to explain more about the pathway ,why it is important they are familiar with it, the difference it makes to children and adults with Down syndrome and the difference it will make to their practice. The webinar can be found here: https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/knowledge-resources/health-resources/

We have been supporting our families with a range of issues this year including:

- Advice on weaning, behaviour, sleep and feeding.
- Signposting and advice about which health services do what, how referral is made and referral criteria. This includes support with referral forms. This also includes where families have found it problematic accessing services or who wish to feedback dissatisfaction with services.
- Advice about specific health issues common to Down Syndrome with signposting to reputable sources of information.
- Creation of social stories e.g. to prepare for appointments or about specific issues such as growing up.
- Discussion with parents wondering about a possible additional diagnosis for example autism or ADHD.
- A listening ear for any parent that needs space to talk in confidence.
- Hospital passports – supported several families with completing a hospital passport as a 'one-pager' of information about their child that clinicians need to know including medical and communication needs

In addition we have worked with the local Emergency Department Paediatric Consultant to add more families to the alert system within hospital records so that when a child with Down syndrome arrives at hospital there is a flag on their records that alerts doctors and nurses to the possible differences in how a child with Down syndrome might display symptoms of serious illness.

Advocacy

Our priorities during the year were to work collaboratively with our NHS partners to review and communicate the Down Syndrome Care Pathway, to actively participate in Down Syndrome Awareness Week and to raise the profile of the charity.

Awareness Week / World Down Syndrome Day

Part of our mission is to act as a voice for the children and parents we support. We aim to change perceptions and raise awareness of what it really means to have Down syndrome.

For Awareness Week this year we had a successful social media campaign, along the theme of #SuperHero Supporters where we asked our families to nominate the people around them who they saw as their 'Superhero Supporters' and raise awareness of the importance of having good support systems to ensure children and young people with Down syndrome thrive.

































We celebrated a range of superheroes from family members to teaching assistants and swim teachers. What was unexpected but very lovely was the fact that several of the nominees were Downright Special staff.

"Nicola and Laura from Downright special have been like superheroes. We needed someone and they were there in a flash every time we needed them. If it wasn't for their help and support standing by N we don't know what we would have done. All we ever wanted was for N to come home and tell us about school and how his day has been, and that's what he does. He's back to being our happy confident boy again thanks to Downright Special."



We also had several schools and other supporters wearing their #LotsofSocks on World Down Syndrome Day to raise awareness or hosting coffee morning and bakes sales. A group of local dance schools also "danced their socks off' for us during awareness week, raising the profile of the charity with a wider range of people.

Our charity manager delivered assemblies to three secondary schools this year and a session to the Health & Social Care students at a local sixth form college.

New Parent Packs

Our new parent packs continue to be available on the maternity and neonatal wards. Midwives can give these packs out to parents knowing they are receiving up-to-date information on parenting a child with Down syndrome. A version of these packs is also available for those with an antenatal diagnosis. The packs available to download from our website:



https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/knowledge-resources/expectant-parent-pack/

https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/knowledge-resources/new-parent-pack/

Networking

We have continued to build networks with groups nationwide, through the DSUK-led Facebook group for those running parent support groups with the aim of making a difference by sharing support, services, knowledge and expertise, making sure we are delivering the best service possible to our families and running our groups as efficiently as possible. We attended the annual DSUK parent support group leaders conference.

We continue to be affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association and attend the affiliated groups monthly meetings. We work with the local Parent Carer Forums to feedback views from parents of key issues affecting them and build connections with other local charities to share experiences locally.

Through the Matthew Good Foundation, we also meet regularly with the leaders of other local charities working in the SEND community to share experiences, ideas and look for ways to collaborate on local projects.

Katie, our Safeguarding Lead is an active participant in the local Safeguarding Network.

Communication with parents and carers

Making sure we hear the issues facing parents so that we can properly represent their voices is very important to us. We regularly review and update communications and engagement action plan, and we have two parents on our board of trustees, ensuring that we are continuing to deliver services that maximise the benefit to the families we support. We send regular emails to parents, send a half-termly update newsletter to parents and communicate frequently via our social media channels and closed Facebook group.

Training

Our priority during the year has been to continue to offer a range of training for parents, schools and health professionals.

One of our aims is to promote the awareness of Down syndrome and support successful inclusion. One of the ways we do this is providing training which is accessible to schools, parents and professionals working with our children. We minimise how much we charge for these courses to ensure no child is disadvantaged.

We have had a successful year delivering a comprehensive programme of training to professionals in education and health and to parents. This year we have noticed a decrease in the numbers of schools able to release staff for training but despite this around 170 parents and professionals attended training either online or in person.

We delivered 8 training courses for schools this year including: Introduction to Working with Children with Down Syndrome; Sensory Integration, Colourful Semantics, Supporting Positive Behaviour, Preparing for Successful Transition. We continued to offer some of these courses on an INSET training basis. We have noticed a decrease in the numbers of schools releasing staff for training and had to cancel three planned courses this year. We had 130 teachers and teaching assistants attending training courses in this period.



We organised three training sessions / workshops specifically for parents on Functional Skills (delivered by Lizzie Huxforf from OT4me), Toilet Training, and the Learning Profile of Children with Down Syndrome. We also survey our parents in July this year to ask about the training they would like and as a result have planned training courses on Behaviour and Preparing for Adulthood in 2026.

Training for professionals in health is also important to us. Susanne and Gillian delivered training to the Goodwin Trust Doula and Breastfeeding Support volunteers. It was great to be working with another charity to upskill their team and help their practice when supporting babies with Down syndrome in the future.

"I will know how to speak with families in a more sensitive and informed way. We will help with breastfeeding, understanding the specific challenges that a baby with Down Syndrome may face." – Feedback from Doula following our training

Our teaching team delivered training to the Speech and Language Therapy Service on using the 'See and Learn' speech sounds and vocabulary programme with children with Down syndrome.

We continued to host visits from learning disability nursing students, student health visitors, trainee Speech and Language Therapists, physiotherapists and others. We have had very positive feedback on the impact these visits have on their understanding of the realities of Down syndrome (over and above the medical side), awareness of our offer and on their clinical practice.

Fundraising

The work of Downright Special is only made possible by the generosity and efforts of many people who have supported us by awarding us a grant, raising funds, or donating goods and services. Our plan in this year was to continue to have a broadly based fundraising strategy, rather than relying on one type of income. Community fundraising continues to be a challenge and so we chose to increase the proportion of income to be received from grant. Our targets for this year were: grants/trusts (75%), community (20%), training (3%), other (2%). These targets are monitored at trustee meetings. Our continued focus on grants has reaped rewards in 2025, with successful grants received from:

Grants	Amount
Anonymous Trust 1	26,000.00
Ann Watson Trust	12,000.00
Matthew Good Foundation	10,000.00
STA15	10,000.00
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,000.00
Liz+Terry Bramall Foundation	10,000.00
James Reckitt Charity	5,000.00
MCF Masonic	5,000.00
Joseph+Annie Cattle Trust	5,000.00
Hull + ER Charitable Trust	3,000.00
Co-op Community Fundraising	2,325.54
SJP Charitable Foundation	2,000.00
Boshier Hinton Foundation	2,000.00
Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust	2,000.00
Joseph Boaz	500.00
	£104,825.54

We were delighted that a charitable trust (who wish to remain anonymous) awarded us a grant of £78,000 to be paid over 3 years, with the second tranche £26,000 paid to us in this year. This is to support the running costs associated with our work with children aged 0-8 years old and gives us real security and confidence that we can continue to deliver our services into the future. We were awarded a grant of £20,000 over 2 years from the Garfield Weston Foundation with the first £10,000 received this year. The Ann Watson Trust awarded us £12,000 a year for three years. Both of these grants are unrestricted.

Our income from grants was 100% of our target this year. In 2024 we invested £1,200 in paying for 30 hours of a bid-writer's time to help us with our grant applications in this year and this has proven to be a very successful strategy again.

Our community fundraising & donations income saw a 48% decrease compared to last year. We have continued to work very hard to raise funds through our bookstall, raffles, auctions and encouraging families to take part in our Down Syndrome Awareness Week activities. We raised around £4300 during Awareness Week through families and friends taking part in a number of challenges, including a sponsored walk, bake sales, dance schools wearing Lots of Socks, Facebook donate buttons, Lots of Socks in schools and nurseries, donations and matched funds and raffles.

We were the charity of the year for Portia House, Hessle High and Londesborough House at The Market Weighton School.

We had several individuals who undertook amazing challenges this year including a charity boxing match and a swimathon and Tino who, working with Stand-Out Socks, sold pairs of socks raising £100 for the charity.

Overall, our income this year decreased by 7% compared to last year (from £132K to £123K on a cash basis), mostly to the reduction in community fundraising and donations, as well as the impact of a reduced income from training. This means we have a lot of work to do in the coming months to address the deficit and ensure we can continue to fund all of our services.

It is important to highlight we receive no statutory funding, and do not currently charge our parents or the schools and early years settings we support for the majority of the services we offer. The only charge was a heavily subsidised rate for school staff to attend training courses and small charge for the weekly dance sessions.

Every penny goes towards building a brighter future for children and young people with Down syndrome and making a huge difference to their lives today. **Our heartfelt thanks go to those who supported us by raising funds or providing goods and services between November 2024 and October 2025. These include:**

Alison Laird
Angela Broekhuizen
Ann Greatorex
Appleton Primary
Becker UK Ltd
Bobby Bremner
Braham and Dixon
Cottingham Methodist Church Music festival
D3 office Supplies
Darren Ward
Delilah Palmer
Dominik Bielawski
Donaldson Filtration
Donna Marie
Genesis Pre-School
Hannah Loach
Harris Lacey and Swain
Hessle High
Hilly Lambert
Holderness Academy
Hull Wyke Round Table
Jack Walker
Joanna Harker
Joanna Hearfield
John Hutton
Judy Sugden
KCOM
Kelly Louise McCorkindale
KRL group
Lisa Chandler
Mick Walker
ML Tuffnell
Nicola O'Riordan
Paisley Primary
Pizza Pie
Premier Beverley Collection Tin
Raphi Turkington Swimathon
Sally Fairfax
Sally Fairfax (In memory of Rosie Fairfax)
Sally Kynman
Sandhills Bookstall
Scientific Laboratory Supplies
Sophie Grigg
Spring Cottage Primary
St Mary's Sixth Form College
Sue Kennedy
Swanland Primary
Terie Louise
The Market Weighton School
The One Point
Thoresby Primary
Tino Neilsen-Smith
Victoria Ross
Vikki Sue Adamson
Virgin Money Holderness Road
Wolf Labs

Thanks also to everyone who:

- Supported us during Awareness Week
- Hosted a collection tin
- Set up a Facebook Fundraiser for us this year
- Donated via TicketSource when booking an event
- Set up regular giving via their Payroll or via our Just Giving Page https://www.justgiving.com/downright-special
- Gave us a one-off donation via Just Giving, Paypal, or direct to the charity
- Donated a raffle or auction prize
- Donated goods for our eBay shop
- Supported us by using https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk for their online shopping
- Sent e-cards using Don't Send Me A Card.
- Bought us resources from our Amazon Wish List https://tinyurl.com/2p87d64b
- Everyone else who donated or supported us in any way, big or small. We couldn't do it without you!

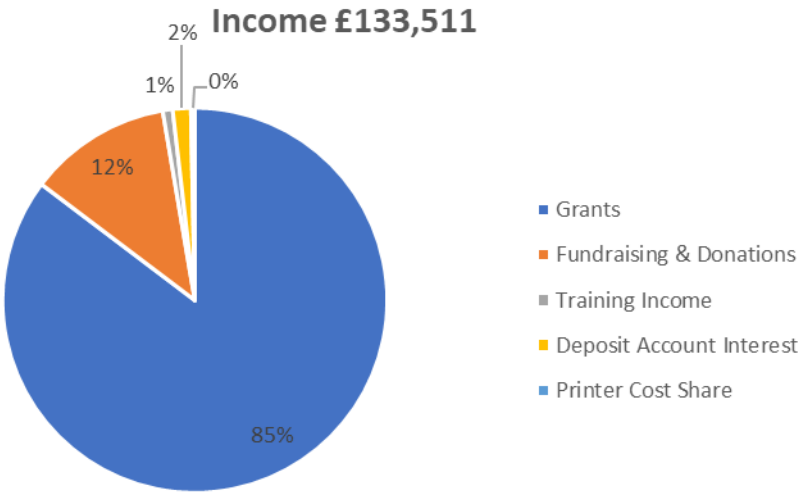
Financial Review

Income

Our levels of income saw a 23% increase compared to last year mostly due to successes with grant income. We did however see a 41% reduction in community fundraising and donations for the second year running. We also saw a decrease in income from training as there was a marked reduction in uptake of our training courses this year. We have improved our reserves slightly, ending the year with a small surplus but nonetheless our levels of unrestricted reserves remain slightly below the 9 months target set in our reserves policy.

We continue to fundraise ourselves with our bookstall at Sandhill Garden Centre Café, and income from sharing the use of our printer. Our campaigns for World Down Syndrome Day generated around £4300 and we ran several raffles.

Fundraising from individuals taking part in sponsored events continues to play a vital role in securing sufficient income to run the charity, although income from this continues to be much reduced compared to before the pandemic and we continue to look for innovative ways to encourage individuals to fundraise for us.



Note: A full summary of the accounts is appended to this trustees' report.

Expenditure

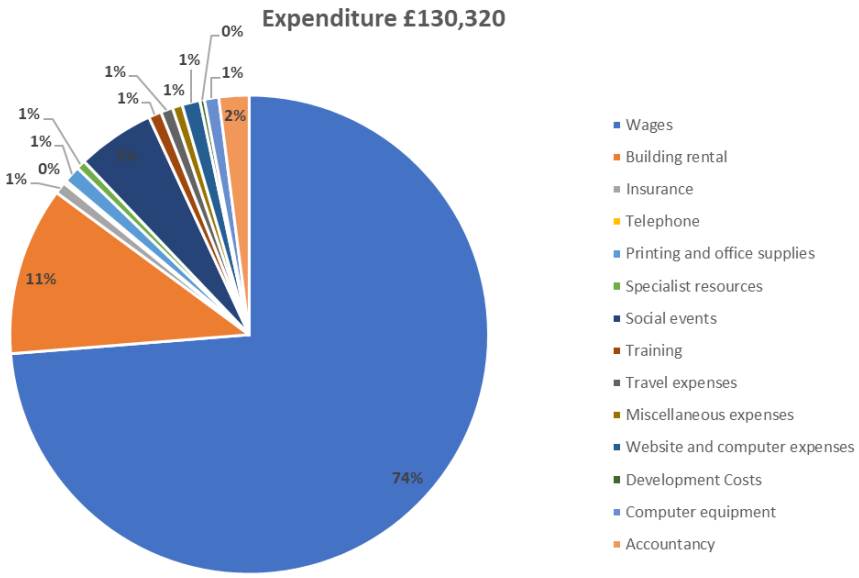
In line with our plans, our overall expenditure increased by 9% compared to last year. This was mainly due to this being the first full year of increasing the hours of our Advisory Teacher by an extra 1 day a week to carry out our plans to build a bank of resources to support secondary schools with differentiating the curriculum and to provide increased support with planning the transition from secondary to post-16 education settings. We also increased the hours of Katie in order to allow her to train to deputise for the Charity Manager and added an extra two hours to Laura's hours to increase our ability to support families with SEND law issues.

We continue to invest in specialist resources and making bespoke materials which can be used in our education sessions or given to families and schools to support the development of the children. We are very grateful to the many individuals who purchased office supplies and specialist resources from our Amazon Wishlist, helping to keep costs as low as possible.

This year we have completed a project to move to a new cloud-based storage system to improved our systems for document storage and knowledge management. This will result in a reduction in IT costs in the next twelve months.

We keep our costs as low as possible through gifts in kind from local businesses, such as reduced accountancy costs from Harris Lacey and Swain, employment law advice from Gosschalks solicitors and IT/telephony support from The One Point.

We are hugely thankful for the incredible efforts from our team of volunteers, who have enabled us to continue to be so cost effective.



Looking to the future

Our plans for the next 5 years continue to be centred on expanding our range of services in line with the increasing age range of the children and young people we support so we can continue to support their evolving needs and help them reach their potential. Our goal is to support children and young people through their secondary school years and beyond to further education and employment. We also want to ensure that we continue to be sustainable in the short term whilst we continue to deliver our core, current activities.

Some of our plans in each of our priority areas are:

Education

- Increase our support to secondary schools and support transition between educational stages in particular secondary to post-16 colleges.
- Enhance links with further education providers and day services

Health

- Develop a programme of training and information sessions for families to help them support the health and wellbeing of their children and young adults with Down syndrome.
- Network with local health services to advocate for the health needs of individuals with Down syndrome, work together to develop best practice and increase awareness of the Care Pathway in health services with a focus on GPs.

Support

- Provide opportunities to allow children and young people with Down Syndrome to develop friendships and independence through social activities and networking events
- Continue to deliver support services for children, young people & their families, based on need, making adjustments, e.g. to our Friday sessions, as necessary
- Support families to navigate SEND law and the EHCP process, leading to impactful support

Advocacy

- Ensure young people are included in the design of activities and develop ways to involve them in the running of the charity
- Continued networking, engagement and lobbying at a local and national level
- Working in collaboration with other local charities develop a project working with Hull University Law School to enhance students understanding of SEND law and in order increase available support for families.

Training

- Continue to develop our training offer with further education links
- Continue to offer a programme of training for schools, parents, carers and health professionals

Underpinning Activities

- Continue our strategy to focus on seeking multi-year funding for our projects and core costs to ensure long term sustainability and reduce our deficit.
- Launch a fundraising campaign for 2026 to encourage more individuals to get involved and help us meet our fundraising goals.

We actively encourage as many people as possible to get involved in whatever way they can. If you would like to do something 'Downright Special', please contact office@downrightspecial.co.uk

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees,



Lizann Lowson (Trustee)

Appendix: Unaudited Financial Statements

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1175863

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 October 2025

for

The Downright Special Network

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

The Downright Special Network

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

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Report of the Trustees	1 to 3
Independent Examiner's Report	4
Statement of Financial Activities	5
Balance Sheet	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7 to 16

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 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 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their power of duties.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

For a full review of the Charity's reporting year including its objectives and aims and plans for the future please see the Charity report to which these accounts are attached.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The charity's policy is to hold nine months of running costs in reserves. Based on 2025 levels of expenditure this would equate to £97,740. The level of funds held in reserves at the end of the year was £96,701 (2024 - £93,510). This is made up of £94,460 unrestricted free funds (2024 - £82,341) and £2,241 restricted funds (2024 - £11,169).

The Trustees recognise that the level of funds held in unrestricted reserves doesn't meet nine months of running costs. In order to combat this, trustees are actively pursuing new sources of funding as well as reducing costs in order to limit deficit. Discussions are held at each committee meeting regarding this subject and will be reassessed at the end of the next financial year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (foundation model).
The objects of the charity and the day to day running of the charity were unchanged when the conversion to a CIO took place in 2017.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees.

Organisational structure

For a full explanation of the organisational structure see the Charity's report.

Day to day responsibility has been delegated by the trustees to the Charity Manager Gillian Bowlas.

Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures were written or reviewed and updated: children's safeguarding policy and procedures, adult safeguarding policy, photography and filming policy, health and safety policy, employee handbook, equal opportunities policy, reserves policy, lone working policy, financial operating procedures, risk register, strategy, fundraising strategy, complaints procedure, GDPR policy, volunteer handbook, static collection tins policy, conflicts of interest policy, serious incident reporting policy.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Induction and training of new trustees

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with the charity's governing document, safeguarding policy and employee handbook. The handbook covers a range of policies applicable to trustees or employees including confidentiality, data protection, health and safety, expenses and use of charity telephones and IT. All trustees were issued with Charity Commission's 'The Essential Trustee'. New trustees are also given the latest annual report and statement of accounts.

Six Trustee meetings were held during this reporting period and all meetings were quorate. Minutes are available for all meetings on request.

Related parties

The Charity is affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association, a national organisation.

SERIOUS INCIDENT

On 1st September 2025 the trustees became aware that there had been a data breach at APCS Ltd, the company Downright Special uses for DBS checks. They notified us by email that Intradev Ltd, their contracted software supplier had been the victim of a cyber-attack and an area of their system had been subject to unauthorised access. Included in the number of individuals affected were seven of our team whose data was accessed. The individuals affected were notified and given advice and recommendations on how to protect themselves and minimise the risk. The data was not accessed from any Downright Special systems, with our systems remaining secure, and no information about the charity was accessed. We reported the incident to the Information Commissioners Office and reported a serious incident to the Charity Commission as per our serious incident reporting procedures.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1175863

Principal address

Bodmin Road Church Office
Padstow Close
Hull
HU7 4HE

Trustees

A Broekhuizen (resigned 11.2.25)
G D Beresford (resigned 14.10.25)
L Lowson
M Marie
N Findlay
E L Barnett (appointed 2.4.25)
H L Jones (appointed 17.6.25)
E Tudor (appointed 10.9.25)

Independent Examiner

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Solicitors
Gosschalks
Queens Gardens
Dock Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 3DZ

Bank
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Downright Special Charity (registration number 1128178) converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 November 2017 and all the funds were transferred from the charity to the CIO.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10 February 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
L Lowson - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Downright Special Network
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Downright Special Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31 October 2025.

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.

Laura J Drew

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

Date: 2/3/2026

The Downright Special Network

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 October 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	2,553	998	3,551	12,366
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable		81,041	46,883	127,924	94,552
Investment income	3	2,036	-	2,036	1,413
Total		85,630	47,881	133,511	108,331
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	5				
Charitable		71,847	56,810	128,657	117,418
Other		1,663	-	1,663	1,771
Total		73,510	56,810	130,320	119,189
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		12,120	(8,929)	3,191	(10,858)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		82,341	11,169	93,510	104,368
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		94,461	2,240	96,701	93,510

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Downright Special Network

Balance Sheet
31 October 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	10	1,462	-	1,462	1,870
Tangible assets	11	1,179	-	1,179	1,985
		2,641	-	2,641	3,855
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	749	-	749	388
Cash at bank		94,315	17,514	111,829	117,284
		95,064	17,514	112,578	117,672
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,245)	(15,273)	(18,518)	(28,017)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		91,819	2,241	94,060	89,655
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		94,460	2,241	96,701	93,510
NET ASSETS		94,460	2,241	96,701	93,510
FUNDS	14				
Unrestricted funds				94,460	82,341
Restricted funds				2,241	11,169
TOTAL FUNDS				96,701	93,510

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 10 February 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
L Lowson - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

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
Income received for services provided is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Cash donations, gifts and legacies are included in full in the income and expenditure account as they are received. Any significant non-cash donations are included in the income and expenditure account at the trustees' estimate of their market value when received. The value of voluntary help is not included in the accounts.

Grants and other funding of a revenue nature are deferred and released to the income and expenditure account over the period to which they relate.

Bank interest is included in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

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.

Intangible assets
Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. The cost includes the purchase price and any directly attributable costs necessary to bring the asset into its intended use. Directly attributable costs may include legal fees, registration costs, or other directly related expenditure.

After initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets with finite useful lives are amortised over their useful life. The amortisation method used reflects the pattern in which the asset's future economic benefits are expected to be consumed. If that pattern cannot be reliably determined, the straight-line method is applied.

The period of amortisation is determined based on the expected useful life of the asset, which shall not exceed 10 years unless a shorter period is appropriate.

The amortisation period and method are reviewed annually, and any changes are accounted for prospectively.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are not amortised, but are instead tested for impairment annually or more frequently if there is an indication of impairment.

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

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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.

Estimates and judgements
Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on the Trustees best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results ultimately differ from these estimates. The Trustees do not consider there to be any material estimates and judgements.

Financial instruments
The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors and creditors, are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	3,240	12,366
Gift aid	311	-
	3,551	12,366

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	2,036	1,413

continued...

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2025	2024
		£	£
Fundraising events	Charitable	12,491	14,917
Printer rental income	Charitable	437	322
Training income	Charitable	1,112	5,084
Grants	Charitable	113,884	74,229
		127,924	94,552

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 6)	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable	125,999	2,658	128,657

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Charitable	2,658

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

8. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	96,089	88,183
	96,089	88,183

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

	2025	2024
General Staff	8	8

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

continued...

9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	11,908	458	12,366
Charitable activities			
Charitable	53,541	41,011	94,552
Investment income	1,413	-	1,413
Total	66,862	41,469	108,331
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable	63,264	54,154	117,418
Other	1,771	-	1,771
Total	65,035	54,154	119,189
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	1,827	(12,685)	(10,858)
Transfers between funds	4,681	(4,681)	-
Net movement in funds	6,508	(17,366)	(10,858)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	75,833	28,535	104,368
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	82,341	11,169	93,510

10. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Development costs £
COST	
At 1 November 2024 and 31 October 2025	2,040
AMORTISATION	
At 1 November 2024	170
Charge for year	408
At 31 October 2025	578
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 October 2025	1,462
At 31 October 2024	1,870

continued...

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 November 2024	5,070
Additions	449
At 31 October 2025	5,519
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 November 2024	3,085
Charge for year	1,255
At 31 October 2025	4,340
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 October 2025	1,179
At 31 October 2024	1,985

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments	749	388

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Taxation and social security	1,043	2,426
Other creditors	17,475	25,591
	18,518	28,017

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.11.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.10.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	82,341	12,119	94,460
Restricted funds			
Hull Aid in Sickness	2,314	(2,314)	-
MCF Masonic	2,730	(2,730)	-
Co-op Community Fundraising	-	1,826	1,826
Dynamix	682	(682)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,343	(1,343)	-
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	4,100	(4,100)	-
Hull Wyke Round Table	-	415	415
	11,169	(8,928)	2,241
TOTAL FUNDS	93,510	3,191	96,701

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	85,629	(73,510)	12,119
Restricted funds			
Hull Aid in Sickness	-	(2,314)	(2,314)
MCF Masonic	2,727	(5,457)	(2,730)
Boshier Hinton Foundation	2,000	(2,000)	-
Co-op Community Fundraising	2,326	(500)	1,826
Dynamix	(1)	(681)	(682)
The National Lottery Community Fund	11,830	(13,173)	(1,343)
Anonymous Trust 1	25,500	(25,500)	-
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	-	(4,100)	(4,100)
Hull Wyke Round Table	1,000	(585)	415
Joseph Boaz	500	(500)	-
SJP Charitable	2,000	(2,000)	-
	47,882	(56,810)	(8,928)
TOTAL FUNDS	133,511	(130,320)	3,191

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.11.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.10.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	75,833	1,827	4,681	82,341
Restricted funds				
Help for Health	3,998	-	(3,998)	-
Hull Aid in Sickness	-	2,314	-	2,314
Children In Need	67	(67)	-	-
MCF Masonic	1,529	1,201	-	2,730
Ironmongers	683	-	(683)	-
Dynamix	-	682	-	682
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	14,356	(14,356)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,732	(389)	-	1,343
KCOM	998	(998)	-	-
Tesco	894	(894)	-	-
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	4,278	(4,278)	-	-
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	-	4,100	-	4,100
	28,535	(12,685)	(4,681)	11,169
TOTAL FUNDS	104,368	(10,858)	-	93,510

continued...

14. 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	66,862	(65,035)	1,827
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	2,532	(2,532)	-
Hull Aid in Sickness	3,000	(686)	2,314
Children In Need	-	(67)	(67)
MCF Masonic	5,000	(3,799)	1,201
Co-op Community Fundraising	1,020	(1,020)	-
Dynamix	2,000	(1,318)	682
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	-	(14,356)	(14,356)
The National Lottery Community Fund	5,915	(6,304)	(389)
KCOM	-	(998)	(998)
Tesco	375	(1,269)	(894)
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	-	(4,278)	(4,278)
Anonymous Trust 1	12,500	(12,500)	-
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	5,000	(900)	4,100
Ideal Boilers	458	(458)	-
Lloyds Bank	2,669	(2,669)	-
Magdalen Trust	1,000	(1,000)	-
	41,469	(54,154)	(12,685)
TOTAL FUNDS	108,331	(119,189)	(10,858)

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	At 1.11.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.10.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	75,833	13,946	4,681	94,460
Restricted funds				
Help for Health	3,998	-	(3,998)	-
Children In Need	67	(67)	-	-
MCF Masonic	1,529	(1,529)	-	-
Co-op Community Fundraising	-	1,826	-	1,826
Ironmongers	683	-	(683)	-
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	14,356	(14,356)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,732	(1,732)	-	-
KCOM	998	(998)	-	-
Tesco	894	(894)	-	-
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	4,278	(4,278)	-	-
Hull Wyke Round Table	-	415	-	415
	28,535	(21,613)	(4,681)	2,241
TOTAL FUNDS	104,368	(7,667)	-	96,701

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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	152,491	(138,545)	13,946
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	2,532	(2,532)	-
Hull Aid in Sickness	3,000	(3,000)	-
Children In Need	-	(67)	(67)
MCF Masonic	7,727	(9,256)	(1,529)
Boshier Hinton Foundation	2,000	(2,000)	-
Co-op Community Fundraising	3,346	(1,520)	1,826
Dynamix	1,999	(1,999)	-
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	-	(14,356)	(14,356)
The National Lottery Community Fund	17,745	(19,477)	(1,732)
KCOM	-	(998)	(998)
Tesco	375	(1,269)	(894)
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	-	(4,278)	(4,278)
Anonymous Trust 1	38,000	(38,000)	-
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	5,000	(5,000)	-
Ideal Boilers	458	(458)	-
Lloyds Bank	2,669	(2,669)	-
Magdalen Trust	1,000	(1,000)	-
Hull Wyke Round Table	1,000	(585)	415
Joseph Boaz	500	(500)	-
SJP Charitable	2,000	(2,000)	-
	89,351	(110,964)	(21,613)
TOTAL FUNDS	241,842	(249,509)	(7,667)

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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

THE DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1175863

Accounts

DOWNRIGHT Special

Hull and East Yorkshire
Down Syndrome Support






ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

1ST NOV 2023 TO 31ST OCT 2024






Downright Special
Bodmin Road Church Office, Padstow Close, Bodmin Road, Bransholme, Hull HU7 4HE
Tel: 01482 420160 E-mail: enquiries@downrightspecial.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1175863

www.downrightspecial.co.uk

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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Foreword from the Chair



Over the past 12 months, Downright Special has continued to grow, innovate, and provide exceptional support to children, young people, and their families. This year has been one of significant achievements, reflecting our commitment to education, health, and advocacy.

We were delighted to welcome seven new babies to the Downright Special family, ensuring that their parents received immediate support. Our Friday morning sessions and curriculum were redesigned to enhance engagement, effectiveness, and inclusivity. This year also saw the launch of Downright Dance, providing weekly sessions for young people aged 11-25, helping them build confidence and friendships through movement.

A major milestone was the completion of key updates to the Down Syndrome Care Pathway, which was successfully launched on the new Integrated Care Board (ICB) website. This was recognised as an example of best practice when presented at the Hull SEND Inspection. Additionally, our brand-new website was launched, making it easier than ever for families, professionals, and supporters to access vital information.

Recognising the importance of training, we introduced regular sessions for neonatal unit doctors, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge to support families effectively. We also delivered training sessions for Hull's health visiting teams, broadening awareness and understanding of Down syndrome.

To further enhance educational support, we initiated a new project to create a bank of differentiated resources for the KS3 secondary school curriculum. Our biannual survey of parents and schools provided invaluable insights that will guide our future services.

Financial sustainability is key to our success, and we were thrilled to secure our largest grant to date—£78,000 over three years. This funding will allow us to continue delivering essential programmes and expanding our reach.

These accomplishments are a testament to the hard work of our dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and supporters. We remain committed to enhancing our services, advocating for best practices, and ensuring that every child and young person with Down syndrome receives the support they need to thrive.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the opportunities to build on this success, and we thank every individual and organisation that has contributed to making this year so remarkable.

Lizann Lowson
Chair of Trustees

Background

The Downright Special Network was established in June 2007 to:

- Provide and operate such support, materials and events so both parents/carers and professionals in health and education may be assisted in helping children with Down syndrome to achieve the best possible outcomes throughout their education, social, physical and emotional development.
- Produce antenatal support and information to prospective parents and emotional and practical support to new parents.
- Strive to build a brighter future for children with Down syndrome in our area.

The work undertaken by staff, because of the fundraising and donations received, allows us to focus on our enduring priorities of:

- Education
- Support
- Health
- Advocacy
- Training

Our Pledge

Downright Special recognises that each individual with Down syndrome is unique and that some may have more complex needs. We pledge to create an environment where all individuals and their families feel welcome and supported, regardless of diagnosis or ability.

Safeguarding Statement

Downright Special is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults with a care and support need, engaged in the breadth of its activities. Downright Special believes that everyone has the right to be safe from harm and should be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Downright Special takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children extremely seriously and we believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We follow safer recruiting guidelines. All Downright Special posts are subject to enhanced DBS disclosure. All our staff and volunteers who have contact with families must attend Level 1 Safeguarding training as a minimum with several of our staff receiving further training including safer recruiting, vulnerable babies and Makaton safeguarding workshop. Our safeguarding policies can be found on our website https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/our-story/about-downright-special/#policies

Meet the Team

Our Trustees

We had five trustees on the board this year.

	Lizann Lowson Appointed October 2019 Chair since July 2020		Angela Broekhuizen Appointed June 2016 Treasurer since June 2021
	Gavin Beresford Appointed May 2017		Michelle Marie Appointed April 2022
	Neil Findlay Appointed October 2022		

Our Staff

We have eight part-time members of staff who: ensure the smooth running of the charity; deliver our Friday education sessions; deliver outreach work in schools; deliver training courses for parents and professionals and who develop our work on health and wellbeing.

The team members are:

	Gillian Bowlas Charity Manager		Louise Smith Charity Organiser
	Sam Findlay Health Lead		Katie Bewell Specialist Teacher (KS1) & Designated Safeguarding Lead
	Laura Nichols Early Years Advisor		Dr Nicola O'Riordan Advisory Teacher (KS2 to KS4)
	Sarah Hyde Toddler Group Leader		Susanne Townhill Baby Group Leader & New Parent Contact



Our Volunteers

To keep our costs as low as possible, the Charity uses many volunteers, including several parents, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to each one of them who helped us this year.

These volunteers assist with running Friday sessions, laminating resources, organising social and fundraising events, designing publications and resources, helping with social media, managing our website and IT systems, running our bookstall, charity tin collections and managing the accounts.

Many thanks to: Lisa Bell, Poppy Bell, Harry Bewell, Rose Bielby, Lisa Bloomer, Bob Bloomer, Rachel Bowlas, Angela Broekhuizen, Tone Broomfield, Louise Brown, Toni Bullock, Becky Constable, Neil Findlay, Jill Lambert, Jessica Ross, Karl Svenson, Lauren Ward and all the amazing volunteers who helped at our Christmas and Awareness Week events this year.

Lauren, Becky and Jess
Friday Group Volunteers

Review of our Activities of the Year

Education

OUR PRIORITY WAS TO EMBED A NEW FORMAT FOR OUR WEEKLY FRIDAY EARLY INTERVENTION SESSIONS AND TO INCREASE SUPPORT TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH INCLUSION AND DIFFERENTIATION

Downright Special Early Development Groups



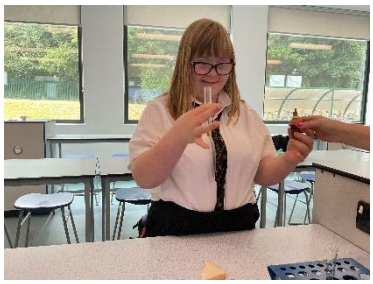
Our Downright Special early development groups run on a Friday during term time and continue to be a great success for children from birth to approximately five years old. In this year had around 16 children who attended Friday mornings and, this year, we delivered 37 sessions. These sessions are a chance for parents to get together, have a coffee, share experiences and provide mutual support. The children get the chance to play and make friends. Most importantly the sessions also incorporate 'lesson time' when the children are put in small groups to work on their speech, language and communication skills, numeracy and literacy in a way that is tailored to the specific learning profile of children with Down syndrome. We provide lots of bespoke visual resources to support the children's learning and parents are given these to continue the work at home. We use Makaton sign language throughout the morning, helping parents and children learn the signs they need to communicate with each other and help with learning new words. We have established a tried and tested curriculum of activities which is reviewed annually to ensure the latest teaching methods are used. The curriculum also helps us to track progress and record milestones for each child. In September this year we altered how we organise the mornings to increase opportunities for sensory activities, enhance the transition between our different teachers and ensure the sessions are even more child orientated whilst continuing to alter our approach for children with specific social communication needs.



Our baby group continues to be incorporated into Friday mornings, with our youngest children enjoying a range of sensory activities and learning some of the early skills, such as taking turns and making early speech sounds in a relaxed and fun environment. It is also a chance for parents to see a demonstration of some the activities they can do at home to support their child's development and for parents to learn some of the most useful sign language to help with their baby's communication skills.

Also, an aspect which is crucially important, Downright Special Fridays offer parents and carers the opportunity to chat over coffee, share their experiences and offer peer-to-peer support whilst the children play in a safe environment. However good a statutory agency may be, there are some things that only another parent will understand and be able to offer the mutual support which is so often needed. The Friday group is striking visual evidence that there is no "type" of parent who will have a child with Down syndrome, and we have a diversity of ages and cultures in the group. New dads can also be reassured it certainly isn't a "mother and baby" group, as we have several fathers attending regularly.

Downright Special Education Outreach Work with Schools



Downright Special Education aims to support effective inclusion in mainstream schools. Our three part-time members of staff provide support to 52 children in mainstream nurseries, pre-schools and schools. We have continued to increase our support to mainstream secondary schools as more of our children choose to continue their education this way. We supported ten children in mainstream secondary. The number of schools and nurseries receiving direct support from us is around 46. Our specialist teachers have visited schools to assess children and advise teaching staff, provided training for schools on the learning profile of children with Down syndrome, assisted with formulating effective Individual Education Plans (IEPs), written reports for the Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) process, and attended annual reviews and transition meetings. We also continue to provide Education Resource Packs for each child we support when they begin their formal education.

"[They have] gained confidence when interacting socially with other adults and peers at school. An increase in time engaged in activities and more understanding of the setting and routines which has ultimately improved self-regulation and behaviour throughout the day. Overall happiness and enthusiasm have improved for coming into school and the setting, as well as improvement with speech and communication in all aspects."

Laura Nichols is our Early Years Advisor and, in addition to leading a Friday morning early intervention group, Laura's remit is to provide support and advice on inclusion of a child with Down syndrome in mainstream nursery or pre-school settings. She ensures our children get the best start to their education before they even reach statutory school age. Laura had 11 children on her caseload and provided support to 10 different settings this year.

Katie Bewell is our Specialist Teacher, delivering groups on Friday mornings and afternoons with her outreach work focused on children in Key Stage 1. She supports school staff with differentiated resources and advice, modelling the evidence-based interventions recommended for each individual child. Katie had 16 children on her caseload this year.

Dr Nicola O'Riordan is our Key Stage 2-4 Advisory Teacher. Nicola has been instrumental in providing outreach support to our KS2-KS4 children and supporting the children, staff and parents in the transition to secondary school. Nicola had 25 children on her case load. A highlight this year, as per our objective to increase support to secondary schools on inclusion and differentiation has been being able to increase Nicola's hours to four days a week from three, enabling her to start a new project to build a bank of resources to assist secondary schools with differentiating the KS3 curriculum. So far Nicola has completed work on the science curriculum, working alongside staff from Hessle High School. This will be shared with other schools in our area.



Very importantly, we continue to offer small-group sessions at our Downright Special Friday group for school-age children and their TAs to the end of Key Stage 1. This year, we had 7 children attending these afternoon sessions in two different teaching groups. These structured lessons cover the core elements of the curriculum, including reading, writing, literacy, numeracy, and speech and language development. Having the TAs attend means they can see a demonstration of how to practically apply the specific teaching techniques which ensure our children's learning is maximised. They are given resources they can take away for use in the classroom and have plenty of opportunity to ask for advice on any issues they may be facing in the classroom, or to get guidance on next steps. It is also useful for them to meet other TAs to share experiences and learn from each other. We also continued monthly groups for children who have recently moved into KS2 and are ready to do some focused work on developing comprehension skills using a heavily scaffolded version of the 'Language for Thinking' speech and language programme. This group is led by our KS2/4 advisor Nicola O'Riordan.

Feedback from Teaching Assistants

"My overall confidence has improved to feel I am supporting the child in the best way I possibly can. Ensuring I am doing all to make sure that the child's school life is giving what's needed to help with progress in all aspects of the child's life not just educational. And working to that child's needs and specific goals rather than pushing a curriculum that doesn't meet their needs. Just my overall understanding has greatly improved so as a TA I feel like I have the tools needed to give that child the most suitable support."

"The whole team at Downright special have been amazing! The support and care they have given me, the child and the parents is first class. They have taught me so much and guided me in so many areas of how to ensure the child has all his needs met. I am truly grateful to each and every one of them for everything they have done for us all. Amazing, kind, hardworking and care so much for every child, parent and carer they come in contact with. Lovely, genuine people."

Support to Families

Our priorities during the year were to offer a variety of social events including social event opportunities for older children/ young adults and to continue to offer support in all aspects of care, health and education

Social Events

Parents told us how important it is to them to have social events and chances to meet up with other families. Social events allow our families to get together, share experiences, pass on tips, support each other, and celebrate their children's achievements. The events also give the children a chance to make friends with other children with Down syndrome and develop what we hope will be lifelong friendships and support networks. These events are just as important as our formal activities and this year we made it a priority to offer as many social events as possible with a mixture of events for all ages and the whole family and age-specific events. We knew how much our older children valued events just for them where they could socialise with their peers of the same age.



We organised 16 social events in total this year. For each event we have considered the suggestions from parents of children with complex needs to help make the events as inclusive as possible. We have:

- Used a 'complex needs checklist' when assessing venues for events
- Planned some repeated events in safe/familiar places with the same routine
- Written social stories in advance of each event
- Where possible chosen venues with quiet rooms or spaces to cater for different needs.





Social Events for All Ages

- Christmas Crafts – making baubles for our tree at Beverley Minster's Christmas Tree Festival
- Christmas Party at Lazaat's. 70 children plus their families came along.
- Bowling for 16 children
- Withernsea Bike Easter Egg run at East Park, Hull
- Summer coffee and cake
- Densholme Farm Fun-day – 26 enjoyed meeting the animals, climbing on the tractor and a picnic in the grounds

In addition to these whole-family events, we ran the following sessions for different age groups with over 70 of our children attending at least one event this year.





Pre-school/Primary age events:

- 2 dance sessions with Joanna from The Little Yorkshire Dance Academy
- 2 Soft Play pizza parties at Monkey Bizness
- Sensory Story Time for ages 0-4





Youth Club Events (12-25)

- Pizza-making at Ask Italian, Hull
- 2 Dance sessions with Joanna
- Pottery Painting
- Mocktail-making at Humber St Gallery

Events for Parents



From parents' feedback we had the request to give parent/carers a forum to meet up for a chat, so had started to run regular cuppa and chat sessions! The November session was well attended with parents helping to wrap the Christmas presents but the rest of the plans for the year were cancelled due to poor attendance. We are looking at trying to understand better what parents would prefer to do if anything.

Other Support

New and Expectant Parents



We continued to support families new to parenting a baby with Down syndrome to offer support and information and this year welcomed seven new babies to our special family. Through the hospital and health visiting teams, families are usually put in contact with us within a week of the birth or if a parent knows antenatally then we provide support through the pregnancy. We set straight to work not as lone "advisors" but instead using the extensive network we have built up to put the new parents in touch with others. As our database has grown to over 140 local families, we can now go so far as to match new parents to those of similar ages, situations and with babies who have similar medical conditions. For a new parent, there is nothing better than speaking to somebody who knows exactly what they are going through and can give them a glimpse of easier times a couple of years down the road, and there is nothing that our families with older children like better than reaching out to give new parents support, reassurance, advice and hope for the future. Fantastically, our families are working together for mutual benefit, which was always our ambition.

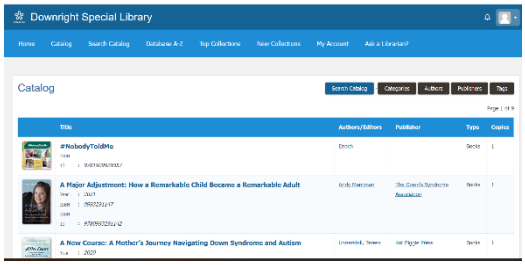
Advice

Our team are on hand throughout the week to give advice on all aspects of the care and education of children and young people with Down syndrome.

We have a closed Facebook group for parents, giving them a safe place to share useful information, ask questions and provide mutual support.

We have supported several families this year with advice on filling in benefit forms, in providing reports and advice for Education and Health Care Plans, with advice on SEND law and with support in choosing schools and nurseries. We have been able to help seven families with their applications for claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or appealing against decisions.

Online Library



We have an online library system, where we catalogue all of the books, information and resources we have and make it easy for parents and carers to view the list and arrange to borrow items. The system also makes it easier for us to log the whereabouts of all our resources. We continued to add to the library as new publications become available.

Downright Special Health

To continue to develop the health agenda with a focus on the care pathway, maternity services and understanding best practice around supporting children with dual diagnosis.



This year we were delighted to be able to continue to fund the role of our Downright Special Health Lead, Sam. Downright Special has always had a strong focus on education and the aim of the Health Lead role is to bring this same level of expertise and knowledge to the understanding of the health needs of children with Down syndrome.

Sam has been supporting our families with:

- Signposting and advice about which health services do what, how referral is made and referral criteria. This includes support with referral forms. This also includes where families have found it problematic accessing services or who wish to feedback dissatisfaction with services.
- Advice about specific health issues common to Down Syndrome with signposting to reputable sources of information.
- Advice/support around behaviours, management of behaviours at home, sensory processing difficulties and referral to Sensory Service if relevant.
- Advice to parents about puberty/growing up.
- Advice and support regarding sleep
- Creation of a bespoke Health Passport for a child or young person
- Creation of social stories e.g. to prepare for appointments or about specific issues such as growing up.
- Discussion with parents wondering about a possible additional diagnosis for example autism or ADHD.
- A listening ear for any parent that needs space to talk in confidence.

In addition, this year Sam has:

- **Led the annual update to the Down syndrome care pathway**, contacting relevant professionals, updating the pathway with the latest evidence-based information and working with local NHS commissioners to ensure the updates were included and rolled out to the new Integrated Care Board website. The Down Syndrome Care Pathway can be found here: https://humberandnorthyorkshire.org.uk/our-work/downsyndromepathway/. This year, additions and updates to the Pathway were focused on the 0-19 Service, Local Authority Early Years Provision and IPaSS/SaPTS.
- **Worked with the local Emergency Department Paediatric Consultant to set up an alert system** within hospital records so that when a child with Down syndrome arrives at hospital there is a flag on their records that alerts doctors and nurses to the possible differences in how a child with Down syndrome might display symptoms of serious illness. Sam leads on making sure this is updated on an annual basis.
- **Developed bespoke social stories** for children to support specific situations and reduce anxiety.
- **Hospital passports** – supported several families with completing a hospital passport as a 'one-pager' of information about their child that clinicians need to know including medical and communication needs

Supporting Young People – Building a Brighter Future Project

Our priorities were to continue the Building a Brighter Future project, looking at Downright Special's role in supporting young people with Down syndrome post-16.



This year we have continued to work on the outcomes from the working group of parents who shared their views on the issues faced when our young people become adults. The group identified five themes: lack of clarity about what happens at each stage of the transition to adulthood; worries about the legal implications of becoming an adult; safety of their young person; wellbeing of parents/carers; social opportunities for their young person; the need for ongoing speech and language therapy.

The feedback told us how much the young people and families valued regular social events. In addition to the social events we arranged this year (the favourite being the Mocktails event at the trendy Humber St Gallery café) we were delighted to start our weekly dance group "Downright Dance" in April. We sent a survey out to the young people themselves to ask what they wanted, and we now have 10 young people of all abilities who come along to the session led by dance teacher Joanna, supported by volunteer Rose. They all feedback every week how much they love it. It has been amazing to see the friendships develop, their confidence growing as well as seeing them learn new skills to build their fitness and strength.

"Monday dance class has really brought out the best in my daughter", Feedback from a parent

As mentioned in the Education section we have also increased the hours of Nicola our KS2-4 Advisory Teacher so that she can work on developing resources for secondary schools to differentiate the curriculum and to also have more time to support young people to choose the next steps after school as they transition into college and other settings.

We are continuing to work through the rest of the action plan from the project.

Advocacy

Our priorities during the year were to work collaboratively with our NHS partners to review and communicate the Down Syndrome Care Pathway, to actively participate in Down Syndrome Awareness Week and to raise the profile of the charity.

Awareness Week / World Down Syndrome Day

Part of our mission is to act as a voice for the children and parents we support. We aim to change perceptions and raise awareness of what it really means to have Down syndrome.

For Awareness Week this year we had a successful social media campaign, along the theme of #EndTheStereotypes to raise awareness and dispel some of the myths about Down syndrome.



















We also had several schools and other supporters wearing their #LotsofSocks on World Down Syndrome Day to raise awareness or hosting coffee morning and bakes sales.

Our charity manager delivered a World Down Syndrome day assembly to a local primary school and also delivered a session to Sixth form Health and Social Care students at a local college.





We ended Awareness week again this year with a Charity Football Match, organised and led by First Touch UK / head coach Karl Southwick, dad to Mia.

A team of Downright Special friends and families played a full match against a team of parents from the football academy in a fun but competitive game that everyone enjoyed whilst raising funds for the charity and awareness. Thank you so much to Karl, the players and everyone else involved in organising a brilliant day!

New Parent Packs



Our new parent packs continue to be available on the maternity and neonatal wards. Midwives can give these packs out to parents knowing they are receiving up-to-date information on parenting a child with Down syndrome. A version of these packs is also available for those with an antenatal diagnosis. The packs available to download from our website:

https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/knowledge-resources/expectant-parent-pack/

https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/knowledge-resources/new-parent-pack/

Networking

We have continued to build networks with groups nationwide, through the DSUK-led Facebook group for those running parent support groups with the aim of making a difference by sharing support, services, knowledge and expertise, making sure we are delivering the best service possible to our families and running our groups as efficiently as possible. We attended the annual DSUK parent support group leaders conference.

We continue to be affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association and attend the affiliated groups monthly meetings. We work with the local Parent Carer Forums to feedback views from parents of key issues affecting them and build connections with other local charities to share experiences locally.

In November we were invited with paediatrics to talk to an inspector from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as part of the CQC/OFSTED Joint Hull SEND inspection to showcase the local Down syndrome care pathway as an example of good practice that could be shared with other areas.

New Website

We were delighted to launch our lovely new website this year. https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/. The website has been redesigned to make it easier than ever for families, professionals and supporters to connect with the charity, stay up to date with what we are doing and learn about the difference we make. This was a major piece of work, but we are so pleased that we now have an up-to-date fresh looking welcoming website that reflects the charity's values and ethos, reflecting Down syndrome in a positive way.

Communication with parents and carers

Making sure we hear the issues facing parents so that we can properly represent their voices is very important to us. We regularly review and update communications and engagement action plan, and we have two parents on our board of trustees, ensuring that we are continuing to deliver services that maximise the benefit to the families we support. We send regular emails to parents, send a half-termly update newsletter to parents and communicate frequently via our social media channels and closed Facebook group. This year we sent out our biannual survey for parents and for schools. Overall the feedback was excellent and we are acting on the ideas that we received, in particular social event suggestions and feedback on timing of training.

Training

Our priority during the year has been to continue to offer a range of training for parents, schools, and health professionals.



Teachers attending our workshop on curriculum planning and differentiation

One of our aims is to promote the awareness of Down syndrome and support successful inclusion. One of the ways we do this is providing training which is accessible to schools, parents and professionals working with our children. We minimise how much we charge for these courses to ensure no child is disadvantaged.

We have had a successful year delivering a comprehensive programme of training to professionals in education and health and to parents. This year we have noticed a decrease in the numbers of schools able to release staff for training but despite this over 300 parents and professionals attended training either online or in person.

We delivered 14 training courses for schools this year including: Introduction to Working with Children with Down Syndrome; Maths using Numicon; Teaching Reading; Curriculum Access, Working Memory, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Preparing for Successful Transition, Signing and a workshop on Curriculum Planning and Differentiation. We continued to offer some of these courses on an INSET training basis.

We organised three training sessions / workshops specifically for parents on Toilet Training, Sensory Processing and Introduction to Signing.

Training for professionals in health is also important to us. For the first time Susanne and Gillian delivered two training sessions on delivering the news that a baby has Down syndrome, to around 16 neonatal doctors and other staff on the Neonatal Intensive care unit at Hull Royal Infirmary. This training is planned to be delivered each time there is a new rotation of doctors on the unit. They also delivered training to the Hull 0-19 team of health visitors and school nurses, reaching around 40 members of staff over two sessions. Our teaching team delivered training to the Speech and Language Therapy Service on using the 'See and Learn' speech sounds and vocabulary programme with children with Down syndrome.

Fundraising

The work of Downright Special is only made possible by the generosity and efforts of many people who have supported us by awarding us a grant, raising funds, or donating goods and services. Our plan in this year was to continue to have a broadly based fundraising strategy, rather than relying on one type of income. Community fundraising continues to be a challenge and so we chose to increase the proportion of income to be received from grant. Our targets for this year were: grants/trusts (75%), community (20%), training (3%), other (2%). These targets are monitored at trustee meetings. Our continued focus on grants has reaped rewards in 2024, with successful grants received from:

Grants	Amount
Anonymous Trust 1	25,000.00
The National Lottery Community Fund	17,746.00
Matthew Good Foundation	10,000.00
STA15	10,000.00
Sir James Reckitt Charity	5,000.00
Masonic Charitable Foundation	5,000.00
Joseph+Annie Cattle Trust	5,000.00
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	5,000.00
Hull Aid in Sickness Trust	3,000.00
Lloyds Bank	2,669.00
Hull&East Riding Charitable Trust	2,500.00
ERVAS (Dynamix Friends Fund)	2,000.00
Barratt Charitable Foundation	1,500.00
Co-op Community Fundraising	1,020.16
Magdalen Trust	1,000.00
Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Fund	850.00
CMS Foundation	750.00
Tesco Bags (Groundworks)	375.00
KCOM	150.00
	£98,560.16

We were delighted that a charitable trust (who wish to remain anonymous) awarded us a grant of £78,000 to be paid over 3 years, with the first £25,000 paid to us in this year. This is to support the running costs associated with our work with children aged 0-8 years old and gives us real security and confidence that we can continue to deliver our services into the future.

Our income from grants was 100% of our target this year. In 2023 we had invested £1,200 in paying for 30 hours of a bid-writer's time to help us with our grant applications in this year and this has proven to be a very successful strategy again.

Our community fundraising & donations income saw a 5% increase compared to last year. We have continued to work very hard to raise funds through our bookstall, raffles, auctions and encouraging families to take part in our Down Syndrome Awareness Week activities. We raised around £4800 during Awareness Week through families and friends taking part in a number of challenges, including a sponsored football match, bake sales, dance schools wearing Lots of Socks, Facebook donate buttons, Lots of Socks in schools and nurseries, donations and matched funds and raffles.

We continue to be the charity of the year for Portia House, Hessle High.

We had several individuals and teams who undertook amazing challenges this year including walking from Hull to Edinburgh, abseiling from the top of Anfield Stadium and taking part in tough mudders!

Overall, our income this year increased by 5% compared to last year (from £126K to £132K on a cash basis), surpassing our expectations. This gives us confidence for 2024-2025 that we will be able fund the charity in line with our budget of £138k for covering increased cost due to inflation, minimum wage increases and cost of living increases whilst continuing to grow the charity's offer to families.

It is important to highlight we receive no statutory funding, and do not currently charge our parents or the schools and early years settings we support for the majority of the services we offer. The only charge was a heavily subsidised rate for school staff to attend training courses and small charge for the weekly dance sessions.

Every penny goes towards building a brighter future for children and young people with Down syndrome and making a huge difference to their lives today. **Our heartfelt thanks go to those who supported us by raising funds or providing goods and services between November 2023 and October 2024. These include:**

Andy Harness	**Emma Carter**	**Jean Nejrup**	**Newland School for Girls**
Andy Smith (in memory of Margaret Smith)	**Frederick Holmes School**	**Joanna harker**	**P&J Whomsley**
Angela Broekhuizen (Sietske Broekhuizen)	**Genesis Nursery**	**John Hutton**	**Pizza Pie**
Appleton Primary	**Gillian Bowlas**	**Joseph Bentley**	**Premier Molescroft**
Arthouse	**H Kemp & Son**	**Judy Sugden**	**Roger Coates**
Ashley Henshaw	**Helen Foster**	**Karl and Kerli Southwick**	**Roger Vine**
Bethune Pharmacy	**Hilly Lambert**	**Kerry Farmery**	**Sandhills Bookstall**
Bob Bloomer	**Holderness Academy**	**Kingspan Access flooring**	**Scientific Laboratory Supplies**
Braham & Dixon	**Holly McGuirk**	**Kristian Parker & Andy Blakeston**	**St Andrews (Kirkella) Primary**
Chiltern Primary	**Hornsea Luncheon Club**	**Lauren Keighley**	**St Mary's College and Sixth Form**
Delilah-Rose's Family	**Ideal Boilers**	**Lesley Beadle**	**Susan Norrie**
Dominik Bielawski	**In memory of Aunt Margaret (Anon)**	**Lisa Bloomer**	**Toni's Deli**
Don Bremner	**Jan Coates**	**Little Einsteins Nursery**	**Virgin Money Holderness road**
Eltherington group	**Janis Robinson (in memory of Tony Saunders)**	**M L Tuffnell**	**Zenith Developments**

Thanks also to everyone who:

- Supported us during Awareness Week
- Hosted a collection tin
- Set up a Facebook Fundraiser for us this year
- Donated via TicketSource when booking an event
- Set up regular giving via their Payroll or via our Just Giving Page https://www.justgiving.com/downright-special
- Gave us a one-off donation via Just Giving, Paypal, or direct to the charity
- Donated a raffle or auction prize
- Donated goods for our eBay shop
- Supported us by using https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk for their online shopping
- Sent e-cards using Don't Send Me A Card.
- Bought us resources from our Amazon Wish List https://tinyurl.com/2p87d64b
- Everyone else who donated or supported us in any way, big or small. We couldn't do it without you!

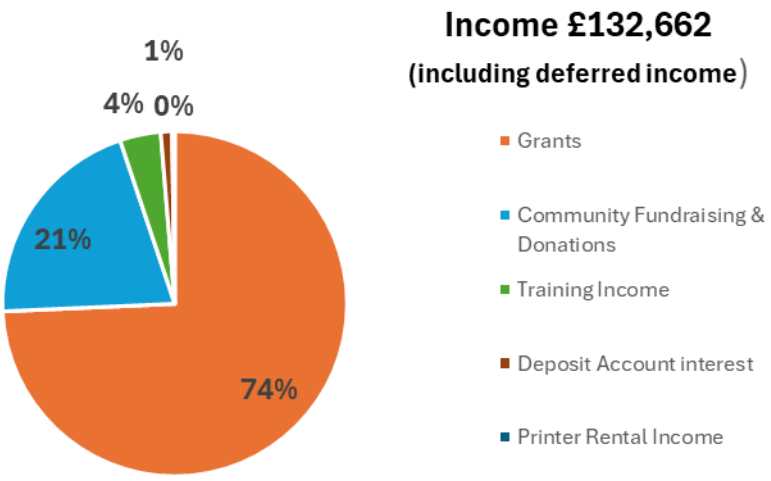
Financial Review

Income

Our levels of income (including deferred income of £24,331) saw a 5% increase compared to last year in line with our plans and our highest annual income to date. This year we saw increases in donations (up £5k, 25%) in part because of one donation of £7500 from a local business for which we were very grateful. Income from grants was down 3% compared to last year but met the target we had set ourselves for this year. (Please note in the accounts £24,330 of the grant income has been deferred, so grants income looks lower than it actually was.) We also had increases in deposit account interest and training income.

We continue to fundraise ourselves with our bookstall at Sandhill Garden Centre Café, and income from sharing the use of our printer. Our campaigns for World Down Syndrome Day generated around £4800 and we ran several raffles.

Fundraising from individuals taking part in sponsored events continues to play a vital role in securing sufficient income to run the charity, although income from this continues to be much reduced compared to before the pandemic and we continue to look for innovative ways to encourage individuals to fundraise for us.



Note: The figures in this chart include deferred income. A full summary of the accounts is appended to this trustees' report.

Expenditure

In line with our plans, our overall expenditure increased by just under 5% compared to last year. This was due to us increasing the hours of our Advisory Teacher by an extra 1 day a week in order to carry out our plans to build a bank of resources to support secondary schools with differentiated the curriculum and to provide increased support with planning the transition from secondary to post-16 education settings.

We continue to invest in specialist resources and making bespoke materials which can be used in our education sessions or given to families and schools to support the development of the children.

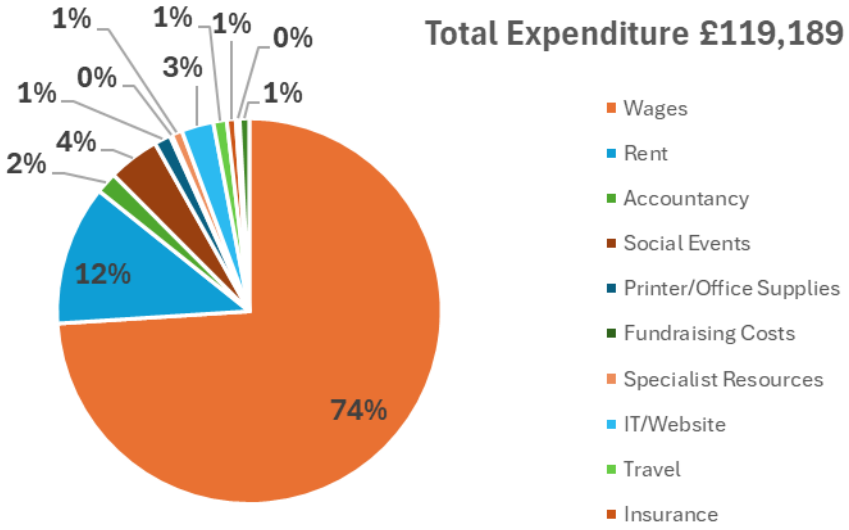
This year our spend on social events increased in part due to the increase in costs of events in line with the cost of living increases this year and because we started our new weekly Downright Dance project.

We are very grateful to the many individuals who purchased office supplies and specialist resources from our Amazon Wishlist, helping to keep these costs as low as possible.

We have invested in new IT equipment including three iPads and a laptop (with thanks to funding from grants) and also invested in a new website, moving the hosting to a new provider.

We keep our costs as low as possible through gifts in kind from local businesses, such as reduced accountancy costs from Harris Lacey and Swain, employment law advice from Gosschalks solicitors, telephony support from The One Point and many more. The One Point also very kindly continued to donate their time free of charge to support us with our IT systems following our migration to Office 365 last year,and then supporting us to ensure a seamless transition for our website hosting to our new provider.

We are hugely thankful for the incredible efforts from our team of volunteers, who have enabled us to continue to be so cost effective.



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Looking to the future

This year we have been working on refreshing our five-year strategy. Our plans for the next 5 years continue to be centred on expanding our range of services in line with the increasing age range of the children and young people we support so we can continue to support their evolving needs and help them reach their potential. Our goal is to support children and young people through their secondary school years and beyond to further education and employment. We also want to ensure that we continue to be sustainable in the short term whilst we continue to deliver our core, current activities.

Some of our plans in each of our priority areas are:

Education

- Increase our support to secondary schools and support transition between educational stages in particular secondary to post-16 colleges.
- Enhance links with further education providers and day services

Health

- Develop a programme of training and information sessions for families to help them support the health and wellbeing of their children and young adults with Down syndrome.
- Network with local health services to advocate for the health needs of individuals with Down syndrome, work together to develop best practice and increase awareness of the Care Pathway in health services with a focus on GPs.

Support

- Provide opportunities to allow children and young people with Down Syndrome to develop friendships and independence through social activities and networking events
- Continue to deliver support services for children, young people & their families, based on need, making adjustments e.g. to our Friday sessions as necessary
- Support families to navigate SEND law and the EHCP process, leading to impactful support

Advocacy

- Ensure young people are included in the design of activities and develop ways to involve them in the running of the charity
- Continued networking, engagement and lobbying at a local and national level

Training

- Continue to develop our training offer with further education links
- Continue to offer a programme of training for schools, parents, carers and health professionals

Underpinning Activities

- Continue our strategy to focus on seeking multi-year funding for our projects and core costs to ensure long term sustainability
- Research, design and implement a new cloud-based data storage system to improve our systems for document storage and knowledge sharing.
- Undertake a board of trustees skills audit and recruit new trustees as required to ensure continued strong governance of the charity

We actively encourage as many people as possible to get involved in whatever way they can. If you would like to do something 'Downright Special', please contact office@downrightspecial.co.uk

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees,



Lizann Lowson (Trustee)

Appendix: Unaudited Financial Statements

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1175863

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 October 2024

for

The Downright Special Network

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

The Downright Special Network

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

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Report of the Trustees	1 to 2
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Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 17
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	18

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 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 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their power of duties.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

For a full review of the Charity's reporting year including its objectives and aims and plans for the future please see the Charity report to which these accounts are attached.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The charity's policy is to hold nine months of running costs in reserves. Based on 2024 levels of expenditure this would equate to £90,078. The level of funds held in reserves at the year end was £93,510 (2023 - £104,368) This is made up of £82,341 unrestricted funds (2023 - £75,833) and £11,169 restricted funds (2023 - £28,535).

The Trustees recognise that the level of funds held in unrestricted reserves doesn't meet nine months of running costs. In order to combat this, the trustees are actively pursuing new sources of funding as well as reducing costs in order to limit the deficit. Discussions are held at each committee meeting regarding this subject and will be reassessed at the end of the next financial year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (foundation model).
The objects of the charity and the day to day running of the charity were unchanged when the conversion to a CIO took place in 2017.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees.

Organisational structure

For a full explanation of the organisational structure see the Charity's report.

Day to day responsibility has been delegated by the trustees to the Charity Manager Gillian Bowlas.

Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures were written or reviewed and updated: children's safeguarding policy and procedures, adult safeguarding policy, photography and filming policy, health and safety policy, employee handbook, equal opportunities policy, reserves policy, lone working policy, financial operating procedures, risk register, strategy, fundraising strategy, complaints procedure, GDPR policy, volunteer handbook, static collection tins policy.

Induction and training of new trustees

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with the charity's governing document, safeguarding policy and employee handbook. The handbook covers a range of policies applicable to trustees or employees including confidentiality, data protection, health and safety, expenses and use of charity telephones and IT. All trustees were issued with Charity Commission's 'The Essential Trustee'. New trustees are also given the latest annual report and statement of accounts.

Six Trustee meetings were held during this reporting period and all meetings were quorate. Minutes are available for all meetings on request.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Related parties

The Charity is affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association, a national organisation.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1175863

Principal address

Bodmin Road Church Office
Padstow Close
Hull
HU7 4HE

Trustees

A Broekhuizen
G D Beresford
L Lowson
M Marie
N Findlay

Independent Examiner

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

Solicitors

Gosschalks
Queens Gardens
Dock Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 3DZ

Bank

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Downright Special Charity (registration number 1128178) converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 November 2017 and all the funds were transferred from the charity to the CIO.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 11 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

L Lowson - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Downright Special Network
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Downright Special Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31 October 2024.

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.

Richard D Lacey

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

Date: 17/3/25

The Downright Special Network

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 October 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	11,908	458	12,366	17,260
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable		53,541	41,011	94,552	108,030
Investment income	3	1,413	-	1,413	1,075
Total		66,862	41,469	108,331	126,365
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable		63,264	54,154	117,418	112,836
Other		1,771	-	1,771	997
Total		65,035	54,154	119,189	113,833
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		1,827	(12,685)	(10,858)	12,532
Transfers between funds	12	4,681	(4,681)	-	-
Net movement in funds		6,508	(17,366)	(10,858)	12,532
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		75,833	28,535	104,368	91,836
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		82,341	11,169	93,510	104,368

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Downright Special Network

Balance Sheet
31 October 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	8	1,870	-	1,870	-
Tangible assets	9	1,985	-	1,985	1,540
		3,855	-	3,855	1,540
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	388	-	388	328
Cash at bank		81,784	35,500	117,284	105,640
		82,172	35,500	117,672	105,968
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(3,686)	(24,331)	(28,017)	(3,140)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		78,486	11,169	89,655	102,828
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		82,341	11,169	93,510	104,368
NET ASSETS		82,341	11,169	93,510	104,368
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				82,341	75,833
Restricted funds				11,169	28,535
TOTAL FUNDS				93,510	104,368

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 11 FEBRUARY 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

L Lowson - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

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
Income received for services provided is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Cash donations, gifts and legacies are included in full in the income and expenditure account as they are received. Any significant non-cash donations are included in the income and expenditure account at the trustees' estimate of their market value when received. The value of voluntary help is not included in the accounts.

Grants and other funding of a revenue nature are deferred and released to the income and expenditure account over the period to which they relate.

Bank interest is included in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

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.

Intangible assets
Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. The cost includes the purchase price and any directly attributable costs necessary to bring the asset into its intended use. Directly attributable costs may include legal fees, registration costs, or other directly related expenditure.

After initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets with finite useful lives are amortised over their useful life. The amortisation method used reflects the pattern in which the asset's future economic benefits are expected to be consumed. If that pattern cannot be reliably determined, the straight-line method is applied.

The period of amortisation is determined based on the expected useful life of the asset, which shall not exceed 10 years unless a shorter period is appropriate.

The amortisation period and method are reviewed annually, and any changes are accounted for prospectively.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are not amortised, but are instead tested for impairment annually or more frequently if there is an indication of impairment.

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

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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.

Estimates and judgements
Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on the Trustees best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results ultimately differ from these estimates. The Trustees do not consider there to be any material estimates and judgements.

Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors and creditors, are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	12,366	17,260

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	1,413	1,075

continued...

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2024 £	2023 £
Fundraising events	Charitable	14,917	4,159
Printer rental income	Charitable	322	(1,938)
Training income	Charitable	5,084	4,385
Grants	Charitable	74,229	101,424
		94,552	108,030

Unrestricted grants of £35,750 were received in the year. These were from the following:

	£
Barratt Charitable Foundation	1,500
CMS Foundation	750
Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust	2,500
James Reckitt Charity	5,000
Joseph and Annie Cattle Trust	5,000
Kcom	150
Matthew Good Foundation	10,000
STA15	10,000
Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Trust	850
	35,750

Restricted grants of £38,479 were received in the year. These were from the following:

	£
Anonymous Trust 1	12,500
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	5,000
Dynamix	2,000
Co-Op Community Foundation	1,020
Hull Aid in Sickness	3,000
Lloyds Bank	2,669
Magdalen Trust	1,000
MCF Masonic	5,000
Tesco	375
The National Lottery Community Foundation	5,915
	38,479
Total	74,229

continued...

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

6. STAFF COSTS

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

	2024	2023
General Staff	8	8

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

Total staff costs in the year came to £88,183.64 (2022 - £83,618).

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	17,258	2	17,260
Charitable activities			
Charitable	29,306	78,724	108,030
Investment income	1,075	-	1,075
Total	47,639	78,726	126,365
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable	54,362	58,474	112,836
Other	997	-	997
Total	55,359	58,474	113,833
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(7,720)	20,252	12,532
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	83,551	8,285	91,836
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	75,831	28,537	104,368

continued...

8. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Development costs £
COST	
Additions	2,040
AMORTISATION	
Charge for year	170
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 October 2024	1,870
At 31 October 2023	-

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 November 2023	3,024
Additions	2,046
At 31 October 2024	5,070
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 November 2023	1,484
Charge for year	1,601
At 31 October 2024	3,085
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 October 2024	1,985
At 31 October 2023	1,540

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	388	328

continued...

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Taxation and social security	2,426	1,940
Other creditors	25,591	1,200
	28,017	3,140

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.11.23	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.10.24
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	75,833	1,827	4,681	82,341
Restricted funds				
Help for Health	3,998	-	(3,998)	-
Hull Aid in Sickness	-	2,314	-	2,314
Children In Need	67	(67)	-	-
MCF Masonic	1,529	1,201	-	2,730
Ironmongers	683	-	(683)	-
Dynamix	-	682	-	682
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	14,356	(14,356)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	1,732	(389)	-	1,343
KCOM	998	(998)	-	-
Tesco	894	(894)	-	-
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	4,278	(4,278)	-	-
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	-	4,100	-	4,100
	28,535	(12,685)	(4,681)	11,169
TOTAL FUNDS	104,368	(10,858)	-	93,510

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	66,862	(65,035)	1,827
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	2,532	(2,532)	-
Hull Aid in Sickness	3,000	(686)	2,314
Children In Need	-	(67)	(67)
MCF Masonic	5,000	(3,799)	1,201
Co-op Community Fundraising	1,020	(1,020)	-
Dynamix	2,000	(1,318)	682
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	-	(14,356)	(14,356)
The National Lottery Community Fund	5,915	(6,304)	(389)
KCOM	-	(998)	(998)
Tesco	375	(1,269)	(894)
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	-	(4,278)	(4,278)
Anonymous Trust 1	12,500	(12,500)	-
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	5,000	(900)	4,100
Ideal Boilers	458	(458)	-
Lloyds Bank	2,669	(2,669)	-
Magdalen Trust	1,000	(1,000)	-
	41,469	(54,154)	(12,685)
TOTAL FUNDS	108,331	(119,189)	(10,858)

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.11.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.10.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	83,551	(7,718)	75,833
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	2,048	1,950	3,998
Children In Need	67	-	67
MCF Masonic	(1,201)	2,730	1,529
Hospital Saturday Fund	467	(467)	-
Rank Foundation	1,000	(1,000)	-
Ironmongers	-	683	683
Two Ridings	1,645	(1,645)	-
Arnold Clark Community Fund	992	(992)	-
Dynamix	1,232	(1,232)	-
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	-	14,356	14,356
The National Lottery Community Fund	735	997	1,732
Toy Trust	1,300	(1,300)	-
KCOM	-	998	998
Tesco	-	894	894
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	-	4,278	4,278
	8,285	20,250	28,535
TOTAL FUNDS	91,836	12,532	104,368

continued...

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	47,639	(55,357)	(7,718)
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	3,672	(1,722)	1,950
MCF Masonic	5,000	(2,270)	2,730
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	(467)	(467)
Rank Foundation	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
Ironmongers	13,448	(12,765)	683
Two Ridings	-	(1,645)	(1,645)
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	(992)	(992)
Dynamix	2,000	(3,232)	(1,232)
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	25,000	(10,644)	14,356
The National Lottery Community Fund	9,900	(8,903)	997
Toy Trust	-	(1,300)	(1,300)
Beacon Lodge	8,000	(8,000)	-
KCOM	1,000	(2)	998
Tesco	1,125	(231)	894
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	6,581	(2,303)	4,278
WO Street Charitable Foundation	3,000	(3,000)	-
	78,726	(58,476)	20,250
TOTAL FUNDS	126,365	(113,833)	12,532

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	At 1.11.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.10.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	83,551	(5,891)	4,681	82,341
Restricted funds				
Help for Health	2,048	1,950	(3,998)	-
Hull Aid in Sickness	-	2,314	-	2,314
Children In Need	67	(67)	-	-
MCF Masonic	(1,201)	3,931	-	2,730
Hospital Saturday Fund	467	(467)	-	-
Rank Foundation	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Ironmongers	-	683	(683)	-
Two Ridings	1,645	(1,645)	-	-
Arnold Clark Community Fund	992	(992)	-	-
Dynamix	1,232	(550)	-	682
The National Lottery Community Fund	735	608	-	1,343
Toy Trust	1,300	(1,300)	-	-
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	-	4,100	-	4,100
	8,285	7,565	(4,681)	11,169
TOTAL FUNDS	91,836	1,674	-	93,510

continued...

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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	114,501	(120,392)	(5,891)
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	6,204	(4,254)	1,950
Hull Aid in Sickness	3,000	(686)	2,314
Children In Need	-	(67)	(67)
MCF Masonic	10,000	(6,069)	3,931
Co-op Community Fundraising	1,020	(1,020)	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	(467)	(467)
Rank Foundation	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
Ironmongers	13,448	(12,765)	683
Two Ridings	-	(1,645)	(1,645)
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	(992)	(992)
Dynamix	4,000	(4,550)	(550)
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	25,000	(25,000)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	15,815	(15,207)	608
Toy Trust	-	(1,300)	(1,300)
Beacon Lodge	8,000	(8,000)	-
KCOM	1,000	(1,000)	-
Tesco	1,500	(1,500)	-
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	6,581	(6,581)	-
WO Street Charitable Foundation	3,000	(3,000)	-
Anonymous Trust 1	12,500	(12,500)	-
Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust	5,000	(900)	4,100
Ideal Boilers	458	(458)	-
Lloyds Bank	2,669	(2,669)	-
Magdalen Trust	1,000	(1,000)	-
	120,195	(112,630)	7,565
TOTAL FUNDS	234,696	(233,022)	1,674

continued...

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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

THE DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1175863

Accounts

...building a brighter future for children with Down Syndrome

The Downright Special Network

Annual Report and Accounts

1st November 2022 - 31st October 2023



Downright Special
Bodmin Road Church Office, Padstow Close, Bodmin Road, Bransholme, Hull HU7 4HE
Tel: 01482 420160 E-mail: enquiries@downrightspecial.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1175863

www.downrightspecial.co.uk

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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Foreword from the Chair



Over the past 12 months, the Charity continued to build on its success, providing excellent support to children, young people and their parents/carers.

Downright Special is a successful charity due to the excellent leadership of the Charity Manager, Gillian Bowlas and the brilliant team of teachers, support staff and volunteers who between them have a wealth of expertise and experience across the key phases of children's education and development. The training and development through outreach and partnership work, provided by our team, for practitioners across Hull and the East Riding continues to be a key strength of the Charity's work and the demand for this is growing.

There are several areas of key focus but to choose a few, in 2022/23 we continued to focus on:

- Health, with many achievements including excellent partnership work to update the care pathway; working with local paediatric consultants on an alert system within hospital records; and the creation of a social story to help children, young adults and their parents to navigate the stages of paediatric appointments.

- Social events, with over 20 events organised throughout the year the Charity recognises the importance and benefits for children, young people and their families to get together, have fun and share experiences.

- Each stage of a child's development. With support for new and expectant parents; early development sessions for children from birth to age five; provision for older children; and young adults through the Building a Brighter Future project, the Charity's focus on each stage of a child / young person's development allows for seamless transition and support.

As we look to the future our plans continue to be centred on expanding our range of services in line with the increasing age range of the children we support so we can continue to support their evolving needs and help them reach their potential. You can read more about our future plans on page 25.

These plans and the developments we have been able to achieve to-date would not be possible without the fundraising and grants we receive. These are critical to the success of the charity - thank you to all the individuals and organisations who have supported us this year. You have made this possible!

Finally, thank you to everyone in the Downright Special Family who are a pleasure to work with and make everything achievable - children, parents, grandparents, staff, volunteers, supporters and professionals from other agencies - all of whom have a shared desire to build a brighter future for children with Down syndrome.

I hope, in reading this report, you will agree it demonstrates the outstanding work, innovations and key developments the Charity continues to drive forward, all of which we are incredibly proud of.

Lizann Lowson

Chair of Trustees

Background

The Downright Special Network was established in June 2007 to:

- Provide and operate such support, materials and events so both parents/carers and professionals in health and education may be assisted in helping children with Down syndrome to achieve the best possible outcomes throughout their education, social, physical and emotional development.
- Produce antenatal support and information to prospective parents and emotional and practical support to new parents.
- Strive to build a brighter future for children with Down syndrome in our area.

The work undertaken by staff, as a result of the fundraising and donations received, allows us to focus on our enduring priorities of:

- Education
- Support
- Advocacy
- Training

Our Pledge

Downright Special recognises that each individual with Down syndrome is unique and that some may have more complex needs. We pledge to create an environment where all individuals and their families feel welcome and supported, regardless of diagnosis or ability.

Safeguarding Statement

Downright Special is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults with a care and support need, engaged in the breadth of its activities. Downright Special believes that everyone has the right to be safe from harm and should be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Downright Special takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children extremely seriously and we believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We follow safer recruiting guidelines. All Downright Special posts are subject to enhanced DBS disclosure. All our staff and volunteers who have contact with families must attend Level 1 Safeguarding training as a minimum with several of our staff receiving further training including safer recruiting, vulnerable babies and Makaton safeguarding workshop. Our safeguarding policy can be found on our website.

Meet the Team

Our Trustees

We had five trustees on the board this year. Trustees Neil and Michelle completed the Smile Trustee Academy this year.

	Lizann Lowson Appointed October 2019 Chair since July 2020		Angela Broekhuizen Appointed June 2016 Treasurer since June 2021
	Gavin Beresford Appointed May 2017		Michelle Marie Appointed April 2022
	Neil Findlay Appointed October 2022		

Our Staff

We have eight part-time members of staff to ensure the smooth running of the charity, deliver our Friday education sessions, outreach work in schools and training courses for parents and professionals and to develop our work on health and wellbeing.

The team members are:

	Gillian Bowlas Charity Manager		Louise Smith Charity Organiser
	Sam Findlay Health Lead		Katie Bewell Specialist Teacher (KS1) & Designated Safeguarding Officer
	Laura Nichols Early Years Advisor		Dr Nicola O'Riordan Advisory Teacher (KS2 to KS4)
	Sarah Hyde Toddler Group Leader		Susanne Townhill Baby Group Leader & New Parent Contact



Our Volunteers

To keep our costs as low as possible, the Charity uses many volunteers, including several parents, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to each one of them who helped us this year.

These volunteers assist with running Friday sessions, laminating resources, organising social and fundraising events, designing publications and resources, helping with social media, managing our website and IT systems, running our bookstall, charity tin collections and managing the accounts.

Many thanks to: Lisa Bell, Harry Bewell, Lisa Bloomer, Bob Bloomer, Rachel Bowlas, Angela Broekhuizen, Tone Broomfield, Toni Bullock, Becky Constable, Neil Findlay, Jill Lambert, Jessica Ross, Karl Svenson, Roger Vine, Lauren Ward and all the amazing volunteers who helped at our Christmas, Awareness Week, Easter and summer sponsored walk events.

Lauren, Becky and Jess
Friday Group Volunteers

Review of our Activities of the Year

Education

OUR PRIORITY WAS TO CONTINUE TO DELIVER WEEKLY FRIDAY EARLY INTERVENTION SESSIONS AND SUPPORT MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS WITH INCLUSION AND DIFFERENTIATION

Downright Special Early Development Groups



Our Downright Special early development groups run on a Friday during term time and continue to be a great success for children from birth to approximately five years old. We currently have around 16 children who regularly attend Friday mornings and, this year, we delivered 37 sessions. These sessions are a chance for parents to get together, have a coffee, share experiences and provide mutual support. The children get the chance to play and make friends. Most importantly the sessions also incorporate 'lesson time' when the children are put in small groups to work on their speech, language and communication skills, numeracy and literacy in a way that is tailored to the specific learning profile of children with Down syndrome. We provide lots of bespoke visual resources to support the children's learning and parents are given these to continue the work at home. We use Makaton sign language throughout the morning, helping parents and children learn the signs they need to communicate with each other and help with learning new words. We have established a tried and tested curriculum of activities which is reviewed annually to ensure the latest teaching methods are used. The curriculum also helps us to track progress and record milestones for each child. In September this year we altered how we organise the mornings to increase opportunities for sensory activities, enhance the transition between our different teachers and ensure the sessions are even more child orientated whilst continuing to alter our approach for children with specific social communication needs.



Our baby group continues to be incorporated into Friday mornings, with our youngest children enjoying a range of sensory activities and learning some of the early skills, such as taking turns and making early speech sounds in a relaxed and fun environment. It is also a chance for parents to see a demonstration of some the activities they can do at home to support their child's development and for parents to learn some of the most useful sign language to help with their baby's communication skills.

Also, an aspect which is crucially important, Downright Special Fridays offer parents and carers the opportunity to chat over coffee, share their experiences and offer peer-to-peer support whilst the children play in a safe environment. However good a statutory agency may be, there are some things that only another parent will understand and be able to offer the mutual support which is so often needed. The Friday group is striking visual evidence that there is no "type" of parent who will have a child with Down syndrome, and we have a diversity of ages and cultures in the group. New dads can also be reassured it certainly isn't a "mother and baby" group, as we have several fathers attending regularly.

Downright Special Education Outreach Work with Schools



Downright Special Education aims to support effective inclusion in mainstream schools. Our three part-time members of staff provide support to 50 children in mainstream nurseries, pre-schools and schools. We have continued to increase our support to mainstream secondary schools as more of our children choose to continue their education this way. We now support ten children in mainstream secondary. The number of schools and nurseries receiving direct support from us is around 45. Our specialist teachers have visited schools to assess children and advise teaching staff, provided training for schools on the learning profile of children with Down syndrome, assisted with formulating effective Individual Education Plans (IEPs), written reports for the Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) process, and attended annual reviews and transition meetings. We also continue to provide Education Resource Packs for each child we support when they begin their formal education.

"Due to the teacher being shown the learning style of children with Down syndrome, they have been able to plan and resource lessons to allow the child to access the curriculum better. The child has become so confident and engaged in learning thanks to the support given to both teaching staff, support staff and the child."

Laura Nichols is our Early Years Advisor and, in addition to leading a Friday morning early intervention group, Laura's remit is to provide support and advice on inclusion of a child with Down syndrome in mainstream nursery or pre-school settings. She ensures our children get the best start to their education before they even reach statutory school age. Laura had 14 children on her caseload and provided support to 12 different settings this year.

Katie Bewell is our Specialist Teacher, mostly working with children in Key Stage 1. Katie had 13 children on her caseload this year. The use of colourful semantics for comprehension and speech fluency and incorporating its use in specialist Apps such as Clicker, has continued to be a success this year. Many Teaching Assistants (TAs) are now using it in the classroom and we are seeing our years of work on the use of colourful semantics paying off, with our children making significant progress in this area of development. There continues to be great success with phonological awareness training, using multiphonics bricks with matching boards, which really help children blend and segment 'CVC' words.

Dr Nicola O'Riordan is our Key Stage 2/3 Advisory Teacher. Nicola has been instrumental in providing outreach support to our KS2-KS4 children and supporting the children, staff and parents in the transition to secondary school. Nicola had 24 children on her case load. In the last year, has begun to support children in KS4 (years 10&11). Nicola has continued to develop our INSET training offer for schools, writing and delivering a suite of new courses to suit the requests from schools.



Very importantly, we continue to offer small-group sessions at our Downright Special Friday group for school-age children and their TAs to the end of Key Stage 1. This year, we had 12 children attending these afternoon sessions in four different teaching groups. These structured lessons cover the core elements of the curriculum, including reading, writing, literacy, numeracy, and speech and language development. Having the TAs attend means they can see a demonstration of how to practically apply the specific teaching techniques which ensure our children's learning is maximised. They are given resources they can take away for use in the classroom and have plenty of opportunity to ask for advice on any issues they may be facing in the classroom, or to get guidance on next steps. It is also useful for them to meet other TAs to share experiences and learn from each other. We also continued monthly groups for children who have recently moved into KS2 and are ready to do some focused work on developing comprehension skills using a heavily scaffolded version of the 'Language for Thinking' speech and language programme. These groups are led by our KS2/4 advisor Nicola O'Riordan.

Case Study

T has been coming to the Friday sessions since he was a few weeks old and he is now eight. This year he has come to the end of our curriculum of Friday sessions and will be moving to outreach support in school. When he first came to us his parents felt very frightened about the future for him but now they feel very positive about what the future holds for their son. Over the years T's speech and language skills have improved, his parents have felt very supported and continue to be active members of the Downright Special family. The difference we have made is best described in their own words: "I can't believe that Fridays are officially over. From the first Friday we walked through the doors and became part of this amazing community, you have advocated, taught and become our friends. There will never be enough words to thank you for all the hard work you've put into our son. We are forever in your debt."

Support to Families

Our priorities during the year were to offer additional support to families and to offer a variety of social events including social event opportunities for older children/ young people

Social Events



We organised 21 social events in total this year.

Parents told us how important it is to them to have social events and chances to meet up with other families. Social events allow our families to get together, share experiences, pass on tips, support each other, and celebrate their children's achievements. The events also give the children a chance to make friends with other children with Down syndrome and develop what we hope will be lifelong friendships and support networks. These events are just as important as our formal activities and this year we made it a priority to offer as many social events as possible with a mixture of events for all ages and the whole family and age-specific events. We knew how much our older children valued events just for them where they could socialise with their peers of the same age.





It was great to be able to have our Christmas party again this year at Lazaat with 70 children plus their families coming along. It is certainly the highlight of everyone's social calendar, with an entertainer, pamper zone, crafts, karaoke and of course a visit from Santa.

We enjoyed a lovely day for our Easter Egg Hunt with 42 children and their families attending. And if that wasn't enough chocolate, 27 of our children and their families attended the Withernsea Bike Easter Egg run at East Park, Hull.

In July, we had a family sponsored walk and picnic at East Park with 56 children and their families enjoying a walk round the park, followed by a picnic. We also organised tickets for Circus Starr for 50 children in May.

In addition to these whole-family events, we ran the following sessions for different age groups with over 50 of our children attending at least one event this year.





Pre-school/Primary age events:

- Bowling at Superbowl, Hull
- 3 dance sessions with Joanna from The Little Yorkshire Dance Academy
- 2 Soft Play pizza parties at Monkey Bizness





Youth Club Events (12-25)

- Pizza-making at Ask Italian, Hull
- 3 Dance sessions with Joanna
- 2 Bowling Parties

Events for Parents



From parents' feedback we had the request to give parent/carers a forum to meet up for a chat, so over the last year we have organised four cuppa and chat sessions! Parents enjoyed the chance to have an uninterrupted catch-up whilst the children were at nursery, school and college. Attendance has been variable so we will monitor and review over the next year.

Other Support

New and Expectant Parents



We continued to support families new to parenting a baby with Down syndrome to offer support and information and this year welcomed two new babies to our special family. Through the hospital and health visiting teams, families are usually put in contact with us within a week of the birth or if a parent knows antenatally then we provide support through the pregnancy. We set straight to work not as lone "advisors" but instead using the extensive network we have built up to put the new parents in touch with others. As our database has grown to over 140 local families, we can now go so far as to match new parents to those of similar ages, situations and with babies who have similar medical conditions. For a new parent, there is nothing better than speaking to somebody who knows exactly what they are going through and can give them a glimpse of easier times a couple of years down the road, and there is nothing that our families with older children like better than reaching out to give new parents support, reassurance, advice and hope for the future. Fantastically, our families are working together for mutual benefit, which was always our ambition.

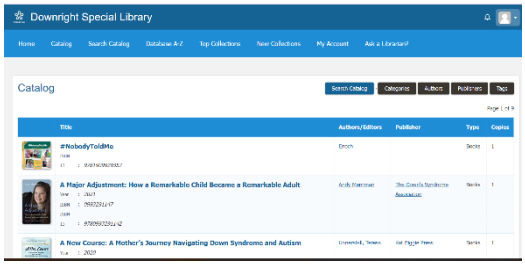
Advice

Our team are on hand throughout the week to give advice on all aspects of the care and education of children and young people with Down syndrome.

We have a closed Facebook group for parents, giving them a safe place to share useful information, ask questions and provide mutual support.

We have supported several families this year with advice on filling in benefit forms, in providing reports and advice for Education and Health Care Plans, and with support in choosing schools and nurseries. We have been able to help several families with their applications for claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or appealing against decisions.

Online Library



We have an online library system, where we catalogue all of the books, information and resources we have and make it easy for parents and carers to view the list and arrange to borrow items. The system also makes it easier for us to log the whereabouts of all our resources. We continued to add to the library as new publications become available.

Downright Special Health

To continue to develop the health agenda with a focus on the care pathway, maternity services and understanding best practice around supporting children with dual diagnosis.



This year we were delighted to be able to continue to fund the role of our Downright Special Health Lead. Downright Special has always had a strong focus on education and the aim of the Health Lead role is to bring this same level of expertise and knowledge to the understanding of the health needs of children with Down syndrome. Sam Findlay, a registered Learning Disability Nurse started the role in December 2020, working one day a week on a Friday.

Sam has been supporting our families with:

- Signposting and advice about which health services do what, how referral is made and referral criteria. This includes support with referral forms. This also includes where families have found it problematic accessing services or who wish to feedback dissatisfaction with services.
- Advice about specific health issues common to Down Syndrome with signposting to reputable sources of information.
- Advice/support around behaviours, management of behaviours at home, sensory processing difficulties and referral to Sensory Service if relevant.
- Advice to parents about puberty/growing up.
- Advice and support regarding sleep
- Creation of a bespoke Health Passport for a child or young person
- Creation of social stories e.g. to prepare for appointments or about specific issues such as growing up.
- Discussion with parents wondering about a possible additional diagnosis for example autism or ADHD.
- A listening ear for any parent that needs space to talk in confidence.

In addition, this year Sam has:

- **Led the annual update to the Down syndrome care pathway**, contacting relevant professionals, updating the pathway with the latest evidence-based information and working with local NHS commissioners to ensure the updates were included and rolled out. The Down Syndrome Care Pathway can be found here: https://www.hullccg.nhs.uk/downssyndromehull. The main changes in this year's review (version 5) included audiology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and specialist gynaecology. The guidelines for the Annual Paediatric Checklists were also updated to reflect current best practice guidelines. This was made possible by the significant input and expertise of Consultant Community Paediatrician (Neurodisability) Dr Lorna Highet and her team.
- **Worked with the local Emergency Department Paediatric Consultant to set up an alert system** within hospital records so that when a child with Down syndrome arrives at hospital there is a flag on their records that alerts doctors and nurses to the possible differences in how a child with Down syndrome might display symptoms of serious illness. Sam leads on making sure this is updated on an annual basis.

- **Developed a social story** to help support children, young adults and their parents when attending their paediatric appointments at Hull Royal Infirmary. It can be used to help prepare for appointments or used during the visit to help navigate through the stages of an appointment. The resource makes the appointment a positive experience and reduces levels of anxiety. Older ones can use it themselves as an easy read so they can learn to become independent and confident attending appointments.
- **Created an eye condition alert**. Sam and student nurse John created a useful one-page resource that can be saved on your phone and taken to eye test appointments. The resource lists a few of the eye conditions that may be more prevalent in people with Down syndrome and that should be checked for regularly. It also signposts professionals to the Down Syndrome Medical Interest Group evidence-based information on vision.

Down Syndrome with Complex Needs

Over the last 12-18 months, Health Lead Sam has been meeting and consulting with a small group of parents to better understand the issues facing families whose children have Down syndrome plus other needs such as autism. The input and discussions were written up as a report that has been shared with those involved and with the Trustees. The work was also presented at the annual DSUK Conference.

We have been steadily working our way through the action plan that came from the working group of parents. We have divided the work into four topic areas: Social events, Fridays, Training, and Information & Advocacy. Here's a summary of the actions already done or underway. Other longer-term actions are in the action plan.

Social Events

- A Complex Needs Checklist for venues was developed and has been used very successfully in planning events.
- Planned repeating events within and across years in safe/familiar places with same routine.
- Social stories have been written in advance of each event.
- Chosen (where possible) venues with multiple rooms for social events to cater for different needs. We did this for dance sessions and the Christmas party, both of which had quiet rooms available.
- Invited parents to assess venues in advance.

Fridays

- "All about me" forms completed/filed and kept up to date (annually or is something changes).
- Reasonable adjustments made for teaching sessions and info shared/flagged with social event organisers where relevant if adjustments would help there too. For each Friday the teachers jointly plan the themes and activities, making adjustments for each child's individual needs.

Training

- An audit of all our training courses was started to check the content is inclusive of complex needs. Our Intro to DS training has already been revised over the last few years to make more mention of DS and autism or complex needs.

Information and Advocacy

- Encouraged families to share top tips/useful opportunities about things that are helpful for their child with complex needs. We have been regularly posting about resources and information in the closed Facebook group for parents and in our newsletter.
- Awareness week – choosing topics that celebrate all children with Down syndrome and ensuring we have a range of children represented in our posts.

Supporting Young People – Building a Brighter Future Project

Our priorities were to continue the Building a Brighter Future project, looking at Downright Special's role in supporting young people with Down syndrome post-16.



Between June 2022 and January 2023, we invited parents/carers to join a working party to look at the needs of families as their young people prepare for adulthood. We had nine parents participate in a series of meetings where we explored issues around preparing for adulthood including Health, Independent Living, Employment and Relationships.

The group identified five themes: lack of clarity about what happens at each stage of the transition to adulthood; worries about the legal implications of becoming an adult; safety of their young person; wellbeing of parents/carers; social opportunities for their young person; the need for ongoing speech and language therapy.

The group then identified actions that could be taken in the short, medium and long term for services the charity could provide or support with signposting.

The information gathered was written up into a report which was been shared with Trustees, along with a series of recommendations for how the charity could support young people and their families at this stage in their lives.

We were able to take some immediate actions this year including adding more information within the DS Care pathway on transition to adult services, training and information sessions organised on: Wills & Trusts; Mental Capacity; Deputyships & Lasting Power of Attorney, Puberty.

In addition, the feedback told us how much the young people and families valued regular social events. This year we provided six social events specifically for this age group with an average of fourteen young people attending each one, enjoying dance sessions, bowling and pizza-making.

Next steps are to feed the information into our next strategy review and plan to address some of the longer-term actions.

Advocacy

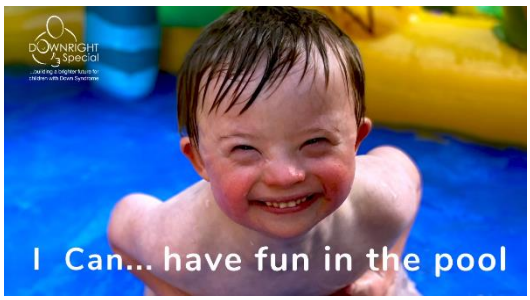
Our priorities during the year were to work collaboratively with our NHS partners to review and communicate the Down Syndrome Care Pathway, to actively participate in Down Syndrome Awareness Week and to raise the profile of the charity.

Awareness Week

Part of our mission is to act as a voice for the children and parents we support. We aim to change perceptions and raise awareness of what it really means to have Down syndrome.



For Awareness Week this year we had a successful social media campaign, along the theme of #ICan to raise awareness and celebrate the individuality of each of our children/young people. People with Down syndrome, like everyone else, have a wide range of personalities and abilities and we wanted to celebrate the big variety of the things they can do just in the same way we have a huge variety of fabulous children and young people at Downright Special!



We had some great videos and photos of our children of all ages showing all the things they can do. Huge thanks to, Anya, Arthur, Charlie, Emma, Frankie, Hermione, Jack, Jaeden, Jake, Jesse, Megan, Mia, Millie, Raphie, Sol, Thomas, Tia and Toby. You can view it here: https://fb.watch/pE_FKJWnM-/



We also had several schools and other supporters wearing their #LotsofSocks on World Down Syndrome Day to raise awareness or hosting coffee morning and bakes sales.





A highlight for Awareness Week was our coffee morning. Families, friends, and supporters were all invited to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day.

There was entertainment from the Sunshine Strummers Ukulele band, soft play, biscuit-decorating, crafts and lots and lots of cake! Over 100 people came along, and it was brilliant to see some of our young people working so hard to help on the day.



We ended Awareness week with a Charity Football Match, organised and led by First Touch UK / head coach Karl Southwick, dad to Mia.

A team of Downright Special friends and families played a full match against a team of parents from the football academy in a fun but competitive game that everyone enjoyed whilst raising funds for the charity and awareness.



New Parent Packs



Our new parent packs continue to be available on the maternity and neonatal wards. Midwives can give these packs out to parents knowing they are receiving up-to-date information on parenting a child with Down syndrome. A version of these packs is also available for those with an antenatal diagnosis. The packs available to download from our website https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/expectant-parents and https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/new-parents.

We raised awareness of these packs with maternity staff through the training we delivered this year to the labour ward midwives.

Networking

We have continued to build networks with groups nationwide, through the DSUK-led Facebook group for those running parent support groups with the aim of making a difference by sharing support, services, knowledge and expertise, making sure we are delivering the best service possible to our families and running our groups as efficiently as possible. This year we presented our work on Down syndrome with complex needs at the annual DSUK parent support group leaders conference.

We continue to be affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association. We work closely with the local Parent Carer Forums to feedback views from parents of key issues affecting them. We have a presence at the East Riding Learning Disability Partnership Board. We participated in the stakeholder reference group for the local NHS neurodiversity service development.

Communication with parents and carers

Making sure we hear the issues facing parents so that we can properly represent their voices is very important to us. We regularly review and update communications and engagement action plan, and we have two parents on our board of trustees, ensuring that we are continuing to deliver services that maximise the benefit to the families we support. We send regular emails to parents, send a half-termly update newsletter to parents and communicate frequently via our social media channels and closed Facebook group. We send out a biannual survey for parents and respond to any feedback.

Training

Our priority during the year has been to continue to offer a range of training for parents, schools, and health professionals.



Advisory Teacher Nicola delivering online training via Teams

One of our aims is to promote the awareness of Down syndrome and support successful inclusion. One of the ways we do this is providing training which is accessible to schools, parents and professionals working with our children. We minimise how much we charge for these courses to ensure no child is disadvantaged.

We have had a successful year delivering a comprehensive programme of training to over 200 parents and professionals. During lockdown and the pandemic we very successfully switched to delivering our training online via Zoom or Teams, managing to reach more education staff than ever before and have continued to deliver training in this way.

We delivered 19 training courses for schools this year including: Introduction to Working with Children with Down Syndrome; Maths using Numicon; Teaching Vocabulary; differentiating the curriculum, Supporting Speech, Language and Communication Needs, Developing Language and Reading, Growing, Changing and Keeping Safe, Working Memory, Coordination Difficulties, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Sensory Processing Difficulties and Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Wellbeing.

We organised four training sessions / workshops specifically for parents on Wills & trusts, Safe & Healthy Puberty, Toilet Training and Mental Capacity, LPA & Deputyships

This year, we continued to offer our INSET training and delivered six INSET training sessions on colourful semantics, working memory, curriculum differentiation, introduction to Down syndrome and signing.

Training for professionals in health is also important to us. Susanne and Gillian delivered three training sessions on delivering the news that a baby has Down syndrome, to around thirty midwives.

Fundraising

The work of Downright Special is only made possible by the generosity and efforts of many people who have supported us by awarding us a grant, raising funds, or donating goods and services. Our plan in this year was to continue to have a broadly based fundraising strategy, rather than relying on one type of income. The pandemic's impact on community fundraising remained a risk this year and this was reflected on our risk register. Our targets for this year were: grants/trusts (65%), community (30%), training (3%), other (2%). These targets are monitored at trustee meetings. Our continued focus on grants has reaped rewards in 2023, with successful grants received from:

Grants	**Amount**	
Matthew Good Foundation	£	10,000
Brownless Trust	£	200
Ironmongers	£	13,447
The Beacon Lodge Charitable Trust	£	8,000
Hull + ER Charitable Trust	£	2,500
James Reckitt Charity	£	5,000
WO Street Charitable Foundation	£	3,000
National Lottery Awards For All	£	9,900
HEY Smile Foundation	£	2,000
KCOM	£	1,000
Joseph+Annie Cattle Trust	£	5,000
Tesco Bags for Good (Groundworks)	£	1,125
HEY Smile Foundation	£	6,580
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	£	25,000
Help For Health	£	3,672
Masonic Charitable Foundation	£	5,000
	£	**101,424**

We were delighted that The Matthew Good Foundation awarded us a grant of £50,000 to be paid over 5 years, with the first £10000 paid to us in this year. They also supported us by working with Big Picture Charity Films to make a short new film about the charity to be used to showcase what we do to supporters and to help welcome new families. The film was completed and launched in January 2023. You can view it here: https://vimeo.com/790811879

Our income from grants was 130% of our target this year. Based on successes to date, we have once again invested £1,200 in paying for 30 hours of a bid-writer's time to help us with our grant applications and paid for a further 30 hours to cover our needs in 2023/2024.

Our community fundraising & donations income saw a 37% decrease compared to last year. We have continued to work very hard to raise funds through our bookstall, raffles, auctions and encouraging families to take part in our Down Syndrome Awareness Week activities. We raised around £5000 during Awareness Week through families and friends taking part in a number of challenges, including a sponsored football match, hair dye, bake sales, dance schools wearing Lots of Socks, Facebook donate buttons, Lots of Socks in schools and nurseries, donations and matched funds and raffles.

In March 2023 our time as Charity of the Year for **Victory Leisure Homes** came to an end. We are so grateful for the support. We continue to be the charity of the year for Hercules House at South Hunsley Secondary School and this year Portia House, Hessle High have chosen us as their Charity of the Year too.

Overall, our income this year increased by 16% compared to last year (from £108K to £126K), surpassing our expectations. This gives us confidence for 2023-2024 that we will be able fund the charity in line with our budget of £131k for covering increased cost due to inflation, cost of living increases whilst continuing to grow the charity's offer to families.

It is important to highlight we receive no statutory funding, and do not currently charge our parents or the schools and early years settings we support for the majority of the services we offer. The only charge was a heavily subsidised rate for school staff to attend training courses.

Every penny goes towards building a brighter future for children and young people with Down syndrome and making a huge difference to their lives today. **Our heartfelt thanks go to those who supported us by raising funds or providing goods and services between November 2022 and October 2023. These include:**

Asda Foundation	Harrison & Symonds Cigar Group	Kerry Farmery	Robert Jubb
Bob Bloomer	Hessle High	Kim Thorpe	Roger Coates
Braham and Dixon	Hornsea Primary	Kingspan	Sandhills Garden Centre Café
Bridbeat Charity Singers	Hull United FC	Laser Renew	South Holderness Ladies Probus
Capgemini	Humber Bridge Half Marathon	Lesley Grant	South Hunsley School - Hercules House
Charlotte Rowley	Inkwerx Tattooing	M L Tuffnell	Sproatley Syndicate
D3 Workwear	J Cowell	Michael Walker	St Andrews (kirkella) primary
Don Bremner	J Oliver	Mike East Funeral Services	St Paul's Boxing Academy
Edenthorpe Hall Primary	Jennie & Emma Smith	Mrs Bruce	Sunshine Strummers
Genesis Pre-school	Jo Thompson	Paul Knight	Swanland Primary
Gill Foster	Joanna Harker	Phil Lamb, Sculcoates Church	The Little Yorkshire Dance Academy
Gillian Svenson	Judy Sugden	Premier, Beverley	The One Point
Gosschalks Solicitors	Karl and Kerli Southwick	Preston Primary	Tone Broomfield
Hall Road Academy	Karyn Elgie	Redwood Glades	Victoria Ross
Harris, Lacey & Swain	KCOM	Rhona Kirk	Victory Leisure Homes

Thanks also to everyone who:

- Supported us during Awareness Week
- Hosted a collection tin
- Set up a Facebook Fundraiser for us this year
- Donated via TicketSource when booking an event
- Set up regular giving via their Payroll or via our Just Giving Page https://www.justgiving.com/downright-special
- Gave us a one-off donation via Just Giving, Paypal, or direct to the charity
- Donated a raffle or auction prize
- Donated goods for our eBay shop
- Supported us by using https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk for their online shopping
- Sent e-cards using Don't Send Me A Card.
- Supported us by using Amazon Smile www.smile.amazon.co.uk to do their Amazon shopping
- Bought us resources from our Amazon Wish List https://tinyurl.com/2p87d64b
- Everyone else who donated or supported us in any way, big or small. We couldn't do it without you!

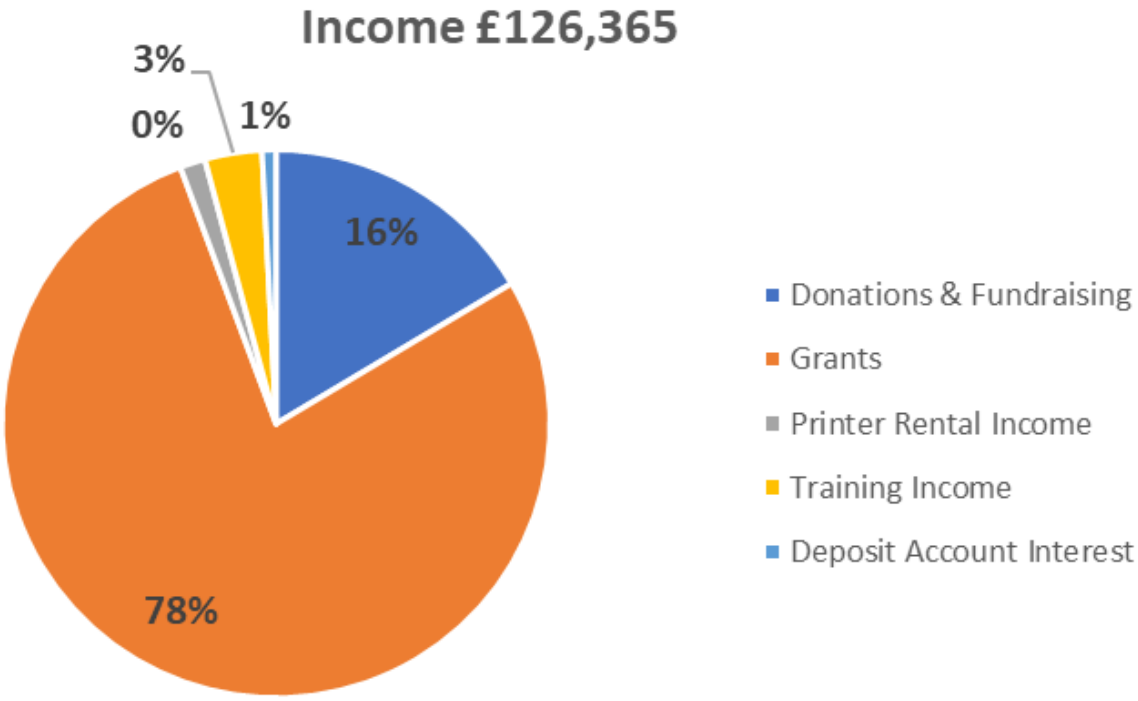
Financial Review

Income

Our levels of income saw a 16% increase compared to last year. This was mainly due to increases in grants (up 45%) due to our focus on this income stream. The pandemic had a devastating impact on our community fundraising in 2020 and 2021 and income from this funding stream has continued to decline and is 36% lower than last year.

We continue to fundraise ourselves with our bookstall at Sandhill Garden Centre Café, and income from sharing the use of our printer. Our campaigns for World Down Syndrome Day generated around £5000 and we ran a number of raffles and auctions.

Fundraising from individuals taking part in sponsored events continues to play a vital role in securing sufficient income to run the charity, although income from this continues to be much reduced compared to before the pandemic and we continue to look for innovative ways to encourage individuals to fundraise for us.



Expenditure

Our overall expenditure was similar to last year although lower than planned. This was mostly due to wages being lower than budget as we had one person leave the organisation whose role was only partly replaced.

We continue to invest in specialist resources and making bespoke materials which can be used in our education sessions or given to families and schools to support the development of the children. This year we invested in updating our 'See and Learn' resources, the evidenced-based programme that is recommended for working on our children's speech sounds, vocabulary and sentence building.

This year our spend on social events increased in part due to the increase in costs of events in line with the cost of living increases this year and due to the number of events we were able to organise.

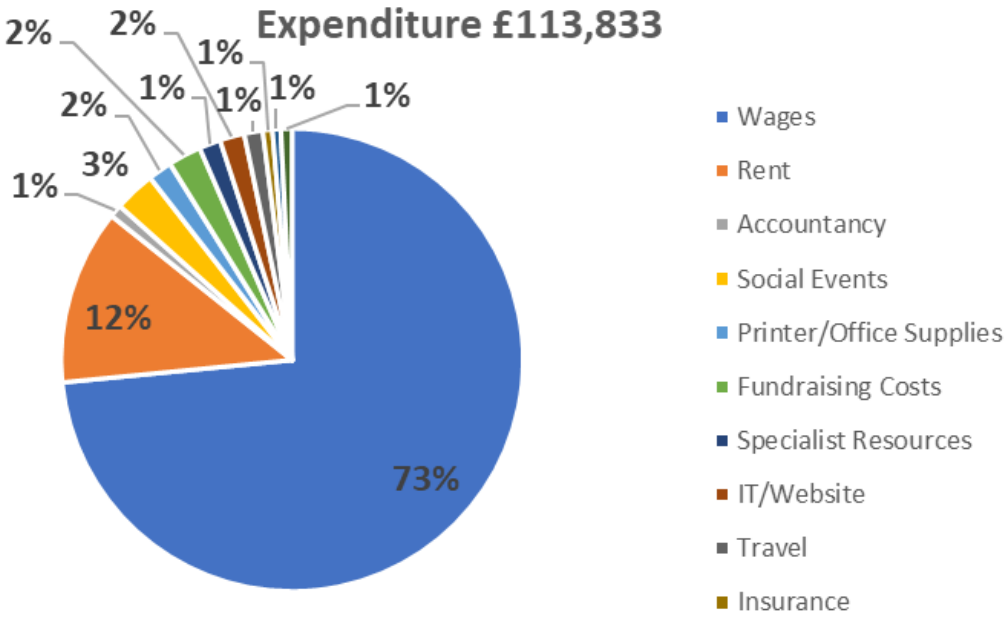
Following the renegotiation of our printer contract with our supplier KRL our printing costs decreased this year.

We are very grateful to the many individuals who purchased office supplies and specialist resources from our Amazon Wishlist, helping to keep these costs as low as possible.

We have invested in new IT equipment including two iPads (with thanks to funding from grants) and have had to replace one of our aging laptops.

We keep our costs as low as possible through gifts in kind from local businesses, such as reduced accountancy costs from Harris Lacey and Swain, employment law advice from Gosschalks solicitors, website hosting / telephony support from The One Point and many more. The One Point also very kindly continue to donate their time free of charge to support us with our IT systems following our migration to Office 365 this year, keeping us working safely, securely and efficiently.

We are hugely thankful for the incredible efforts from our team of volunteers, who have enabled us to continue to be so cost effective.



A full summary of the accounts is appended to this trustees' report.

Looking to the future

Our plans for the next 10 years continue to be centred on expanding our range of services in line with the increasing age range of the children we support so we can continue to support their evolving needs and help them reach their potential. Our goal is to support children and young people through their secondary school years and beyond to further education and employment. We also want to ensure that we continue to be sustainable in the short term whilst we continue to deliver our core, current activities.

Some of our plans are:

- **To review and refresh our five-year strategy.**
- **To continue to develop the health agenda with a focus on the** care pathway, maternity services and implement the recommendations from the Down syndrome with complex needs project.
- **Embed the new format for Friday morning sessions into our ways of working, reviewing and amending as necessary.**
- **To implement the recommendations from the Building a Brighter Future project** to support young people with Down Syndrome post-16.
- **To continue to strengthen communication and engagement strategies** with a particular focus on updating our website.
- **To increase our training offer for parents** and continue to offer a range of training for schools and health professionals.
- **To find long term sustainable funding** for our specialist staff and our building costs.
- **To continue to develop our social event opportunities** for the whole family and older children / young adults.
- To continue lobbying on the regional and national stage.

We actively encourage as many people as possible to get involved in whatever way they can. If you would like to do something 'Downright Special', please contact office@downrightspecial.co.uk

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees,



Lizann Lowson (Trustee)

Appendix: Unaudited Financial Statements

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1175863

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 October 2023

for

The Downright Special Network

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

The Downright Special Network

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

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Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 15
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	16

The Downright Special Network

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 October 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 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 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their power of duties.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

For a full review of the Charity's reporting year including its objectives and aims and plans for the future please see the Charity report to which these accounts are attached.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The charity's policy is to hold nine months of running costs in reserves. The reserves policy is reviewed annually and is available on request.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (foundation model).
The objects of the charity and the day to day running of the charity were unchanged when the conversion to a CIO took place in 2017.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees.

Organisational structure

For a full explanation of the organisational structure see the Charity's report.

Day to day responsibility has been delegated by the trustees to the Charity Manager Gillian Bowlas.

Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures were written or reviewed and updated: children's safeguarding policy and procedures, adult safeguarding policy, photography and filming policy, health and safety policy, employee handbook, equal opportunities policy, reserves policy, lone working policy, financial operating procedures, risk register, strategy, fundraising strategy, complaints procedure, GDPR policy, volunteer handbook, static collection tins policy.

Induction and training of new trustees

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with the charity's governing document, safeguarding policy and employee handbook. The handbook covers a range of policies applicable to trustees or employees including confidentiality, data protection, health and safety, expenses and use of charity telephones and IT. All trustees were issued with Charity Commission's 'The Essential Trustee'. New trustees are also given the latest annual report and statement of accounts.

Six Trustee meetings were held during this reporting period and all meetings were quorate. Minutes are available for all meetings on request.

Related parties

The Charity is affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association, a national organisation.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1175863

Principal address
Bodmin Road Church Office
Padstow Close
Hull
HU7 4HE

Trustees
A Broekhuizen
G D Beresford
L Lowson
M Marie
N Findlay

Lizann Lowson was appointed Chair of the charity in June 2020 for a term of three years from that date.

Independent Examiner
Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

Solicitors
Gosschalks
Queens Gardens
Dock Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 3DZ

Bank
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Downright Special Charity (registration number 1128178) converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 November 2017 and all the funds were transferred from the charity to the CIO.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 7TH FEBRUARY 24 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
L Lowson - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Downright Special Network
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Downright Special Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31 October 2023.

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.

Richard D Lacey

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

Date: 4/3/24

The Downright Special Network

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 October 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		17,258	2	17,260	20,672
Charitable activities					
Charitable		29,306	78,724	108,030	87,891
Investment income	2	1,075	-	1,075	119
Total		47,639	78,726	126,365	108,682
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable		54,362	58,474	112,836	113,233
Other		997	-	997	487
Total		55,359	58,474	113,833	113,720
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(7,720)	20,252	12,532	(5,038)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		83,551	8,285	91,836	96,874
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		75,831	28,537	104,368	91,836

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Downright Special Network

Balance Sheet
31 October 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	1,540	-	1,540	990
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	328	-	328	2,436
Cash at bank		77,105	28,535	105,640	91,419
		77,433	28,535	105,968	93,855
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(3,140)	-	(3,140)	(3,009)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		74,293	28,535	102,828	90,846
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		75,833	28,535	104,368	91,836
NET ASSETS		75,833	28,535	104,368	91,836
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				75,833	83,551
Restricted funds				28,535	8,285
TOTAL FUNDS				104,368	91,836

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 7TH FEBRUARY 24 and were signed on its behalf by:

J Lowson - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

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
Income received for services provided is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Cash donations, gifts and legacies are included in full in the income and expenditure account as they are received. Any significant non-cash donations are included in the income and expenditure account at the trustees' estimate of their market value when received. The value of voluntary help is not included in the accounts.

Grants and other funding of a revenue nature are deferred and released to the income and expenditure account over the period to which they relate.

Bank interest is included in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

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.

Estimates and judgements
Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on the Trustees best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results ultimately differ from these estimates. The Trustees do not consider there to be any material estimates and judgements.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Estimates and judgements
Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors and creditors, are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	1,075	119

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

4. STAFF COSTS

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

	2023	2022
General Staff	8	9

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

Total staff costs in the year came to £83,618 (2022 - £84,498).

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	20,647	25	20,672
Charitable activities			
Charitable	47,913	39,978	87,891
Investment income	119	-	119
Total	68,679	40,003	108,682
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable	71,104	42,129	113,233

continued...

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Other	487	-	487
Total	71,591	42,129	113,720
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(2,912)	(2,126)	(5,038)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	86,463	10,411	96,874
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	83,551	8,285	91,836

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 November 2022	1,477
Additions	1,547
At 31 October 2023	3,024
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 November 2022	487
Charge for year	997
At 31 October 2023	1,484
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 October 2023	1,540
At 31 October 2022	990

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	-	2,186
Prepayments	328	250
	328	2,436

continued...

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Taxation and social security	1,940	994
Other creditors	1,200	2,015
	3,140	3,009

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.11.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.10.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	83,551	(7,718)	75,833
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	2,048	1,950	3,998
Children In Need	67	-	67
MCF Masonic	(1,201)	2,730	1,529
Hospital Saturday Fund	467	(467)	-
Rank Foundation	1,000	(1,000)	-
Ironmongers	-	683	683
Two Ridings	1,645	(1,645)	-
Arnold Clark Community Fund	992	(992)	-
Dynamix	1,232	(1,232)	-
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	-	14,356	14,356
The National Lottery Community Fund	735	997	1,732
Toy Trust	1,300	(1,300)	-
KCOM	-	998	998
Tesco	-	894	894
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	-	4,278	4,278
	8,285	20,250	28,535
TOTAL FUNDS	91,836	12,532	104,368

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	47,639	(55,357)	(7,718)
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	3,672	(1,722)	1,950
MCF Masonic	5,000	(2,270)	2,730
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	(467)	(467)
Rank Foundation	-	(1,000)	(1,000)
Ironmongers	13,448	(12,765)	683
Two Ridings	-	(1,645)	(1,645)
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	(992)	(992)
Dynamix	2,000	(3,232)	(1,232)
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	25,000	(10,644)	14,356
The National Lottery Community Fund	9,900	(8,903)	997
Toy Trust	-	(1,300)	(1,300)
Beacon Lodge	8,000	(8,000)	-
KCOM	1,000	(2)	998
Tesco	1,125	(231)	894
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	6,581	(2,303)	4,278
WO Street Charitable Foundation	3,000	(3,000)	-
	78,726	(58,476)	20,250
TOTAL FUNDS	126,365	(113,833)	12,532

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.11.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.10.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	86,463	(2,912)	83,551
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	1,379	669	2,048
Brelms Trust	2,083	(2,083)	-
Children In Need	1,615	(1,548)	67
MCF Masonic	(1,201)	-	(1,201)
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	3,012	(3,012)	-
Boshier Hinton Foundation	74	(74)	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	467	467
Rank Foundation	-	1,000	1,000
Ironmongers	1,930	(1,930)	-
Magdalen Trust	1,519	(1,519)	-
Two Ridings	-	1,645	1,645
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	992	992
Dynamix	-	1,232	1,232
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	735	735
Toy Trust	-	1,300	1,300
	10,411	(2,126)	8,285
TOTAL FUNDS	96,874	(5,038)	91,836

continued...

9. 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	68,679	(71,591)	(2,912)
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	3,275	(2,606)	669
Brelms Trust	-	(2,083)	(2,083)
Children In Need	(1)	(1,547)	(1,548)
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	4,000	(7,012)	(3,012)
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	(74)	(74)
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	(1,533)	467
Rank Foundation	1,000	-	1,000
Scientific Lab	530	(530)	-
Ironmongers	(1)	(1,929)	(1,930)
Magdalen Trust	-	(1,519)	(1,519)
Two Ridings	2,000	(355)	1,645
Arnold Clark Community Fund	1,000	(8)	992
Dynamix	2,025	(793)	1,232
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	12,628	(12,628)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	9,547	(8,812)	735
Toy Trust	2,000	(700)	1,300
	40,003	(42,129)	(2,126)
TOTAL FUNDS	108,682	(113,720)	(5,038)

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	At 1.11.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.10.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	86,463	(10,630)	75,833
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	1,379	2,619	3,998
Brelms Trust	2,083	(2,083)	-
Children In Need	1,615	(1,548)	67
MCF Masonic	(1,201)	2,730	1,529
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	3,012	(3,012)	-
Boshier Hinton Foundation	74	(74)	-
Ironmongers	1,930	(1,247)	683
Magdalen Trust	1,519	(1,519)	-
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	-	14,356	14,356
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	1,732	1,732
KCOM	-	998	998
Tesco	-	894	894
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	-	4,278	4,278
	10,411	18,124	28,535
TOTAL FUNDS	96,874	7,494	104,368

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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	116,318	(126,948)	(10,630)
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	6,947	(4,328)	2,619
Brelms Trust	-	(2,083)	(2,083)
Children In Need	(1)	(1,547)	(1,548)
MCF Masonic	5,000	(2,270)	2,730
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	4,000	(7,012)	(3,012)
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	(74)	(74)
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	(2,000)	-
Rank Foundation	1,000	(1,000)	-
Scientific Lab	530	(530)	-
Ironmongers	13,447	(14,694)	(1,247)
Magdalen Trust	-	(1,519)	(1,519)
Two Ridings	2,000	(2,000)	-
Arnold Clark Community Fund	1,000	(1,000)	-
Dynamix	4,025	(4,025)	-
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	37,628	(23,272)	14,356
The National Lottery Community Fund	19,447	(17,715)	1,732
Toy Trust	2,000	(2,000)	-
Beacon Lodge	8,000	(8,000)	-
KCOM	1,000	(2)	998
Tesco	1,125	(231)	894
Transforming Care (HEY Smile)	6,581	(2,303)	4,278
WO Street Charitable Foundation	3,000	(3,000)	-
	118,729	(100,605)	18,124
TOTAL FUNDS	235,047	(227,553)	7,494

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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

continued...

11. UNRESTRICTED GRANTS

Unrestricted grants of £22,700 were received in the year. These were from the following:

	£
Matthew Good Foundation	10,000
Brownless Trust	200
Hull and ER Charitable Trust	2,500
James Reckitt Charity	5,000
Joseph and Anne Cattle Trust	5,000
	22,700

The Downright Special Network

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

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	17,260	20,672
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	1,075	119
Charitable activities		
Fundraising events	4,159	13,240
Printer rental income	(1,938)	701
Training income	4,385	3,972
Grants	101,424	69,978
	108,030	87,891
Total incoming resources	126,365	108,682
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	83,618	84,498
Building rental	13,952	14,452
Insurance	762	499
Telephone	154	165
Printing and office supplies	1,909	2,344
Specialist resources	1,709	747
Social and fundraising events	5,884	4,071
Marketing	216	288
Training and education	673	602
Travel expenses	1,476	825
Miscellaneous expenses	514	912
Website and computer expenses	961	655
	111,828	110,058
Other		
Computer equipment	997	487
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	1,008	3,175
Total resources expended	113,833	113,720
Net income/(expenditure)	12,532	(5,038)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1175863

Accounts

...building a brighter future for children with Down Syndrome

The Downright Special Network

Annual Report and Accounts

1st November 2021 - 31st October 2022



Downright Special
Bodmin Road Church Office, Padstow Close, Bodmin Road, Bransholme, Hull HU7 4HE
Tel: 01482 420160 E-mail: enquiries@downrightspecial.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1175863

www.downrightspecial.co.uk

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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Foreword from the Chair



Over the past 12 months, the charity continued to go from strength to strength, providing excellent support to children, young people and their parents/carers.

Downright Special is successful due to the excellent leadership of the Charity Manager, Gillian Bowlas and the fabulous team of teachers, support staff who between them have a wealth of expertise and experience across the key phases of childrens' education and development. The training and development, provided by our team, for practitioners across Hull and the East Riding continues to be a key aspect of the Charity's work and the need for this training will only increase.

In coming out of the pandemic it was evident, through feedback, that many parents/carers felt isolated and needed greater social interaction and networking, to which the team responded whole-heartedly to with an array of social events and forums that provided space and time for parents/carers to meet and share.

There are several areas of key focus but to choose a couple, in 2021/22 we continued to focus on:

- Health, with many achievements including the creation of a health, education and social care directory; development of a bespoke hospital passport for children; and ongoing updates to the Down syndrome care pathway.
- Our offer of bespoke small-group or one-to-one sessions – for example, for school aged children and their Teaching Assistants; and for children with specific social communication needs by delivering focused sessions in block periods.

As we look to the future our plans continue to be centred on expanding our range of services in line with the increasing age range of the children we support so we can continue to support their evolving needs and help them reach their potential. You can read more about our future plans on page 22.

These plans and the developments we have been able to achieve to-date would not be possible without the fundraising and grants we receive. These are critical to the success of the charity - thank you to all the individuals and organisations who have supported us this year. Without you, it would not be possible!

Finally, thank you to everyone in the Downright Special Family who are a joy to work with and make everything achievable - children, parents, grandparents, staff, volunteers, supporters and professionals from other agencies - all of whom have a common endeavour to build a brighter future for children with Down syndrome.

I hope, in reading this report, you will agree it is a wonderful showcase of outstanding work and key developments. We are incredibly proud of this work – it is both inspiring and forward thinking.

Lizann Lowson

Chair of Trustees

Background

The Downright Special Network was established in June 2007 to:

- Provide and operate such support, materials and events so both parents/carers and professionals in health and education may be assisted in helping children with Down syndrome to achieve the best possible outcomes throughout their education, social, physical and emotional development.
- Produce antenatal support and information to prospective parents and emotional and practical support to new parents.
- Strive to build a brighter future for children with Down syndrome in our area.

The work undertaken by staff, as a result of the fundraising and donations received, allows us to focus on our enduring priorities of:

- Education
- Support
- Advocacy
- Training

Safeguarding Statement

Downright Special is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults with a care and support need, engaged in the breadth of its activities. Downright Special believes that everyone has the right to be safe from harm and should be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Downright Special takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children extremely seriously and we believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We follow safer recruiting guidelines. All Downright Special posts are subject to enhanced DBS disclosure. All our staff and volunteers who have contact with families must attend Level 1 Safeguarding training as a minimum with several of our staff receiving further training including safer recruiting, vulnerable babies and Makaton safeguarding workshop. Our safeguarding policy can be found on our website.

Meet the Team

Our Trustees

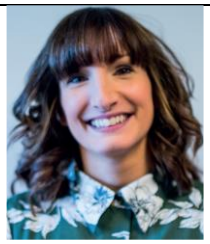
We ended the year with five trustees on the board having had two new members join and two trustees who resigned over the course of the year.

	Lizann Lowson Appointed October 2019 Chair since July 2020		Angela Broekhuizen Appointed June 2016 Treasurer since June 2021
	Gavin Beresford Appointed May 2017		Jenny Ross Appointed September 2018 (resigned September 2022)
	Kate Long Appointed April 2020 (resigned February 2022)		Michelle Fargen Appointed April 2022
	Neil Findlay Appointed October 2022		

Our Staff

We started this year with eight part-time members of staff to ensure the smooth running of the charity and deliver our Friday education sessions, outreach work in schools and training courses for parents and professionals. In the second half of the year, we also recruited a deputy charity manager in order increase the resource required to further develop and grow the charity.

The team includes:

	Gillian Bowlas Charity Manager		Louise Smith Charity Organiser
	Sam Findlay Health Lead		Katie Bewell Specialist Teacher (KS1) & Designated Safeguarding Officer
	Laura Nichols Early Years Advisor		Dr Nicola O'Riordan Advisory Teacher (KS2/KS3)
	Sarah Hyde Toddler Group Leader		Susanne Townhill Baby Group Leader & New Parent Contact
	Kate Long Deputy charity manager (Appointed February 22)		

Our Volunteers



Erin, Jess & Becky,
Friday Group Volunteers

To keep our costs as low as possible, the Charity uses many volunteers, including several parents, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to each one of them who helped us this year. These volunteers assist with running Friday sessions, laminating resources, organising social events, supporting new parent visits, managing our website and IT systems, running our bookstall, charity tin collections and managing the accounts. Many thanks to: Lisa Bloomer, Angela Broekhuizen, Jill Lambert, Neil Findlay, Erin Findlay, Victoria Ross, Becky Constable, Lauren Ward, Emily Barnett, Jessica Ross, Rachel Bowlas, Tone Broomfield, Karl Svenson, Toni Bullock, Roger Vine and all the amazing volunteers who helped at our Christmas and Easter events.

Review of our Activities of the Year

Education

OUR PRIORITY WAS TO RETURN FULLY TO FACE-TO-FACE SUPPORT FOLLOWING THE PANDEMIC AND ENCOURAGE FAMILIES BACK TO OUR ACTIVITIES SAFELY

Downright Special Early Development Groups



Our Downright Special early development groups run on a Friday during term time and continue to be a great success for children from birth to approximately five years old. We currently have around 16 children who regularly attend Friday mornings and, this year, we delivered 37 sessions. These sessions are a chance for parents to get together, have a coffee, share experiences and provide mutual support. The children get the chance to play and make friends. Most importantly the sessions also incorporate 'lesson time' when the children are put in small groups to work on their speech, language and communication skills, numeracy and literacy in a way that is tailored to the specific learning profile of children with Down syndrome. We provide lots of bespoke visual resources to support the children's learning and parents are given these to continue the work at home. We use Makaton sign language throughout the morning, helping parents and children learn the signs they need to communicate with each other and help with learning new words. We have established a tried and tested curriculum of activities which is reviewed annually to ensure the latest teaching methods are used. The curriculum also helps us to track progress and record milestones for each child.

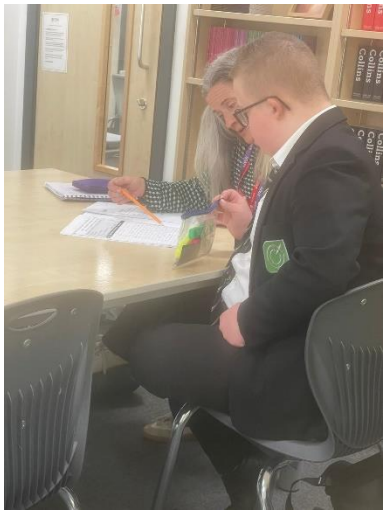


Our baby group continues to be incorporated into Friday mornings, with our youngest children enjoying a range of sensory activities and learning some of the early skills, such as taking turns and making early speech sounds in a relaxed and fun environment. It is also a chance for parents to see a demonstration of some the activities they can do at home to support their child's development and for parents to learn some of the most useful sign language to help with their baby's communication skills.

Also, an aspect which is crucially important, Downright Special Fridays offer parents and carers the opportunity to chat over coffee, share their experiences and offer peer-to-peer support whilst the children play in a safe environment. However good a statutory agency may be, there are some things that only another parent will understand and be able to offer the mutual support which is so often needed. The Friday group is striking visual evidence that there is no "type" of parent who will have a child with Down syndrome and we have a diversity of ages and cultures in the group. New dads can also be reassured it certainly isn't a "mother and baby" group, as we have several fathers attending regularly.

We have continued to alter our approach for children with specific social communication needs by delivering blocks of 1:1 or 1:2 sessions focusing on those children's particular needs. These sessions have been very successful with the children making significant progress in this time.

Downright Special Education Outreach Work with Schools



Downright Special Education aims to support effective inclusion in mainstream schools. Our three part-time members of staff provide support to 49 children in mainstream nurseries, pre-schools and schools. We have continued to increase our support to mainstream secondary schools as more of our children choose to continue their education this way. We now support eight children in mainstream secondary. The number of schools and nurseries receiving direct support from us is around 45. Our specialist teachers have visited schools to assess children and advise teaching staff, provided training for schools on the learning profile of children with Down syndrome, assisted with formulating effective Individual Education Plans (IEPs), written reports for the Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) process, and attended annual reviews and transition meetings. We also continue to provide Education Resource Packs for each child we support when they begin their formal education.

"Due to the teacher being shown the learning style of children with Down syndrome, they have been able to plan and resource lessons to allow the child to access the curriculum better. The child has become so confident and engaged in learning thanks to the support given to both teaching staff, support staff and the child."

Laura Nichols is our Early Years Advisor and, in addition to leading a Friday morning early intervention group, Laura's remit is to provide support and advice on inclusion of a child with Down syndrome in mainstream nursery or pre-school settings. She ensures our children get the best start to their education before they even reach statutory school age. Laura had 19 children on her caseload and provided support to 16 different settings this year.

Katie Bewell is our Specialist Teacher, mostly working with children in Key Stage 1. Katie had 12 children on her caseload this year. The use of colourful semantics for comprehension and speech fluency, and incorporating its use in specialist Apps such as Clicker, has continued to be a success this year. Many Teaching Assistants (TAs) are now using it in the classroom and we are seeing our years of work on the use of colourful semantics paying off, with our children making significant progress in this area of development. There continues to be great success with phonological awareness training, using multiphonics bricks with matching boards, which really help children blend and segment 'CVC' words.

Dr Nicola O'Riordan is our Key Stage 2/3 Advisory Teacher. Nicola has been instrumental in providing outreach support to our KS2/3 children and supporting the children, staff and parents in the transition to secondary school. Nicola had 21 children on her case load. In the last year, has begun to support children in KS4 (years 10&11). Nicola has continued to develop our INSET training offer for schools, writing and delivering a suite of new courses to suit the requests from schools.

Very importantly, we continue to offer small-group sessions at our Downright Special Friday group for school-age children and their TAs to the end of Key Stage 1. This year, we had 13 children attending these afternoon sessions in four different teaching groups. These structured lessons cover the core elements of the curriculum, including reading, writing, literacy, numeracy, and speech and language development. Having the TAs attend means they can see a demonstration of how to practically apply the specific teaching techniques which ensure our children's learning is maximised. They are given resources they can take away for use in the classroom and have plenty of opportunity to ask for advice on any issues they may be facing in the classroom, or to get guidance on next steps. It is also useful for them to meet other TAs to share experiences and learn from each other. We also continued monthly groups for children who have recently moved into KS2 and are ready to do some focused work on developing comprehension skills using a heavily scaffolded version of the 'Language for Thinking' speech and language programme. These groups are led by our KS2/3 advisor Nicola O'Riordan.



Case Study

I have been coming to Downright Special since I was a baby and I am now five years old. I am in a group with other children who also started at the same time as me. We are good friends and I see them outside of Downright Special too. As soon as I arrive on a Friday, I ask Katie my teacher where each of them are. Our mummies are all friends too because they met at Downright Special. Now that I am at school I come in the afternoon with my TA.

My speech has become clearer, the number of words I know has increased and I can build better and longer sentences since last year. I am getting good at talking about the things I like and dislike and my needs and wants. Recently my mummy and teaching assistant were given resources from Downright Special to help me with road safety. I like reading the social story about it and I have learned some of the signs for danger.

At the beginning of the year, I had to do my Downright Special lessons online. All my resources were sent to school the week before and then my TA and I did the lessons with Katie over Zoom. I did find this tricky at times but my TA and Katie helped to make them fun and I continued to learn during this time.

At school my TA uses all the vocabulary boards, books and resources given to me every Friday and she continues to do the work with me at school in between lessons. She does the work exactly the same way as she has seen at Fridays and this routine really helps me to learn and improve my concentration. My teaching assistant also had this to say about how Downright Special has helped her to help me:

"Coming to Downright Special with the child I work with has helped me massively and has made me want to know more. My knowledge and confidence in how to support him has improved. The children work really well in the sessions and the resources are amazing for use in school as well as at Friday group. It has also been useful meeting other Teaching Assistants – we share ideas and give each other advice. I have also accessed lots of the other training the charity offers which has really helped. How the Downright Special staff are with the children, the positivity they show is great. Any behaviour issues are looked at and sorted and if I have any questions then Katie always helps."

Support to Families

Our priorities during the year were to offer additional support to families and to further develop our social event opportunities for older children

Social Events







Parents told us how isolated they and their children were feeling during the pandemic and how desperate they were to have social events and chances to meet up with other families. Social events allow our families to get together, share experiences, pass on tips, support each other, and celebrate their children's achievements. The events also give the children a chance to make friends with other children with Down syndrome and develop what we hope will be lifelong friendships and support networks. These events are just as important as our formal activities and this year we made it a priority to offer as many social events as possible with a mixture of events for all ages and the whole family and age-specific events. We knew how much our older children valued events just for them where they could socialise with their peers of the same age.

It was great to be able to have our Christmas party in person this year at a new venue and with 70 children plus their families coming along. It is certainly the highlight of everyone's social calendar, with an entertainer, pamper zone, crafts, karaoke and of course a visit from Santa.

We enjoyed a sunny day for our Easter Egg Hunt with 51 children and their families attending. And if that wasn't enough chocolate 20 of our children and their families attended the Withernsea Bike Easter Egg run at East Park, Hull.

In January, we had an all-age football party, led by dad Karl Southwick of First Touch UK and in the summer, a lovely outing to Densholme Care Farm with 41 children and their families enjoying a picnic and tour of the farm. We also organised tickets for Circus Starr for 50 children.

In addition to these whole-family events, we ran the following sessions for different age groups with over 50 of our children attending at least one event this year.





Pre-school/Primary age events:

- Bowling at Superbowl, Hull
- Pre-school/primary dance sessions with Joanna of The Little Yorkshire Dance Academy
- Soft Play pizza party at Monkey Bizness
- Junior Football party at Soccer Kings
- Halloween Dance party with Joanna





Youth Club Events (12-25)

- Pizza-making at Ask Italian, Hull
- Dance session with Chris Holmes
- Halloween Dance with Joanna
- Football party at Soccer Kings
- A Painting session with Arting, Hull

Events for Parents

One of the key themes emerging from our biannual survey of parents and other feedback we've had, was the request to give parent/carers a forum to meet up for a chat, so in September we organised our first cuppa and chat session! We had a good turnout of parents who enjoyed the chance to have an uninterrupted catch-up whilst the children were at nursery, school and college so the intention is to continue this termly in the next year.

Other Support

New and Expectant Parents



We continued to support families new to parenting a baby with Down syndrome to offer support and information and this year welcomed two new babies to our special family. Through the hospital and health visiting teams, families are usually put in contact with us within a week of the birth or if a parent knows antenatally then we provide support through the pregnancy. We set straight to work not as lone "advisors" but instead using the extensive network we have built up to put the new parents in touch with others. As our database has grown to over 130 local families, we can now go so far as to match new parents to those of similar ages, situations and with babies who have similar medical conditions. For a new parent, there is nothing better than speaking to somebody who knows exactly what they are going through and can give them a glimpse of easier times a couple of years down the road, and there is nothing that our families with older children like better than reaching out to give new parents support, reassurance, advice and hope for the future. Fantastically, our families are working together for mutual benefit, which was always our ambition.

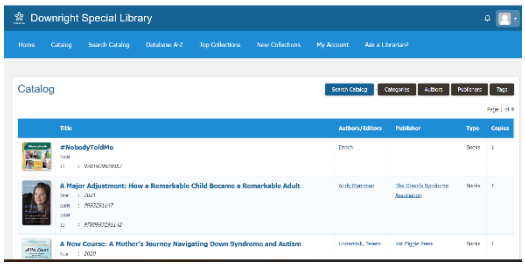
Advice

Our team are on hand throughout the week to give advice on all aspects of the care and education of children and young people with Down syndrome.

We have a closed Facebook group for parents, giving them a safe place to share useful information, ask questions and provide mutual support.

We have supported several families this year with advice on filling in benefit forms, in providing reports and advice for Education and Health Care Plans, and with support in choosing schools and nurseries. We have been able to help several families with their applications for claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or appealing against decisions.

Online Library



We continue to have an online library system, where we catalogue all of the books, information and resources we have and make it easy for parents and carers to view the list and arrange to borrow items. The system also makes it easier for us to log the whereabouts of all our resources. We continued to add to the library as new publications become available.

Downright Special Health



This year we were delighted to be able to continue to fund the role of our Downright Special Health Lead. Downright Special has always had a strong focus on education and the aim of the Health Lead role is to bring this same level of expertise and knowledge to the understanding of the health needs of children with Down syndrome. Sam Findlay, a registered Learning Disability Nurse started the role in December 2020, working one day a week on a Friday.

The main achievements in the last twelve months have been:

- Creating a 'health, education and social care directory' for children aged 0-18 months in order to make the local NHS Down syndrome care pathway more accessible and relevant to children of this age. The directory clarifies the appointments children should expect to have at this age, the common health issues and details of who to contact in each service, all linked to the developmental milestones for these children. The directory has been well received by parents and this year directories will be developed for all other age groups too.

- Assisting parents with completing a bespoke hospital passport for their children. Designed by Sam with input from parents, this document is for parents to record a one-page summary of their child's health needs, medical history, communication needs and any adjustments needed so that they can take it to appointments and avoid the need to retell their story over and over as well as acting as an aide-memoire for them as it easy to forget important points in the stress of an emergency hospital visit. The passport also includes information on sepsis and infection in children with Down syndrome, Makaton signing information and communication cards.

- Working with the local Emergency Department Paediatric Consultant to set up an alert system within hospital records so that when a child with Down syndrome arrives at hospital there is a flag on their records that alerts doctors and nurses to the possible differences in how a child with Down syndrome might display symptoms of serious illness. Sam leads on making sure this is updated on an annual basis.

- Leading the annual update to the Down syndrome care pathway, contacting relevant professionals, updating the pathway with the latest evidence-based information and working with local NHS commissioners to ensure the updates were included and rolled out.

- Signposting families to useful information relating to health, answering lots of individual queries from parents and arranging 1:1 sessions with individual families to give in depth support on issues such as toileting, dual diagnosis, sleep and feeding.

- Leading a working group of families to talk about the experiences of parenting a child with more complex needs and to consider how the charity can respond to those experiences. As a result of this work we have already made some changes e.g. to social events to be more inclusive. Another theme has been around feeling understood by and connected to other families and moving forwards we will be developing a training session for all parents/carers which will raise awareness about dual diagnosis of Down Syndrome and autism. The group has also identified sources of online and real-life support both national and local that they find relatable and will be sharing these with everyone. The group is currently pulling together a detailed plan of what else could be done that would help them feel better supported. In the meantime they have also developed a pledge to articulate our vision for the charity:

"Downright Special recognizes that each individual with Down's syndrome is unique and that some may have more complex needs. We pledge to create an environment where all individuals and their families feel welcome and supported, regardless of diagnosis or ability."

Supporting Young People – Building a Brighter Future Project

Our priorities were to re-establish the Building a Brighter Future project, for example developing a programme of activities to support parents and developing a clear future plan for Downright Special's role in creating/supporting opportunities for young people with Down syndrome post-16.



We have been thinking about our long-term strategy and how we need to evolve to meet the needs of our young people as they leave school and transition to further education, work experience, training or employment. We formally began our 'Building a Brighter Future' project in July 2019, leading a workshop to gather feedback from local organisations and providers and gathered feedback on the gaps in services and areas which are working well.

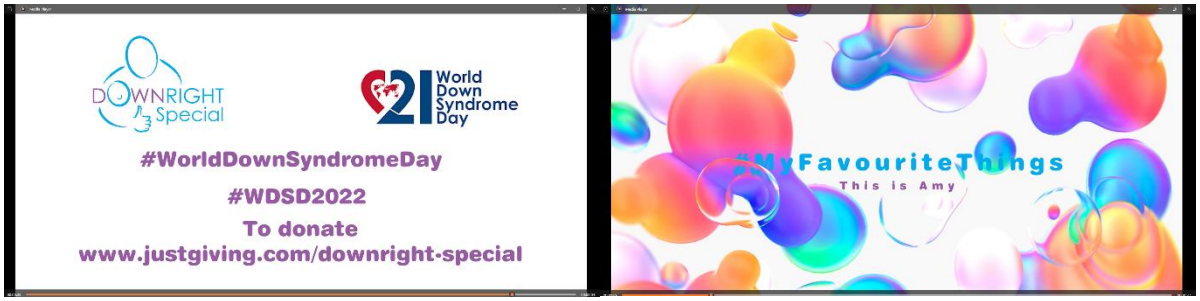
The project was put on hold due to the pandemic and lack of resource but we were pleased to be able restart it this year. A working group of parents met regularly to share experiences, concerns and worries and to develop a picture of what support would be helpful during transition to adulthood. The information gathered is now being developed into an action plan with clear outcomes around training and information for parents, sharing experiences from others who have already been through the transition to adulthood with their children and continuing to provide social opportunities for young people.

Advocacy

Our priorities during the year were to work collaboratively with our NHS partners to review and communicate the Down Syndrome Care Pathway, to actively participate in Down Syndrome Awareness Week and to raise the profile of the charity.

Awareness Week

Part of our mission is to act as a voice for the children and parents we support. We aim to change perceptions and raise awareness of what it really means to have Down syndrome.



For Awareness Week this year we had a successful social media campaign throughout the week, along the theme of #MyFavouriteThings. We had some great videos and photos of our children of all ages showing how they like to have fun. Huge thanks to Amy, Arthur, Benjamin, Eva, Harry C, Harry L, Hermione, Jake, Jesse, Laiton, Lily, Mia, Nathan, Oscar, Raphi, Thomas, Millie, Charlie, Emma, Megan, Tia, Frankie and Sapphie.

We also had several schools and other supporters wearing their #LotsofSocks on World Down Syndrome Day to raise awareness.





The highlight for Awareness Week though was our first ever 'pop-up' café. Families, friends and supporters were all invited to our coffee morning to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day.

There was entertainment from the Sunshine Strummers Ukulele band, soft play, biscuit-decorating, crafts and lots and lots of cake! Over 100 people came along and it was brilliant to see some of our young people working so hard to help on the day.

New Parent Packs



Our new parent packs continue to be available on the maternity and neonatal wards. Midwives can give these packs out to parents knowing they are receiving up-to-date information on parenting a child with Down syndrome. A version of these packs is also available for those with an antenatal diagnosis. The packs available to download from our website https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/expectant-parents and https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/new-parents.

Campaigning – Down Syndrome Act



We supported the National Down Syndrome Policy group as they campaigned for a Down Syndrome Bill to be passed, with Charity Manager Gillian and her daughter Rachel invited to the Houses of Parliament to meet with MPs and the policy group. The Act gained royal assent in April 2022 and following that we encouraged families to get involved in shaping the guidance that is to be written alongside the act. As a charity we submitted our own views on Health and Education to help inform the guidance.

Networking

We have continued to build networks with groups nationwide, through the DSUK-led Facebook group for those running parent support groups with the aim of making a difference by sharing support, services, knowledge and expertise, making sure we are delivering the best service possible to our families and running our groups as efficiently as possible. This year we presented our work on the hospital passports and the emergency department alert at the annual DSUK parent support group leaders conference.

We continue to be affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association. We work closely with the local Parent Carer Forums to feedback views from parents of key issues affecting them. We have a presence at the East Riding Learning Disability Partnership Board. We participate in the stakeholder reference group for the local NHS neurodiversity service development.

Communication with parents and carers

Making sure we hear the issues facing parents so that we can properly represent their voices is very important to us. We regularly review and update communications and engagement action plan, and we have two parents on our board of trustees, ensuring that we are continuing to deliver services that maximise the benefit to the families we support. We send regular emails to parents, send a half-termly update newsletter to parents and communicate frequently via our social media channels and closed Facebook group. We send out a biannual survey for parents and respond to any feedback.

.

Training

Our priority during the year has been to continue to offer a range of training for parents, schools, and health professionals.



Advisory Teacher Nicola delivering online training via Teams

One of our aims is to promote the awareness of Down syndrome and support successful inclusion. One of the ways we do this is providing training which is accessible to schools, parents and professionals working with our children. We minimise how much we charge for these courses to ensure no child is disadvantaged.

We have had a successful year delivering a comprehensive programme of training to over 200 parents and professionals. During lockdown and the ongoing pandemic we very successfully switched to delivering our training online via Zoom or Teams, managing to reach more education staff than ever before and have continued to deliver training in this way.

We delivered 22 training course this year including: Introduction to Working with Children with Down Syndrome; Maths using Numicon; Teaching Vocabulary; differentiating the curriculum, Supporting Speech, Language and Communication Needs, Developing Language and Reading, Growing, Changing and Keeping Safe, Working Memory, Coordination Difficulties, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Sensory Processing Difficulties. New this year was training on Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Wellbeing.

We organised training specially for parents on the Maths for Life programme, Signing and Toilet training

This year, we continued to develop our INSET training offer and delivered seven twilight training sessions on colourful semantics, coordination difficulties, language and communication, language for thinking, behaviour and signing.

Kate delivered training to Leeds University students about inclusion, parent voice and strategies to support children and young people with Down Syndrome.

Fundraising

The work of Downright Special is only made possible by the generosity and efforts of many people who have supported us by awarding us a grant, raising funds, or donating goods and services. Our plan in this year was to continue to have a broadly based fundraising strategy, rather than relying on one type of income. The pandemic's impact on community fundraising remained a risk this year and this was reflected on our risk register. Our targets for this year were: grants/trusts (69%), community (25%), training (5%) regular giving (1%). These targets are monitored at trustee meetings. Our continued focus on grants has reaped rewards in 2022, with successful grants received from:

Grants	Amount
The National Lottery Community Fund	9,547
People's Postcode Neighbourhood Trust	12,627
Scientific Laboratory Supplies	530
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000
Help For Health	3,274
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	4,000
Joseph+Annie Cattle Trust	5,000
Arnold Clark Community Fund	1,000
ERVAS (Dynamix friends Fund)	2,000
Greggs Foundation	500
Sir Jules Thorn	2,500
Rank Foundation	1,000
The Albert Hunt Trust	2,000
Hull Aid in Sickness Trust	1,500
Toy Trust	2,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,000
Two Ridings Community Foundation	2,000
Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust	2,000
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	500
Liz+Terry Bramall Foundation	6,000
TOTAL	£ 69,978

In addition, this year we received £500 from the **Asda Foundation** and £500 from **the Matthew Good Foundation**. The Matthew Good Foundation also supported us by working with Big Picture Charity Films to make a new short film about the charity to be used to showcase what we do to supporters and to help welcome new families. The film will be completed and ready to be launched in January 2023.

Our income from grants met our target this year. Based on successes to date, we have once again invested £1,050 in paying for 30 hours of a bid-writer's time to help us with our grant applications and paid for a further 30 hours to cover our needs in 2022/2023.

Our community fundraising & donations income saw a 2% increase compared to last year but was still 21% lower than pre-pandemic levels. We have continued to work very hard to try to replace some of the lost income through online raffles, auctions, encouraging families to take part in our Down Syndrome Awareness Week activities. We raised £10,026 during Awareness Week through families and friends taking part in a number of challenges, including a sponsored swim, yoga-thon, hair dye, bake sales, dance schools, Facebook donate buttons, Cookie Sale, Lots of Socks in schools and nurseries, donations and matched funds, raffles, sponsored walks.

In 2022 we were Charity of the Year for **Victory Leisure Homes**, with our time as Charity of the Year for **Yorkshire Rapeseed Oil** coming to an end in March 2022. We are so grateful for the support.

Overall, our income this year increased by 4% compared to last year (from £104K to £108K), however we fell short of our income target by £8K. Despite the challenging circumstances of much of this year, we remain confident that we will be able fund the charity in line with our budget of £119k for 2022/2023 due to forecast grant income including an annual grant for £10,000 year for the next 5 years from the Matthew Good Foundation beginning in November 2022.

It is important to highlight we receive no statutory funding, and do not currently charge our parents or the schools and early years settings we support for the majority of the services we offer. The only charge was a heavily subsidised rate for school staff to attend training courses.

Every penny goes towards building a brighter future for children with Down syndrome and making a huge difference to their lives today. **Our heartfelt thanks go to those who supported us by raising funds or providing goods and services between November 2021 and October 2022. These include:**

Alex Abel
Ania Anulka
Andy Scott / Harbour Energy Welfare
Arthouse
Anndrina Bremner
Asda Kingswood
Barry Sayer
Beechwood Care Home
Braham & Dixon
Bright blue Foods
Chris Coates
Chris & Mille Rooks
Christala Barrett
Elliott Mudd
Emma Vine
Frieda Stokes
Genesis nursery
Gillian Bowlas
Giving Force foundation
Gosschalks
Greggs Foundation
Harris, Lacey & Swain
Irwin Mitchell
Joanna Harker
J E Markham
Jennie & Emma Smith
Jenny Ross
Judy Sugden
Julie Strong
Karen Cochrane
Kate Long
Katie Bewell
KCOM
Kerry Farmery
Kingspan Access Flooring
Krystian Nowicki
Leonardo's
Lisa Bloomer
Matthew Good Foundation
Michele Ditchburn
Michelle Hardy
M L Tuffnell
Molescroft wines
My Letterbox Creations
Movement for Good
Neil Findlay
Neil Polson
New House, Millers (Gemma Wilson)
Nicola O'Riordan
Nisa Summergangs Road
Patrington Primary school
Paul Herrieven
Pauline Rouse
Pizza Pie
R Allenby
Roger Vine
Roger & Catherine Williams
Sandhill Garden Centre Café
Sharon Mills
Sogeti / Cap Gemini
Song Bird
Spring Cottage
Straight Manufacturing Ltd
Sunshine Strummers
Suzy & Charlotte
Sweet Soft Play
Tesco hall Road
The One Point
Toni's Deli
Total Flooring
Victoria Ross
HSBC (Business Fives event)
Victory Leisure Homes
Yorkshire Rapeseed Oil

Thanks also to everyone who:

- Supported us during Awareness Week
- Hosted a collection tin
- Set up a Facebook Fundraiser for us this year
- Set up regular giving via their Payroll or via our Just Giving Page https://www.justgiving.com/downright-special
- Gave us a one-off donation via Just Giving, Paypal, or direct to the charity
- Donated a raffle or auction prize
- Donated goods for our eBay shop
- Supported us by using https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk for their online shopping
- Sent e-cards using Don't Send Me A Card.
- Supported us by using Amazon Smile www.smile.amazon.co.uk to do their Amazon shopping
- Bought us resources from our Amazon Wish List https://tinyurl.com/2p87d64b
- Everyone else who donated or supported us in any way, big or small. We couldn't do it without you!

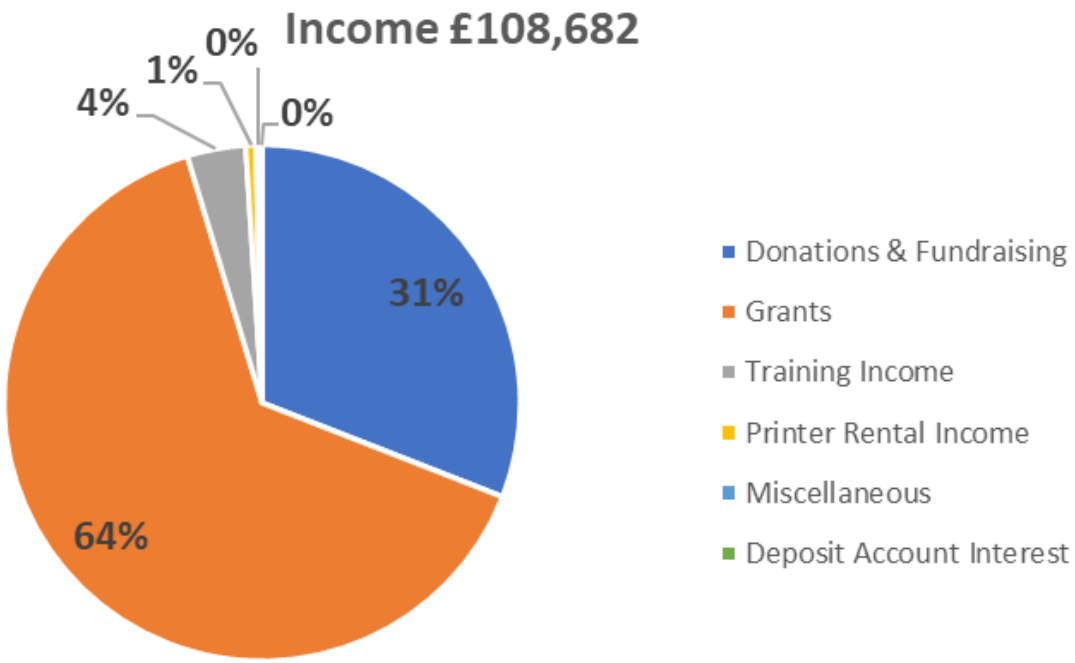
Financial Review

Income

Our levels of income saw a 4% increase compared to last year. This was mainly due to increases in grants (up 9%) due to our focus on this income stream. We are still to see our community fundraising and donations income increase following the devastating impact the pandemic had on community fundraising in 2020 and 2021. Community Fundraising and Donations were down 4% compared to last year.

We continue to fundraise ourselves with our eBay shop and income from sharing the use of our printer. Our campaigns for World Down Syndrome Day generated around £10,026 and we ran a number of raffles and auctions.

Fundraising from individuals taking part in sponsored events continues to play a vital role in securing sufficient income to run the charity, although income from this was much reduced this year compared to before the pandemic and we continue to look for innovative ways to encourage individuals to fundraise for us.



Expenditure

In line with our increase in income our total costs increased as planned by 20%. Wages costs increased by 25% as we recruited a new deputy charity manager and the other salaries increased in line with the revised national minimum wage. Other cost increases which were unforeseen at the time of agreeing the budget was a 5% increase in building hire costs and accountancy costs increased from ~£1k to over ~£3k p.a.

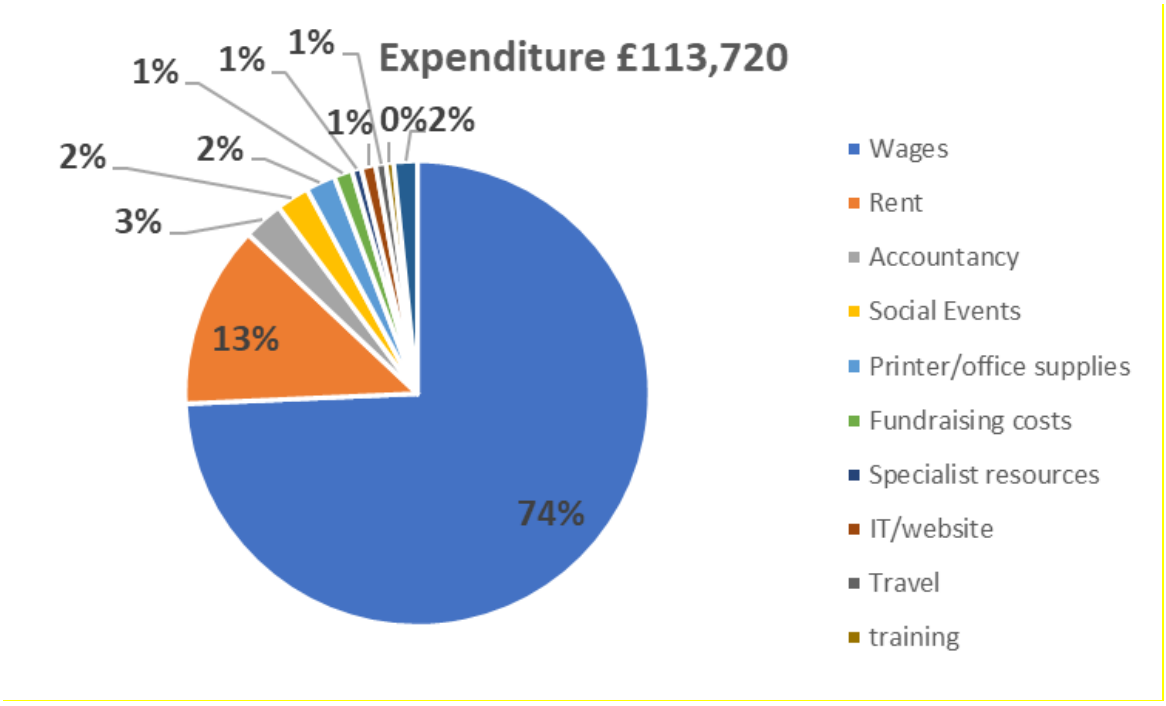
We continue to invest in specialist resources and making bespoke materials which can be used in our education sessions or given to families and schools to support the development of the children. This year we had planned to make significant investment on our website but the £5k allocated for this was deferred to ensure we could cover the additional costs incurred as outlined above. We were pleased to be able to reintroduce a full programme of in-person social events during this year meaning these costs were back to similar levels to before the pandemic.

Following a review of the printer cost share charges to Bodmin road church, a one-off £2186 refund to them was required. We did however renegotiate our printer contract with our supplier KRL, meaning a reduction in costs for the next 3 years compared to the previous contract.

We are very grateful to the many individuals who purchased office supplies and specialist resources from our Amazon Wishlist, helping to keep these costs as low as possible.

We keep our costs as low as possible through gifts in kind from local businesses, such as reduced accountancy costs from Harris Lacey and Swain, employment law advice from Gosschalks solicitors, website hosting / telephony support from The One Point and many more. The One Point also very kindly donated their time free of charge to support us through a migration to Office 365 this year, thus updating our IT systems to help us work more securely and efficiently.

We are hugely thankful for the incredible efforts from our team of volunteers, who have enabled us to continue to be so cost effective.



A full summary of the accounts is appended to this trustees' report.

Looking to the future

Our plans for the next 10 years continue to be centred on expanding our range of services in line with the increasing age range of the children we support so we can continue to support their evolving needs and help them reach their potential. Our goal is to be able to support children through their secondary school years and beyond to further education and employment. We also want to ensure that we continue to be sustainable in the short term whilst we continue to deliver our core, current activities.

Some of our plans are:

- **To continue to develop the health agenda with a focus on the** care pathway, maternity services and understanding best practice around supporting children with dual diagnosis and their families.
- **To re-establish priorities to develop the Building a Brighter Future project**, for example developing a programme of activities to support parents and developing a clear future plan for Downright Special's role in creating/supporting opportunities for young people with Down syndrome post-16.
- **To continue to strengthen communication and engagement strategies** with a particular focus on updating our website.
- **To increase our training offer for parents** and continue to offer a range of training for schools and health professionals.
- **To find long term sustainable funding** for our specialist staff and our building costs.
- **To continue to develop our social event opportunities** for the whole family and older children.
- To continue lobbying on the regional and national stage.

We actively encourage as many people as possible to get involved in whatever way they can. If you would like to do something 'Downright Special', please contact office@downrightspecial.co.uk

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Lizann Lowson (Trustee)

Appendix: Unaudited Financial Statements

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1175863

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 October 2022

for

The Downright Special Network

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

The Downright Special Network

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

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Report of the Trustees	1 to 2
Independent Examiner's Report	3
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Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 15
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	16

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 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 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their power of duties.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

For a full review of the Charity's reporting year including its objectives and aims and plans for the future please see the Charity report to which these accounts are attached.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The charity's policy is to hold nine months of running costs in reserves. The reserves policy is reviewed annually and is available on request.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (foundation model).
The objects of the charity and the day to day running of the charity were unchanged when the conversion to a CIO took place in 2017.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees.

Organisational structure

For a full explanation of the organisational structure see the Charity's report.

Day to day responsibility has been delegated by the trustees to the Charity Manager Gillian Bowlas.

Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures were written or reviewed and updated: children's safeguarding policy and procedures, adult safeguarding policy, health and safety policy, equal opportunities policy, reserves policy, financial checklist (from the charity commission),the governance wheel (from NCVO), risk register, strategy, fundraising strategy, complaints procedure, GDPR policy, volunteers handbook, static collection tins policy.

Induction and training of new trustees

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with the charity's governing document, safeguarding policy and employee handbook. The handbook covers a range of policies applicable to trustees or employees including confidentiality, data protection, health and safety, expenses and use of charity telephones and IT. All trustees were issued with Charity Commission's 'The Essential Trustee'. New trustees are also given the latest annual report and statement of accounts.

Six Trustee meetings were held during this reporting period and all meetings were quorate. Minutes are available for all meetings on request.

Related parties

The Charity is affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association, a national organisation.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1175863

Principal address
Bodmin Road Church Office
Padstow Close
Hull
HU7 4HE

Trustees
A Broekhuizen
G D Beresford
J A Ross (resigned 14.9.22)
L Lowson
K Long (resigned 9.2.22)
M Fargen (appointed 6.4.22)
N Findlay (appointed 12.10.22)

Lizann Lowson was appointed Chair of the charity in June 2020 for a term of three years from that date.

Independent Examiner
Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

Solicitors
Gosschalks
Queens Gardens
Dock Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 3DZ

Bank
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Downright Special Charity (registration number 1128178) converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 November 2017 and all the funds were transferred from the charity to the CIO.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 8th February 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
L Lowson - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Downright Special Network
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Downright Special Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31 October 2022.

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.

Richard D Lacey
ICAEW(England and Wales)
Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

Date: 15/2/23

The Downright Special Network

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 October 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		20,647	25	20,672	9,784
Charitable activities					
Charitable		47,913	39,978	87,891	94,284
Investment income	2	119	-	119	289
Total		68,679	40,003	108,682	104,357
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable		71,104	42,129	113,233	94,897
Other		487	-	487	-
Total		71,591	42,129	113,720	94,897
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(2,912)	(2,126)	(5,038)	9,460
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		86,463	10,411	96,874	87,414
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		83,551	8,285	91,836	96,874

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 October 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	990	-	990	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	2,436	-	2,436	-
Cash at bank		83,134	8,285	91,419	96,874
		85,570	8,285	93,855	96,874
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(3,009)	-	(3,009)	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		82,561	8,285	90,846	96,874
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		83,551	8,285	91,836	96,874
NET ASSETS		83,551	8,285	91,836	96,874
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				83,551	86,463
Restricted funds				8,285	10,411
TOTAL FUNDS				91,836	96,874

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 8th February 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

L Lowson - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

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
Income received for services provided is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Cash donations, gifts and legacies are included in full in the income and expenditure account as they are received. Any significant non-cash donations are included in the income and expenditure account at the trustees' estimate of their market value when received. The value of voluntary help is not included in the accounts.

Grants and other funding of a revenue nature are deferred and released to the income and expenditure account over the period to which they relate.

Bank interest is included in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

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.

Estimates and judgements
Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Although these estimates are based on the Trustees best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results ultimately differ from these estimates. The Trustees do not consider there to be any material estimates and judgements.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Estimates and judgements
Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors and creditors, are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	119	289

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

4. STAFF COSTS

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

	2022	2021
General Staff	9	6

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

Total staff costs in the year came to £84,497.79 (2021 - £66,545.74).

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	9,781	3	9,784
Charitable activities			
Charitable	50,893	43,391	94,284
Investment income	289	-	289
Total	60,963	43,394	104,357
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable	47,475	47,422	94,897

continued...

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	13,488	(4,028)	9,460
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	72,974	14,440	87,414
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	86,462	10,412	96,874

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
Additions	1,477
DEPRECIATION	
Charge for year	487
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 October 2022	990
At 31 October 2021	-

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	2,186	-
Prepayments	250	-
	2,436	-

continued...

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Taxation and social security	994	-
Other creditors	2,015	-
	3,009	-

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.11.21	Net movement in funds	At 31.10.22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	86,463	(2,912)	83,551
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	1,379	669	2,048
Brelms Trust	2,083	(2,083)	-
Children In Need	1,615	(1,548)	67
MCF Masonic	(1,201)	-	(1,201)
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	3,012	(3,012)	-
Boshier Hinton Foundation	74	(74)	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	467	467
Rank Foundation	-	1,000	1,000
Ironmongers	1,930	(1,930)	-
Magdalen Trust	1,519	(1,519)	-
Two Ridings	-	1,645	1,645
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	992	992
Dynamix	-	1,232	1,232
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	735	735
Toy Trust	-	1,300	1,300
	10,411	(2,126)	8,285
TOTAL FUNDS	96,874	(5,038)	91,836

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	68,679	(71,591)	(2,912)
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	3,275	(2,606)	669
Brelms Trust	-	(2,083)	(2,083)
Children In Need	(1)	(1,547)	(1,548)
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	4,000	(7,012)	(3,012)
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	(74)	(74)
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	(1,533)	467
Rank Foundation	1,000	-	1,000
Scientific Lab	530	(530)	-
Ironmongers	(1)	(1,929)	(1,930)
Magdalen Trust	-	(1,519)	(1,519)
Two Ridings	2,000	(355)	1,645
Arnold Clark Community Fund	1,000	(8)	992
Dynamix	2,025	(793)	1,232
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	12,628	(12,628)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	9,547	(8,812)	735
Toy Trust	2,000	(700)	1,300
	40,003	(42,129)	(2,126)
TOTAL FUNDS	108,682	(113,720)	(5,038)

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.11.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.10.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	72,974	13,489	86,463
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	-	1,379	1,379
Brelms Trust	2,392	(309)	2,083
Children In Need	1,201	414	1,615
MCF Masonic	-	(1,201)	(1,201)
Baily Thomas	800	(800)	-
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	3,010	2	3,012
Boshier Hinton Foundation	955	(881)	74
Groundwork UK	500	(500)	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	(2,000)	-
Hull Business Discretionary	3,200	(3,200)	-
Rank Foundation	132	(132)	-
Warburtons	250	(250)	-
Ironmongers	-	1,930	1,930
Magdalen Trust	-	1,519	1,519
	14,440	(4,029)	10,411
TOTAL FUNDS	87,414	9,460	96,874

continued...

9. 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	60,963	(47,474)	13,489
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	5,517	(4,138)	1,379
Brelms Trust	5,000	(5,309)	(309)
Children In Need	9,835	(9,421)	414
MCF Masonic	-	(1,201)	(1,201)
Baily Thomas	-	(800)	(800)
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	8,000	(7,998)	2
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	(881)	(881)
Co-op Community Fundraising	1,172	(1,172)	-
Groundwork UK	-	(500)	(500)
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
Hull Business Discretionary	-	(3,200)	(3,200)
Rank Foundation	-	(132)	(132)
Warburtons	-	(250)	(250)
Douglas Arter Foundation	250	(250)	-
HEY Smile Foundation	250	(250)	-
Ironmongers	8,870	(6,940)	1,930
Magdalen Trust	2,000	(481)	1,519
Two Ridings	2,000	(2,000)	-
Yorkshire Building Society	500	(500)	-
	43,394	(47,423)	(4,029)
TOTAL FUNDS	104,357	(94,897)	9,460

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	At 1.11.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.10.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	72,974	10,577	83,551
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	-	2,048	2,048
Brelms Trust	2,392	(2,392)	-
Children In Need	1,201	(1,134)	67
MCF Masonic	-	(1,201)	(1,201)
Baily Thomas	800	(800)	-
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	3,010	(3,010)	-
Boshier Hinton Foundation	955	(955)	-
Groundwork UK	500	(500)	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	(1,533)	467
Hull Business Discretionary	3,200	(3,200)	-
Rank Foundation	132	868	1,000
Warburtons	250	(250)	-
Two Ridings	-	1,645	1,645
Arnold Clark Community Fund	-	992	992
Dynamix	-	1,232	1,232
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	735	735
Toy Trust	-	1,300	1,300
	14,440	(6,155)	8,285
TOTAL FUNDS	87,414	4,422	91,836

continued...

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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	129,642	(119,065)	10,577
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	8,792	(6,744)	2,048
Brelms Trust	5,000	(7,392)	(2,392)
Children In Need	9,834	(10,968)	(1,134)
MCF Masonic	-	(1,201)	(1,201)
Baily Thomas	-	(800)	(800)
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	12,000	(15,010)	(3,010)
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	(955)	(955)
Co-op Community Fundraising	1,172	(1,172)	-
Groundwork UK	-	(500)	(500)
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	(3,533)	(1,533)
Hull Business Discretionary	-	(3,200)	(3,200)
Rank Foundation	1,000	(132)	868
Scientific Lab	530	(530)	-
Warburtons	-	(250)	(250)
Douglas Arter Foundation	250	(250)	-
HEY Smile Foundation	250	(250)	-
Ironmongers	8,869	(8,869)	-
Magdalen Trust	2,000	(2,000)	-
Two Ridings	4,000	(2,355)	1,645
Yorkshire Building Society	500	(500)	-
Arnold Clark Community Fund	1,000	(8)	992
Dynamix	2,025	(793)	1,232
Players of People's Postcode Lottery	12,628	(12,628)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	9,547	(8,812)	735
Toy Trust	2,000	(700)	1,300
	83,397	(89,552)	(6,155)
TOTAL FUNDS	213,039	(208,617)	4,422

continued...

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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

11. UNRESTRICTED GRANTS

Unrestricted grants of £30,000 were received in the year. These were from the following:

	£
Albert Hunt	2,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,000
Greggs Foundation	500
Hull Aid in Sickness Trust	1,500
Joseph and Annie Cattle Trust	5,000
Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation	6,000
Sir Jules Thorn	2,500
Woodroffe Benton	500
Charles and Elsie Sykes Trust	2,000
	30,000

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

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	20,672	9,784
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	119	289
Charitable activities		
Fundraising events	13,240	25,146
Printer rental income	701	791
Training income	3,972	4,407
Grants	69,978	63,940
	87,891	94,284
Total incoming resources	108,682	104,357
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	84,498	66,546
Building rental	14,452	9,097
Insurance	499	753
Telephone	165	144
Printing and office supplies	2,344	2,382
Specialist resources	747	2,654
Social and fundraising events	4,071	5,130
Marketing	288	594
Training and education	602	829
Travel expenses	825	846
Miscellaneous expenses	912	2,048
Website and computer expenses	655	2,869
	110,058	93,892
Other		
Computer equipment	487	-
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	3,175	1,005
Total resources expended	113,720	94,897
Net (expenditure)/income	(5,038)	9,460

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE DOWNRIGHT SPECIAL NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1175863

Accounts

...building a brighter future for children with Down Syndrome

The Downright Special Network

Annual Report and Accounts

1st November 2020 - 31st October 2021



Downright Special
Bodmin Road Church Office, Padstow Close, Bodmin Road, Bransholme, Hull HU7 4HE
Tel: 01482 420160 E-mail: enquiries@downrightspecial.co.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1175863

www.downrightspecial.co.uk

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

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Foreword from the Chair



Over the past 12 months, the charity has continued to provide excellent support to children, young people and their parents/carers. Despite periods of uncertainty due to the pandemic and periods of remote learning and support, the team have worked flexibly to ensure the charity's activities remained purposeful and impactful.

Downright Special is a success due to the excellent leadership of the Charity Manager, Gillian Bowlas and the wonderful team of teachers, support staff who between them have a wealth of expertise and experience across the key phases of a child and young person's education and development. The training and development our team provide for practitioners across Hull and the East Riding continues to be an important aspect of the Charity's work and the need for this training will only increase.

We recognise that understanding the health needs of children and young people with Down syndrome is integral to providing a successful education so we were delighted to introduce a Health Lead role this year.

In 2020/21 we continued to focus on:

- Implementing the Down Syndrome Care Pathway working in partnership with our NHS colleagues at the Hull Clinical Commissioning Group. Our capacity to do this along with the expertise needed to drive it forward has been strengthened this year.
- Our response to the impact of the pandemic and the safe re-opening of Friday sessions including the re-introduction of social activities so children, young people and their families remained connected.

As we look to the future our plans continue to be centred on expanding our range of services in line with the increasing age range of the children we support so we can continue to support their evolving needs and help them reach their potential. You can read more about our future plans on page 22.

These plans and the developments we have been able to achieve to-date would not be possible without the fundraising and grants we receive. These are critical to the success of the charity - thank you to all the individuals and organisations who have supported us this year. We really could not do it without you!

Finally, thank you so much to everyone in the Downright Special Family who make everything possible - children, parents, grandparents, staff, volunteers, supporters and professionals from other agencies - all of whom have a common endeavour to build a brighter future for children with Down syndrome.

I hope, in reading this report, you take great delight and inspiration from it – we at Downright Special most certainly do!

Lizann Lowson

Chair of Trustees

Background

The Downright Special Network was established in June 2007 to:

- Provide and operate such support, materials and events so both parents/carers and professionals in health and education may be assisted in helping children with Down syndrome to achieve the best possible outcomes throughout their education, social, physical and emotional development.
- Produce antenatal support and information to prospective parents and emotional and practical support to new parents.
- Strive to build a brighter future for children with Down syndrome in our area.

The work undertaken by staff, as a result of the fundraising and donations received, allows us to focus on our enduring priorities of:

- Education
- Support
- Advocacy
- Training

Safeguarding Statement

Downright Special is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults with a care and support need, engaged in the breadth of its activities. Downright Special believes that everyone has the right to be safe from harm and should be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Downright Special takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children extremely seriously and we believe safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We follow safer recruiting guidelines. All Downright Special posts are subject to enhanced DBS disclosure. All our staff and volunteers who have contact with families must attend Level 1 Safeguarding training as a minimum with several of our staff receiving further training including safer recruiting, vulnerable babies and Makaton safeguarding workshop. Our safeguarding policy can be found on our website.

Meet the Team

Our Trustees

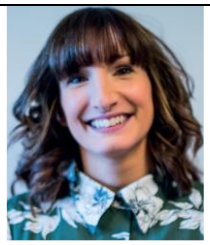
This year we had seven trustees on the board.

	Lizann Lowson Appointed October 2019 Chair since July 2020		Angela Broekhuizen Appointed June 2016 Treasurer since June 2021
	Gavin Beresford Appointed May 2017		Katy Wood Appointed February 2018 (resigned October 2021)
	Jamie Lewis Appointed September 2019 (resigned April 2021)		Jenny Ross Appointed September 2018
	Kate Long Appointed April 2020 Parent Trustee		

Our Staff

We started this year with six part-time members of staff to ensure the smooth running of the charity and deliver our Friday education sessions, outreach work in schools and training courses for parents and professionals. In the second half of the year, we also recruited two new sessional workers to lead our baby and toddler groups on a Friday following the resignation of two of our volunteers.

The team includes:

	Gillian Bowlas Charity Manager		Louise Smith Community Fundraising Champion & Charity Coordinator
	Sam Findlay Health Lead		Katie Bewell Specialist Teacher (KS1)
	Laura Nichols Early Years Advisor		Dr Nicola O'Riordan Advisory Teacher (KS2/KS3)
	Sarah Hyde Toddler Group Leader		Susanne Townhill Baby Group Leader & New Parent Contact

Our Volunteers



Jess Ross,
Friday Group Volunteer

To keep our costs as low as possible, the Charity uses many volunteers, including several parents, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to each one of them who helped us this year. These volunteers assist with running Friday sessions, laminating resources, organising social events, supporting new parent visits, managing our website and IT systems, running our bookstall, charity tin collections and managing the accounts. Many thanks to: Lisa Bloomer, Angela Broekhuizen, Katy Wood, Heather Clark, Jill Lambert, Neil Findlay, Erin Findlay, Paul Herrieven, Lauren Lawler, Jill Newton, Victoria Ross, Becky Constable, Emily Barnett, Jessica Ross, Rachel Bowlas, Tone Broomfield, Karl Svenson and all the amazing volunteers who helped at our Christmas and Easter events.

Review of our Activities of the Year

Education

OUR PRIORITY WAS TO RESPOND TO THE IMPACT OF COVID AND ENSURE A SAFE RE-OPENING OF FRIDAY SESSIONS

Downright Special Early Development Groups



Our Downright Special early development groups run on a Friday during term time and continue to be a great success for children from birth to approximately five years old. We currently have around 16 children who regularly attend Friday mornings and, this year, we delivered 37 sessions. Before the pandemic these sessions were face-to-face for 3 hours. These sessions are a chance for parents to get together, have a coffee, share experiences and provide mutual support. The children get the chance to play and make friends. Most importantly the sessions also incorporate 'lesson time' when the children are put in small groups to work on their speech, language and communication skills, numeracy and literacy in a way that is tailored to the specific learning profile of children with Down syndrome. We provide lots of bespoke visual resources to support the children's learning and parents are given these to continue the work at home. We use Makaton sign language throughout the morning, helping parents and children learn the signs they need to communicate with each other and help with learning new words. We have established a tried and tested curriculum of activities which is reviewed annually to ensure the latest teaching methods are used. The curriculum also helps us to track progress and record milestones for each child.

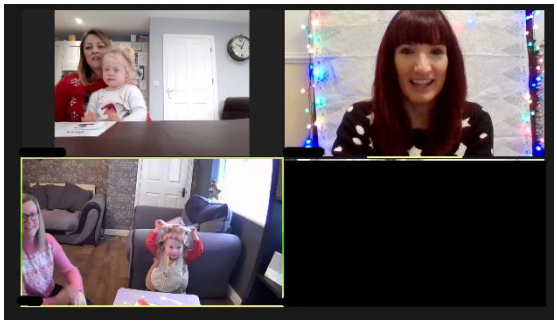


Our baby group continues to be incorporated into Friday mornings, with our youngest children enjoying a range of sensory activities and learning some of the early skills, such as taking turns and making early speech sounds in a relaxed and fun environment. It is also a chance for parents to see a demonstration of some the activities they can do at home to support their child's development and for parents to learn some of the most useful sign language to help with their baby's communication skills.

Also, an aspect which is crucially important, Downright Special Fridays offer parents and carers the opportunity to chat over coffee, share their experiences and offer peer-to-peer support whilst the children play in a safe environment. However good a statutory agency may be, there are some things that only another parent will understand and be able to offer the mutual support which is so often needed. The Friday group is striking visual evidence that there is no "type" of parent who will have a child with Down syndrome and we have a diversity of ages and cultures in the group. New dads can also be reassured it certainly isn't a "mother and baby" group, as we have several fathers attending regularly.

We have continued to alter our approach for children with specific social communication needs by delivering blocks of 1:1 or 1:2 sessions focusing on those children's particular needs. These sessions have been very successful with the children making significant progress in this time.

Downright Special Fridays During the Pandemic



We are very proud that we have managed to continue to deliver our Fridays throughout the pandemic by very quickly switching to using zoom to continue lessons online and setting up our teachers with home printers so they could continue to make and send out resources throughout. For those children who were unable to cope with zoom sessions, we provided resources to parents to use themselves and had regular telephone calls with them to check progress and give advice where needed. When we were able to welcome our youngest children back to our Friday groups for face-to-face learning, we did so with safety at the heart of everything we did. We invested to keep our space clean and safe, carried out detailed risk assessments, put staggered start times in place, and bought duplicate resources to avoid sharing.







We were really pleased to have everyone back face-to-face after Easter 2021 in small groups for lessons only and from the start of September 2021 we were able to go back to our full Friday programme of events, including singing and signing, snack time, dance and of course lesson time.

Families have fed back to us how much they value these sessions, how important they are for families to meet each other to provide mutual support and the difference the sessions make to their children's speech, language and communication development.

Downright Special Education Outreach Work with Schools



Downright Special Education aims to support effective inclusion in mainstream schools. Our three part-time members of staff provide support to 49 children in mainstream nurseries, pre-schools and schools. We have continued to increase our support to mainstream secondary schools as more of our children choose to continue their education this way. We now support seven children in mainstream secondary. The number of schools and nurseries receiving direct support from us is around 45. Our specialist teachers have visited schools to assess children and advise teaching staff, provided training for schools on the learning profile of children with Down syndrome, assisted with formulating effective Individual Education Plans (IEPs), written reports for the Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) process, and attended annual reviews and transition meetings. We also continue to provide Education Resource Packs for each child we support when they begin their formal education.

"Due to the teacher being shown the learning style of children with Down syndrome, they have been able to plan and resource lessons to allow the child to access the curriculum better. The child has become so confident and engaged in learning thanks to the support given to both teaching staff, support staff and the child."

Laura Nichols is our Early Years Advisor and, in addition to leading a Friday morning early intervention group, Laura's remit is to provide support and advice on inclusion of a child with Down syndrome in mainstream nursery or pre-school settings. She ensures our children get the best start to their education before they even reach statutory school age. Laura had 19 children on her caseload and provided support to 16 different settings this year.

Katie Bewell is our Specialist Teacher, mostly working with children in Key Stage 1. Katie had 12 children on her caseload this year. The use of colourful semantics for comprehension and speech fluency, and incorporating its use in specialist Apps such as Clicker, has continued to be a success this year. Many Teaching Assistants (TAs) are now using it in the classroom and we are seeing our years of work on the use of colourful semantics paying off, with our children making significant progress in this area of development. There continues to be great success with phonological awareness training, using multiphonics bricks with matching boards, which really help children blend and segment 'CVC' words.

Dr Nicola O'Riordan is our Key Stage 2/3 Advisory Teacher. Nicola has been instrumental in providing outreach support to our KS2/3 children and supporting the children, staff and parents in the transition to secondary school. Nicola had 21 children on her case load. In the last year, has begun to support children in KS4 (years 10&11). Nicola has continued to develop our INSET training offer for schools, writing and delivering a suite of new courses to suit the requests from schools.

Very importantly, we continue to offer small-group sessions at our Downright Special Friday group for school-age children and their TAs to the end of Key Stage 1. This year, we had 12 children attending these afternoon sessions in three different teaching groups. These structured lessons cover the core elements of the curriculum, including reading, writing, literacy, numeracy, and speech and language development. Having the TAs attend means they can see a demonstration of how to practically apply the specific teaching techniques which ensure our children's learning is maximised. They are given resources they can take away for use in the classroom and have plenty of opportunity to ask for advice on any issues they may be facing in the classroom, or to get guidance on next steps. It is also useful for them to meet other TAs to share experiences and learn from each other. We also continued monthly groups for children who have recently moved into KS2. Led by our KS2/3 advisor Nicola O'Riordan, these groups focused on developing comprehension skills.



During the pandemic 'lockdowns' these groups were delivered online via Zoom, and support to schools also continued online or in person where the guidelines have allowed it to happen.

Case Study

I have been coming to Downright Special since I was a baby and I am now five years old. I am in a group with other children who also started at the same time as me. We are good friends and I see them outside of Downright Special too. As soon as I arrive on a Friday, I ask Katie my teacher where each of them are. Our mummies are all friends too because they met at Downright Special. Now that I am at school I come in the afternoon with my TA.

My speech has become clearer, the number of words I know has increased and I can build better and longer sentences since last year. I am getting good at talking about the things I like and dislike and my needs and wants. Recently my mummy and teaching assistant were given resources from Downright Special to help me with road safety. I like reading the social story about it and I have learned some of the signs for danger.

At the beginning of the year, I had to do my Downright Special lessons online. All my resources were sent to school the week before and then my TA and I did the lessons with Katie over Zoom. I did find this tricky at times but my TA and Katie helped to make them fun and I continued to learn during this time.

At school my TA uses all the vocabulary boards, books and resources given to me every Friday and she continues to do the work with me at school in between lessons. She does the work exactly the same way as she has seen at Fridays and this routine really helps me to learn and improve my concentration. My teaching assistant also had this to say about how Downright Special has helped her to help me:

"Coming to Downright Special with the child I work with has helped me massively and has made me want to know more. My knowledge and confidence in how to support him has improved. The children work really well in the sessions and the resources are amazing for use in school as well as at Friday group. It has also been useful meeting other Teaching Assistants – we share ideas and give each other advice. I have also accessed lots of the other training the charity offers which has really helped. How the Downright Special staff are with the children, the positivity they show is great. Any behaviour issues are looked at and sorted and if I have any questions then Katie always helps."

Support to Families

Our priorities during the year were to offer additional support to families and to further develop our social event opportunities for older children

Social Events



Parents told us how isolated they and their children were feeling during the pandemic and how desperate they were to have social events and chances to meet up with other families. Social events allow our families to get together, share experiences, pass on tips, support each other, and celebrate their children's achievements. The events also give the children a chance to make friends with other children with Down syndrome and develop what we hope will be lifelong friendships and support networks. These events are just as important as our formal activities and this year we made it a priority to offer as many social events as possible whether they were online or, later in the year, in person as restrictions eased. We also knew how much our older children valued events just for them where they could socialise with their peers of the same age.



We were unable to have our usual Christmas party in 2020 so instead we arranged a socially distanced Christmas present delivery to our families. Our team of volunteer Santas and Elves drove all over Hull and East Yorkshire, delivering gifts to some very excited children with 40 families taking part.

Restrictions also meant that we couldn't have our usual Easter-egg hunt so, following on the success of Christmas we also arranged for a team of volunteer Easter Bunnies to deliver eggs to our families with 32 families taking part.

In addition to these events, we ran the following sessions for different age groups, initially all online and then moving face-to-face as soon as restrictions allowed. Over 50 of our children attended at least one event this year.



Pre-school/Primary Events

- 5 Zoom Dance Parties including themes such as Superheros and the Zoo
- 2 Zoom Sign& Story Sessions (Going on a Bear Hunt and Peace at Last)
- 2 Dance Sessions at Anlaby Studios
- Soft Play at MegaFun Beverley



Youth Club Events (secondary age+):

- A Christmas Zoom Party
- 5 Zoom Dance/Quiz/Craft Parties
- 3 Performing Arts/Dance Sessions at Anlaby Studios
- A visit to Hollywood Bowl

The young people also completed their own 'easy-read' evaluation forms telling us how much they enjoyed it and giving us their ideas for future get-togethers.

Events for Parents

For the first time we also organised two zoom events exclusively for parents, based on feedback we had – a 'Christmas Wine and Sign' evening and a 'Coffee & Chat' afternoon. Both events were poorly attended so for next year we will have to consult again to find out what would work better.

Other Support

New and Expectant Parents



We continued to support families new to parenting a baby with Down syndrome to offer support and information and this year welcomed two new babies to our special family. Through the hospital and health visiting teams, families are usually put in contact with us within a week of the birth or if a parent knows antenatally then we provide support through the pregnancy. We set straight to work not as lone "advisors" but instead using the extensive network we have built up to put the new parents in touch with others. As our database has grown to over 120 local families, we can now go so far as to match new parents to those of similar ages, situations and with babies who have similar medical conditions. For a new parent, there is nothing better than speaking to somebody who knows exactly what they are going through and can give them a glimpse of easier times a couple of years down the road, and there is nothing that our families with older children like better than reaching out to give new parents support, reassurance, advice and hope for the future. Fantastically, our families are working together for mutual benefit, which was always our ambition.

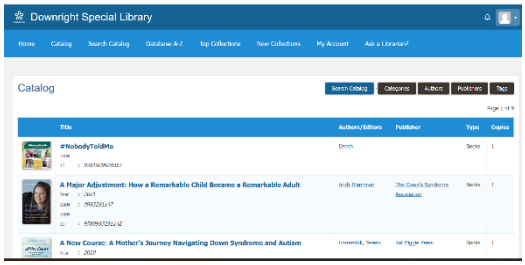
Advice

During the pandemic we have gave lots of 1:1 advice and support to families by phone such as 1:1 assessments and activity ideas for our youngest children, advice on toilet training, support with accessing Early Help services and help with accessing school. We have a closed Facebook group for parents, giving them a safe place to share useful information, ask questions and provide mutual support. This was particularly useful for sharing information and questions relating to covid vaccinations for our vulnerable children.

We have supported several families this year with advice on filling in benefit forms, in providing reports and advice for Education and Health Care Plans, and with support in choosing schools and nurseries. We have been able to

help several families with their applications for claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or appealing against decisions.

Online Library



We were pleased this year to move to an online library system, where we could catalogue all of the books, information and resources we have and make it easy for parents and carers to view the list and arrange to borrow items. The system also makes it easier for us to log the whereabouts of all our resources. Thanks to a grant from the Smile Foundation High Fiver grants we were able to buy some new books to add to the catalogue.

Downright Special Health

This year we were delighted to get funding to recruit into a new part-time post – Downright Special Health Lead. Downright Special has always had a strong focus on education and the aim of this new Health Lead role is to bring this same level of expertise and knowledge to the understanding of the health needs of children with Down syndrome. Sam Findlay, a registered Learning Disability Nurse started the role in December 2020.

The main achievements in the last twelve months have been:

- Creating a 'health, education and social care directory' for children aged 0-18 months in order to make the local NHS Down syndrome care pathway more accessible and relevant to children of this age. The directory clarifies the appointments children should expect to have at this age, the common health issues and details of who to contact in each service, all linked to the developmental milestones for these children. The directory has been well received by parents and this year directories will be developed for all other age groups too.

- Creating a bespoke hospital passport for children with Down syndrome. This document is for parents to record a one-page summary of their child's health needs, medical history, communication needs and any adjustments needed so that they can take it to appointments and avoid the need to retell their story over and over as well as acting as an aide-memoire for them as it easy to forget important points in the stress of an emergency hospital visit. The passport also includes information on sepsis and infection in children with Down syndrome, Makaton signing information and communication cards.

- Working with the local Emergency Department Paediatric Consultant to set up an alert system within hospital records so that when a child with Down syndrome arrives at hospital there is a flag on their records that alerts doctors and nurses to the possible differences in how a child with Down syndrome might display symptoms of serious illness

- Helping families understand the priority vaccination lists for Covid and helping them with letters to their GP to ensure their child or young person accessed the vaccine at the right time. The Health Lead also attended several seminars on the impact of Covid on people with Down syndrome and disseminated the information to parents and carers, helping to alleviate their worries and understand the risk to their individual children.

- Building links with the local Occupational Therapy team and working jointly with them to support children with specific physical needs ensuring they can be better included in our sessions.

- Signposting families to useful information relating to health and answering lots of individual queries from parents

Plans for the future:

The first year of having the Health Lead role in place has been a huge success. In addition to carrying on the work already started there are three other areas of work we plan to undertake:

- Start work on understanding more about children with a Dual Diagnosis of Autism and Down syndrome and working with families to develop Downright Special's offer to those families who often feel that they don't fit well in either the Down syndrome community or the autism community and we want to change that for our families. We will be working to understand the latest research on dual diagnosis and how to apply that knowledge to the work we do to support the development and health of these children.

- The NHS is undergoing a reorganisation next year with the development of Integrated Care Systems and our Health Lead will be leading on making sure that the Down syndrome Care Pathway continues to be supported and developed by the NHS and doesn't get forgotten about during the transition. This work is already underway with key contacts in the NHS aware of our concerns.

- Begin work on a desensitisation programme. Many of our children find giving blood samples very difficult for many reasons but often sensory-related. We would like to develop a programme of work to try to help those children feel less stressed and upset by blood tests, which unfortunately most have to do at least annually

Supporting Young People – Building a Brighter Future Project

Our priorities during the year were to explore opportunities with further education partners and local employers to support young adults with Down syndrome



We have been thinking about our long term strategy and how we need to evolve to meet the needs of our young people as they leave school and transition to further education, work experience, training or employment. We formally began our 'Building a Brighter Future' project in July 2019, leading workshop to gather feedback from local organisations and providers and gathered feedback on the gaps in services and areas which are working well.

The project has been on hold due to the pandemic but we plan to restart work in early 2022 with the aim of having a clear view of the future role of Downright Special in supporting the transition to post-16 colleges, training and employment by the end of 2022.

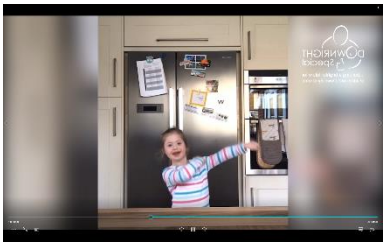
Advocacy

Our priorities during the year were to work collaboratively with our NHS partners to review and communicate the Down Syndrome Care Pathway, to actively participate in Down Syndrome Awareness Week and to raise the profile of the charity.

Awareness Week

Part of our mission is to act as a voice for the children and parents we support. We aim to change perceptions and raise awareness of what it really means to have Down syndrome.







For Awareness Week this year we had a successful social media campaign throughout the week, along the theme of #LivingOurBestLives. We had some great videos of our children of all ages showing how they like to have fun. Huge thanks to Anya, Charlie, Frankie, Freya, Hermione, Jesse, Joey, Mia, Millie, Rachel and Raphi who shared films of themselves cooking, helping with the DIY, sledging, playing table tennis, cycling, reading, splashing in puddles and playing basketball.

We also had several schools and other supporters wearing their #LotsofSocks on World Down Syndrome Day to raise awareness.

New Parent Packs



Our new parent packs continue to be available on the maternity and neonatal wards. Midwives can give these packs out to parents knowing they are receiving up-to-date information on parenting a child with Down syndrome. A version of these packs is also available for those with an antenatal diagnosis. This year we made our packs available to download from our website https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/expectant-parents and https://www.downrightspecial.co.uk/new-parents.

Campaigning



Speaking out in the media on important issues affecting our community is also an important part of our role. In November 2020 Charity Manager, Gillian, spoke to ITV Calendar news about a recent Emmerdale storyline featuring a character who was pregnant with a baby with Down syndrome, highlighting the out-of-date, negative perceptions of Down syndrome that were being perpetuated by the show's writers and the upset and distress caused to viewers with Down syndrome and families.

Towards the end of this year we also supported the work of the National Down Syndrome Policy Group as they campaigned for a Down Syndrome Bill to be passed through parliament.

Networking

We have continued to build networks with groups nationwide, through the DSUK-led Facebook group for those running parent support groups with the aim of making a difference by sharing support, services, knowledge and expertise, making sure we are delivering the best service possible to our families and running our groups as efficiently as possible. We continue to be affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association. We work closely with the local Parent Carer Forums to feedback views from parents of key issues affecting them. We have a presence at the East Riding Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Communication with parents and carers

Making sure we hear the issues facing parents so that we can properly represent their voices is very important to us. In addition to developing a communications and engagement action plan parent and trustee Kate Long has the role of maintaining good communication between the trustees and parents, ensuring that we are continuing to deliver services that maximise the benefit to the families we support. We send regular emails to parents, began to send a termly update newsletter to parents and communicate frequently via our social media channels and closed Facebook group.

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Training

Our priority during the year has been to increase our training offer for parents, schools and health professionals



Advisory Teacher Nicola delivering online training via Zoom,

One of our aims is to promote the awareness of Down syndrome and support successful inclusion. One of the ways we do this is providing training which is accessible to schools, parents and professionals working with our children. We minimise how much we charge for these courses to ensure no child is disadvantaged.

We have had a successful year delivering a comprehensive programme of training to over 200 parents and professionals. During lockdown and the ongoing pandemic we very successfully switched to delivering our training online via Zoom or Teams, managing to reach more education staff than ever before.

We delivered 21 training course this year including: Introduction to Working with Children with Down Syndrome; Maths using Numicon; Supporting Speech, Language and Communication Needs, Developing Language and Reading, Growing, Changing and Keeping Safe, Working Memory, Coordination Difficulties, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Toilet Training, Sensory Processing Difficulties. This year, we continued to develop our INSET training offer and delivered seven twilight training sessions on colourful semantics, coordination difficulties, language and communication, language for thinking, behaviour and signing.

Training midwives and other healthcare professionals in how to deliver the news that a baby has Down syndrome is important to us and this year we were delighted to work with Positive About Down Syndrome to deliver training to 44 midwives and others from across the new Humber Coast and Vale Local Maternity System.

Fundraising

The work of Downright Special is only made possible by the generosity and efforts of many people who have supported us by awarding us a grant, raising funds, or donating goods and services. Our plan in this year was to continue to have a broadly based fundraising strategy, rather than relying on one type of income. Because of the pandemic's impact on community fundraising, we adjusted our fundraising strategy reducing the targets for community fundraising and increasing the reliance on grants& trusts. Our new targets for this year were: grants/trusts(69%), community (25%), training (5%) regular giving (1%). These targets are monitored at trustee meetings. Increasing our focus on grants has reaped rewards in 2021, with successful grants received from:

Ironmongers	8,869.00
Sun 50 Reader Fund	2,000.00
Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Fund	500.00
Tesco Bags of Help (Groundwork)	970.00
Two Ridings Community Foundation	2,000.00
Hull Aid in Sickness Trust	1,500.00
Help For Health	5,517.00
Joseph&Annie Cattle Trust	5,000.00
BBC Children In Need	9,834.00
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	4,000.00
Garfield Weston Foundation	7,500.00
Brelms Trust CIO	5,000.00
David Solomons Charitable Trust	1,500.00
Douglas Arter Foundation	250.00
HEY Smile Foundation (High Fiver Grant)	250.00
Sir Jules Thorn (Ann Rylands Small Donation)	1,250.00
Hull + East Riding Charitable Trust	2,000.00
Barbara Ward Children's Foundation	4,000.00
Magdalen Trust	2,000.00
TOTAL	**£ 63,940.00**

In addition, this year we received £1171.21 from the **Co-Op Local Community Fund**, bringing the total received from them over the last two years to £2358.39. We also received £300 from the **Asda Foundation**.

Our income from grants increased by 22% compared to last year. Based on their successes to date, we have once again invested £1,050 in paying for 35 hours of a bid-writer's time to help us with our grant applications and paid for a further 35 hours to cover our needs in 2021/2022.

Our community fundraising income saw a 3% increase compared to last year but was still 23% lower than pre-pandemic levels. We have worked very hard to try to replace some of the lost income through online raffles, auctions, encouraging families to take part in our Down Syndrome Awareness Week activities and trying to find lots of other Covid-safe ways to fundraise. We raised a record £12000 during Awareness Week through families and friends taking part in a number of challenges, including Nature Scavenger Hunts, a triathlon, Beard and Head Shave, Yorkshire Rapeseed Oil 500-mile walk, Facebook donate buttons, custard pie challenge, Cookie Sale, Lots of Socks in schools and nurseries, donations and matched funds, raffles, sponsored walks.

We have been Charity of the year for **Yorkshire Rapeseed Oil** and we are very grateful for the support.

Overall, our income this year increased by 13% (from £92k to £104k) compared to last year, which given the challenging circumstances of much of this year, gives us confidence that we will be able fund the charity in line with our budget for 2021/2022 of £115k if we continue to implement our fundraising strategy in the way we have this year.

It is important to highlight we receive no statutory funding, and do not currently charge our parents or the schools and early years settings we support for the majority of the services we offer. The only charge was a heavily subsidised rate for school staff to attend training courses.

Every penny goes towards building a brighter future for children with Down syndrome and making a huge difference to their lives today. **Our heartfelt thanks go to those who supported us by raising funds or providing goods and services between November 2020 and October 2021. These include:**

Ainthorpe Parent & Toddler Sessions	Gosschalks Solicitors	ML Tuffnell
Andrew Hobley	Harris, Lacey & Swain	Mr and Mrs Coates
Angela Broekhuizen	Heather Clark	Mr and Mrs Maggs
Barry Sayer	HEY Smile Foundation	Nicola O'Riordan
Boots Kingswood	Hymers College	Rachel Popovski
Braham & Dixon Ltd	Ideal Boilers	Raymond Newmarch
Cakes by Leni	Isabel Turkington	RMS Allenby
Chrysaor - Lomond Welfare Committee	James Bryant	Robert D Webster Ltd (John Jackson)
Claire Mcmonies and Friends	John Hutton	Sally Gilbert
Craig Mcmonies HSBC	Joyce Mitchell	Scientific Laboratory Supplies
Emma Cater	Kerry Farmery	Shelagh & John
Emma Vine	Liam Robinson	Simon Stevens
Frieda Stokes	Lisa Bloomer and Jennifer Wheeler	Teesdale Family
Tesco grant (Groundwork)	Lizann Lowson	The One Point
Gavin Beresford Tough Mudder	Lloyds Bank, Ings Road, Hull	Toni's Deli
Genesis Preschool	Matthew Good Foundation	Victoria Ross
Gordons Solicitors	Mick Walker	Yorkshire Rapeseed Oil

Thanks also to everyone who:

- Supported us during Awareness Week
- Hosted a collection tin
- Set up a Facebook Fundraiser for us this year
- Set up regular giving via their Payroll or via our Just Giving Page https://www.justgiving.com/downright-special
- Gave us a one-off donation via Just Giving, Paypal, or direct to the charity
- Donated a raffle or auction prize
- Donated goods for our eBay shop
- Supported us by using https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk for their online shopping
- Sent e-cards using Don't Send Me A Card.
- Supported us by using Amazon Smile www.smile.amazon.co.uk to do their Amazon shopping
- Bought us resources from our Amazon Wish List https://tinyurl.com/2p87d64b
- Everyone else who donated or supported us in any way, big or small. We couldn't do it without you!

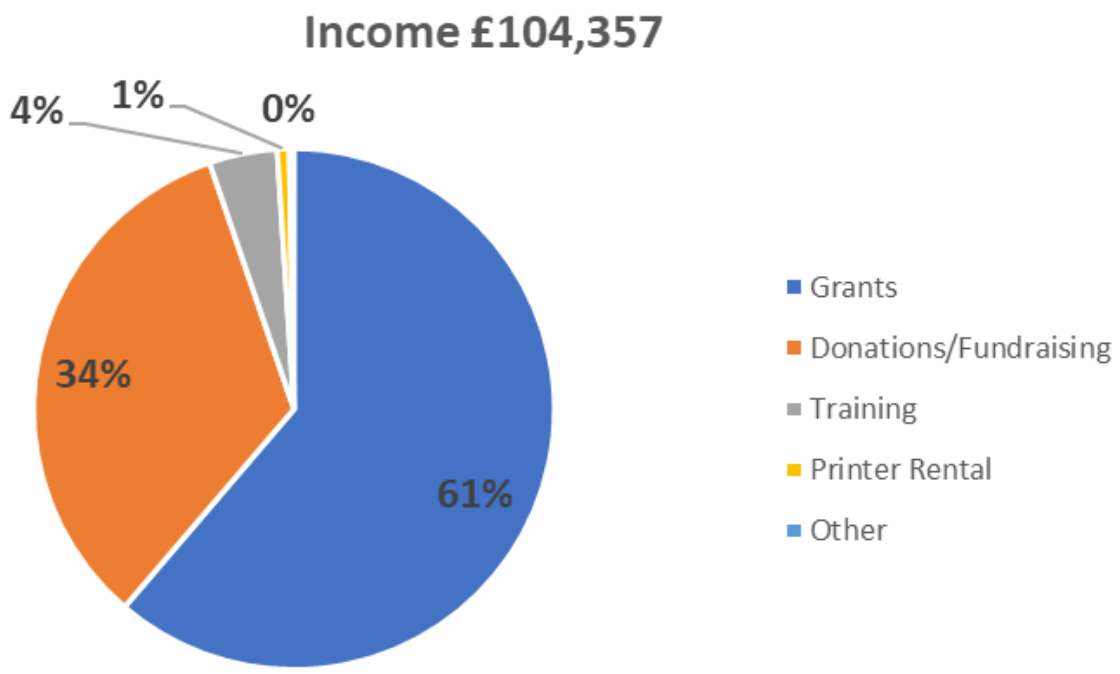
Financial Review

Income

Our levels of income saw a 13% increase compared to last year. This was mainly due to increases in grants (up 22%) due to our focus on this income stream. We began to see our community fundraising income increase following the devastating impact the pandemic had on community fundraising in 2020. Community Fundraising and donations were up 3% compared to 2020 but still 23% lower than in 2019 pre-pandemic.

We continue to fundraise ourselves with our eBay shop and income from sharing the use of our printer. Our campaigns for World Down Syndrome Day generated around £12,000 and we ran a number of online raffles and auctions.

Fundraising from individuals taking part in sponsored events continues to play a vital role in securing sufficient income to run the charity, although income from this was much reduced this year compared to before the pandemic and we continue to look for innovative, covid-safe ways to encourage individuals to fundraise for us.



Expenditure

In line with our increase in income our total costs increased as planned by 10%. Wages costs increased by 13% as we recruited the new part-time Health lead post and replaced our volunteer baby and toddler group leads with two sessional workers thus ensuring we could have reliable ongoing support for these age ranges of children.

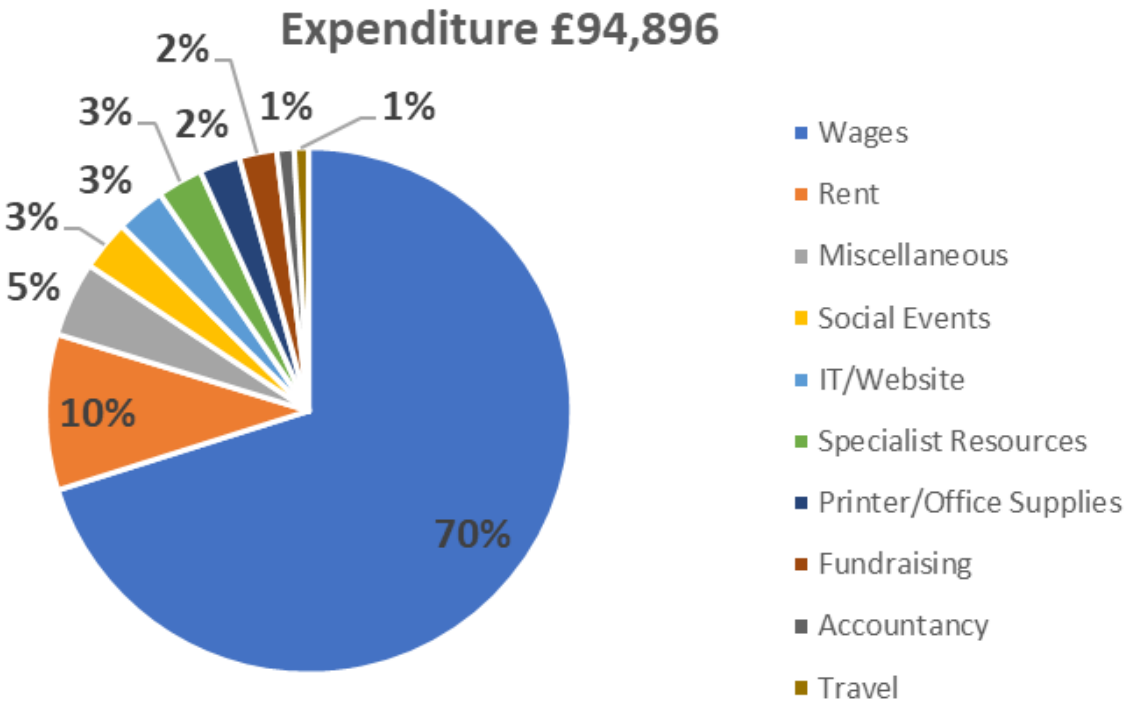
We continue to invest in specialist resources and making bespoke materials which can be used in our education sessions or given to families and schools to support the development of the children. These costs increased this year as we had to buy duplicate resources to be sent out for online lessons and to help keep our sessions covid-safe. We also invested in an update to the B-Squared Assessment Tool to help set targets and measure progress in our children in line with the latest changes to the national curriculum. We had to invest in IT systems such as zoom to allow us to deliver support online. This year we had to purchase in some new laptops to replace our aging systems. We were pleased to be able to reintroduce social events during this year meaning these costs were back to similar levels to before the pandemic.

Offsetting these increases was a decrease in building rental costs and travel expenses due to delivering some sessions online rather than in-person because of the pandemic.

We are very grateful to the many individuals who purchased office supplies from our Amazon Wishlist, helping to keep these costs lower than in 2019.

We keep our costs as low as possible through gifts in kind from local businesses, such as reduced accountancy costs from Harris Lacey and Swain, employment law advice from Gosschalks solicitors, website hosting / telephony support from The One Point and many more.

We are hugely thankful for the incredible efforts from our team of volunteers, who have enabled us to continue to be so cost effective.



A full summary of the accounts is appended to this trustees' report.

Looking to the future

Our plans for the next 10 years continue to be centred on expanding our range of services in line with the increasing age range of the children we support so we can continue to support their evolving needs and help them reach their potential. Our goal is to be able to support children through their secondary school years and beyond to further education and employment. We also want to ensure that we continue to be sustainable in the short term whilst we are still adapting our offer to the needs of families during the pandemic.

Some of our plans are:

- **To secure key roles to support the ongoing development of the Charity –** *Deputy Manager, Baby Group Leader and Social Events Volunteer(s).*
- **To continue to develop the health agenda with a focus on the** *care pathway, maternity services and understanding best practice around supporting children with dual diagnosis and their families.*
- **To re-establish priorities to develop the Building a Brighter Future project***, for example developing a programme of activities to support parents and developing a clear future plan for Downright Special's role in creating/supporting opportunities for young people with Down syndrome post-16.*
- **To continue to strengthen communication and engagement strategies *with a particular focus on updating our website*.**
- To increase our training offer for parents, schools and health professionals.
- To find long term sustainable funding for our specialist staff and our building costs.
- To continue to develop our social event opportunities for the whole family and older children.
- To continue lobbying on the regional and national stage.

We actively encourage as many people as possible to get involved in whatever way they can. If you would like to do something 'Downright Special', please contact office@downrightspecial.co.uk

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Lizann Lowson (Trustee)

Appendix: Unaudited Financial Statements

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1175863

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 October 2021

for

The Downright Special Network

Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

The Downright Special Network

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

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Report of the Trustees	1 to 2
Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 14
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	15

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 October 2020. 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 2015).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have regard to public benefit published by the Commission in exercising their power of duties.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

For a full review of the Charity's reporting year including its objectives and aims and plans for the future please see the Charity report to which these accounts are attached.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The charity's policy is to hold nine months of running costs in reserves. The reserves policy is reviewed annually and is available on request.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (foundation model).
The objects of the charity and the day to day running of the charity were unchanged when the conversion to a CIO took place in 2017.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed by existing trustees.

Organisational structure

For a full explanation of the organisational structure see the Charity's report.

Day to day responsibility has been delegated by the trustees to the Charity Manager Gillian Bowlas.

Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures were written or reviewed and updated: children's safeguarding policy and procedures, adult safeguarding policy, health and safety policy, equal opportunities policy, reserves policy, financial checklist (from the charity commission),the governance wheel (from NCVO), risk register, strategy, fundraising strategy, complaints procedure, GDPR policy, volunteers handbook, static collection tins policy.

Induction and training of new trustees

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with the charity's governing document, safeguarding policy and employee handbook. The handbook covers a range of policies applicable to trustees or employees including confidentiality, data protection, health and safety, expenses and use of charity telephones and IT. All trustees were issued with Charity Commission's 'The Essential Trustee'. New trustees are also given the latest annual report and statement of accounts.

Six Trustee meetings were held during this reporting period and all meetings were quorate. Minutes are available for all meetings on request.

Related parties

The Charity is affiliated to the Down's Syndrome Association, a national organisation.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1175863

Principal address
Bodmin Road Church Office
Padstow Close
Hull
HU7 4HE

Trustees
A Broekhuizen
K Stevens (resigned 13.10.21)
G D Beresford
J A Ross
J Lewis (resigned 20.4.21)
L Lowson
K Long

Lizann Lowson was appointed Chair of the charity in June 2020 for a term of three years from that date.

Independent Examiner
Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

Solicitors
Gosschalks
Queens Gardens
Dock Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 3DZ

Bank
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The Downright Special Charity (registration number 1128178) converted to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 22 November 2017 and all the funds were transferred from the charity to the CIO.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 2/3/22 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
L Lowson - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Downright Special Network
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Downright Special Network (the Trust) for the year ended 31 October 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.

Richard D Lacey
ICAEW(England and Wales)
Harris Lacey and Swain
Suite 1
The Riverside Building
Hessle
East Yorkshire
HU13 0DZ

Date: 2/3/22

The Downright Special Network

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 October 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		9,782	2	9,784	13,861
Charitable activities					
Charitable		50,893	43,391	94,284	78,494
Investment income	2	289	-	289	264
Total		60,964	43,393	104,357	92,619
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Charitable		47,475	47,421	94,896	86,345
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		13,489	(4,026)	9,461	6,274
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		72,974	14,440	87,414	81,140
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		86,463	10,412	96,875	87,414

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 October 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		86,463	10,412	96,875	87,414
NET CURRENT ASSETS		86,463	10,412	96,875	87,414
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		86,463	10,412	96,875	87,414
NET ASSETS		86,463	10,412	96,875	87,414
FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted funds				86,463	72,974
Restricted funds				10,412	14,440
TOTAL FUNDS				96,875	87,414

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21/5/22 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
J Lowson - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

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.

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.

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.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposit account interest	289	264

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

continued...

4. STAFF COSTS

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

	2021	2020
General Staff	6	6

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

Total staff costs in the year came to £58,493.00

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	13,861	-	13,861
Charitable activities			
Charitable	35,041	43,453	78,494
Investment income	264	-	264
Total	49,166	43,453	92,619
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable	45,083	41,262	86,345
NET INCOME	4,083	2,191	6,274
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	68,891	12,249	81,140
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	72,974	14,440	87,414

continued...

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.11.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.10.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	72,974	13,489	86,463
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	-	1,379	1,379
Brelms Trust	2,392	(309)	2,083
Children In Need	1,201	414	1,615
MCF Masonic	-	(1,201)	(1,201)
Baily Thomas	800	(800)	-
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	3,010	2	3,012
Boshier Hinton Foundation	955	(881)	74
Groundwork UK	500	(500)	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	(2,000)	-
Hull Business Discretionary	3,200	(3,200)	-
Rank Foundation	132	(132)	-
Warburtons	250	(249)	1
Ironmongers	-	1,930	1,930
Magdalen Trust	-	1,519	1,519
	14,440	(4,028)	10,412
TOTAL FUNDS	87,414	9,461	96,875

continued...

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	60,963	(47,474)	13,489
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	5,517	(4,138)	1,379
Brelms Trust	5,000	(5,309)	(309)
Children In Need	9,835	(9,421)	414
MCF Masonic	-	(1,201)	(1,201)
Baily Thomas	-	(800)	(800)
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	8,000	(7,998)	2
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	(881)	(881)
Co-op Community Fundraising	1,172	(1,172)	-
Groundwork UK	-	(500)	(500)
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
Hull Business Discretionary	-	(3,200)	(3,200)
Rank Foundation	-	(132)	(132)
Warburtons	-	(249)	(249)
Douglas Arter Foundation	250	(250)	-
HEY Smile Foundation	250	(250)	-
Ironmongers	8,870	(6,940)	1,930
Magdalen Trust	2,000	(481)	1,519
Two Ridings	2,000	(2,000)	-
Yorkshire Building Society	500	(500)	-
	43,394	(47,422)	(4,028)
TOTAL FUNDS	104,357	(94,896)	9,461

continued...

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.11.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.10.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	68,891	4,083	72,974
Restricted funds			
BLF Awards for All	6,045	(6,045)	-
Brelms Trust	2,399	(7)	2,392
British Humane Association	2,480	(2,480)	-
Children In Need	1,228	(27)	1,201
Leeds Building Society Foundation	97	(97)	-
Baily Thomas	-	800	800
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	-	3,010	3,010
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	955	955
Groundwork UK	-	500	500
Hospital Saturday Fund	-	2,000	2,000
Hull Business Discretionary	-	3,200	3,200
Rank Foundation	-	132	132
Warburtons	-	250	250
	12,249	2,191	14,440
TOTAL FUNDS	81,140	6,274	87,414

continued...

6. 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	49,166	(45,083)	4,083
Restricted funds			
Persimmon	1,000	(1,000)	-
BLF Awards for All	1	(6,046)	(6,045)
Brelms Trust	5,000	(5,007)	(7)
British Humane Association	-	(2,480)	(2,480)
Children In Need	9,833	(9,860)	(27)
Leeds Building Society Foundation	-	(97)	(97)
MCF Masonic	5,000	(5,000)	-
Baily Thomas	2,000	(1,200)	800
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	8,000	(4,990)	3,010
Boshier Hinton Foundation	980	(25)	955
Co-op Community Fundraising	1,187	(1,187)	-
Groundwork UK	500	-	500
Covid 19 Furlough	1,702	(1,702)	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	-	2,000
Hull Business Discretionary	5,000	(1,800)	3,200
Rank Foundation	500	(368)	132
Scientific Lab	500	(500)	-
Warburtons	250	-	250
	43,453	(41,262)	2,191
TOTAL FUNDS	92,619	(86,345)	6,274

continued...

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	At 1.11.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.10.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	68,891	17,572	86,463
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	-	1,379	1,379
BLF Awards for All	6,045	(6,045)	-
Brelms Trust	2,399	(316)	2,083
British Humane Association	2,480	(2,480)	-
Children In Need	1,228	387	1,615
Leeds Building Society Foundation	97	(97)	-
MCF Masonic	-	(1,201)	(1,201)
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	-	3,012	3,012
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	74	74
Warburtons	-	1	1
Ironmongers	-	1,930	1,930
Magdalen Trust	-	1,519	1,519
	12,249	(1,837)	10,412
TOTAL FUNDS	81,140	15,735	96,875

continued...

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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	110,129	(92,557)	17,572
Restricted funds			
Help for Health	5,517	(4,138)	1,379
Persimmon	1,000	(1,000)	-
BLF Awards for All	1	(6,046)	(6,045)
Brelms Trust	10,000	(10,316)	(316)
British Humane Association	-	(2,480)	(2,480)
Children In Need	19,668	(19,281)	387
Leeds Building Society Foundation	-	(97)	(97)
MCF Masonic	5,000	(6,201)	(1,201)
Baily Thomas	2,000	(2,000)	-
Barbara Ward Childrens Foundation	16,000	(12,988)	3,012
Boshier Hinton Foundation	980	(906)	74
Co-op Community Fundraising	2,359	(2,359)	-
Groundwork UK	500	(500)	-
Covid 19 Furlough	1,702	(1,702)	-
Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	(2,000)	-
Hull Business Discretionary	5,000	(5,000)	-
Rank Foundation	500	(500)	-
Scientific Lab	500	(500)	-
Warburtons	250	(249)	1
Douglas Arter Foundation	250	(250)	-
HEY Smile Foundation	250	(250)	-
Ironmongers	8,870	(6,940)	1,930
Magdalen Trust	2,000	(481)	1,519
Two Ridings	2,000	(2,000)	-
Yorkshire Building Society	500	(500)	-
	86,847	(88,684)	(1,837)
TOTAL FUNDS	196,976	(181,241)	15,735

continued...

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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

8. UNRESTRICTED GRANTS

Unrestricted grants of £21,720 were received in the year. These were from the following:

- £2,000.00 Sun 50 Reader
- £970.00 Groundwork
- £5,000.00 Joseph & Annie Cattle Trust
- £1,500.00 Hull Aid in Sickness Trust
- £7,500.00 Garfield Weston Foundation
- £1,500.00 David Solomons Charitable Trust
- £1,250.00 Sir Jules Thorn Trust
- £2,000.00 Hull + ER Charitable Trust

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

	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	9,784	12,859
Legacies	-	1,002
	9,784	13,861
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	289	264
Charitable activities		
Fundraising events	25,146	19,951
Printer rental income	791	1,010
Training income	4,407	5,267
Grants	63,940	52,266
	94,284	78,494
Total incoming resources	104,357	92,619
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	66,546	58,493
Building rental	9,097	10,285
Insurance	753	678
Telephone	144	164
Printing and office supplies	2,382	3,666
Specialist resources	2,653	1,099
Social and fundraising events	5,130	3,248
Marketing	594	396
Training and education	829	2,904
Travel expenses	846	1,503
Miscellaneous expenses	2,048	1,757
Website and computer expenses	2,869	836
Ebay shop expenses	-	77
	93,891	85,106
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	1,005	1,239
Total resources expended	94,896	86,345
Net income	9,461	6,274

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements