

Charity registration number 1188842

HEAR TOGETHER
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

HEAR TOGETHER

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Nicholas Tedd (Chair) Claire Page (Treasurer) Julie Mather
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Charity number	1188842
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Principal address	Martin Cottage The Woolrooms Coleorton Leicestershire LE67 8JN
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Accountants	Rogers Spencer Newstead House Pelham Road Nottingham NG5 1AP
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Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME1 9TQ
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TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Hear Together is dedicated to supporting people with hearing loss in Nottingham and Derby. Our vision is that everyone lives well with hearing loss and fulfils their unique potential.

We believe that connecting and communicating with other people is fundamental to living well.

We are passionate about helping deaf and hard of hearing children and adults to participate and thrive at home, in education and at work.

The charity's objects are "to relieve the needs of deaf and hard of hearing people in the UK to help them and their families to live well with hearing loss by providing person-centered services, advancing education and promoting hearing technology".

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Current issues:

For many deaf and hard-of-hearing people, using hearing aids and implants has a positive impact on quality of life, helping to stay connected with family, work and social lives and reducing the risk of issues such as loneliness, under-employment and mental health difficulties. However, despite this positive message, many people continue to wait to get hearing aids, there remains slow uptake of cochlear implants for adults and there is limited public awareness of the significance of hearing for ageing well. Difficulties in accessing NHS audiology services means that many people struggle with their hearing and the impact of this on their home, work and social life.

How we have made a difference:

- Hear Together has continued to provide local support for adults to manage their hearing loss effectively and confidently so they can participate to their full potential and live well.
- We have run 8 Hear2Help drop-in community clinics every month; feedback has been excellent, and we have had the support of volunteers to help manage the numbers of people accessing their help with hearing aids, batteries, tubing and more.
- Our team has maintained links with local Audiology and has kept up-to-date about equipment and accessories to provide advice and support to the adults who come our clinics.

Our services are well-attended and recommended by the people who use them. They have provided a source of income to support the delivery of our other services for deaf children and adults.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Training, Information & ResourcesCurrent issues:

Professionals working with deaf children have a limited choice of specialist training options and are uncertain where to find practical, relevant training delivered by experienced professionals in the field.

How we have made a difference:

- Hear Together has developed excellent training resources and provided training to over 100 people, including Teachers of the Deaf, Speech and Language Therapists, Teachers and Teaching Assistant who support deaf children.
- Our training has generated income to support the delivery of our other services for deaf children and adults.

Our improved website and increased social media presence is helping us to build trust and awareness so that our work can benefit more Deaf children and adults.

Services for deaf children

Current issues:

Deafness has a huge impact on children and it's not just about difficulties with listening and talking:

- Language underpins learning; language difficulties limit educational achievement and future employability.
- Communication is fundamental to friendship; poor communication affects the ability to make and keep friends.
- Connection with others helps us develop our identity, self-esteem and confidence; social isolation damages our mental health.
- Family involvement is essential to a child's success; most deaf children are born to hearing parents with no experience of deafness or relevant support network.

Deafness is low incidence; in the UK, around 2000 babies are born every day, only 3 will be born deaf and another 3 will lose their hearing during childhood. This means that there is limited awareness of their needs and there are few opportunities to meet other deaf children and their families. Most of these children will go to mainstream schools where they may be the only deaf child. Communication and making friends with can be hard for deaf children. Deaf children are supported by statutory services, like Teachers of the deaf and Speech and language therapists; however, with finite resources, there are missed opportunities to give deaf children the best chance to thrive.

How we have made a difference:

- Lisa Grzeskowiak is our new Lead for Children's services. Lisa is an experienced Teacher of the Deaf who has brought new ideas and energy to the programme.
- We have brought together around 80 d/Deaf children and young people from across Nottingham and Derby to build their self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience while having fun and making new friends.
- Families have learned from and supported each other at our events.

School-based workshops are offering new opportunities to support both pupils and staff.

HEAR TOGETHER

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Fundraising & Income generation

Current issues:

- The national and local fundraising and grant making landscape remains challenging.
- Our training is primarily designed for professionals in Education, Health and Social Care, which have severely restricted funds available for training.
- We are an inclusive organisation and provide activities and events that are affordable for families, rather than to generate profit.
- We continue to use our initial legacy fund as a primary source of income.

How we have generated income:

- We charge for training events, children's activities and actively encourage donations to our Hear2Help clinics.
- The London Marathon has continued to be a strong source of income with 6 runners in April 2023 and April 2024.
- We use the Enthuse fundraising platform for our donations and fundraising.
- We have partnered with Real Buzz to provide access to other running events for fundraising.
- We have applied for grants to support our work with a 50% success rate.

Trustees & Governance

The Board of Trustees meets quarterly with Sarah Allen, Co-ordinator, and other team members regularly attend to keep Trustees informed and engaged. The current terms of office for the appointed Trustees are until 2026 providing additional stability and continuity for the charity.

Hear Together continues to meet the recommended standards required for accreditation by the Charity Excellence Framework for robust organisation and governance. We have an annual service plan in place for 2024-25 to focus our objectives and monitor our progress transparently.

Achievements and performance

Financial review

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. Organisations need structure, processes and systems, which also require review. While Hear Together has covered basic requirements, the Charity Excellence Framework identifies areas of improvement which would make it more robust.

Hear Together Team

Sarah Allen	(Appointed 1 April 2020)
Diana Harbor	(Appointed 1 April 2020)
Rachel Lightfoot	(Appointed 1 April 2022)
Dianne Crisp	(Appointed 1 September 2022)
Melissa Koc	(Appointed 1 September 2022)
Lisa Grzeskowiak	(Appointed 1 September 2023)

HEAR TOGETHER

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Nicholas Tedd (Chair)

Claire Page (Treasurer)

Julie Mather

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The company's current policy concerning the payment of trade creditors is to follow the CBI's Prompt Payers Code (copies are available from the CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU).

The company's current policy concerning the payment of trade creditors is to:

- settle the terms of payment with suppliers when agreeing the terms of each transaction;
- ensure that suppliers are made aware of the terms of payment by inclusion of the relevant terms in contracts; and
- pay in accordance with the company's contractual and other legal obligations.

Hear Together is a well-managed organisation with robust governance, which meets the standards required by the Charity Excellence Framework.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Nicholas Tedd (Chair)

Trustee

Date: 10/12/24

HEAR TOGETHER

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024*

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

HEAR TOGETHER

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE PREPARATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF HEAR TOGETHER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Charities Act 2011, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Hear Together for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the statement of financial activities and the related notes from the charity's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <https://www.icaew.com/regulation>.

This report is made to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 26 November 2024. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Hear Together and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the charity's trustees, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Hear Together and the charity's trustees as a body, for our work or for this report.

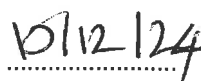
It is your duty to ensure that Hear Together has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and deficit of Hear Together. You consider that Hear Together is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year, and is not required to obtain an independent examiner's report.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Hear Together. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.



Rogers Spencer

Chartered Accountants



Newstead House
Pelham Road
Nottingham
NG5 1AP

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
<u>Income from:</u>			
Donations and legacies	2	32,361	23,868
Investments	3	1,360	497
Total income		<u>33,721</u>	<u>24,365</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>			
Charitable activities	4	<u>46,177</u>	<u>36,056</u>
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		(12,456)	(11,691)
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		<u>64,730</u>	<u>76,421</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		<u><u>52,274</u></u>	<u><u>64,730</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

HEAR TOGETHER

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	8	407		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		53,373		66,679	
		53,780		66,679	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(1,506)		(1,949)	
Net current assets			52,274		64,730
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds			52,274		64,730
			52,274		64,730

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 10/12/24

N. Tedd

Nicholas Tedd (Chair)
Trustee

HEAR TOGETHER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Hear Together is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The charity's principal office address is Martin Cottage, The Woolrooms, Coleorton, Leicestershire, LE67 8JN.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs 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 the resources.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the promotional costs to the charity.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs, including costs of governance.

1.6 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations and gifts	32,361	20,713
Legacies receivable	-	3,155
	<u>32,361</u>	<u>23,868</u>

3 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>1,360</u>	<u>497</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4 Charitable activities

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	27,651	21,577
Advertising and marketing	161	111
Staff training	-	25
Computer costs	2,503	3,183
Legal and professional fees	3,359	4,606
Bank charges	62	72
Fundraising events	7,485	-
Subscriptions	1,028	-
Sundry expenses	3,928	6,482
	<u>46,177</u>	<u>36,056</u>
	<u>46,177</u>	<u>36,056</u>

5 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

6 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Employees	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

Employment costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	<u>27,651</u>	<u>21,577</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

7 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	100	-
Other debtors	307	-
	<u>407</u>	<u>-</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	-	254
Trade creditors	862	154
Accruals and deferred income	644	1,541
	<u>1,506</u>	<u>1,949</u>

10 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year.

