

# THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

England & Wales · Charity number 1196287

## Details

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**Other names** FCDC

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2021-10-27

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** The Family Centre (Deaf Children)  
Elmfield School for Deaf Children  
Sheridan Road  
Horfield  
Bristol  
BS7 0PU

**Phone** 0117 9030366

**Email** [admin@fcdc.org.uk](mailto:admin@fcdc.org.uk)

**Website** [www.fcdc.org.uk](http://www.fcdc.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AND THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION AMONG DEAF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN BRISTOL AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, WHO MAY BE EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF BEING DEAF (WHERE DEAF IS DEFINED AS MILD TO PROFOUND HEARING LOSS) BY:• PROVIDING WORKSHOPS, FORUMS, AND GENERAL ADVICE FOR DEAF FAMILIES• PROVIDING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEAF FAMILIES• PROVIDING, OR SUPPORTING ACCESS TO THE PROVISION OF, SERVICES SUPPORTING DEAF FAMILIES, BY WORKING WITH OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES

**Activities:** Provides support, activities, events and courses for deaf children and their families

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

## Geography

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- Bath And North East Somerset
- Bristol City
- North Somerset
- South Gloucestershire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£146,773	£122,693	-	-
2024-03-31	£85,245	£98,929	-	-
2023-03-31	£155,454	£105,127	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Neil Curry	Chair	2016-11-05
Daniel Hunt		2025-04-28
Elizabeth Lawrence		2024-10-21
Kaisha Powell		2024-10-21
Kay Confait		2025-11-16
Samantha Lautieri		2024-10-21
Sarah Jane Evans		2021-05-27
Stephen Thompson		2022-10-30

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1196287

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# Accounts

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**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1196287**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH 2025  
FOR  
THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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## THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

### Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2025.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

##### Registered Charity number

1196287

##### Other Charity name

FCDC

##### Principal address

Elmfield School for Deaf Children  
Sheridan Road  
Bristol  
BS7 0PU

##### Trustees

Neil Curry	Chair/Treasurer
Sonya Brewer	Secretary (resigned 23 September 2024)
Sarah Evans	Trustee
Stephen Thompson	Trustee
Hattie Axford	Trustee (Removed during period)
Elizabeth Lawrence	Trustee (appointed 21 October 2024)
Samantha Lautieri	Trustee (appointed 21 October 2024)
Kaish Powell	Trustee (appointed 21 October 2024)

During this period Sonya Brewster stood down as Secretary.

##### Bankers

Cater Allen  
9 Nelson Street  
Bradford  
BD1 5AN

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

##### Governing Document

The charity is managed by a Constitution, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which was approved by the Charity Commission on 27 October 2021. The Constitution is accepted as current or updated as necessary for the AGM which took place on 25 November 2023.

##### Operational Management

The Centre Manager, Helen Davies, was recruited in January 2021. Helen is responsible for service delivery, financial management, safeguarding and the charity's day-to-day operations. Helen brings a diverse skills set and significant management experience to her crucial role at the charity. She holds a Diploma in Business and Finance (BTEC National Diploma) and is a qualified Safeguarding Lead and Specialist Practitioner (Level 3). She is also qualified in British Sign Language (Level 1) and has personal lived experience of child deafness within her family. Helen line manages a small team of staff, volunteers, sessional workers and contracted professionals to support the delivery and sustainability of the charity's services, activities and events

## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

Trustees are appointed at the AGM and serve for a term of 3 years, after which they may stand for re-election. The CIO's new Constitution requires the Board of Trustees to consist of a minimum of 4 Trustees. Trustees used to be, what was classified as 'full members' (full members being those who live with deafness in the family who are paid members of the charity). Following adoption of the CIO Constitution in 2021, FCDC no longer has paid members. In addition, Trustees, as hearing loss experts with lived experience or having other relevant skills and/or expertise to offer the Board and charity, can be invited onto the Trustee Board, if this would further the benefit to FCDC. These Trustees would then step down at the next AGM and could offer themselves up for election. Sub-committees can also be formed when required. Going forward, we continue to look to invite professionals to support trustee meetings and the Board to improve the skills and knowledge matrix of the team. The remaining Trustees agreed to continue their roles as Trustees, the current number of Trustees is 6, with another person about to join the Board in the next financial year.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **The objectives of the CIO are:**

- To reduce isolation, increase socialisation and strengthen links with the community of deaf children and their families.
- To develop children's deaf identity, self confidence and self-esteem.
- To improve deaf awareness within families and the community.

The promotion of social inclusion and the provision of education among deaf children and their families in Bristol and the surrounding area, who may be excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of being deaf (where deaf is defined as mild to profound hearing loss).

In 2024, we further developed these aims to include:

- To enable parents, carers, deaf children, hearing siblings and Children of Deaf Adults (CODA's) to connect and find friends.
- To improve family cohesion within the families of deaf children.
- To improve communication methods within families.
- To provide financially sustainable, needs-led, strengths-based, family-centred, holistic support services that meet identified needs of local families with hearing loss

##### **Significant Activities:**

Summary of main activities in relation to the objects of the charity are;

- To provide a base for local families and carers of deaf children to discuss, to meet, to interact freely with professionals and to have access to resources, information and training as required.
- To provide activities and events for deaf children/young people, children of deaf adults (CODAs) and their siblings to find and meet with their peers to share experiences and find support to help promote personal identity and confidence.
- To work in partnership with other agencies and providers of services for the benefit of families with deaf children.
- To provide practical support, including BSL courses, to help with communication within deaf families.
- To provide health and well-being activities for deaf children, young people and their families
- To promote, encourage or otherwise undertake organised research into the effects of deafness and the family, and to publish the useful results of such research.
- To organise public meetings, lectures, conferences and seminars for the consideration and discussion of problems arising out of childhood deafness and the family.

## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

- To promote and encourage the education and training of professionals, students and other persons for the furtherance of the education and support of the families of deaf children.
- To raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons or body corporate by way of subscription, covenant, donation, affiliation fees, legacies, grants or otherwise to assist in fulfilling the purpose of the charity.
- The geographical area which is covered by our services includes Bristol, Bath, North-East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, other areas in the South West of England eg. Taunton and Exeter and South Wales.

#### **Public benefit**

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and reviewing the objectives and activities of The Family Centre (Deaf Children).

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

In 2023-2024, FCDC contracted a Voscur-approved external fundraising consultant in order to:

- Enhance the financial sustainability of the charity.
- Support the FCDC team with a new grant application to the National Lottery Community Fund.
- Identify new fundraising and income generation opportunities.
- Assist the FCDC team with the development of a new fundraising strategy.
- Improve staff/trustee bid writing skills and fundraising knowledge through a tailored mentoring programme which was funded by the Quartet Community Foundation.
- Support the submission of grant applications to new and previous funders.
- Increase grant application success rates.

This contractual arrangement proved to be very successful and resulted in the charity securing a major grant from the National Lottery Community Fund (£242,796) for a new 5-year project '*Improving the Lives of Deaf Children and their Families 2024-2029*' in April 2024.

The grant award is for 5 years, but will taper off in the last 2 years of the project. The planned budget for this 5-year project is £668,787. Therefore, FCDC requires significant match funding (£425,991) from other income sources to successfully deliver the project and maintain the integrity of the charity's planned activities and services over this period. Nevertheless, the National Lottery grant gives us a significant financial boost and base to secure our future through to April 2029.

In addition, FCDC successfully secured core funding from BBC Children in Need in June 2024. This Children in Need grant, which is £90,000 over 3 years, funds approximately 95% of the Centre Manager's salary costs and also serves to meet the charity's National Lottery match funding requirements.

Since securing these grants from National Lottery Community Fund and BBC Children in Need, we have also been successful in securing grants from the following funders in 2024-2025:

- St James Place Charitable Foundation to fund our Teddy Ear Clinics and community outreach programme.
- Medlock Charitable Trust to fund our 'Health, Happiness and Wellbeing' project.
- Quartet Community Foundation to fund in-house fundraising skills and knowledge development.
- The Society of Merchant Venturers to fund monthly peer support meet ups for local deaf young people (01 June 2025 -31 May 2025).
- Holiday and Food Programme funding (HAF) to fund activities and events that promote healthy eating and lifestyles (Spring and Summer 2024 events)
- A Bristol City Council Social Action grant to fund our deaf youth peer support meet ups (until 31 May 2025)
- A small grant from Bath Half Marathon Fund to fund a small number of family-focused sports events.

## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

These significant fundraising achievements in 2024-2025 have allowed us to plan for the future in the knowledge of our financial security for the next 4 or 5 years, vindicating our decision to increase our workforce capacity with a new Development Officer role.

Furthermore, this grant success not only enables us to meet our National Lottery project match funding requirements but also enables FCDC to continue to develop and improve our services as well as secure our financial future against an increasingly competitive, more restrictive grant funding landscape.

The National Lottery Community Fund grant provides essential funding for core costs, overheads and some of our 5-year project activities. Therefore, we have secured other grants (as detailed previously) to enable us to provide additional activities and services that form part of our 5-year project, but which are not funded by the National Lottery and will continue to do so over the next 4 years. These activities and services include:

- Monthly parent/toddler coffee mornings and support network events for families, wellbeing workshops, talks, informal networking and advice between parents and professionals and opportunity for children to meet similar others in relaxed space.
- Family days out and festive seasonal parties during the school holidays and at weekends to facilitate family networking and peer support.
- Family and children-focussed BSL courses.
- Appropriate accessible outdoor activities for deaf children and their siblings, providing them with the opportunity to meet up with their peers, have fun, try out new activities, develop new skills whilst simultaneously improving their confidence and wellbeing.
- Counselling support to individual parents/carers and deaf young people.
- Teddy Ear Centre Clinics to help normalise hearing loss for the whole family and wider community, and to help reduce children's anxieties in relation to hearing devices and audiology appointments.
- Play Therapy and Child Psychotherapy activities.
- Parent/carer well-being workshops.
- A wide range of social and recreational activities for CODAs, d/Deaf children and their families.
- A monthly youth group for local d/Deaf young people which is youth-led and aims to facilitate peer support and social interaction.
- Avon Fire & Rescue support services (Free home safety checks & free deaf fire alarms).
- Targeted community outreach activities and events in diverse communities across Bristol and the surrounding areas.

The provision of core funding also allows us to expand on our activities and services in order to meet the support needs of our service users.

In addition, the National Lottery Community Fund and St James Place Charitable Foundation grants have enabled us to extend our community reach further and achieve increased deaf community engagement with our services as well as participation in our activities as shown by the remarkable increase in attendance at our events during the financial year 2024-2025.

This illustrates how FCDC is growing from strength to strength and is becoming a tangible community asset in the South West. We are also an important charity partner for Local Authority Sensory Support Services and take part in quarterly Bristol Council community support meetings.

*"The Family Centre (Deaf Children) collaborates with the Sensory Support Service in a variety of ways. Recently the Family Centre ran a Teddy Ear clinic which was a huge success. They also provide additional support such as transport for families who may otherwise find it difficult to participate in local groups. The Family Centre provides weekend and holiday events that enable parents and children to meet up. Some lifelong friendships have been made through these events."* Local Sensory Support Services.

Family Sign BSL courses continued to take place via Zoom and have received very positive feedback. This delivery method allows for much more flexible attendance and helps increase attendance rates as it enables additional family members to take part in the sessions from the comfort of their own homes. Improvements to Zoom teaching is that the teaching is supplemented by a face-to-face session at the beginning and end of the course, which helps in student familiarity and eases any course apprehension and anxiety.

## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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During this reporting period, a suitably qualified and experienced BSL proficient counsellor was recruited and contracted by FCDC to deliver the charity's counselling service. This service continues to be offered flexibly by providing the option of face-to-face or online counselling for families.

### **Partnership Working**

The Family Centre has developed a range of partnerships and collaborations that enable staff to share knowledge and resources with other organisations. This enables all agencies to extend their offers to families and to deaf children: joint working brings cost benefits as well as a wider range of options for members. The Family Centre developed many of these new collaborative projects listening to members. Examples include:

- Identifying the need for new projects including Family Sign, Play Therapy, Parent/Carer wellbeing workshops, KS3+ Activities/workshops, Coffee/Family mornings in disadvantaged areas.
- Working with Bristol City Council, the Sensory Support Service, Elmfield School for Deaf Children, and the deaf community to help develop bespoke Family Sign Language and producing videos which are accessible to all. They focus on the actual BSL an average family would need. These are Bristol specific.
- Staff have been trained to restructure the website to add new BSL accessible content.
- Working with Avon and Somerset Fire and Rescue so that Centre families can be referred for home safety visits. These include a fire safety check, advice on home fire safety, and the testing and fitting of new deaf smoke alarms.
- Working with Unique Voice, Children's Scrapstore and Children's Kitchen, to develop and provide summer holiday cookery and craft packs.
- Organising events in collaboration with a wide range of organisations in Bristol including with:
  - Little Hands
  - Bristol Deaf Children's Society
  - Trinity Centre Music
  - The Flying Seagull Project
  - Boing! Soft Play
  - Bannerman Road Children's Community Centre
  - Bristol Life Skills Centre
  - The Square Food Foundation, Community Kitchen
  - Circus Starr
  - Blue Sky Tennis Foundation
  - Bristol Family Cycle Centre
  - Bristol Deaf Youth Club
  - Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
  - St Marys Redcliffe
  - Avon Valley Railway
  - Hearing dogs for Deaf people
  - Great Western Railway
  - Lawrence Weston Community Farm
  - Golden Hill Community Garden
  - SENDSenses
  - Cube
  - Bristol Rovers - Youth disability football
  - Deaf Studies Trust

## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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#### **Staff**

The Family Centre staff team consists of three members; a Centre Manager contracted to work 33 hours per week, a Families and Events Officer contracted to work 32 hours per week, and a Development Officer contracted to work 24 hours per week

#### **Operations**

FCDC's office is based at Elmfield School for Deaf Children in Bristol, where many of our activities also take place.

The school relocated to a new site in Horfield, Bristol in September 2023 and FCDC moved with the school. We have been successfully operating from our new office base within the school since this date.

Operations continue to be run well within the limited resources that we have with the staff having worked tirelessly to develop and provide high-quality events, activities and services.

The FCDC team continue to ensure that our Policies and Procedures are regularly revised, improved, updated and communicated to staff, volunteers, service users and other key stakeholders appropriately. This also ensures that our funders can be assured that are policies and procedures not only meet the charity's legal obligations and statutory requirements but are compiled based on VCSE sector good practice.

#### **Governance**

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Board of Trustee meetings took place at 4 weekly intervals throughout 2024-2025 with regular attendance by all Trustees. Trustee meetings continue to take place via Zoom as this has helped to facilitate regular Trustee attendance and participation.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

#### **Gift Aid**

The CIO registered with HMRC for Gift Aid on 6th March 2024 and this registration was backdated by HMRC to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the date of the new Charity Registration number. An application for Gift Aid relief was made to HMRC with monies received from HMRC on 12th June 2025. This has now resulted in the Charity having to complete annual Tax Returns to HMRC for the first time.

#### **Reserves policy**

Over the last few years, to allow for operations to continue at the required level, our reserves had been slowly depleted. Donations income has helped us to build up our reserves to cover any unexpected costs. By the end of this period, we built up our reserves back up to 3 months' worth of full activity expenditure as a reserve amount, which equates to almost 5 months of reduced activity or base expenditure. Our reserves more than provided for the necessary finance for activities to continue unabated with much of our activity being funded by restricted grants received for specific activities.. Some FCDC activities generate a small income through donations from families. In addition, donations and some unrestricted funds were also received from individuals and organisations to support the charity's work throughout the year.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Chair/Treasurer – Neil Curry

4 September 2025

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
The Family Centre (Deaf Children)**

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I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity's Trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.

Matthew Bracher  
Gravita  
6-8 Bath Street  
Bristol  
BS1 6HL

4 September 2025

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Event income, donations and subscriptions	5,690	-	5,690	11,732
Grants	-	140,764	140,764	73,290
Interest received	319	-	319	223
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>6,009</b>	<b>140,764</b>	<b>146,773</b>	<b>85,245</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Event charges	1,097	25,047	26,144	19,077
Office costs	-	4,306	4,306	4,553
Purchase of equipment	-	1,807	1,807	1,178
Governance	-	852	852	816
Staff costs	5,044	68,949	73,993	57,325
Consultancy fees	7,565	7,764	15,329	15,507
Other support costs	-	262	262	473
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>13,706</b>	<b>108,987</b>	<b>122,693</b>	<b>98,929</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET OF RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<b>(7,697)</b>	<b>31,777</b>	<b>24,080</b>	<b>(13,684)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>36,643</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,643</b>	<b>50,327</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>28,946</u></b>	<b><u>31,777</u></b>	<b><u>60,723</u></b>	<b><u>36,643</u></b>

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>2025 Total funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total funds £</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash funds - Cater Allen ending 6730	<b>5,720</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>6,755</b>	3,011
Cash funds - Cater Allen ending 0972	-	<b>30,742</b>	<b>30,742</b>	7,205
Cash funds - Scottish Widows account	<b>23,199</b>	-	<b>23,199</b>	26,392
Cash funds - Paypal account	<u>27</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>35</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>28,946</u></b>	<b><u>31,777</u></b>	<b><u>60,723</u></b>	<b><u>36,643</u></b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			<b>28,946</b>	36,643
Restricted funds			<b>31,777</b>	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b><u>60,723</u></b>	<b><u>36,643</u></b>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and were signed on its behalf by:

Chair/Treasurer – Neil Curry

4 September 2025

## THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

The Financial Statements are drawn up on the Receipts and Payments basis of accounting. All donations and other income are therefore accounted for when received and all expenditure is accounted for when paid.

##### Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise amounts received for special purposes and used for those purposes during the year or held for those purposes at the balance sheet date. The use of donations and grants received for a specific purpose is restricted to that purpose.

#### 2. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance brought forward	Receipts in period	Payments in period	Balance carried forward
Lottery year 1 Fund	-	70,745	(66,827)	3,918
HAF Spring 2025 Fund	-	1,519	(585)	934
Children in Need Fund	-	31,400	(23,159)	8,241
St James Place Fund	-	9,980	(2,168)	7,812
Medlock Fund	-	5,000	(2,946)	2,054
Social Action Small Grant Fund	-	4,890	(948)	3,942
Society of Merchant Ventures Fund	-	4,752	-	4,752
Cashforkids Fund	-	2,980	(2,980)	-
HAF Spring Fund	-	1,350	(1,350)	-
HAF Summer Fund	-	1,800	(1,746)	54
Bath Half	-	985	(985)	-
Quartet Express Grant Fund	-	4,980	(4,980)	-
Cooking Equipment Grant Fund	-	383	(313)	70
	-	140,764	(108,987)	31,777

The restricted funds reflect grant funding received for specific projects or activities.

#### 3. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance brought forward	Receipts in period	Payments in period	Balance carried forward
General Fund	36,643	6,009	(13,706)	28,946
	36,643	6,009	(13,706)	28,946

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

The Trustees all give freely of their time and expertise.

**Trustees' expenses**

During the year no Trustee had expenses reimbursed by the Charity.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1196287

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# Accounts

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## Document Details

<b>Filename:</b>	Family Centre Accounts 2024.pdf
<b>Client of:</b>	Haines Watts

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## Signature Details

<b>Name:</b>	Neil Curry
<b>Email:</b>	neil@fcdc.org.uk
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	24/07/2024 09:22:12 AM (BST)
<b>IP Address:</b>	90.201.89.89
<b>Signing Statement:</b>	Neil Curry agrees and approves the contents of this document.

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<b>On behalf of:</b>	Haines Watts
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**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1196287**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH 2024  
FOR  
THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
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## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2024.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

##### **Registered Charity number**

1196287

##### **Other Charity name**

FCDC

##### **Principal address**

Elmfield School  
Upper Horfield  
Sheridan Road  
Bristol  
BS7 0PU

##### **Trustees**

Neil Curry	Chair/Treasurer
Sonya Brewer	Secretary
Laura Hunter	Trustee (resigned 25 November 2023)
Sarah Evans	Trustee
Stephen Thompson	Trustee
Hattie Axford	Trustee (appointed 19 February 2024)

During this period Laura Hunter stood down as Trustees after 5 years of service as a Trustee and many years as a parent of a hearing impaired child.

##### **Bankers**

Cater Allen  
9 Nelson Street  
Bradford  
BD1 5AN

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing Document**

The charity is managed by a Constitution, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which was approved by the Charity Commission on 27 October 2021. The Constitution is accepted as current or updated as necessary for the AGM which took place on 25 November 2023.

The Office Manager, Helen Davies, was recruited in January 2021, and the Activities and Events Co-Ordinator, Megan Wall, was recruited in November 2022. Both have been a great success and since the transition out of Covid lockdown, our activities and events have grown in attendance and frequency. Megan, with her contacts with the Deaf Community through family connections, has been a huge success in breaching any bridges between the “D and d” deaf community.

## THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

### Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

##### Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Trustees are appointed at the AGM and serve for a term of 3 years, after which they may stand for re-election. The new constitution requires the Board of Trustees to consist of a minimum of 4 Trustees. Trustees used to be, what was classified as full members (full members being those who live with deafness in the family who are paid members of the charity). Following adoption of the CIO Constitution, FCDC no longer has paid members. In addition, Trustees, as experts with relevant skills to offer, can be invited on to the Trustee Board if this would be of further benefit to FCDC. These Trustees would then step down at the next AGM and could offer themselves up for election. Sub-committees can also be formed when required. Going forward we continue to look to invite professionals to support Trustee meetings to improve the skills matrix of the Board. This has resulted in Sarah Evans (specialist teacher of deaf children) being invited by Trustees to join the Trustee meetings in May 2021, to bring wider knowledge and support to the charity, and recently Hattie Axford, an experienced Mental Health Occupational Therapist, with specific experience working in deaf mental health services, currently in the National Deaf Child and Adolescent (NDCAMHS) team. She joined as a Trustee in February 2024. The remaining Trustees agreed to continue their roles as Trustees, the number now remaining at 5 Trustees.

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

##### The objectives of the CIO are:

- To reduce isolation, increase socialisation and strengthen links with the community of deaf children and their families.
- To develop children's deaf identity, self confidence and self-esteem.
- To improve deaf awareness within families and the community.

The promotion of social inclusion and the provision of education among deaf children and their families in Bristol and the surrounding area, who may be excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of being deaf (where deaf is defined as mild to profound hearing loss).

We have further developed our aims to be:

To help enable parents, carers, deaf children, hearing sibling and Children of Deaf Adults (CODA's) find friends.  
Specifically:

- To improve family cohesion within the families of deaf children.
- To improve communication methods within families.
- To develop children's deaf identity, self-confidence, and self-esteem.
- To reduce isolation, increase socialisation and strengthen links within the community of deaf children and their families.
- To improve deaf awareness within families and the community.

##### Significant Activities:

As COVID restrictions have ceased we are now fully up and running with our activities, attendance is back or increased on pre-COVID numbers and we now provide many more activities than pre COVID.

Summary of main activities in relation to the objects of the charity are:

- To provide a base for families and carers of deaf children to discuss, to meet, to interact freely with professionals and to have access to materials, information and training as required.
- For deaf children to find peers to share experiences and find support to help promote personal identity and confidence.
- For siblings of deaf children and children of deaf adults to find similar others to help promote personal identity and share experiences.
- To work in conjunction with other agencies and providers of services for the benefit of families with deaf children.
- To provide some support, including BSL courses to help with communication within deaf families.
- To promote, encourage or otherwise undertake organised research into the effects of deafness and the family, and to publish the useful results of such research.

## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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#### **Significant Activities (continued)**

- To arrange public meetings, lectures, conferences and seminars for the consideration and discussion of problems arising out of childhood deafness and the family.
- To promote and encourage the education and training of professionals, students and other persons for the furtherance of the education and support of the families of deaf children.
- To raise funds and to invite and receive contribution from any person or persons or body corporate by way of subscription, covenant, donation, affiliation fees, legacies, grants or otherwise to assist in fulfilling the purpose of the charity.

#### **Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and reviewing the objectives and activities of The Family Centre (Deaf Children).

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

A large proportion of Trustee time and effort during second half of this period was spent trying to secure the financial security of the charity. Applications to major charitable funding providers were made with the assistance of an outside consultant. Although this was an allowable expense (agreed by the National Lottery), it was very successful in that we have achieved another major funding grant from the National Lottery. This award was communicated to us at the end of this reporting period. It is for 3 years and tapers off for the last 2 years but requires significant additional grant funding from other sources to maintain the integrity of our activities. Nevertheless, this gives us significant finance to secure our future out to 2029. Our previous National Lottery Community Fund Grant finished as planned in Mar 2024 and a final report to the National Lottery was submitted and accepted. In addition, just outside this period in April 2024 we became aware that Children in Need would be awarding us a sizeable grant to also support us for the next 3 years. In addition, we secured two separate Grants from Quartet Foundation. These were great achievements and have allowed us to plan for the future in the knowledge of our financial security for the next 4 or 5 years.

The National Lottery and Children in Need Grants were made to secure our Core Funding of staff, resources and major administrative expenditure. This allows us the ability to source other Grant Funder to fund individual or specific activities. Such as:

- Monthly coffee morning/support network for families supported by trained counsellor, space for workshops, talks, informal networking and advice between parents and professionals and opportunity for children to meet similar others in relaxed space;
- Family days out and seasonal parties, during school holidays and weekends to further support networking with similar others;
- Specialist support for deaf families at home, for those struggling with communication within the family;
- Introductory BSL courses for any deaf family;
- Appropriate accessible outdoor activities for deaf children and their siblings providing the chance to meet similar others have fun, try out new activities, while improving confidence and wellbeing.;
- Counselling support to individual parents/carers and young people;
- Play Therapy to individual children;
- Parent/carer well-being workshops;
- In person and Zoom BSL courses;
- A wide range of social and recreational activities for children, and for families including Family days out and seasonal parties;
- A group for teenagers which is increasingly self-run;
- Avon Fire & Rescue (Free home safety checks & free deaf fire alarms); and
- Targeted activities in diverse communities.

The provision of Core Funding allows us to expand on these activities and seek more support for additional activities as the need arises.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**Report of the Trustees  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The benefit of the Lottery Community Fund grant has enabled us to have achieved a remarkable increase in attendance at events:

<b>Period of Activity</b>	<b>FCDC membership: Number of families</b>	<b>Number of individuals</b>
<b>2020 - 2021</b>	50	200
<b>2021 - 2022</b>	117 (67 joined)	468(268 joined)
<b>2022 - 2023</b>	162 (45 joined)	617(149 joined)
<b>2023 - 2024</b>	211 (53 joined)	815(198 joined)

Of the 1,569 number of people engaged in 2023-2024, there were;

- 672 adults
- 548 Deaf children
- 28 CODAs
- 321 hearing siblings.

This illustrates how the charity is growing from strength to strength and is becoming a tangible asset to the South West community and we also take part in quarterly Bristol Council community support meetings.

BSL courses still take place via Zoom with very positive feedback and this allows much more flexible attendance and also allows more attendance due to additional family members can now attend. Improvements to Zoom teaching is that the teaching is supplemented by a face to face session at the beginning of the course, which helps in student familiarity and eases any apprehension and anxiety.

Our counsellor has been available either face-to-face or via online for all families who would benefit from informal support or more professional advice. All further one to one counselling took place, based on a clinical assessment need, and whether funding is available. This service has been extensively used and its frequency of requests is testament to its success. It is very much funding dependant and we are continually seeking funding for this service to continue.

	<b>Engaged in 1-2-1 counselling</b>	<b>Counselling hours offered</b>	<b>Number completed counselling</b>	<b>Number ongoing</b>
		(6x online Group sessions)		
<b>2020 - 2021</b>	6	37	3	3
<b>2021 - 2022</b>	8	54	3	5
<b>2022 - 2023</b>	9	75	4	2
<b>2023 - 2024</b>	3	28	2	1

**Partnership Working**

The Family Centre has developed a range of partnerships and collaborations that enable staff to share knowledge and resources with other organisations. This enables all agencies to extend their offers to families and to deaf children: joint working brings cost benefits as well as a wider range of options for members. The Family Centre developed many of these new collaborative projects listening to members. Examples include:

- Identifying the need for new projects including Family Sign, Play Therapy, Parent/Carer wellbeing workshops, KS3+ Activities/workshops, Coffee/Family mornings in disadvantaged areas.
- Working with Bristol City Council, the Sensory Support Service, Elmfield School for Deaf Children, and the deaf community to help develop bespoke Family Sign Language, and producing videos which are accessible to all. They focus on the actual BSL an average family would need. These are Bristol specific.
- Staff have been trained to restructure the website to add new BSL accessible content.

## THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

### Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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- Working with Avon and Somerset Fire and Rescue so that Centre families can be referred for home safety visits. These include a fire safety check, advice on home fire safety, and the testing and fitting of new deaf smoke alarms.
- Working with Unique Voice, Children's Scrapstore and Children's Kitchen, to develop and provide summer holiday cookery and craft packs.
- Organising events in collaboration with a wide range of organisations in Bristol including with:
  - Little Hands
  - Bristol Deaf Children's Society
  - Trinity Centre Music
  - The Flying Seagull Project
  - Boing! Soft Play
  - Bannerman Road Children's Community Centre
  - Bristol Life Skills Centre
  - The Square Food Foundation, Community Kitchen
  - Circus Starr
  - Blue Sky Tennis Foundation
  - Bristol Family Cycle Centre
  - Bristol Deaf Youth Club
  - Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
  - St Marys Redcliffe
  - Avon Valley Railway
  - Hearing dogs for Deaf people
  - Great Western Railway
  - Lawrence Weston Community Farm
  - Golden Hill Community Garden
  - SENDSenses
  - Cube
  - Bristol Rovers - Youth disability football
  - Deaf Studies Trust

#### Staff

The Family Centre employed two staff on contracted hours; Helen Davies (Office Manager) contracted to 33hrs/week, Marcella Wyatt (Events Co-Ordinator) contracted to 32hrs/week. As part of the funding provided by the National Lottery we will be recruiting a Funding and Development officer on a 24hrs/week basis to maintain our recent funding achievements.

#### Operations

Elmfield School as a whole closed from its premises on Greystoke Avenue and moved to a new building extension to Upper Horfield School in Horfield. The new school opened in September 2023 and FCDC moved with the school. We are now operating from a new office with the school and the move went smoothly without affecting any activities of the charity. Operations continue to be run well within the limited resources that we have and with all restrictions being lifted the staff have worked tirelessly to build up our events activity base. The office staff have ensured that Policies and Procedures are being revised, improved and registered appropriately.

#### Governance

We had our AGM taking place during this period on 25 November 2023. Trustee meetings continued to take place at 4 weekly intervals. These continue take place via Zoom and this has resulted in easing the burden of Trustees to attend meetings.

## THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

### Report of the Trustees FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

##### Gift Aid

The Charity registered with HMRC for Gift Aid on 6 March 2024 and this registration was backdated by HMRC to 27 October 2021, the date of the new Charity Registration number.

##### Reserves policy

Over the last few years, to allow for operations to continue, our reserves had been slowly depleted. Our recent income from activities has resulted in us being able to build up our reserves to cover any unexpected costs and during this period we built up our reserves to 3 months' worth of full activity expenditure as a reserve amount which equates to almost 5 months of reduced activity or base expenditure. This provided a measure of comfort during the transition from the old Lottery grant funding ending and the new Lottery grant funding commencing. Although a slight gap in income occurred, our reserves more than provide the necessary finance for activities to continue unabated. Cash reserves of £36,643 were held as at 31 March 2024 (2023: £50,537).

Each activity generates a small income through donations from families and small donations and some unrestricted funds are received from both individuals and organisations throughout the year.

Contracted staff are currently on fixed term contracts and while we rent office space, we can keep unexpected costs to a minimum.

With a Development and Fundraising officer in post we aim to maximise our fundraising potential to continue to secure our future.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Chair/Treasurer – Neil Curry

Date:

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
The Family Centre (Deaf Children)**

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I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 10.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity's Trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.

Andrew Jordan FCA  
Haines Watts Chartered Accountants  
Bath House  
6-8 Bath Street  
Bristol  
BS1 6HL

Date

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Event income, donations and subscriptions	11,732	-	11,732	8,356
Grants	73,290	-	73,290	109,935
Transfer from previous charity entity	-	-	-	37,120
Interest received	223	-	223	43
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>85,245</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>85,245</b>	<b>155,454</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Event charges	18,516	561	19,077	26,094
Office costs	4,553	-	4,553	4,341
Purchase of equipment	728	450	1,178	870
Governance	816	-	816	720
Staff costs	56,421	904	57,325	72,610
Consultancy fees	15,507	-	15,507	-
Other support costs	473	-	473	537
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>97,014</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>98,929</b>	<b>105,127</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET OF RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<b>(11,769)</b>	<b>(1,915)</b>	<b>(13,684)</b>	<b>50,327</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>48,412</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>50,327</b>	<b>-</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>36,643</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>36,643</u></b>	<b><u>50,327</u></b>

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total funds £</b>	<b>2023 Total funds £</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash funds - Cater Allen ending 6730	3,011	-	3,011	1,765
Cash funds - Cater Allen ending 0972	7,205	-	7,205	29,712
Cash funds - Scottish Widows account	26,392	-	26,392	18,674
Cash funds - Paypal account	<u>35</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>176</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>36,643</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>36,643</u></b>	<b><u>50,537</u></b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			<b>36,643</b>	48,412
Restricted funds			<u>-</u>	<u>1,915</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b><u>36,643</u></b>	<b><u>50,537</u></b>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and were signed on its behalf by:

Chair/Treasurer – Neil Curry

Date .....

## THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

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

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#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

The Financial Statements are drawn up on the Receipts and Payments basis of accounting. All donations and other income are therefore accounted for when received and all expenditure is accounted for when paid.

##### Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise amounts received for special purposes and used for those purposes during the year or held for those purposes at the balance sheet date. The use of donations and grants received for a specific purpose is restricted to that purpose. Restricted funds of £1,915 were brought forward and spent in the year.

#### 2. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance brought forward	Receipts in period	Payments in period	Transfers	Balance carried forward
Quartet Community Fund	1,915	-	1,915	-	-
	1,195	-	1,915	-	-

The Quartet Community Fund was received from the Quartet Community Foundation ring-fenced for counselling activities.

#### 3. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance brought forward	Receipts in period	Payments in period	Transfers	Balance carried forward
General Fund	48,412	85,245	97,014	-	36,643
	48,412	85,245	97,014	-	36,643

#### 4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Trustees all give freely of their time and expertise.

During the period to 31 March 2024, payment was made for website services to Digital Grapevine, owned by trustee Laura Hunter. Payments totalled £1,365 (2023: £528).

##### Trustees' expenses

During the year 1 Trustee had their expenses reimbursed by the Charity. Expenses of £9 (2023: £8) were paid for postage.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1196287

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# Accounts

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## Document Details:

<b>Filename:</b>	Faily Centre - Accounts to 31.03.23.pdf
<b>Client of:</b>	Haines Watts

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## Signature Details

<b>Name:</b>	Neil Curry
<b>Email:</b>	neil@fcdc.org.uk
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	23/07/2023 17:25:35 PM (BST)
<b>IP Address:</b>	90.201.89.89
<b>Signing Statement:</b>	Neil Curry agrees and approves the contents of this document.

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**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1196287**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED  
31 MARCH 2023  
FOR  
THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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Report of the Trustees	1 to 5
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Statement of Receipts and Payments	7
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9

## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2023.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

##### **Registered Charity number**

1196287

##### **Other Charity name**

FCDC

##### **Principal address**

Elmfield School  
Greystoke Avenue  
Westbury-on-Trym  
Bristol  
BS10 6AY

##### **Trustees**

Neil Curry	Chair/Treasurer (appointed 1 October 2021)
Sonya Brewer	Secretary (appointed 1 October 2021)
Laura Hunter	Trustee (appointed 1 October 2021)
Sarah Evans	Trustee (appointed 1 October 2021)
Stephen Thompson	Trustee (appointed 21 November 2022)

##### **Bankers**

Cater Allen  
9 Nelson Street  
Bradford  
BD1 5AN

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing Document**

The charity is managed by a new constitution, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was approved by the Charity Commission on 27 October 2021. Our Charity was given a new Charity Number by the Charity Commission and we effectively merged our two Charity Numbers, on 22 March 2022, to ensure that the history of our Charity associated with our previous Charity Number was not lost to posterity.

The Constitution for the CIO was finally adopted at the AGM on 19 November 2022. This allows our Charity to operate in a more business-like manner allowing the Charity to enter into contracts, in its own right, rather than relying on the individual trustees to undertake these obligations and limiting liability to trustees in the event of insolvency. The new status also allows us to change the rules for membership and the numbers of Trustees required to allow us to be more streamlined.

The new Office Manager, Helen Davies, who was recruited in January 2021, has been a great success and during the COVID lockdown and the transition out of lockdown regular communication was maintained with members and wider deaf community through the Charity's social media group. As the restrictions on face-to-face meetings and organised get togethers relaxed the holding of events and activities have increased back to normal levels and beyond historical numbers of activities.

## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees**

Trustees are appointed at the AGM and serve for a term of 3 years, after which they may stand for re-election. The constitution requires the Board of Trustees to consist of a minimum of 4 Trustees. Trustees used to be, what was classified as full members (full members being those who live with deafness in the family who are paid members of the Charity). Following adoption of the CIO Constitution, FCDC no longer has paid members. In addition, Trustees, as experts with relevant skills to offer, can be invited on to the Trustee Board if this would further the benefit to FCDC. These Trustees would then step down at the next AGM and could offer themselves up for election. Sub-committees can also be formed when required. Trustees of the previous unincorporated charity, Stuart Millar and Laura Orna officially stood down during this period, as did Wilson McKelvie, who had served 7 years as a Trustee. Also, we had Tanya Lewis and Sarah Mathews offer themselves as Trustees of the new CIO but before relevant paperwork was concluded both stood down due to realising that they could not commit to perceived levels of commitment. Going forward we continue to look to invite professionals to support Trustee meetings to improve the skills matrix of the team. This has resulted in Sarah Evans (specialist teacher of deaf children) being invited by Trustees to join the Trustee meetings in May 2021, to bring wider knowledge and support to the charity. A parent, Stephen Thompson, volunteered to become a Trustee at the 21 November 2022 AGM and was duly elected. The remaining Trustees agreed to continue their roles as Trustees, the number now remaining at 5 Trustees.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives of the CIO are:**

The promotion of social inclusion and the provision of education among deaf children and their families in Bristol and the surrounding area, who may be excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of being deaf (where deaf is defined as mild to profound hearing loss) by:

1. Providing workshops, forums, and general advice for deaf families.
2. Providing social and emotional support, recreational facilities and opportunities for deaf families.
3. Providing, or supporting access to the provision of, services supporting deaf families, by working with other relevant agencies.

We have further developed our aims to be:

To help enable parents, carers, deaf children, hearing sibling and Children of Deaf Adults (CODA's) find friends. Specifically:

4. To improve family cohesion within the families of deaf children.
5. To improve communication methods within families.
6. To develop children's deaf identity, self-confidence, and self-esteem.
7. To reduce isolation, increase socialisation and strengthen links within the community of deaf children and their families.
8. To improve deaf awareness within families and the community.

##### **Significant Activities:**

Activities were largely undertaken via Zoom meetings either one to one, or in groups. As COVID 19 restrictions eased these were supplemented by face-to-face events, where this was possible and allowable under government legislation. We are now fully up and running with our activities, attendance is back or increased on pre-COVID numbers and we now provide many more activities than pre COVID.

Summary of main activities in relation to the objects of the Charity are;

- To provide a base for families and carers of deaf children to discuss, to meet, to interact freely with professionals and to have access to materials, information and training as required.
- For deaf children to find peers to share experiences and find support to help promote personal identity and confidence.
- For siblings of deaf children and children of deaf adults to find similar others to help promote personal identity and share experiences.

## **THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

### **Report of the Trustees FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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#### **Significant Activities:**

- To work in conjunction with other agencies and providers of services for the benefit of families with deaf children.
- To provide some support, including BSL courses to help with communication within deaf families.
- To promote, encourage or otherwise undertake organised research into the effects of deafness and the family, and to publish the useful results of such research.
- To arrange public meetings, lectures, conferences and seminars for the consideration and discussion of problems arising out of childhood deafness and the family.
- To promote and encourage the education and training of professionals, students and other persons for the furtherance of the education and support of the families of deaf children.
- To raise funds and to invite and receive contribution from any person or persons or body corporate by way of subscription, covenant, donation, affiliation fees, legacies, grants or otherwise to assist in fulfilling the purpose of the charity.

#### **Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning and reviewing the objectives and activities of The Family Centre (Deaf Children).

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

Significant funding in addition to our major Lottery Community Fund Grant had been secured to fulfil 6 projects:

- Monthly coffee morning/support network for families supported by trained counsellor, space for workshops, talks, informal networking and advice between parents and professionals and opportunity for children to meet similar others in relaxed space;
- Family days out and seasonal parties, during school holidays and weekends to further support networking with similar others;
- A small counselling service for 3 parents of deaf children per week;
- Specialist support for deaf families at home, for those struggling with communication within the family;
- Introductory BSL courses for any deaf family; and
- Appropriate accessible outdoor activities for deaf children and their siblings providing the chance to meet similar others have fun, try out new activities, while improving confidence and wellbeing.

As soon as we were allowed to, we restarted outdoor activities with the children to help enable them to meet again and have fun and find friends. These activities also enabled parents to meet again outdoors as allowed, beneficial to everyone after such a long period of isolation.

Once allowed to again, we were able to have family days out and visits to local Zoos and animal farms.

BSL courses still take place via Zoom with very positive feedback and this allows much more flexible attendance and also allows more attendance due to additional family members can now attend. The commencement of these BSL course did take time to set up due to recruiting a qualified deaf tutor and an interpreter being required and course curriculum had to be redesigned for the medium of on-line tuition.

Our counsellor was available within a group Zoom call for all families each week initially for anyone who would benefit from informal support or more professional advice. All further one to one counselling took place via video link on a one-to-one basis with a parent at their request. This service has been extensively used and its frequency of requests is testament to its success.

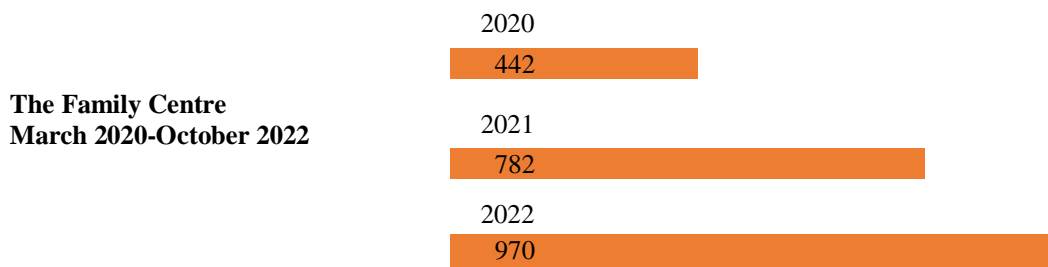
## THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

### Report of the Trustees FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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The benefit of the Lottery Community Fund grant has enabled us to have achieved a remarkable increase in attendance at events:

#### People Engaged



Number of Events	Number Attending	Families	Deaf Children	Siblings	CODAs	
2022/3	24	1097	374	342	277	13

This illustrates how the Charity is growing from strength to strength and is becoming a tangible asset to the South West community and we also take part in quarterly Bristol Council community support meetings.

In July 2022 we held an Anniversary party to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> year of FCDC. The event had been delayed because of COVID, however it was a great occasion and some older members of the FCDC community returned to meet up with old friends, some returning from overseas.

#### Staff

The Family Centre employed three staff on contracted hours; Helen Davies (Office Manager) contracted to 33hrs/week, Marcella Wyatt (Events Co-Ordinator) contracted to 24hrs/week. In addition, we had one administrator, Anne Alderman, completing work as required. Anne Alderman moved away from Bristol in August 2021 and so left our employment. Marcella Wyatt left us in August 2022 and we recruited a replacement for her, Megan Wall, in October 2022. With only 2 staff, we had the flexibility to increase Megan's hours to 32hrs/week, and this has worked successfully.

#### Operations

Operations continue to be run well within the limited resources that we have and with all restrictions being lifted the staff have worked tirelessly to build up our events activity base. The office staff have ensured that Policies and Procedures are being revised, improved and registered appropriately.

On advice from the Lottery Community Fund manager, we have engaged an Evaluation Consultant to assist in report writing and in the commission of our end of Lottery Grant Report due in March 2024. We submitted our end of 3<sup>rd</sup> year report to the Lottery by early May 2023 and we await the comment from the Lottery Fund Manager.

#### Governance

We have had two AGMs taking place during this period, 13 November 21 and 19 November 22. Trustee meetings continued to take place at 4 weekly intervals. These now take place via Zoom and this has resulted in easing the burden of Trustees to attend meetings.

## THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

### Report of the Trustees FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

##### Reserves policy

Over the last few years, to allow for operations to continue, our reserves had been slowly depleted. Our recent income from activities has resulted in us being able to build up our reserves to cover any unexpected costs and we have now achieved 3 months' worth of full activity expenditure as a reserve amount which equates to almost 5 months of reduced activity or base expenditure. Each activity generates a small income through donations from families and small donations and some unrestricted funds are received from both individuals and organisations throughout the year.

Contracted staff are currently on fixed term contracts and while we rent office space, we can keep unexpected costs to a minimum.

#### FUTURE PLANS

- Current Lottery funding running from April 2020 until March 2024 provide for the following projects:
  - Family Activities, parties and days out throughout the year.
  - Kids activities, both termly and during school holidays.
  - BSL Courses.
  - Deaf families at home – helping with communication within particularly struggling families, associated with both deaf awareness and BSL.
  - Play Therapy.
  - Counselling for parents.
  - Monthly coffee mornings for all deaf families, friends and professionals, space for workshops, gathering information and meeting similar others.
- In addition, our careful management of the funds has enabled us to achieve an underspend in some areas and with the permission of the Lottery Fund we have been able to reallocate unspent monies on additional activities
  - Parent and Carer Wellbeing Workshops.
  - Easton & Bath Area Outreach Project.
  - KS3+ Young People Activities and Workshops & Weekend Away.
  - Play Therapy Project.
  - Updating FCDC website and information flyers.
  - Organising the FCDC Anniversary Party & Leaving Elmfield Party.
  - Creating an FCDC Lending Library.
- Fundraising to continue to build up charity reserves.
- The plans to relocate Elmfield School to the rebuilt school within the Bristol Education Centre (BEC) as part of Upper Horfield Community School have moved at pace and we will be moving out of our present premises at Elmfield in July 2023. We will reopen after the summer holidays in our new premises in September 2023. This will give us more flexible accommodation for FCDC, with better facilities for shared deaf community use.
- By the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of this year we aim to have submitted a further bid to the Lottery Community Fund for a grant for us to continue to operate and we hope that the use of the Evaluation Consultant will stand us in good stead for a positive outcome.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Chair/Treasurer – Neil Curry

Date:

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
The Family Centre (Deaf Children)**

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I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the Charity's Trustees 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the 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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

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.

Andrew Jordan FCA  
Haines Watts Chartered Accountants  
Bath House  
6-8 Bath Street  
Bristol  
BS1 6HL

Date

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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			18 months ended
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Event income, donations and subscriptions	8,356	-	8,356
Grants	109,935	-	109,935
Transfer from previous charity entity	33,740	3,380	37,120
Interest received	43	-	43
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>152,074</b>	<b>3,380</b>	<b>155,454</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Event charges	24,584	1,465	26,049
Office costs	4,341	-	4,341
Purchase of equipment	870	-	870
Governance	720	-	720
Staff costs	72,610	-	72,610
Other support costs	537	-	537
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>103,662</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>105,127</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET OF RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	<b>48,412</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>50,327</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>48,412</u></b>	<b><u>1,915</u></b>	<b><u>50,327</u></b>

**THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>18 months ended 2023 Total funds £</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash funds - Cater Allen ending 6730	<b>1,765</b>	-	<b>1,765</b>
Cash funds - Cater Allen ending 0972	<b>27,797</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>29,712</b>
Cash funds - Scottish Widows account	<b>18,674</b>	-	<b>18,674</b>
Cash funds - Paypal account	<b>176</b>	-	<b>176</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>48,412</u></b>	<b><u>1,915</u></b>	<b><u>50,327</u></b>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted funds			<b>48,412</b>
Restricted funds			<b>1,915</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b><u>50,327</u></b>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and were signed on its behalf by:

Chair/Treasurer – Neil Curry

Date .....

## THE FAMILY CENTRE (DEAF CHILDREN)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

The Financial Statements are drawn up on the Receipts and Payments basis of accounting. All donations and other income are therefore accounted for when received and all expenditure is accounted for when paid.

##### Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise amounts received for special purposes and used for those purposes during the year or held for those purposes at the balance sheet date. The use of donations and grants received for a specific purpose is restricted to that purpose. Restricted funds of £1,915 were carried forward at the end of the year.

#### 2. TRANSFER FROM PREVIOUS CHARITY ENTITY

Unrestricted Funds	33,740
Quartet Community Fund	<u>3,380</u>
	<u>37,120</u>

#### 3. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance brought forward	Receipts in period	Payments in period	Transfers	Balance carried forward
Quartet Community Fund	-	3,380	1,465	-	1,915
	-	3,380	1,465	-	1,915

The Quartet Community Fund was received from the Quartet Community Foundation ring-fenced for counselling activities.

#### 4. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance brought forward	Receipts in period	Payments in period	Transfers	Balance carried forward
General Fund	-	152,074	103,662	-	48,412
	-	152,074	103,662	-	48,412

#### 5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

The Trustees all give freely of their time and expertise.

During the period to 31 March 2023, payment was made for website services to Digital Grapevine, owned by trustee Laura Hunter. Payments totalled £528.

##### Trustees' expenses

During the year 1 Trustee had their expenses reimbursed by the Charity. Expenses of £8 were paid for postage.