

BSL CELEBRATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1203726

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-06-26

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

Contact

Address c/o Manchester Deaf Centre
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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF BSL CELEBRATION IS THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONG DEAF PEOPLE AND BSL SIGNERS WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF BEING DEAF OR A BSL SIGNER BY:1. PROVIDING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEAF PEOPLE, BSL SIGNERS AND HEARING NON-SIGNERS; AND2. RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING DEAF PEOPLE AND BSL SIGNERS, BOTH GENERALLY AND IN RELATION TO THEIR SOCIAL EXCLUSION.

Activities: BSL Celebration organises events that showcase and celebrate BSL with the public, including public BSL Fests that are open and free of charge to all, and other events that also show positive inclusive practices that enable deaf BSL signers and hearing non-signers to participate equally and fully in an event.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Disability, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£18,554	£32,342	-	-
2024-06-30	£40,846	£26,411	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Barry Edward Avison	Chair	2023-02-02
Kathleen Grehan		2024-01-22
Sammi Villabon		2023-10-23
Samuel George Egerton-Kemp		2023-02-02

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Board of Trustees and Financial Annual Report 1st July 2024 – 30th June 2025

Creative Director's Report

1. Governance and Strategic Development

The Board of Trustees has been stable this year. Policies have been written and more will be added over time. So far the following Policies have been approved by the Trustees:

- Expenses claims
- Sponsorship
- Safeguarding
- Volunteer Management
- EDI (to be formally approved on 9 July 2025 Trustees meeting)

Following Manchester BSL Fest, some of the volunteers came forward, offering their help with organising future events. These volunteers formed the new Core Team set up in July 2025 which provided valuable support with day to day finances and budgeting, stage managing at BSL Fests, support with admin for Southampton BSL Fest and email enquiries, booking and managing interpreting teams for events, managing and developing the website and PR and Media.

The Creative Director returned to paid employment in September 2024 which impacted on the BSL Celebration programme for 2024-25 due to volunteer hours capacity. One BSL Fest was organised – Southampton – over 5 days in April 2024. The event was a great success but was too big to be comfortably organised by volunteers.

The BDA was unsuccessful in their bid for funding of future joint BDA / BSCLC projects. The BDA supported the BSL Art and Culture Night at Southampton BSL Fest by donating the cost of holding the event and took part in the BSL Inclusive Practices Reception and the BSL Party in the Square as a partner organisation.

The BDA wanted BSCLC to organise a BSL Fest at Leeds following their BSL Conference in July 2025. BSCLC did not have the resources (neither personnel, time nor funds) so cancelled the event in January 2025. However, in March, the BDA offered to organise and fund the event and that the BSCLC Team run it on the day. 3 weeks before the event, in the last week of June, the BDA handed the organising back to BSCLC and the team struggled to cover everything needing doing on top of their paid jobs.

The details of the Service Level Agreement with the BDA are not clear on exactly who does what, so this will be reviewed in 2025-26.

In March 2024, BSLC was approached by the CEO of Action Deafness with a proposal for partnership working which would involve Action Deafness paying a sum upfront, so that BSLC could pay for staff time, and Action Deafness seeking further funding for the events.

The Trustees and Core Team are taking this under consideration and will be discussing, and agreeing, on future strategy during 2025-26.

BSLC has grown too big to be run by volunteers so, either we scale back or secure funds to pay a staff member. The Trustees will consider carefully what model and staff structure best fits with how BSLC operates.

2. Funding

The events envisaged to make up the £3,260.25 short-fall from Manchester BSL Fest did not meet this objective. Selling merchandise at the Manchester Deaf Centre Christmas Fair only raised £154.34 and we were unable to sell enough tickets for the 'A Celebration of BSL' fundraiser in November 2024 to even break even on the cost of holding the event.

However, BSLC was awarded £2,000 from the Wesleyan Winter of Giving in January 2025 which helped greatly with our core costs.

Southampton BSL Fest was only £663.70 in deficit – we secured an additional £9,500.00 funding from sponsors, in addition to the £20,000 Awards for All grant, and a total income of £4,525.55 was brought in from stalls, ticket sales and merchandise sales.

However, we could have sold double the number of tickets to the evening events which would have covered the Manchester BSL Fest short-fall – we need to sell tickets to local mainstream hearing communities using the networks we build.

Awards for All was completely satisfied with the financial spreadsheet submitted following Southampton BSL Fest and closed the account without requesting any additional information from us, and said that BSLC is welcome to apply for A4A again for a similar event in a different area of England.

SignLive has continued to support BSLC events, donating £7,000 for Southampton BSL Fest and £2,000 towards Leeds which covered essential operating costs, including website and PLI renewals, and volunteers' expenses. SignLive has indicated that they are willing to continue to support BSLC provided BSLC gives SignLive access to potential customers across businesses and services.

BSLC signed up to SignLive's affiliation scheme whereby BSLC gains commission on SignLive contracts taken up by customers introduced to SignLive by BSLC, for example through business events like the BSL Inclusive Practices Reception at Southampton. The commission is paid for the lifetime of the contract. This could grow into a regular monthly income.

3. Southampton BSL Fest

Although this was a very successful event, it was challenging for the BSLC team to organise and run due to there being no local deaf organisation we could work in partnership with. A small Committee of local volunteers was formed who were a fantastic help with involving the local deaf community and introducing the Creative Director to local contacts, but they lacked the time and experience to reach out to the mainstream community effectively.

Highly successful partnerships were forged with the John Hansard Gallery and Mayflower Studios. The team had a steep learning curve on how to write copy, the quality of images required for in-house theatre marketing and arranging public posters.

Lessons learnt from Manchester were applied – everything for the BSL Party in the Square was set up and taken down by contractors on the same day, Control's communications role worked well and there were no unexpected additional costs. Performers were sent contracts and, as result, none of the stage performers pulled out at late notice.

The Core Team very effectively supported the organisation and running of the event, and the BSL Inclusion Reception was much slicker and better met the expectations of businesses and services. Afterwards, 4 potential new customers approached Signly and SignLive was in negotiations with 2 major customers in Southampton.

The events supported by hearing partners (BSL Art and Culture Night) and that were free, were very well attended. However, only half of the tickets available were sold. This was a missed opportunity to generate revenue.

Parents of children performing on stage mostly left straight afterwards. In future, a closer relationship needs to be cultivated so that the families become more involved and parents could potentially help to generate interest in the ticketed events.

The BSLC website has developed and advertised Southampton BSL Fest very well. The next step is to develop content on volunteers, funding and outcomes / legacy.

The following lessons were learnt and will be acted on next time:

- Performers' contracts to include clauses to submit visual / audio material 3 weeks beforehand, to do a video call with their allocated interpreter 2 weeks beforehand and to publicise their involvement in the Fest, and BSLC, on their usual channels.
- Start the stage programme with a big crowd-puller, such as Deaf Rave.
- Include a clause in the stallholders' contract that their fees will not be refunded if they cancel at short notice.
- Local Committee Members have an orientation session at the start and have ongoing training and support with their roles so that they can more effectively and confidently reach out to the mainstream community as well as the deaf community.
- Survey public attitudes to BSL before and after the BSL to gauge impact.

- Work with a deaf-led service provider that can take up and continue legacy work after the BSL Fest.
- Sell the BSL Fest events at community events throughout the year, including Deaf Awareness training and school sessions.

4. Numbers of attendees

Fest	Event	Number of attendees			Number volunteers		
		Deaf	Hearing	Total	Deaf	Hearing	Total
Soton	Committee meetings	0	0	0	5	3	8
	JHG DA Training	0	24	24	1	1	2
	Mayflower DA Training	0	8	8	1	1	2
	Volunteer Training	20	15	35	2	1	3
	School Visit	6	3	9	2	1	3
	Art Workshops	12	3	15	1	1	2
	Artist Commissioning	3	0	3	2	2	4
	'Deaf Vision' Exhibition*	400	700	1100			
	'One Letter' Digi Array*	400	1200	1600			
	Opening Event	15	3	18	4	0	4
	School Visits to JHG –						
	Crofton Anne Dale	1	14	15	2	1	3
	Oasis Academy	5	4	9	2	1	3
	BSL Drama Night	15	9	24	3	2	5
	BSL Inclusion Reception	2	30	32	8	3	11
	BSL Art & Culture Night	24	18	42	5	2	7
	BSL Rhymetime	18	9	27	3	1	4
	Crofton A Dale w/shop	0	10	10	2	1	3
	'Power in Our Hands'	20	13	33	4	2	6
	BSL Lesson – Cllrs	0	3	3	2	1	3
	BSL Open Pub	68	12	80	6	0	6
	Party in the Square**	500	2,500	3,000	28	14	42
	Space to Create w/shop	9	14	25	1	1	2
	BSL Tour with Digispace	15	1	16	1	1	2
	BSL Comedy Night	129	45	174	2	2	4
Total for Southampton BSL Fest		1,662	4,638	6,300	87	42	129
Cumulative total number of people BSL Celebration has reached							
Number of attendees in 2023-24		6,742	no. volunteers		143	Total	6,885
Number of attendees to date		13,042	no. volunteers		272	Total	13,314

*up to 2nd May 2025 – exhibition extended into June 2025**approximate numbers – includes guests, stall-holders, performers, interpreters, people attending specifically and people passing through or by and taking notice.

5. Outcomes

These continue to develop from previous events, the 'ripple' effect.

5.1 Woking:

- The number of accessible performances and screenings at Woking Ambassadors was increased following consultation with the local deaf community after Woking BSL Fest.

5.2 Guildford:

- Two deaf Artists attended training on curating Art Exhibitions at the invitation of, and with support for BSL interpreters from, Daisy Chain who made contact with these Artists at Guildford BSL Fest.

5.3 Manchester

The Directors of Manchester Deaf Centre reported on the Lasting Impact Across Greater Manchester from Manchester BSL Fest having the following impacts during 2024-25:

- **Shone a spotlight** on Deaf and signing communities
- **Inspired new partnerships**, awareness, and momentum
- **Energised the region** around Deaf inclusion and BSL access
- **Sparked lasting change** in visibility, equity, and engagement
- Set the stage for **Greater Manchester** to lead the UK in BSL inclusion

5.4 Southampton

- The Councillor responsible for Adults and Health spoke to members of the local deaf community and contacted the local deaf club to set up a meeting to discuss their needs.
- Central Library is keen to host more BSL Storytimes.
- A local deaf Artist was asked to lead more mainstream family Art workshops.
- The Deaf Vision exhibition was extended due to popular demand.
- Mayflower Studios are open to hosting deaf / BSL performers in their programme.

6. What next?

An Away Day in July 2025 to carefully consider BSLC's strategy, with a period of 'house-keeping' afterwards to focus on getting Policies up to date and determining the future direction of BSLC.

BSLC is meeting with Manchester Deaf Centre in the summer of 2025 to jointly plan a small follow-up event in Manchester for April 2026. Depending on the outcome of negotiations with Action Deafness, we may be holding a BSL Fest in Worcester in October 2026.

Claire Cummings, Creative Director 22/07/202

1. Statement of Financial Activities

Statement of Financial Activities						
Annual Account for the period between		2025				2024
1 July 2024 to June 30 2025		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		
		£	£	£		£
Income						
Donations		3,152		3,152		940
Charitable Activities		10,500		10,500		35,811
Other Income		<u>4,902</u>		<u>4,902</u>		<u>4,095</u>
	1	18,554	0	18,554		40,846
Expenditure						
Raising Fund		5,017		5,017		3,721
Charitable Activities		<u>27,325</u>		<u>27,325</u>		<u>22,691</u>
	2	32,342	0	32,342		26,411

2. Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet		2025		2024
		£		£
Fixed Assets				
Intangible Assets	3	1,000		814
Tangible Assets		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
Current Asserts				
Debtors		0		0
Bank & Cash In Hande		1,317		<u>16,747</u>
				17,561
Creditors		<u>660</u>		<u>0</u>
Total Assets less Current Liability		1,657		<u>17,561</u>
Creditors - Amount falling due after more than one year	4	4,976		(2,976)
Net Assets		(3,319)		<u>14,585</u>
Income Funds				
Restricted				20,000
Unrestricted Fund		-2522		<u>-3485</u>
		<u>797</u>		<u>14,585</u>

3. Notes

	Notes			
1	Turnover for each Festival			
	Southampton	£16,025.55		
	Award For All Lottery (received last year)	£20,000.00		
		£36,025.55		
2	Total Expenditure for each Festival			
	Southampton	£30,534.33		
3	Saleable Mugs and Artworks			
4	Interest Free Loan from Ms Cummings			

4. Audit Approval

Adrian Simpson

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Audit approval (1/7/2024-30/6/2025)

Dear Ms Cummings,

In my capacity as auditor for BSL Celebration, I can confirm that the annual accounts as presented to me for 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025 are a fair and true reflection of the state of the finances of BSL Celebration.

Adrian Simpson

1st September 2025

Report prepared by Barry Avison, Chair; Kathleen Grehan, Treasurer and Claire Cummings, Creative Director. Approved by the Trustees on 17th September 2025

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Annual Report 1st January 2023 – 30th June 2024

1. Governance and Strategic Development

BSL Celebration became a Registered Charity in June 2023, Reg. Charity No 1203726 with the aim to organise events that share BSL in an engaging and joyful way with the mainstream public in local communities across the UK in order to further promote engagement with BSL and the deaf community, ultimately contributing towards building a society in which deaf people can participate fully and equally.

The First Trustees were: Claire Cummings (Chair), Adrian Simpson (Treasurer), Barry Avison (Secretary) and Sam Egerton-Kemp.

After consultation, including SWOT Analysis and Risk Assessment, within the Trustees, BSCL entered into a partnership with the BDA, British Deaf Association. The Service Level Agreement was signed in October 2023. Under this contract, BSCL supports the BDA's #Taking BSL Forward movement through bringing BSL into the public domain and increasing support for BSL in local communities. In return, the BDA are supporting BSCL to grow as an organisation with aspirations to become the next big festival movement by applying for funding towards capacity building and delivering BSL Festival activities, supporting with fund management, providing advice on policies, human resources, communications, website and social media.

Mutual understanding, co-operation and collaboration between the BDA and BSCL underpins the SLA. This is to run for 6 years in the first instance.

Claire Cummings resigned as Chair and a Trustee in September 2023 due to a conflict of interest between running day to day operations and being 'her own boss as Chair'. She was appointed Creative Director (currently unpaid) by the Trustees and Sammi Villabon was elected as a Trustee. Barry Avison became Interim Chair.

After difficulties with accessing the Co-op bank account by the Treasurer and Creative Director (both are deaf), a Lloyd's Bank Business account was opened in December 2023, which serves BSCL's needs very well.

Adrian Simpson resigned as a Trustee in April 2024 but Kathleen Grehan was elected in January 2024 as a Trustee and took on the role of Treasurer from Adrian. I would like to thank Adrian for all his hard work in getting BSCL set up as a Charity, leading the BDA partnership consultation, organising the bank account and greatly assisting the Creative Director with developing clear and transparent budget records for BSCL events and activities. He was a great asset and his support with getting BSCL established is greatly appreciated.

2. Funding

With each event, funding is growing.

Fleet BSL Fest costs were kept very low (£1,900.38 in total) through support in kind (free venue, the PA, projector and tables and chairs loaned free of charge), all organisation being carried out on a voluntary basis, assembling the stage ourselves and keeping the staged programme basic. The BDA covered the cost of the interpreters and BSLC generated £175.00 from stall hire fees / donations on the day, and £764.97 was raised from the Hartley Wintney Inclusive Quiz. There was a short-fall of £587.40.

Guildford BSL Fest had higher costs due to needing to hire marquees for the stalls and greater performance fees. The evening event did not generate enough ticket sales to cover the cost of holding the event. However, BSLC raised half of the total costs through stall holder fees, ticket sales, donations and £1,000 sponsorship from Sign Video and £500 from Experience Guildford. Dot Sign Language very generously covered the remaining £3,430.98, so the event broke even.

The costs of holding Manchester BSL Fest were considerably higher (£16,393.36), though still very good value for the scale of the event, owing to support in kind, performers using their Access to Work funding to cover interpreting costs and the Creative Director working for free. With the agreement of the Trustees, the Creative Director claimed travel and subsistence expenses from January 2024. £6,000 sponsorship was received from SignLive, £1,000 from Manchester Deaf Centre, £2,000 from City Co and £600 towards PR materials from the BDA. The auction of a picture raised £300 and the BSL Comedy Night ticket sales raised £400 in excess of the cost of holding it. All the bone china mugs were sold, but the crowdfunding was not successful.

In total, there was a £3,260.25 short-fall from Manchester BSL Fest and two fund-raising events are planned to generate income to cover this; 'A Celebration of BSL' in November 2024 and selling the remaining merchandise (ceramic mugs and coasters) at the Manchester Deaf Centre Christmas fair (stall offered to BSLC for free).

In April 2024, BSLC was awarded a grant of £20,000 from the National Lottery Communities Awards For All Fund for Southampton BSL Fest to be held in April 2025.

3. Events

Three BSL Fests were held:

Fleet BSL Fest on Saturday 8th July 2023 – staged programme and stalls in Hart Shopping Centre

Guildford BSL Fest on Saturday 14th October 2023 – staged programme in Tunsgate Quarter and stalls on the High Street and the BSL Party in the evening.

Manchester BSL Fest from Monday 22nd – Sunday 28th April 2024 – various events across Central Manchester over the week with the BSL Party in the Park (staged programme and stalls) in Cathedral Gardens on the Saturday.

Detailed evaluations were written following each event and a summary of the key points has been given below.

3.1 Fleet BSL Fest

This was a learning experience – it was BSLC's first event away from the Creative Director's home and being run independently from the Creative Director's family, friends and local community.

Lessons learnt:

- Pre-event planning – establish a local committee, check the location and local flavour, and make contact with the local Council before committing to the event.
- Volunteers – more needed, training and an understanding of their roles is needed.
- Establish a partnership with a local BSL training centre.
- Develop interactive ways of engaging the wider public in staged BSL tasters – doing a 'lesson' on stage does not work.

3.2 Guildford BSL Fest

It was challenging holding the staged programme and stalls in separate areas, but high numbers of volunteers and careful organisation made this work. A half day volunteers' orientation day was held a month before and there was a high turn-out of volunteers. There was a very effective partnership with Dot Sign Language and Kathleen Grehan, the Director, was an invaluable support. Kathleen did a very successful BSL taster on stage – she taught colours through the Rainbow Song and by having children onstage to sign with her – this engaged mainstream passers-by.

The risk assessments and event plans were required to be much more detailed and very welcome support with this was given by Guildford Borough Council. A high number of deaf people from across the South turned up, making a real 'BSL presence' across the centre of Guildford on a busy shopping day. We did questionnaires for the first time and the responses were striking – more than 30% of the respondents didn't know what BSL was and over 70% didn't know when BSL was legally recognised in Law.

A short Business and Community Leaders' Reception was held just prior to the staged programme starting. SignVideo (sponsors) and Rebecca Mansell, CEO of the BDA,

gave short presentations highlighting effective inclusive practices. The Mayor of Guildford, Lead Councillor and the local MP all signed part of their speeches.

Lessons learnt:

- Volunteers needed more in-depth training on their roles and possible scenarios, including CSWs on engaging hearing members of the public with stall-holders.
- Grow a list of interpreters for stage work.
- Make the stage running order available earlier.
- Ticketed events need to be well attended in order to cover the costs.

3.3 Manchester BSL Fest

This was a much bigger event, running for a week, with a range of free and ticketed events held in the week at / by local partner venues with the main event being the BSL Party in the Park. All the events were successful, attended by a mixture of deaf and hearing people and were deaf-led. Hearing staff at the Poetry Library organised the BSL Heritage event but ensured that deaf people took centre stage during the event. The BSL Comedy Night sold out quickly and made a profit.

Manchester City Council were very supportive of the event and ensured the Creative Director had sufficient guidance to complete the very detailed Event Plans. The BSL Party in the Park was passed by the Event Management Meeting without any alterations, save for the addition of a fire risk and plan.

Deaf Awareness training was delivered to key partner venues and we had great support from 53two, Central Library, MMU, MAG and the National Football Museum. Manchester Deaf Centre were wonderful event partners and have taken forward working with partner organisations towards inclusive practices since the BSL Fest. It was incredible having key deaf history artefacts on display near the entrance to Central Library, including the minutes of the Milan 1880 conference.

The BSL Party in the Park was a huge success with a very effective staged programme hosting a wide range of engaging performances, including an interactive BSL session by Stockport HVS, and a strong MC and stage interpreting team. The staged programme was shared publicly from January 2024. The peak audience was at 10am – 2.30pm and Granada TV recorded footage that was shown on the 6pm news, including an interview with the Creative Director.

Volunteers who attended the training day (delivered by the Creative Director and Stuart Harrison from D&H Trailblazers) carried out their roles effectively, and the CSWs were more confident to approach the hearing public. The Chief Stewards rotated the volunteers so that they all had a turn by the stage and there were enough volunteers to

do separate morning and afternoon shifts. Control stall was manned very ably and was well situated to see the whole event.

All questionnaire respondents were shocked that BSL was recently legally recognised.

Lessons learnt:

- Check costings for electricity supply.
- Communications at the BSL Party in the Park to go through Control rather than the Creative Director, so freeing her up to be the welcoming face of BSLC.
- Bring a mobile powerpack to charge up the phone used for the sum up card reader.
- Develop relationships with reliable performers.
- Packaging needed for mugs.

4. Numbers of attendees

Fest	Event	Number of attendees*			Number of volunteers		
		Deaf	Hearing	Total	Deaf	Hearing	Total
Fleet	Fleet BSL Fest	100	200	300	10	5	15
Totals for Fleet BSL Fest				300			15
Guildford	G’ford BSL Fest	300	1,500	1,800	18	20	38
	BSL Party	22	8	30	3	2	5
Totals for Guildford BSL Fest				1,830			43
M’cer	CityCo DA Training	0	40	40	1	1	2
	53two DA Training	0	8	8	1	0	1
	Football Mus DA	0	8	8	1	0	1
	BSL Art & Film Night	9	10	10	3	1	4
	BSL Storytimes (2)	15	65	80	2	1	3
	BSL Taster session	0	12	12	1	1	2
	BSL Heritage Event	26	28	54	3	4	7
	The Deafening Truth	100	900	1,000	1	2	3
	‘The Promise’ (3)	275	85	360	1	0	1
	BSL Comedy Night	90	60	150	3	2	5
	BSL Party in the Park	450	4,000	4,450	26	28	54
	‘My Hearing Mother’	5	7	12	1	1	2
Totals for Manchester BSL Fest				4,612			85
Number of people BSLC engaged with in 2023-24				6,742	Volunteers		143

*approximate numbers – includes guests, stall-holders, performers, interpreters, people attending specifically and people passing through.

5. Outcomes

5.1 Fleet:

- Local Councillor offered a free market stall to BSLC on International Day of Signed Languages to raise awareness after she attended Fleet and “learnt a lot”.

5.2 Guildford:

- Dot Sign Language took over £1,000 worth of new bookings for BSL courses, including an increase in L6 students.
- Angela Richardson, MP for Guildford, mentioned Guildford BSL Fest in the Parliamentary Working Party on the BSL Act and its progress on Tues 17th Oct 2023.
- Tunsgate Manager specifically asked to book Fletch@ for a future mainstream performance.
- Request from DAiSY Chain to work with selected deaf performers.
- Mayor of Guildford signed “Merry Christmas” and included a BSL interpreter in his videoed Christmas 2023 message to the local community.

5.3 Manchester

- All BSL courses at MDC for September 2024 were fully booked in June 2024, including additional courses – this has not happened before.
- An increase in requests for Deaf Awareness Training to MDC.
- MDC staff are reviewing DA Training, making it more current and including Deaf History and practical strategies for managing groups of BSL signers.
- Regular BSL storytimes at Central Library with MDC staff.
- Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester pledged to include BSL in all his Mayoral addresses and for BSL to be included in the curriculum in schools in GM.
- MDC working with the BDA towards Greater Manchester signing the BSL Charter.
- Local BSL tour guides and galleries are planning discussions to agree minimum standards and guidelines for organising BSL tours across Manchester.
- Staff at the Dept for Culture, Media and Sport attended the BSL Heritage and Party in the Park, recognised Manchester BSL Fest as an event of ICH (Intangible Cultural Heritage) and invited the Creative Director to a consultation on how ICH in the UK can be protected.
- Dolly Rose Campbell agreed to become a Patron of BSL Celebration.

6. What next?

Plans are underway for Southampton BSL Fest in April 2025 and a one day Leeds BSL Fest in July 2025 to coincide with the BDA’s BSL conference, and also fund-raising events in Manchester in Autumn 2024 to raise the last £3,000 towards the BSL Fest.

Claire Cummings, Creative Director 29/09/2024

BSL CELEBRATION

Charitable incorporated organisation

INTERNALLY EXAMINED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR
YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024

Company Number: CEO32782
Charity Number: 1203726

C/O Manchester Deaf Centre, Crawford House, Booth St E,
Manchester M13 9GH

Vision	Deaf people and BSL signers can participate fully and equally in mainstream communities and activities with effective and seamless two-way communication. The linguistic and cultural minority model of inclusion is followed in including BSL signers and all deaf people in the UK have the opportunity to become fluent in BSL.
Mission	To raise mainstream awareness and acceptance of BSL and deafness across the UK by organising public events that showcase and celebrate BSL.
Purpose	Grow BSL allies with an understanding of how to and willingness to work towards making services, events and community engagement inclusive of BSL signers so that deaf people can participate equally.
Strategic Objectives	• Increased numbers of people from mainstream communities sign up to take BSL courses. • Local BSL communities come together, the BSL Fests being a focal point for local re-engagement. • Councils work with the local BSL community to work towards signing up to the BSL Charter following the BSL Fest. • Public acceptance of BSL - people stop being afraid to approach and communicate with BSL signers. • Local services (e.g libraries) engage with the BSL community. • BSL events are included in communities. • BSL signers are empowered to make positive changes locally. • Share skills with local BSL signing volunteers so that follow up events are organised locally, with support from BSL Celebration as needed. • Showing inclusion of BSL signers in action.

How the strategic objectives will be achieved	• Organising engaging events to mark dates that are important to the BSL community including a big BSL Fest in a different city across the UK each year. • Organising two further BSL Fests each year, each in a different town, with a local flavour, each year in the UK. • Local partners identify local objectives and outcomes. • Inviting local MPs, Councillors and other influential policy makers to BSL Fests. Invite MPs to open the staged programme of events and to sign part of their speech. • Working in partnership with local BSL tutors and deaf services. • Working with deaf and hearing volunteers in local communities. • Mainstream public media (newspapers, Radio and TV where possible) engaged with to generate mainstream interest in BSL Fests and other events. • Working with volunteers to share skills and empower local BSL signers and BSL allies. • Providing opportunities for Level 6 BSL students and Trainee BSL Interpreters to practice and develop their BSL fluency and interpreting and voicing over skills.
Key Outcomes 2023	• Woking BSL signing residents work with Woking borough Council towards signing up to the BSL Charter. • Fleet and Guildford Councils commit to working towards signing up to the BSL Charter. • Uptake in people registering on BSL courses around Fleet and Guildford following the BSL Fests. • Follow up event in Woking organised by local BSL signers with support from BSL Celebration.
Key Outcomes 2024	• Increasing numbers of Manchester services and community events and projects are inclusive of BSL signers. • The BSL community of Manchester re-connects and organises follow up events with support as needed from BSL Celebration. • Following BSL Fests, local BSL signing residents work with the local Council towards signing up to the BSL Charter. • Local BSL signing residents organise follow up events.
USPs	• Events showcasing and celebrating BSL are directed at the mainstream public (not just the deaf / BSL community). • Deaf BSL signers lead teams of deaf and hearing BSL allies. • Volunteer led.

Statement of Financial Activities

Annual Account for the period between		2024		
1 July 2023 to June 30 2024		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		£	£	£
Income				
Donations		940		940
Charitable Activities		15,811	20,000	35,811
Other Income		<u>4,095</u>		<u>4,095</u>
	1	20,846	20,000	40,846
Expenditure				
Raising Fund		3,721		3,721
Charitable Activities		<u>22,691</u>		<u>22,691</u>
	2	26,411	0	26,411
Net Income/(Expenditure)		<u>(5,565)</u>	20,000	<u>14,435</u>
Fund Balance Brought Forward	3	<u>150</u>		
Fund Balance Carried Forward		(5415)	20,000	14,585

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet		
		£
Fixed Assets		
Intangible Assets	4	814
Tangible Assets		<u>0.00</u>
Current Asserts		
Debtors		0.00
Bank & Cash In Hande		<u>16,747</u>
		17,561
Creditors		<u>0.00</u>
Total Assets less Current Liability		<u>17,561</u>
Creditors - Amount falling due after more than one year	5	(2,976)
Net Assets		<u>14,585</u>
Income Funds		
Restricted	6	20,000
Unrestricted Fund	7	<u>(3,485)</u>
		<u>14,585</u>

Notes

	Notes	
1	Turnover for each Festival	
	Manchester	£13,133.11
	Guildford	£7041.31
	Fleet	£1,402.98
	Grant Received	
	Award For All Lottery	£20,000.00
2	Total Expenditure for each Festival	
	Manchester	£16,393.36
	Guildford	£7041.31
	Fleet	£1,990.38
3	Income 2023	£4,817.55
	Expenditure 2023	£4,667.19
	Fund Carried Forward	£150.36
4	Saleable Mugs and Artworks	
5	Interest Free Loan from Ms Cummings	
6	Restricted Fund for Southampton Festival	£20,000.00
7	Shortfall - Fundraising events are happening	

*Barry Avison, Chair, & Kathleen Grehan, Treasurer, submitted at AGM on 23rd October 2024,
Revised and approved at Trustees' General Meeting on 11th December 2024*

52 Grebe Close

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 2LR

7th January 2025

Dear Ms Cummings

Having inspected the accounts of BSL Celebration, I can confirm that the financial statements for 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024 are a true and accurate reflection of the financial position of BSL Celebration as at 1st July 2024.

Kind regards

Adrian Simpson

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