



Annual Report 2024-25

DEAF CHOICES UK

Thrive with Language and Literacy
for Life

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**Welcome to Deaf Choices UK.
DCUK. Our name reflects our
approach.**

**We believe in the importance
of informed choice. We
support parents of deaf
children and professionals to
make the best CHOICE(S) for
Communication, Language
and Literacy.**

**Deaf Choices UK is currently
the only UK charity providing
Cued Speech training.**

Introduction to Cued Speech

DCUK champions equal opportunities for deaf children at home, in school and in their wider communities. We do this by providing information, training and family-led activities.

Based in Totnes, Devon, DCUK provides nationwide support to families of deaf children, through online technology, in-person home visits across the Southwest, and a monthly community group for deaf children and families in Plymouth.

DCUK is the only UK charity delivering training and support in Cued Speech for use at home and in education.

In 2024, Cued Speech UK rebranded as

Deaf Choices UK (DCUK) to better reflect our philosophy and the evolving needs of deaf children. DCUK realised the powerful significance of offering parents informed, unbiased choice. It is not just one choice that is needed for a deaf child but many throughout their lives to achieve their potential, socially and emotionally.

Research indicates that Cued Speech plays a vital role in language acquisition for deaf children, ensuring they develop phonemic awareness necessary for literacy. By strengthening our organisation and developing a specialised literacy resource, we aim to help deaf children thrive at home, succeed in education, and reach their full potential.

"An Approach Designed to Fail Deaf Children and Their Parents—and How to Change It"

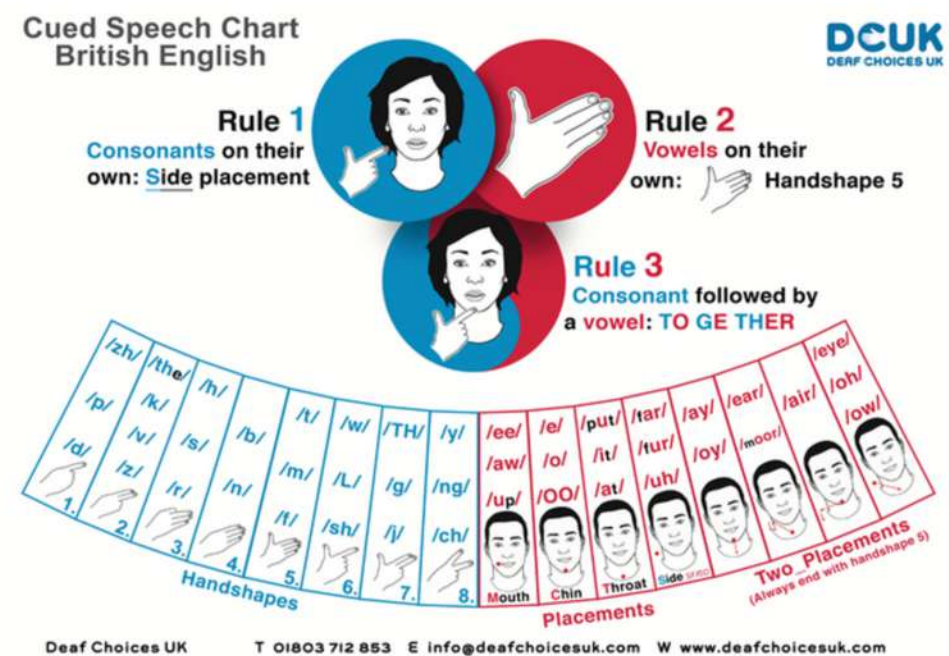
Tom Humphries, Gaurav Mathur, Donna Jo Napoli, Christian Rathmann

This paper challenges outdated practices that advise parents of deaf children to only pursue spoken language development which often leads to devastating delays in language acquisition and cognitive development. The authors argue for early, immediate access to visual language from the moment deafness is detected.

They emphasize that delaying access to a fully accessible language—such as a sign language—until a child falls behind is harmful. While sign language is central in their recommendations, the core message supports any system that provides clear, early visual language input, such as Cued Speech, which can work alongside sign to ensure children acquire strong language foundations.

Introduction to Cued Speech

Traditionally, the educators of deaf children have been divided between using an oralist approach where the educator speaks and the deaf child listens as best they can using technology such as hearing aids or cochlear implants, or a Total Communication approach where the educator adds a sign to some of the words as they speak, this still leaves big gaps for many deaf children.



Consonant sounds:

zh, p, d (treasure pin bed)	th, k, v, z (the cat van is)	h, s, r (hat sit ran)	b, n (but nan)
t, m, f (Tim, me, fell)	w, sh, l (we, shop, luck)	g, th, j (get, thud, jump)	y, ng, ch (you, sing, chop)

Vowel sounds:

ee, aw, up (see, all, run)	e, o, oo (pet, on, zoom)	oo, i, a (full, in, hat)	ah, er, uh (are, her, water)
ay, oy (day, boy)	ear, ua (ear, Joshua)	air (air)	eye, oh, ow (I, boat, wow)

Cued Speech (CS) bridges these gaps and was developed in America by Dr Orin Cornett with the aim of giving deaf children equal access to spoken languages by the speakers adding manual cues to every spoken word as they speak. Cued-to children can develop age appropriate language levels and often excellent literary skills.

Unlike BSL, CS directly supports literacy by providing a visual representation of spoken language. "Hooked on books - Cued Speech allows deaf children to learn to read so they can read-to-learn" - Dr Cornett.

Can you see how to cue these words?



DCUK Articles and Governance

Deaf Choices UK (DCUK) aspires to give deaf children improved access to:

Language - by empowering their families to make fully informed choices.

Literacy – by supporting their educators to access information, training, and resources.

We provide knowledge, information and training around the unique benefits, concepts, and skills of using Cued Speech.

Our offer supports deaf children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) to thrive at home, succeed in education, and achieve their potential.

The DCUK Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association reviewed in October 2001, have not changed:



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Memorandums of Association



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Articles of Association

Trustees

The Trustees work in line with DCUK Articles of Association.

All Trustees apply with a full CV and two references and are interviewed by the Executive Director and another Trustee. New trustees are 'voted in' on their first meeting by the full Board. All Trustees must complete Level 1 Safeguarding training and have an Enhanced DBS check.

Volunteers

Volunteers provide a vital contribution to the work of DCUK. Our volunteers support training activities, demonstrate how to cue at public events, provide external advice and guidance, take part in fundraising activities, provide expert advice in specialist areas of delivery and trial our new resources. Volunteers support the delivery of our monthly coffee mornings at Plymouth Deaf Choices (PDC). Volunteers cannot work on their own with children and when working with us they must have an enhanced DBS and have completed level 1 Safeguarding training.

Policies and Safeguarding

Safeguarding

We are registered with the Safeguarding Network - "Confidence in safeguarding".

This is an online resource produced for schools. The site is updated with the latest reports and articles and relevant training events. It contains information and training in all the key areas which should be considered when working with children. Safeguarding network has a training matrix which CSUK can use, update, monitor and record the training log of every employee and Volunteer

including Trustees. It is an easy resource to use with online login for every member of staff or volunteer and it also contains useful proforma for recording incidents:



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Policies on employment, holidays, behaviour and inclusion are available in the DCUK Handbook:



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HR Procedures and guidance are supported by Westcountry HR (www.westcountryhr.com). Health and Safety at work is overseen by Peninsular (www.peninsulagrouplimited.com)



Why Cued Speech

Cued Speech can provide a foundation for all other communication interventions for deaf children right from the start.

Language

- It provides access to the full and rich first spoken language of the home on which to build other languages such as British Sign Language.
- It positively impacts lip-reading which is a significant skill underpinning literacy development for deaf children.
- It allows a child to develop an understanding of spoken language and an auditory memory (regardless of the level of hearing loss) that will support and accelerate the rehabilitation process post cochlear implant.

Literacy

- Cued Speech enables deaf children to develop a fluent mental model of the same language they later need to read. Many go on to achieve age-appropriate literacy levels. They can then go on to explore the world through reading which may enhance

their self-esteem.

With Cued Speech children have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

- Learning to read and write, a reader needs to be able to think in English, look at each letter and attach and remember the sounds associated with each letter. Next, the reader must string the sounds together (phonemes), to make words and understand the meaning behind the words.

A beginner reader needs to:

1. To recognise the letters of the alphabet.
2. To identify all the speech sounds and recognise which ones are in each word.
3. To link the right sound with the right letters.
4. The reading rules such as reading from left to right, spaces between words and punctuation.

Cued Speech can provide the link between language and literacy for deaf children.



DCUK Beneficiaries

DCUK beneficiaries are:

- (a) Those deaf children who are not able to benefit fully or at all from hearing aids or implants.
- (b) The very significant number of children who use listening (via technology) but subsequently fail to acquire a practical understanding of English.
- (c) Visual learners such as children who have auditory processing issues, language delay, dyslexia, auditory neuropathy, and those who do not have English as a first language.
- (d) Those children who are struggling to access literacy in education at Key Stage 1 due to special educational needs and disability (SEND) including deafness.

A recent paper published in the Oxford Press by Gardiner Walsh and Giese, 2023, further answers the benefits of Cued Speech for deaf children accessing home language.

Scan the QR code to read the report:



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Strategic and Operational Overview

Strategic Overview 2024 2025

This year, Deaf Choices UK (DCUK) reached more deaf children, families, and professionals than ever before, delivering support both in person and online, and ensuring that Cued Speech is accessible wherever it is needed.

Our family support work remained at the heart of what we do. Over the past 12 months, we provided more than 1,200 hours of direct training to parents, carers, and extended family members. Many of these families were just beginning their journey following a newborn hearing diagnosis.

For them, our sessions offered not just practical skills but a vital sense of hope and possibility. Training was delivered flexibly through regular online sessions that connected families nationwide, and through home visits across the South West, where we could offer more personalised, hands-on support.

“When we were told our son was profoundly deaf, we felt lost. DCUK not only gave us a way to communicate, but also hope for his future.” – Parent

Alongside this, we worked closely with education professionals to embed Cued Speech into classrooms and early years settings. Teachers of the Deaf, Speech

and Language Therapists, Communication Support Workers, and mainstream teaching staff attended our courses and in-service training sessions. These sessions were practical and tailored, giving professionals tools they could use immediately to improve phonics and literacy outcomes for deaf learners.

“DCUK’s training gave me practical tools I could use the next day in class. It’s changed the way I teach phonics.” – Primary School Teacher

We also continued to nurture community through Plymouth Deaf Choices, our monthly social group for deaf children and their families. Each event, from sports days to arts and crafts, provided not only fun and friendship for the children but also a safe space for parents to share experiences, advice, and encouragement. We began disseminating a specialist literacy resource, Nan in a Van (NIAV) designed specifically for deaf learners.

Due for launch in 2025 - 26, this will integrate Cued Speech into literacy teaching in a way that is accessible to both families and professionals, helping to close the persistent gap in reading achievement.

Our advocacy and awareness work also grew in reach. We presented at regional and national education conferences, contributed to policy discussions through

Organisation Change

the Speech and Language Communication Alliance (SLCA). In all these ways, 2024–2025 was a year of growth, innovation, and deeper connection, ensuring that deaf children are language-ready for life and equipped to achieve their full potential.

Organisational Changes

There have been some structural changes within the charity that have had a positive impact on the charity.

Name Change: The transition from Cued Speech UK to Deaf Choices UK has been well received, with more users and stakeholders reporting that the new name better reflects our inclusive philosophy and scope of work:

Charity Expansion: In September 2024, we formally adopted a smaller local organisation, now known as Plymouth Deaf Choices (PDC). This group-based program offers monthly activities and support to over 40 families through Saturday coffee mornings and events—an immensely successful addition to the DCUK offer.

Staffing Flexibility: To manage budgets effectively, several staff members voluntarily reduced their hours during summer 2024 and returned to full-time hours in September. This allowed us to maintain full delivery capacity while remaining cost-efficient.

Family Advisors in Herts and the North East

Unfortunately, we were unable to secure ongoing funding for our Regional Family Advisors, Sagira Jethra in Hertfordshire and Carly Simpson in the North East.

As a result, in August 2024, we had to part ways with these two exceptional and experienced professionals. Their absence is deeply felt, as they made significant contributions to the DCUK team.

Sagira's expertise in inclusion, cultural values, and familial dynamics, as well as Carly's remarkable creative input through film and storytelling, represent a considerable loss to our DCUK offerings.

Activities and Project Areas

At DCUK, we are passionate about addressing the needs of every deaf child, providing them with visual access to English and empowering them to achieve their aspirations.

This report will share the personal journeys of deaf children, their parents, and the professionals who support them, highlighting how, through DCUK's activities and the use of Cued Speech, they have gained greater access to improved outcomes.

The report will cover our three key areas of work:

1. Language and Literacy for Life (ages 0–18)
2. Active – Our regional family activities delivered through Plymouth Deaf Choices
3. Love Literacy – Focused on our work with schools using the Nan in a Van literacy intervention

1. Language and Literacy for life 0 – 18

This includes our work with families, training the team around a deaf child and networking and publicity.

1a. Supporting families remains a central focus for Deaf Choices UK (DCUK).

Parents come to DCUK through referrals from audiology departments, Teachers of the Deaf (ToDs), and self-referral.

Most families prefer face-to-face support. In many cases, this involves weekly home visits from a Regional Choices Advisor who helps families navigate the multiple challenges they face in securing appropriate services and funding for their deaf child. These visits also include training in how to use Cued Speech. The new Nan in a Van resource has proven invaluable in helping parents learn and practise cueing and reading with their child at home.

For families living outside South Devon, DCUK provides support via weekly Zoom calls and access to an online self-study course.

When a child transitions into school, DCUK offers training and support to nursery or pre-school staff so they can incorporate Cued Speech into the child's learning environment.



I am Tim.

Training and Networking

Quote from a parent:

“For us as a hearing family of a deaf child, Deaf Choices UK and the support that they have provided for our family has been vital. Having the opportunity to learn Cued Speech has meant that our daughter hasn’t had to struggle communicating with us, as we have been able to turn our language into something she can see, rather than having to rely on her hearing aids and lip reading.”

1b. Training

We have supported 146 professionals to learn to cue in this year. This has been achieved through:

- Working directly with schools and their staff who support deaf children. DCUK training provides training in Cued Speech and a greater understanding of the way in which deaf children learn both language and literacy.
- The provision of access to our online training for schools who are trialling our literacy resource Nan in a Van (NIAV.)
- Bespoke training in Cued Speech and demonstrations of NIAV to teams of professionals.

- The delivery of workshops and demonstrations at conferences and seminars, for example we delivered a workshop in how to use NIAV to 42 professionals at the International Audiology and British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD) conference in March.

1c. Networking

Networking Highlights

Manchester University ‘Future Proofing’ Event – 22 April 2024

We explored the new mandatory qualification for Teachers of the Deaf, shared updates on technology and research, and introduced the Nan in a Van books to delegates.

SEND Summit, London – 19 June 2024

Attended to connect with education professionals and raise awareness of DCUK’s resources.

BAToD Local Conference, Torquay – 31 August 2024

Showcased Nan in a Van and networked with South West practitioners. Follow-up interest was received from schools in Plymouth.

Jersey Training – 10–13 February 2024

Delivered two days of training to Jersey’s

Networking and Active

Deaf Support Team. The Government of Jersey invested in the Nan in a Van materials for use across the island.

BATOD National Conference – 22 March 2024

We ran a popular workshop and exhibition stand, gaining two strong leads for resource trials. The event focused on innovation in deaf education.

Access to Communication Services (ACS)

Attended training sessions including Theory of Mind and Metacognition. One professional signed up for a free trial of Nan in a Van.

Podcast – ‘Education on Fire’ with Mark Taylor

Kathy promoted DCUK and shared her personal story as a parent of a Deaf child, reaching a wide audience of educators and families.

Schools & Academies Show, NEC Birmingham

Connected with key stakeholders, including NASEN, and were invited to attend their summer conference.

Speech and Language Communication Alliance (SLCA)

DCUK joined a Westminster visit to the Houses of Parliament with the SLCA, a coalition of 30+ charities lobbying for

better speech and language outcomes in education. The initiative received ministerial backing and highlighted the needs of children with speech and language challenges.

Marketing Campaign with PR Specialists - Crest

Launched a major campaign to promote DCUK across media platforms. Featured on ITV Westcountry News, we introduced Nan in a Van to children at Eggbuckland School, with great engagement from pupils and staff.

Watch the video on Youtube by scanning the QR code with your smartphone:



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2.Active

Welcome to Plymouth Deaf Choices (PDC).

In September 2024 we finally ‘adopted’ PDCS, and they are now Plymouth Deaf Choices (PDC.) We are really delighted to add this extra group to our offer of family support, family group engagement, and activities. We are also hoping to recruit a new trustee as a representative of this group.

Coffee mornings are held on the first Saturday of every month in Plymouth,



Plymouth Deaf Choices and Love Literacy

and the DCUK Executive Director has attended a number of Saturday events. In January the attending families made a plan for the year ahead, which included activities and information for deaf children and their families.

PDC provides a great opportunity for families to meet and share experiences and for deaf children to have a lot of fun and extra activities with their deaf peers and their siblings.

PDC enhances and supports the DCUK outcomes at every level, increasing self-confidence and improving family participation. With its links to Cued Speech and Eggbuckland school, we are also enhancing the opportunities for improved literacy.

Active has also supported dance sessions for deaf children after school attended by 8 children.

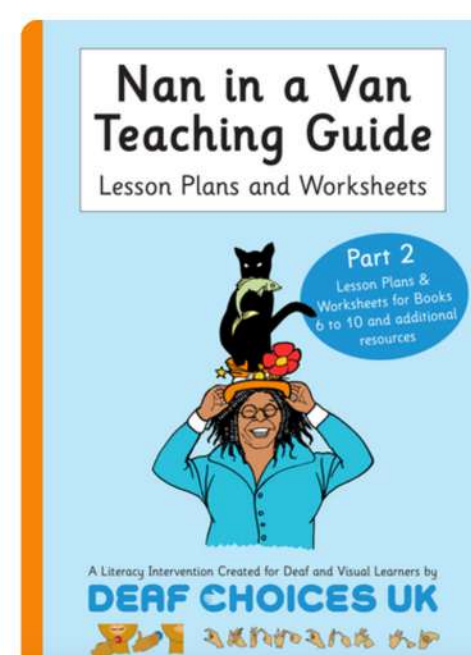
3. Love Literacy

We launched our new foundation literacy initiative, Nan in a Van (NIAV), to address significant gaps in deaf education while also ensuring our long-term financial viability. NIAV delivers specialised support directly to schools and communities and introduces a new revenue stream through our services.

Our team focused on training in sales and marketing to bring NIAV to life, and we have made notable progress. However, navigating the education sector to make sales poses its own set of challenges.

Schools operate within a variety of complex frameworks, including academies, trusts, and federations, each with distinct budget holders and decision-making processes. Identifying the right contact can be quite difficult. Additionally, ongoing reductions in education budgets, particularly for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), leave many schools struggling to meet even basic requirements.

While there have been assurances of reform, tangible changes have yet to materialise. On a positive note, thanks to our networking efforts, community engagement, and strong word-of-mouth referrals, NIAV is beginning to gain momentum. Schools that have collaborated with us are already recognising the benefits of our offerings.



Love Literacy

What is in our NIAV Phonics Intervention package?

- ✓ Ten beautiful reading books
- ✓ Ten matching eBooks with digital avatars that cue and sign
- ✓ Two Teaching Guides packed with over fifty lesson plans, activities and photocopiable resources
- ✓ Forty four brilliant sound cards highlighting cued phonemes and a whole range of spelling choices
- ✓ Clever game-board that allows users to learn how to cue any word
- ✓ Instruction booklet that explains how to use the cards to teach phonetic awareness, make letter-sound links, synthesise and blend new and known words, teach new vocabulary and prepare students for the early phonics screening test.

Nan is out in the world!

Buyers include The Government of Jersey.

Members of the Jersey Hearing/Deaf Support Team including Teachers of the Deaf, Specialist Teachers and Speech and Language Therapists attended a 2 day workshop held on the island to help them use the Nan resource with their deaf children.

Gathering evidence for Nan in a Van

We now have a number of trials running in mainstream schools, these wonderful collaborators are using the Nan materials with their deaf students and getting great results.



Nan in a Van (NIAV) Development

Quotes from staff using the Nan books and card game (taken from voice recorded interviews):

- ✓ x has really grown in confidence with her literacy and you can see she really understands it because she can pick up the words, it's so gorgeous." (ToD)
- ✓ We are delighted that the guidance now says we can use cues for the phonic screen test so we are very hopeful for better results" (ToD)
- ✓ Nan in a Van (NIAV) is really helpful as we can send it home with him to share with mum." (ToD)
- ✓ DCUK NIAV books can be used as a foundation to any reading programme used in school. Once deaf children understand how to blend from NIAV they can transfer that skill into any literacy program" (ToD)
- ✓ Her expressive language has really developed in the last few month as a result of reading using the cues in NIAV" (ToD)
- ✓ It is a joy to see how the cues impact on the accuracy of his speech sounds!" (CSW)
- ✓ With the help of Cued Speech and NIAV, he blends (sounds) beautifully now" (ToD)



NIAV Assessment

Request for an Assessment based on NIAV

Our trial users have requested we design a Nan-specific assessment protocol that they can use to track and record their student's progress as they use the intervention.

We think this is a great idea and work is already underway to create a game-based assessment tool that can be used to track skills at single sound, single word, sentence level and more. We are grateful to have encouragement and advice for this from 3 highly experienced academics at DCAL (Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre at University College London).

What's new this year in our Love Literacy Project?

Cued Speech Dictionaries

This year has seen the arrival of a long-awaited resource for our parents and professionals – three Cued English Word Banks.

From saying 'hello' to talking about school

Anyone learning to cue can use these books to see exactly how to cue a whole

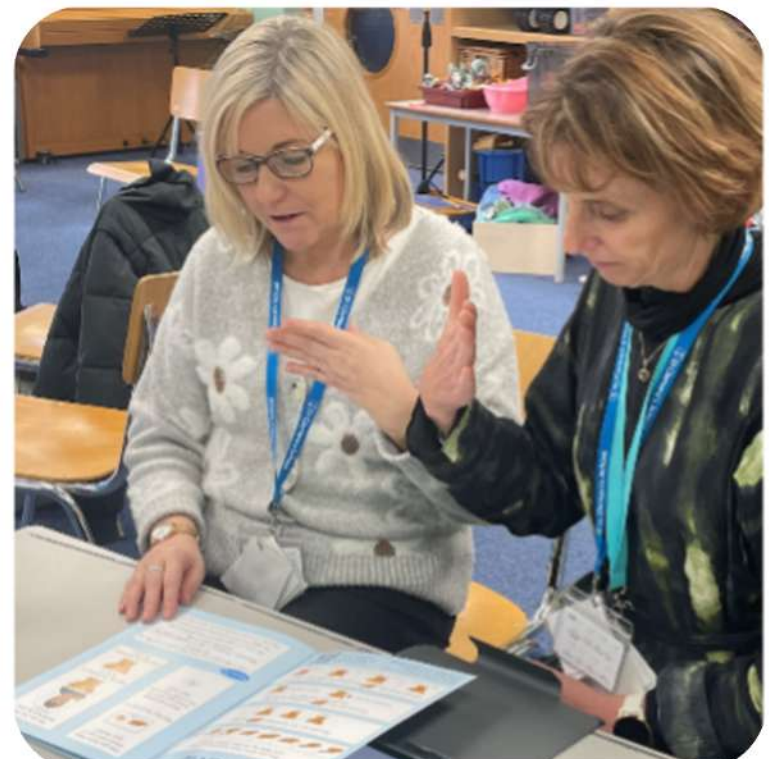
range of important everyday vocabulary. And there are 'how to cue' tips throughout that match with the lessons on our Learn to Cue Self-Study course.



Here is a link to a YouTube film that demonstrates a NIAV lesson in school with two profoundly deaf children:



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Outcomes and outcome monitoring.

We measure our outcomes in three specific areas.

1. Deaf babies/children will demonstrate an increased understanding and use of English – at single word level (vocabulary expansion) and sentence level and will demonstrate the ability to apply this increased understanding of English to reading and writing skills.
2. Deaf babies/children will experience increased self-esteem and confidence for life and learning.
3. Deaf babies/children will demonstrate greater participation in family life.



Outcomes and outcome monitoring.

Totals for March 2024 – 2025.
Numbers that we have engaged with

Total number of children engaged	560	This number includes face-to-face at home, in education and group settings and online
Number of children engaged with Plymouth Deaf Choices	35	This is the number that attend the monthly coffee mornings and other events and activities
Number of children engaged with school sessions	42	
Total number who have engaged with a 'live' intervention	450 plus 10 hearing children	This is the number who have engaged with interventions at home, in education or in groups
Total number of family members trained	62	This includes live, one to one, in house sessions and online sessions
Total number of professionals trained	146	This is through education, online training and workshops and conference demonstrations



Outcomes and outcome monitoring.

Activity	Output March 2023 – April 1st 2024	Output March 2024 - April 2025
Attended Deaf Events	14	12
Cued Speech foundation and further training		32
Attended children's deaf groups and activities. Including 2 theatre trips, 1 family NT Saltram House Easter fun and 8 themed coffee mornings and 4 sound explorers group sessions.	15	35
Delivered CS training to schools	13	43
Cued Speech Foundation Training		
Home visits	152	92
Online training	17	7
Preschool visits	30	67
Online Self study	26	18
Love Reading sessions	60	40
Choices programme	6	3
Nan-In-a-Van contact to schools	0	90 Schools Contacted
Nan-in-a-Van Demo	10	14 done and 12 booked
Nan-in-a-Van Sales	0	4

Outcomes and outcome monitoring.

Totals for March 2024 – 2025.

Outcomes and numbers that we have engaged with

Outcomes. These have been measured using data collected on our Systems Impact Tracker and through questionnaires completed by families who have been offered an intervention.		The mother of L told us; “Cued Speech has made a huge impact on our family and L’s potential. Since we started cueing, we’ve seen a lot of progress. L is very sociable and happy, and while she communicates in her own way, I believe she is absorbing English through Cued Speech.
Increased participation within the family	Positive change 72%	E is a baby of four months with complex needs and deafness. On my first visit he was non-responsive. At the six-month review, he is happy alert and responding to sound. He watches when he is cued to and smiles back. He makes some sounds and noises during interactions
Increased Literacy	Positive change 78%	Following an eight-week period of using Nan in a Van, Z has been able to access the Read Write inc assessment which demonstrated significant progress as she had not been able to participate in the assessment prior to using NIAV as a literacy support intervention.
Increased confidence	Positive change 56%	E has been to an adventure park and surfing. This is incredible as during my first visits 24 months ago, E and her mother never left the house. E’s communication is improving through Cued Speech and some signs

Outcomes and outcome monitoring.

Review of Outcomes

Our outcomes help us to understand which areas are progressing and which are not running efficiently, which helps us to improve and restructure our practice efficiently. DCUK Regional Family Advisors across the UK did not generate the amount of engagement that we had hoped for, particularly in the Northeast, therefore in response to the data, we did not replace these posts. We were disappointed that the Hertfordshire post was not funded through the Local Authority when our funding came to an end.



Partnerships

DCUK have created some exciting partnerships over the last six months:

1. We are currently working with 7 schools and 2 Speech and language therapists from across the UK and in Jersey who are engaged in trials of the Nan in a Van literacy intervention. They have agreed to give us an assessment on change and development in literacy skills of foundation level deaf learners and interviews with educators on the accessibility of the NIAV intervention and its teacher handbook.

2. We are working with Researchers in the field of deafness and Cued Speech. Rachel Rees, (Cued Speech and phoneme identification), Mairead McSweeney (neurobiology of language and deafness) and Fiona Kyle (Developmental psychology and literacy development) from the University College of London, are working with us to create a robust literacy assessment tool.

3. We have been advised by external consultants in the field of Education and assessment: -Dr Hilary Emery, initially a primary teacher Hilary Emery, CBE, did her PhD on assessment in primary schools, worked on national assessment policy and led teacher education at the

University of Worcester. Professor Roger Murphy is Director of the Visual Learning Lab (VLL) at Nottingham University. His areas of interest and experience include educational research, evaluation and assessment. He has a strong interest in educational innovations, which open up new ways.

4. We have worked with advisors within the field of deafness, Dr.Lee Fulwood (specialist Teacher of the Deaf) and Stewart Harris, Senior Audiologist, who have advised us on referral, intervention and engagement of families with a deaf child.

5. The ED is part of the advisory group for the Speech Language and Communication Alliance.

6. We continue to network through conferences and seminars and were key speakers at the International Conference for Teachers of the Deaf in March 2025.

7. We are looking at the potential for collaboration with an organisation - Elklan (www.elklan.co.uk). They are interested in supporting our online training through OCN and supporting sales of NIAV through their website which has a well established client base from education and primary education.

Family Advisors

Overcoming Challenges and Building Impact

This year has certainly presented its share of challenges, especially regarding funding. Like many small charities, we have felt the strain of a fiercely competitive funding landscape. As more organisations step in to assist overwhelmed children's services, particularly in critical areas such as poverty, mental health, and neglect, resources are more limited than ever.

In response, Deaf Choices UK has embraced innovation. In the upcoming months, our priorities include:

- Engaging more schools to participate in trials of NIAV.
- Collecting data and testimonials that highlight the positive impact of NIAV on deaf children.
- Collaborating with researchers and evaluators to assess effectiveness and bolster our case for broader implementation.



We look forward to what lies ahead and are immensely thankful for our supporters, partners, and the families we serve. Together, we are dismantling barriers to language and literacy for deaf children through Cued Speech interventions, paving the way for brighter futures.



Funding and Risk Management

Funding and Risk Management

Looking ahead, DCUK is committed to developing our social enterprise model and scaling our programmes based on evidence and evaluation. While NIAV has generated strong interest, current income remains below expenditure.

We maintain a hopeful yet pragmatic perspective. Without crucial funds for our core operations, we risk being unable to sustain our charitable activities, which may necessitate reducing employee hours in the financial year 2025 – 2026, ultimately limiting our capacity. Our goal is to preserve our presence in Plymouth and the Southwest while staying true to our identity and mission.

Equity Diversity and Inclusion

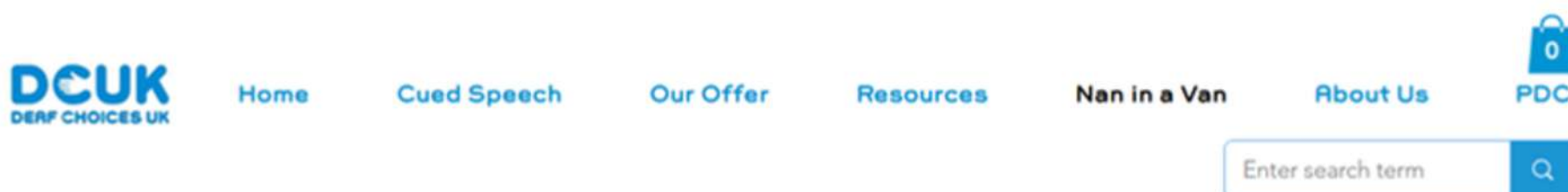
93% of deaf children are born to hearing families, early language access is crucial. Our strategy is holistic and promotes:

- Technology: Encouraging the best use of hearing aids and cochlear implants.
- Sign Language: Promoting British Sign Language for peer and family communication.
- Cued Speech: Filling the gaps where technology falls short, supporting literacy and spoken language development.

At DCUK, we believe every deaf child deserves access to communication and language, regardless of income, location,

You can find our NIAV resources online via our website:

<https://www.deafchoicesuk.com/nan-in-a-van>



Nan-in-a-Van
literacy
Intervention

Case Study

or additional needs. That's why all our interventions are provided completely free of charge to families.

Case Study

Isabelle's Story: Confidence Through Communication

Isabelle is 28 months old and has both conductive and neurosensory permanent hearing loss. She uses a BAHA device on a soft band and recently had grommets fitted. In addition to her hearing challenges, Isabelle also has a condition known as choanal atresia.

Her parents, Becky and Lee, joined Plymouth Deaf Choices (PDC) group, where they met with Henrietta Ireland the DCUK Executive Director (ED) . The ED has been regularly attending this group since September 2024. It was through the PDC group that they first discovered Deaf Choices UK and were referred to the DCUK Regional Family advisor..

Becky shares:

"Attending the PDC sessions has provided us with a support network of families who understand the emotional ups and downs we face and have a

wealth of knowledge to share. Everyone is so welcoming, and Isabelle enjoys the sessions as well!"

Both Becky and Lee have been learning Cued Speech to support Isabelle's language development. They combine this approach with some sign language, which Isabelle has responded to with great enthusiasm. She is a highly expressive child who loves creative play and engaging with those around her. She has already learned signs for animals, colours, and emotions, and can identify special people and familiar household items.

At home, Becky and Lee regularly cue words and phrases they use with Isabelle, including "shop," "park," "time to go to Nursery/childminder," "hello," and "bye bye." Becky explains:

"Learning to cue has helped us communicate with Isabelle more confidently, reducing misunderstandings and frustration. She loves to cue and say words like 'shop' and 'park,' and she feels happy when she's understood. Recently, when I asked Isabelle if we should give the dogs a treat, she responded by signing 'tree,' so I cued 'treat,' and she immediately went to get it for the dogs!"
Having sessions at home has made a big

Case Study

difference for the family, enabling cued speech sessions to fit in around their busy work lives.

The fact that their practitioner is also a parent of a deaf child has been particularly meaningful, giving them real hope for Isabelle's future.

They've also been using the Nan in a Van resource, cue-it cards, and dictionaries, all of which have inspired them to cue more regularly with Isabelle.

Isabelle currently attends Pixieland Nursery and spends some days with a childminder.

Thanks to support from the Teacher of the Deaf (TOD) team, including Kathy and Jayne Loader, the professionals involved in her care recently attended a twilight session introducing them to Cued Speech, ensuring everyone in Isabelle's circle can support her communication journey.

And Finally.

Quote from a parent:

For us as a hearing family of a deaf child, Deaf Choices UK and the support that they have provided for our family has been vital.

Having the opportunity to learn Cued Speech has meant that our daughter hasn't had to struggle communicating with us, as we have been able to turn our language into something she can see, rather than having to rely on her hearing aids and lip reading.

I can say with certainty that she would have never made the fantastic progress that she has if it hadn't been for Cued Speech. Deaf Choices UK also helped us with stepping into the deaf/Deaf world. They taught us about Deaf culture, deaf awareness and introduced us to other deaf children and adults. I hate to think about where we would be now as a family without the vital support that Deaf Choices have provided for us.'



The Deaf Choices Team

At the end of the financial year 2024 – 2025, DCUK maintain a highly motivated office team of 6 part-time employees who use their transferable skills to meet the needs of our beneficiaries and cover a number of projects delivered across the UK.



Henrietta Ireland is the Executive Director of CSUK. Her energy and creativity have continued to bring opportunities to the Charity and her ability to fundraise has continued to bring income into the Charity. A successful funding bid to the National Lottery Community Fund has ensured some imperative core funds over the next three years and it has given her the opportunity to consider the best pathway and plan for the Charity during this time. Henrietta is currently working on a re-branding and marketing plan and continues to network with potential partners.



Louise Creed is highly skilled at writing budgets for the Charity which is an art and takes considerable experience and accounting genius. Without this our funding bids would not have been successful. Louise keeps clear and rigid spending targets and holds all project spending to account.



Debbie Hawke runs the day-to-day and month-to-month administration of the Charity. Her role is integral to the efficiency and safety of our practice and delivery.



Mark Murton can and does do everything and is remarkably successful in achieving his goals. This may be re-writing the web-site or writing standard appeals, and publishing the Annual Report. If he can't do it, he finds out how. Mark also manages new referrals of families and the CSUK online training site.



Cate Calder is the CSUK Training Lead. Cate is the creative and professional gift to CSUK. She has spent the last 18 months as the key point-of-contact for Robotica Machine Learning (RML) the company who are making our digital interventions for us. Cate's eye for detail has

ensured that our products cue with accuracy and that the lip shapes made by Cassie are 99% faultless. Enabling Cassie to get to such a degree of accuracy has taken time, diligence and commitment.

In addition to this she has monitored and overseen training delivered both online and face-to-face and has been the highly respected - and in demand - voice and the face of CSUK at conferences and seminars across the UK.

The Deaf Choices Team



Kathy Kenny is the Lead Regional Family Advisor. Kathy continues to focus her work as an RFA in the Southwest region but will take referrals from other regions and when requested, from abroad! Her training as a teacher and her experience of deafness through having a deaf child

herself, means that she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her work. Kathy is really starting to reap the rewards of persistent engagement with families and professionals over the last five years. She has multiple referrals from audiology and works with our key schools in the South West where there is a specialist unit for deaf children. As the Lead Practitioner, Kathy also oversees the work of the other Regional Advisors offering them advice, guidance and supervision.



Carly Simpson, an RFA based in the North East, working in Newcastle, North Yorkshire and Leeds. During and following the 'Lockdown years,' Carly helped us generate a lot of creative material for you tube and the website including cued stories, songs and view-it-cue-it. Carly never

stops looking for work opportunities and this has paid off this year with referrals of families wanting to learn to cue and the provision of training for professionals.



Sagira Jetha, is an RFA in Hertfordshire. She is a hosted member of the Hertfordshire Hearing Impairment Team and is a highly valued member of the team. Her work was affected by Covid with less parents wanting to engage with mother and baby or toddler groups. However numbers have

been improving month-on-month from September. Her Line manager in Herts is Claire Gamon who will be leaving the Service in July. Claire has been a great advocate for CS and her foresight helped us to set up our successful partnership in 2019. She will be missed.

We are proud to also have 7 experienced Trustees on hand to offer specialist advice and expertise to the team.



Peter chose Cued Speech for his profoundly deaf son in 1985 (a year after he was born) and attended a number of beginners and intermediate courses in Canterbury. Peter became a trustee in 1986 and was elected chair of National Centre of Cued Speech Management Committee for a

number of years until 1995 during a time when fundraising and raising the profile of Cued Speech were the key objectives. His son benefitted from Cued Speech and now works for ITV adding sign language bubbles to the current programmes. His ability to communicate in the deaf and the hearing world is excellent.

The Deaf Choices Team



Vicki Macklin discovered Cued Speech in 2020 whilst looking for Speech and Language resources to help her son Ryan, who was 4 years old at the time. Speech and Language support was focussed on Makaton whereas Vicki wanted to teach him sounds and speech. Ryan's vocabulary had outgrown the Makaton signs he knew. During the COVID lockdown all SALT support stopped.

As a parent of a deaf child with speech difficulties, and being deaf herself, Vicki hopes that she can bring some experience and insight to the Cued Speech team from personal experience, including sharing the benefits she has found using cued speech which have gone beyond lip reading. Vicki think it is no coincidence that Ryan is in the top reading and phonics groups at school.

Vicki is an IT Project Manager by profession.



Sarah Elumba-Hill has a BSc Information Technology degree and has worked in Information Technology and Sales. She now runs her own business, Hill Top Brews LTD, where she sells and supplies roast to order coffee beans, equipment and supplies.

Sarah has been profoundly deaf since birth and has worn hearing aids for 34 years and now wears a Cochlear Implant. She looks forward to learning to Cue. Having experienced a different type of multi-sensory speech therapy growing up, she sees the benefit of how Cued Speech can improve the quality of life for a deaf person.



Ken is the grandfather of a deaf child brought up with Cued Speech. Ken's early career was with the Merchant Navy, before moving into a sales career in the food industry. Ken became aware of Deaf Choices UK after his granddaughter was born deaf. She lives in France with her

parents and brother, who all attended a Cued Speech course in Exeter. His granddaughter, now 11, not only speaks fluent French and English but uses Cued Speech and signing in both languages. The whole family has benefited enormously by learning to cue.



Christine Hardy is the Chair person of the charity, and brings with her a wealth of knowledge from growing up in the deaf community, as a child of a deaf adult. With NVQ Level 6 in British Sign Language and a rich and varied background in which she has used her linguistic skills in the working world, she will be a vital member of our committee. She currently works

The Deaf Choices Team

as an 'Advocacy, Rights and Awareness Manager' for Deafblind UK, whom she has worked for now for ten years, and has an educational background in both linguistics and law.



Jacob Twomey is passionate about leveraging marketing expertise for good, and he brings his 8 years of commercial experience to the Board of Trustees. He will be instrumental in developing and executing strategic plans for the exciting new initiative of establishing a trading branch for the charity. Jacob's experience in branding, lead generation, and business development, combined with his positive and collaborative outlook will be invaluable as we work towards creating a sustainable trading branch. This will allow us to generate income to support our goal in enabling as many deaf children and families as possible with access to language and literacy. With his dedication and consultancy, we are confident that this new venture will have a significant impact on the lives of deaf individuals in our community.



Efficient and Effective Delivery

Our application to the National Lottery needs to fulfil its outcomes which if successful will provide income generation by year 4 which will easily cover DCUK core costs.

Efficient and Effective Delivery

DCUK keep their overheads low. 60% of funding goes towards staff wages, however, our team is small with only 8 part-time employees 6 full-time equivalents, who have the skill and knowledge to deliver within several different work and social contexts. Careful budgeting enables us to provide all our family interventions for free for parents of deaf children.

From September 2024 we will lose 2 Regional Family Advisors in Herts and the North East, due to the termination of funding, these posts will not be replaced. The ED lobbied extensively to get the post in Herts adopted by the Local Authority Hearing impairment Service but as of the date of writing this report, this has not been confirmed.

With Thanks

We are most grateful to our funders who have supported DCUK to continue to deliver essential interventions to deaf children and their families.

Multi-year funding helps the Charity to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of its models of delivery and its activities.

Unrestricted funding enables the Charity to be flexible and responsive in meeting costs not directly related to projects such as the cost of computers, staff training, marketing and publicity.

Core funding is essential to support staff costs such as that of the Executive Director and Training Lead.

Project funds are essential for meeting the fast-changing needs we observe when working with deaf babies and children.



Statement of Financial Activities

Year ending 31st March 2025	Unrestricted Funds - £	2025 Restricted Funds - £	Total Funds	2024 Total Funds - £
Income				
Donations	56,361	207,471	263,832	323,240
Charitable activities	92	6,645	6,737	2,703
Investment Income	2,991		2,991	1,793
Total Income	59,444	214,116	273,560	327,736
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities	(196)	(271,103)	(271,299)	(308,244)
Total Expenditure	(196)	(271,103)	(271,299)	(308,244)
Net income and net movement of funds				19,492
Net Income/ (Expenditure)	59,248	(56,987)	2,261	19,492
Transfer of Funds	(28,370)	28,370		0
Net Movement of Funds	30,878	(28,617)	2,261	19,492
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	92,370	46,849	139,219	119,727
Total funds carried forward	123,248	18,232	141,480	139,219

Legal and Financial

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

Assets	2024	2025
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	4,181	3,135
Current Assets		
Stocks	743	743
Debtors	5,072	7,875
Cash at bank and in hand	141,048	138,977
Total Current Assets	146,863	147,595
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(11,825)	(9,250)
Net current assets	135,038	138,345
Net assets	139,219	141,480
Funds of the Charity		
Restricted income funds	46,849	18,232
Unrestricted Funds	92,370	123,248
Total Funds	139,219	141,480

Income

Total income received in 2024/25 was £273,560, of which £263,832 was

donated by charitable trusts, companies and individuals. The remaining £9,028 included tuition fees and charges, membership subscriptions and

Legal and Financial

investment income.

Expenditure

Total expenditure was £271,299. £235,998 was spent directly on charitable activities. Support costs of £35,301 includes our rent of £13,216.

Reserves

Income exceeded expenditure by £2,261 resulting in an increase in funds from £139,219 to £141,480 of which £18,232 is restricted to specific work.

The Association's policy is to hold a designated reserve of £30,000 and in addition, operating reserves equivalent to not less than three months' expenditure. The balances held at 31 March 2025 met that requirement.

Donors

The Directors are grateful for the support, interest and encouragement received during the year from trusts, companies, organisations and individuals, including members who gave more than the minimum membership fee. During the year donations were received from five anonymous donors and from the following:

Charitable Trusts

Archer Trust
BBC Children in Need
Benham Charitable Trust

Clare Milne Trust
Dorothy Hay-Bolton Charitable Trust
Dorothy Whitney Elmhirst Trust
Elizabeth & Prince Zaiger Trust
George A Moore Foundation
Henry Smith Charity
Marjorie and Geoffrey Jones Charitable Trust
Marsh Charitable Trust
MCF Masonic Charitable
Michael Cornish Charitable Trust
Ms Chloe Gwynne
National Lottery Community Fund
Okemement Chapter Rose Croix
PF Charitable Fund
Reeve charitable trust
Shamrock Trust
Sir John and Lady Amory Charitable Trust
Smb trust
The Carmela and Ronnie Pignatelli Foundation
The Foyle Foundation
Vandervell Foundation
Viscount Amory's Charitable Trust
W A Handley Trust
Weinstock Fund

Individual Donations

Carole Fletcher
Anth Mills
Cathy Groeger
Sue Tweed
Ken Orpin
Mr C Millar
Mrs Emma Sadeghi
Gill Banham
Jane godwin
A C Gillespie
Mr Mark Evans
Peter Bowman
Win Burton





DEAF CHOICES UK

Makes Spoken language visible for
deaf babies, children and adults

The Boatshed, Steamer Quay, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5AL

info@deafchoicesuk.com - www.deafchoicesuk.com - 01803 712 852

Registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales No. 279523

A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 1477997

Company registration number: 01477997

Charity registration number: 279523

Deaf Choices UK Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Deaf Choices UK Limited

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Deaf Choices UK Limited

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Mr K Orpin
Mrs C Hardy, Chairperson
Mr P G Bowman
Ms S C Elumba-Hill
Mr J P Twomey

Charity Registration Number

279523

Company Registration Number

01477997

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.

Registered Office

The Boatshed
Steamer Quay Road
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 5AL

Independent Examiner

S R Smith FCA
Westcotts (SW) LLP
Chartered Accountants
Petitor House
Nicholson Road
Torquay
Devon
TQ2 7TD

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Cued Speech Definition

Cued Speech is a visual manual code for spoken languages that enables accurate lip reading. As a speaker says each word, they make a hand shape near the face that replaces the missing acoustic information for the deaf receiver.

Public Benefit

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

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

From January 2024 Deaf Choices UK (DCUK) aspires to give deaf children improved access to the following: -

Language - by empowering their families to make fully informed choices.

Literacy - by supporting their educators to access information, training, and resources.

Providing knowledge, information and training around the unique benefits, concepts, and skills of using Cued Speech.

Our offer supports deaf children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) to thrive at home, succeed in education, and achieve their potential.

Activities

Our three key areas of work:

1. Language and Literacy for Life 0 - 18

This includes our work with families, training the team around a deaf child and networking and publicity.

Supporting families

Remains a central focus for Deaf Choices UK (DCUK). Parents come to DCUK for families living outside South Devon, DCUK provides support via weekly Zoom calls and access to an online self-study course.

When a child transitions into school, DCUK offers training and support to nursery or pre-school staff so they can incorporate Cued Speech into the child's learning environment.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

Training

We have supported 146 professionals to learn to cue in this year.

Networking

Attending seminars and conferences, sometimes delivering key speeches and demonstrations.

Marketing Campaign with Crest

DCUK Launched a major campaign to promote DCUK across media platforms.

2. Active

Welcome to Plymouth Deaf Choices (PDC).

PDC enhances and supports the DCUK outcomes at every level, increasing self-confidence and improving family participation. With its links to Cued Speech and Egguckland school, we are also enhancing the opportunities for improved literacy.

Active has also supported dance sessions for deaf children after school attended by 8 children.

3. Love Literacy

We launched our new foundation literacy initiative, Nan in a Van (NIAV), to address significant gaps in deaf education while also ensuring our long-term financial viability. NIAV delivers specialised support directly to schools and communities and introduces a new revenue stream through our services.

Wales

This fund is intended to pay for Cued resources to be made in Welsh. The work started in the previous year, but has been on hold, and will hopefully be finished this next year. It no longer became a priority as the family support practitioner we had working in Wales, was made redundant, as we no longer had enough funds for the post. The remaining funds will still be used for the same purpose.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

Mr K Orpin

Mrs C Hardy, Chairperson

Mr P G Bowman

Ms S C Elumba-Hill

Ms V Henry-Macklin (resigned 27 June 2025)

Mr J P Twomey

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The activities are governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Charity members elect the trustees who meet quarterly to oversee the work of the paid staff.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees work in line with Deaf Choices UK Articles of Association.

All trustees apply with a full CV and two references, and are interviewed by the Executive Director and another trustee. New trustees are voted in on their first meeting by the full Board.

Trustees are appointed for their personal and professional business expertise, and for their own lived experience or family experience of deafness.

Induction and training of trustees

All trustees must complete Level 1 safeguarding training and have an enhanced DBS check, and from April 2025, all trustees will be given the Charity Governance code to read.

Organisational structure

At the end of the year there were 6 part-time employees.

The Team consists of: -

Henrietta Ireland – Executive Director

Cate Calder - Training Leader

Louise Creed – Business Manager

Debbie Hawkes – Senior Administrator

Mark Murton – Training co-ordinator

Kathy Kenny – Lead Regional Family Adviser (South West region)

Sagira Jethra - post terminated (September 2024)

Carly Simpson - post terminated (September 2024)

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

Major risks and management of those risks

Risk overview

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and in particular those that are affected by fluctuations in the financial position of the Charity and we are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the Charity's exposure to major risk.

Investment Powers

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit.

Financial Review

Total income received was £273,560 (2024 - £327,736), of which £263,832 (£323,240) was received by grants and donations from charitable trusts, foundations and individuals. The remaining £9,728 (£4,496) included tuition fees and charges, membership subscriptions and investment income.

Total expenditure costs have reduced to £271,299 (2024 - £308,244), due to a decrease in the exceptional costs of £21,000 and wages of £20,000.

Income exceeded expenditure by £2,261 resulting in an increase in total funds from £139,219 to £141,480.

Reserves Policy

The policy is to hold a designated reserve of £30,000 for any unforeseen circumstances. The combined funds are held to cover six months of total costs to operate at the current level if grant income falls significantly, whilst looking for alternative funding. The overall balances held at 31 March 2025 meet that requirement of approximately £130,000, where £18,232 (2024 - £46,849) is held for restricted work, and £123,248 (2024 - £92,370) for unrestricted funds.

Conclusion

To maintain full capacity throughout the year, staff were asked to voluntarily reduce their hours during the summer holiday period (July to September), generating cost savings. In addition, two funded posts came to an end following the conclusion of project funding for our Regional Family Advisers in Hertfordshire and the North East. Together, these measures enabled DCUK to close the financial year in surplus.

Looking ahead to 2025-2026, we maintain a hopeful, yet pragmatic perspective. Without crucial funds for our core operations, we risk being unable to sustain our charitable activities, which may necessitate reducing employee hours, ultimately limiting our capacity. Our goal is to preserve our presence in Plymouth and the South West, while staying true to our identity and mission.

DCUK is committed to developing our social enterprise model and scaling our programmes based on evidence and evaluation. While NIAV has generated strong interest, current income remains below expenditure.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Deaf Choices UK Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 1 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs C Hardy
Trustee

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Deaf Choices UK Limited ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Deaf Choices UK Limited as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.



.....
S R Smith FCA
Westcotts (SW) LLP
Chartered Accountants
Petitor House
Nicholson Road
Torquay
Devon
TQ2 7TD

22 October 2025

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	56,361	207,471	263,832	323,240
Charitable activities	4	92	6,645	6,737	2,703
Investment income	5	2,991	-	2,991	1,793
Total income		59,444	214,116	273,560	327,736
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	(26,567)	(26,567)	(28,062)
Charitable activities	6	(196)	(244,536)	(244,732)	(280,182)
Total expenditure		(196)	(271,103)	(271,299)	(308,244)
Net income/(expenditure)		59,248	(56,987)	2,261	19,492
Transfers between funds		(28,370)	28,370	-	-
Net movement in funds		30,878	(28,617)	2,261	19,492
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		92,370	46,849	139,219	119,727
Total funds carried forward 19		123,248	18,232	141,480	139,219

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 19.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

(Registration number: 01477997)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	3,135	4,181
Current assets			
Stocks	14	743	743
Debtors	15	7,875	5,072
Cash at bank and in hand	16	138,977	141,048
		147,595	146,863
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(9,250)	(11,825)
Net current assets		138,345	135,038
Net assets		141,480	139,219
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	19	18,232	46,849
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		123,248	92,370
Total funds	19	141,480	139,219

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 8 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 1 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



..
Mrs C Hardy
Trustee

The notes on pages 10 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

The Boatshed
Steamer Quay Road
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 5AL

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Deaf Choices UK Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Fixtures and fittings	25% reducing balance

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Donations;			
Donations	6,833	9,704	16,537
Membership subscriptions	279	10	289
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	-	77,051	77,051
Grants from trusts and foundations	49,249	120,706	169,955
	56,361	207,471	263,832

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Donations;			
Donations	4,892	-	4,892
Membership subscriptions	330	34	364
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	-	75,478	75,478
Grants from trusts and foundations	25,199	217,307	242,506
	30,421	292,819	323,240

During the year grants were received from the following institutions:

National Lottery Fund £77,051 (2024 - £75,478)

Henry Smith Charity £58,200 (2024 -£59,600)

BBC Children In Need £22,505 (2024 - £22,806)

Foyle Foundation £25,000 (2024 - £Nil)

Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust £Nil (2024 - £100,000)

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
CS training income	-	598	598
Miscellaneous income	92	6,047	6,139
	92	6,645	6,737

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
CS training income	597	530	1,127
Miscellaneous income	1	1,575	1,576
	598	2,105	2,703

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £
Interest receivable on bank deposits	2,991	2,991
	2,991	2,991

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,678	115	1,793
	1,678	115	1,793

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2025
	Note	£	£	£
Charitable activities		70	25,245	25,315
Staff costs		-	180,115	180,115
Allocated support costs	7	126	32,664	32,790
Governance costs	7	-	6,512	6,512
		196	244,536	244,732

		Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	Note	£	£	£
Charitable activities		83	23,781	23,864
Staff costs		-	197,904	197,904
Allocated support costs	7	161	52,486	52,647
Governance costs	7	-	5,767	5,767
		244	279,938	280,182

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Staff training	-	2,214	2,214
Repairs and maintenance	-	386	386
Insurance	-	3,092	3,092
Rent	-	11,762	11,762
Legal and professional	-	720	720
Telephone and broadband	-	4,459	4,459
Printing, postage and stationery	-	4,096	4,096
Depreciation	121	925	1,046
Bank charges	5	55	60
Subscriptions and licenses	-	4,955	4,955
	126	32,664	32,790

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Staff training	-	2,287	2,287
Repairs and maintenance	-	143	143
Insurance	-	2,913	2,913
Rent	-	11,762	11,762
Legal and professional	-	720	720
Telephone and broadband	-	5,111	5,111
Printing, postage and stationery	-	2,507	2,507
Depreciation	161	1,232	1,393
Bank charges	-	60	60
Subscriptions and licenses	-	4,631	4,631
Exceptional costs	-	21,120	21,120
	161	52,486	52,647

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Independent examiner fees
Examination of the financial statements
Other fees paid to examiners
Meeting Costs

	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	1,000	1,000
Other fees paid to examiners	3,174	3,174
Meeting Costs	1,593	1,593
	<u>5,767</u>	<u>5,767</u>

8 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>1,046</u>	<u>1,393</u>

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year (2024 - None).

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year (2024 - None).

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	183,660	202,110
Social security costs	11,767	12,849
Pension costs	6,949	7,404
	<u>202,376</u>	<u>222,363</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Number of staff	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2024 - None).

11 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Other fees to examiners		
All other services	<u>4,849</u>	<u>3,174</u>

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

12 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	21,758	21,758
At 31 March 2025	21,758	21,758
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	17,577	17,577
Charge for the year	1,046	1,046
At 31 March 2025	18,623	18,623
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	3,135	3,135
At 31 March 2024	4,181	4,181

14 Stock

	2025 £	2024 £
Consumables	743	743

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	3,428	728
Prepayments	4,086	4,018
Other debtors	361	326
	7,875	5,072

16 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash on hand	200	200
Cash at bank	138,777	140,848
	138,977	141,048

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	4,107	4,164
Other creditors	1,203	1,277
Accruals	3,940	6,384
	<u>9,250</u>	<u>11,825</u>

18 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £6,949 (2024 - £7,404).

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General funds	62,370	59,444	(196)	(28,370)	93,248
<i>Designated</i>					
Designated funds	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>92,370</u>	<u>59,444</u>	<u>(196)</u>	<u>(28,370)</u>	<u>123,248</u>
Restricted funds					
0-4 UK	7,722	-	(24,712)	17,000	10
0-18 UK	31,714	136,143	(177,744)	11,370	1,483
Love Reading	2,444	58,177	(57,772)	-	2,849
Wales	4,969	-	-	-	4,969
Plymouth Active	-	19,796	(10,875)	-	8,921
Total restricted funds	<u>46,849</u>	<u>214,116</u>	<u>(271,103)</u>	<u>28,370</u>	<u>18,232</u>
Total funds	<u>139,219</u>	<u>273,560</u>	<u>(271,299)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>141,480</u>

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General funds	39,917	32,697	(244)	(10,000)	62,370
<i>Designated</i>					
Designated funds	20,000	-	-	10,000	30,000
Total unrestricted funds	59,917	32,697	(244)	-	92,370
Restricted					
0-4 UK	16,105	100,291	(108,674)	-	7,722
0-18 UK	9,215	153,600	(131,101)	-	31,714
Love Reading	22,558	47,811	(67,925)	-	2,444
Wales	11,932	(6,663)	(300)	-	4,969
Total restricted funds	59,810	295,039	(308,000)	-	46,849
Total funds	119,727	327,736	(308,244)	-	139,219

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

The charity holds a designated reserve of £30,000, and combined operating reserves equivalent to approximately six months of current expenditure.

The restricted funds projects are explained in full in the Trustee's Report.

The transfers from unrestricted funds were made to cover the shortfall in those specific restricted funds.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,135	-	-	3,135
Current assets	99,363	30,000	18,232	147,595
Current liabilities	(9,250)	-	-	(9,250)
Total net assets	93,248	30,000	18,232	141,480

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	483	-	3,698	4,181
Current assets	73,712	30,000	43,151	146,863
Current liabilities	(11,825)	-	-	(11,825)
Total net assets	62,370	30,000	46,849	139,219

21 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year (2024 - £Nil).

Company registration number: 01477997

Charity registration number: 279523

Deaf Choices UK Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Deaf Choices UK Limited

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Deaf Choices UK Limited

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Mr K Orpin
Mrs C Hardy, Chairperson
Mr P G Bowman
Ms S C Elumba-Hill
Mr J P Twomey

Charity Registration Number

279523

Company Registration Number

01477997

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.

Registered Office

The Boatshed
Steamer Quay Road
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 5AL

Independent Examiner

S R Smith FCA
Westcotts (SW) LLP
Chartered Accountants
Petitor House
Nicholson Road
Torquay
Devon
TQ2 7TD

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Cued Speech Definition

Cued Speech is a visual manual code for spoken languages that enables accurate lip reading. As a speaker says each word, they make a hand shape near the face that replaces the missing acoustic information for the deaf receiver.

Public Benefit

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

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

From January 2024 Deaf Choices UK (DCUK) aspires to give deaf children improved access to the following: -

Language - by empowering their families to make fully informed choices.

Literacy - by supporting their educators to access information, training, and resources.

Providing knowledge, information and training around the unique benefits, concepts, and skills of using Cued Speech.

Our offer supports deaf children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) to thrive at home, succeed in education, and achieve their potential.

Activities

Our three key areas of work:

1. Language and Literacy for Life 0 - 18

This includes our work with families, training the team around a deaf child and networking and publicity.

Supporting families

Remains a central focus for Deaf Choices UK (DCUK). Parents come to DCUK for families living outside South Devon, DCUK provides support via weekly Zoom calls and access to an online self-study course.

When a child transitions into school, DCUK offers training and support to nursery or pre-school staff so they can incorporate Cued Speech into the child's learning environment.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

Training

We have supported 146 professionals to learn to cue in this year.

Networking

Attending seminars and conferences, sometimes delivering key speeches and demonstrations.

Marketing Campaign with Crest

DCUK Launched a major campaign to promote DCUK across media platforms.

2. Active

Welcome to Plymouth Deaf Choices (PDC).

PDC enhances and supports the DCUK outcomes at every level, increasing self-confidence and improving family participation. With its links to Cued Speech and Egguckland school, we are also enhancing the opportunities for improved literacy.

Active has also supported dance sessions for deaf children after school attended by 8 children.

3. Love Literacy

We launched our new foundation literacy initiative, Nan in a Van (NIAV), to address significant gaps in deaf education while also ensuring our long-term financial viability. NIAV delivers specialised support directly to schools and communities and introduces a new revenue stream through our services.

Wales

This fund is intended to pay for Cued resources to be made in Welsh. The work started in the previous year, but has been on hold, and will hopefully be finished this next year. It no longer became a priority as the family support practitioner we had working in Wales, was made redundant, as we no longer had enough funds for the post. The remaining funds will still be used for the same purpose.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

Mr K Orpin

Mrs C Hardy, Chairperson

Mr P G Bowman

Ms S C Elumba-Hill

Ms V Henry-Macklin (resigned 27 June 2025)

Mr J P Twomey

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The activities are governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Charity members elect the trustees who meet quarterly to oversee the work of the paid staff.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees work in line with Deaf Choices UK Articles of Association.

All trustees apply with a full CV and two references, and are interviewed by the Executive Director and another trustee. New trustees are voted in on their first meeting by the full Board.

Trustees are appointed for their personal and professional business expertise, and for their own lived experience or family experience of deafness.

Induction and training of trustees

All trustees must complete Level 1 safeguarding training and have an enhanced DBS check, and from April 2025, all trustees will be given the Charity Governance code to read.

Organisational structure

At the end of the year there were 6 part-time employees.

The Team consists of: -

Henrietta Ireland – Executive Director

Cate Calder - Training Leader

Louise Creed – Business Manager

Debbie Hawkes – Senior Administrator

Mark Murton – Training co-ordinator

Kathy Kenny – Lead Regional Family Adviser (South West region)

Sagira Jethra - post terminated (September 2024)

Carly Simpson - post terminated (September 2024)

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

Major risks and management of those risks

Risk overview

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and in particular those that are affected by fluctuations in the financial position of the Charity and we are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the Charity's exposure to major risk.

Investment Powers

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit.

Financial Review

Total income received was £273,560 (2024 - £327,736), of which £263,832 (£323,240) was received by grants and donations from charitable trusts, foundations and individuals. The remaining £9,728 (£4,496) included tuition fees and charges, membership subscriptions and investment income.

Total expenditure costs have reduced to £271,299 (2024 - £308,244), due to a decrease in the exceptional costs of £21,000 and wages of £20,000.

Income exceeded expenditure by £2,261 resulting in an increase in total funds from £139,219 to £141,480.

Reserves Policy

The policy is to hold a designated reserve of £30,000 for any unforeseen circumstances. The combined funds are held to cover six months of total costs to operate at the current level if grant income falls significantly, whilst looking for alternative funding. The overall balances held at 31 March 2025 meet that requirement of approximately £130,000, where £18,232 (2024 - £46,849) is held for restricted work, and £123,248 (2024 - £92,370) for unrestricted funds.

Conclusion

To maintain full capacity throughout the year, staff were asked to voluntarily reduce their hours during the summer holiday period (July to September), generating cost savings. In addition, two funded posts came to an end following the conclusion of project funding for our Regional Family Advisers in Hertfordshire and the North East. Together, these measures enabled DCUK to close the financial year in surplus.

Looking ahead to 2025-2026, we maintain a hopeful, yet pragmatic perspective. Without crucial funds for our core operations, we risk being unable to sustain our charitable activities, which may necessitate reducing employee hours, ultimately limiting our capacity. Our goal is to preserve our presence in Plymouth and the South West, while staying true to our identity and mission.

DCUK is committed to developing our social enterprise model and scaling our programmes based on evidence and evaluation. While NIAV has generated strong interest, current income remains below expenditure.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Trustees' Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Deaf Choices UK Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 1 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs C Hardy
Trustee

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Deaf Choices UK Limited ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Deaf Choices UK Limited as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.



.....
S R Smith FCA
Westcotts (SW) LLP
Chartered Accountants
Petitor House
Nicholson Road
Torquay
Devon
TQ2 7TD

22 October 2025

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	56,361	207,471	263,832	323,240
Charitable activities	4	92	6,645	6,737	2,703
Investment income	5	2,991	-	2,991	1,793
Total income		59,444	214,116	273,560	327,736
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	(26,567)	(26,567)	(28,062)
Charitable activities	6	(196)	(244,536)	(244,732)	(280,182)
Total expenditure		(196)	(271,103)	(271,299)	(308,244)
Net income/(expenditure)		59,248	(56,987)	2,261	19,492
Transfers between funds		(28,370)	28,370	-	-
Net movement in funds		30,878	(28,617)	2,261	19,492
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		92,370	46,849	139,219	119,727
Total funds carried forward 19		123,248	18,232	141,480	139,219

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 19.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

(Registration number: 01477997)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	3,135	4,181
Current assets			
Stocks	14	743	743
Debtors	15	7,875	5,072
Cash at bank and in hand	16	138,977	141,048
		147,595	146,863
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(9,250)	(11,825)
Net current assets		138,345	135,038
Net assets		141,480	139,219
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	19	18,232	46,849
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		123,248	92,370
Total funds	19	141,480	139,219

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 8 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 1 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



..
Mrs C Hardy
Trustee

The notes on pages 10 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

The Boatshed
Steamer Quay Road
Totnes
Devon
TQ9 5AL

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Deaf Choices UK Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Fixtures and fittings	25% reducing balance

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Donations;			
Donations	6,833	9,704	16,537
Membership subscriptions	279	10	289
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	-	77,051	77,051
Grants from trusts and foundations	49,249	120,706	169,955
	<u>56,361</u>	<u>207,471</u>	<u>263,832</u>

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Donations;			
Donations	4,892	-	4,892
Membership subscriptions	330	34	364
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	-	75,478	75,478
Grants from trusts and foundations	25,199	217,307	242,506
	<u>30,421</u>	<u>292,819</u>	<u>323,240</u>

During the year grants were received from the following institutions:

National Lottery Fund £77,051 (2024 - £75,478)

Henry Smith Charity £58,200 (2024 -£59,600)

BBC Children In Need £22,505 (2024 - £22,806)

Foyle Foundation £25,000 (2024 - £Nil)

Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust £Nil (2024 - £100,000)

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
CS training income	-	598	598
Miscellaneous income	92	6,047	6,139
	92	6,645	6,737

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
CS training income	597	530	1,127
Miscellaneous income	1	1,575	1,576
	598	2,105	2,703

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £
Interest receivable on bank deposits	2,991	2,991
	2,991	2,991

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,678	115	1,793
	1,678	115	1,793

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2025
	Note	£	£	£
Charitable activities		70	25,245	25,315
Staff costs		-	180,115	180,115
Allocated support costs	7	126	32,664	32,790
Governance costs	7	-	6,512	6,512
		196	244,536	244,732

		Unrestricted funds General	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	Note	£	£	£
Charitable activities		83	23,781	23,864
Staff costs		-	197,904	197,904
Allocated support costs	7	161	52,486	52,647
Governance costs	7	-	5,767	5,767
		244	279,938	280,182

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Staff training	-	2,214	2,214
Repairs and maintenance	-	386	386
Insurance	-	3,092	3,092
Rent	-	11,762	11,762
Legal and professional	-	720	720
Telephone and broadband	-	4,459	4,459
Printing, postage and stationery	-	4,096	4,096
Depreciation	121	925	1,046
Bank charges	5	55	60
Subscriptions and licenses	-	4,955	4,955
	126	32,664	32,790

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Staff training	-	2,287	2,287
Repairs and maintenance	-	143	143
Insurance	-	2,913	2,913
Rent	-	11,762	11,762
Legal and professional	-	720	720
Telephone and broadband	-	5,111	5,111
Printing, postage and stationery	-	2,507	2,507
Depreciation	161	1,232	1,393
Bank charges	-	60	60
Subscriptions and licenses	-	4,631	4,631
Exceptional costs	-	21,120	21,120
	161	52,486	52,647

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Independent examiner fees
Examination of the financial statements
Other fees paid to examiners
Meeting Costs

	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	1,000	1,000
Other fees paid to examiners	3,174	3,174
Meeting Costs	1,593	1,593
	<u>5,767</u>	<u>5,767</u>

8 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>1,046</u>	<u>1,393</u>

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year (2024 - None).

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year (2024 - None).

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	183,660	202,110
Social security costs	11,767	12,849
Pension costs	6,949	7,404
	<u>202,376</u>	<u>222,363</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Number of staff	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year (2024 - None).

11 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Other fees to examiners		
All other services	<u>4,849</u>	<u>3,174</u>

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

12 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2024	21,758	21,758
At 31 March 2025	21,758	21,758
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2024	17,577	17,577
Charge for the year	1,046	1,046
At 31 March 2025	18,623	18,623
Net book value		
At 31 March 2025	3,135	3,135
At 31 March 2024	4,181	4,181

14 Stock

	2025 £	2024 £
Consumables	743	743

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	3,428	728
Prepayments	4,086	4,018
Other debtors	361	326
	7,875	5,072

16 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash on hand	200	200
Cash at bank	138,777	140,848
	138,977	141,048

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	4,107	4,164
Other creditors	1,203	1,277
Accruals	3,940	6,384
	<u>9,250</u>	<u>11,825</u>

18 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £6,949 (2024 - £7,404).

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General funds	62,370	59,444	(196)	(28,370)	93,248
<i>Designated</i>					
Designated funds	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Total unrestricted funds	<u>92,370</u>	<u>59,444</u>	<u>(196)</u>	<u>(28,370)</u>	<u>123,248</u>
Restricted funds					
0-4 UK	7,722	-	(24,712)	17,000	10
0-18 UK	31,714	136,143	(177,744)	11,370	1,483
Love Reading	2,444	58,177	(57,772)	-	2,849
Wales	4,969	-	-	-	4,969
Plymouth Active	-	19,796	(10,875)	-	8,921
Total restricted funds	<u>46,849</u>	<u>214,116</u>	<u>(271,103)</u>	<u>28,370</u>	<u>18,232</u>
Total funds	<u>139,219</u>	<u>273,560</u>	<u>(271,299)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>141,480</u>

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General funds	39,917	32,697	(244)	(10,000)	62,370
<i>Designated</i>					
Designated funds	20,000	-	-	10,000	30,000
Total unrestricted funds	59,917	32,697	(244)	-	92,370
Restricted					
0-4 UK	16,105	100,291	(108,674)	-	7,722
0-18 UK	9,215	153,600	(131,101)	-	31,714
Love Reading	22,558	47,811	(67,925)	-	2,444
Wales	11,932	(6,663)	(300)	-	4,969
Total restricted funds	59,810	295,039	(308,000)	-	46,849
Total funds	119,727	327,736	(308,244)	-	139,219

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

The charity holds a designated reserve of £30,000, and combined operating reserves equivalent to approximately six months of current expenditure.

The restricted funds projects are explained in full in the Trustee's Report.

The transfers from unrestricted funds were made to cover the shortfall in those specific restricted funds.

Deaf Choices UK Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,135	-	-	3,135
Current assets	99,363	30,000	18,232	147,595
Current liabilities	(9,250)	-	-	(9,250)
Total net assets	93,248	30,000	18,232	141,480

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	483	-	3,698	4,181
Current assets	73,712	30,000	43,151	146,863
Current liabilities	(11,825)	-	-	(11,825)
Total net assets	62,370	30,000	46,849	139,219

21 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year (2024 - £Nil).