

Charity no. 289302

The Trust for Deaf Studies

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31st March 2025

FARQUHAR PARTNERSHIP LIMITED

Chartered Certified Accountants, 151 Whiteladies Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2RA

**The Trust for Deaf Studies
Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st March 2025**

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The Trust for Deaf Studies Trustees' Annual Report Year Ended 31st March 2025

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	The Trust for Deaf Studies
Charity registration no.	289302
Principle office	The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2QQ

Trustees and Officers

The trustees who served the charity during the year were as follows:

Dr H Sutherland
M Gulliver
A C Denmark
H A Pender

Secretary J Kyle

Independent examiner R. Bourke ACCA
of Farquhar Partnership Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants, 151 Whiteladies Road, Clifton,
Bristol, BS8 2RA

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust for Deaf Studies is a registered charity, number 289302 and is governed by a trust deed. The charity is an unincorporated organisation, established in 1984.

When recruiting new trustees, the board looks for individuals with skills and experience which are likely to be of value to the organisation. If there is likely to be support for an applicant, initial contact will be made with the individual to ascertain both their suitability and their interest in a vacancy.

Objectives and activities

The main objective of the Trust is to improve communication and understanding among deaf people and the members of the hearing community by unlocking the potential of the sign language using community and reaching out to hard of hearing people. The intention is to increase mutual respect and participation.

The Trust's work is driven by research with deaf people and concerning their interface with hearing organisations, families and society as a whole. The Trust carries out this research and makes it available to all, in response to individual requests and directly to groups, in courses, in conferences and workshops and online through our website.

The Trust for Deaf Studies
Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*
Year Ended 31st March 2025

Achievements and performance

Although we have passed through the main Covid period, we can see major negative changes in the deaf community. Deaf clubs closed down, personal contact was vastly reduced, gatherings were limited. Deaf community life has not recovered. Significantly gaps have appeared with older groups of sign language users having limited contact with young people. Increase in use of social media has increased among young people and potentially is taking the place of personal interaction. We recognised this nearly two years ago and were able to obtain a grant from the National Lottery to investigate the current status in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and in Bristol. The project was due to begin in February 2023 but staff changes and management at Gloucestershire Deaf Association who were project leaders, meant a huge delay in activity. DST carried out pilot interviews between November 2023 and January 2024, but further delays have pushed the project completion into 2025.

We began a project to catalogue and analyse the extensive archive material we hold for the deaf school, deaf club, the University's Centre for Deaf Studies and DST itself. However, the resignation of the key researcher has put this project on hold until a replacement is found. We continue to provide the three-week full time training for 2nd year University medic students (in 2 blocks in September and October). This includes on-site immersive language teaching and lectures with the use of specially created files for interactive self-teaching. The outcomes were excellent and the students' reports have been excellent.

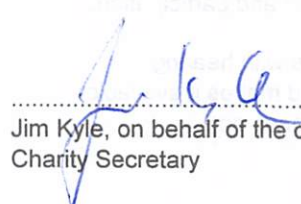
The Deaf Schools athletics programme ran weekly up to the Deaf Schools Athletics event in July. Over 50 children (from six to fifteen years old took part and deaf assistants made it feel like a deaf-focused event). We plan to continue this programme annually.

Initial work with Bath University to produce new 3-D medical materials through motion capture was not completely successful. As the technology has moved on further we are continuing to develop in this area.

Financial review

The financial situation is monitored regularly and at the year end by the trustees. The charity's free reserves are represented by the unrestricted funds. The trustees believe the organisation's free reserves should be approximately three months unrestricted expenditure, which equates to £4,000. At the year end the charity's free reserves were £35,151.

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


.....
Jim Kyle, on behalf of the charity's trustees
Charity Secretary


.....2025

The Trust for Deaf Studies
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Trust for Deaf Studies
Year Ended 31st March 2025
Charity no. 289302

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 set out on pages 4 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....


....., 2025

R. Bourke ACCA
of Farquhar Partnership Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants, 151 Whiteladies Road, Clifton,
Bristol, BS8 2RA

The Trust for Deaf Studies
Statement of Financial Activities
Year Ended 31st March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Incoming Resources					
From generating funds:					
Donations and legacies	3	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	-	55,200	55,200	41,266
Other income	3	230	-	230	80
Total incoming resources		230	55,200	55,430	41,346
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	4	3,491	15,891	19,382	32,265
Governance costs	4	720	-	720	720
Total resources expended		4,211	15,891	20,102	32,985
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,981)	39,309	35,328	8,361
Transfers between funds	10,11	(1,195)	1,195	-	-
Net movement in funds		(5,176)	40,504	35,328	8,361
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		40,327	54,292	94,619	86,258
Total funds carried forward		35,151	94,796	129,947	94,619

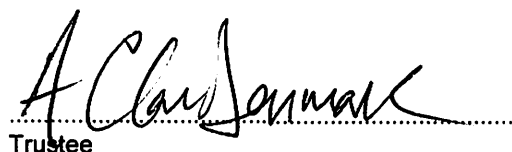
The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and as a result a statement of recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

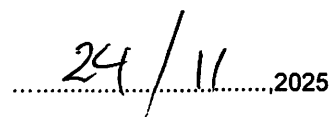
All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The Trust for Deaf Studies
Balance Sheet
Year Ended 31st March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	6	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	7	130,497	94,619
Net current assets		<u>130,497</u>	<u>94,619</u>
Creditors and accruals	8	550	-
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>129,947</u>	<u>94,619</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted income funds	9	94,796	54,292
Unrestricted income funds	10	35,151	40,327
Total funds		<u>129,947</u>	<u>94,619</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:


 Trustee

 2025

The Trust for Deaf Studies
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st March 2025

1. Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

2. Accounting policies

RECONCILIATION WITH PREVIOUS GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRACTICE

The policies applied under the entity's previous accounting framework are not materially different to FRS 102 and have not impacted on funds of the Charity or financial activities.

INCOME

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

Legacies

Legacies are included in the SoFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.

Donated services and facilities

Donated services and facilities are included in the SoFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.

Support costs

The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

The Trust for Deaf Studies
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st March 2025

2. EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Value added tax

Resources expended include attributable VAT which can not be recovered.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and valued at cost.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

The Trust for Deaf Studies
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
Year Ended 31st March 2025

3. Analysis of income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations and legacies				
Donations and gifts	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities				
Assessment & reports	-	-	-	-
Grants receivable				
Family	-	-	-	-
Short Courses Medical Students	-	55,200	55,200	38,250
Deaf Heritage	-	-	-	-
Deaf Schools Athletics	-	-	-	-
Dementia Awareness	-	-	-	-
Deaf Covid Aftermath	-	-	-	3,016
National Lottery Community Fund for DeafStation	-	-	-	-
	-	55,200	55,200	41,266
Other income				
Other income	230	-	230	80
	230	-	230	80
Total Income	230	55,200	55,430	41,346

4. Analysis of expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities				
Staff costs	-	11,063	11,063	13,089
Consultancy	-	1,325	1,325	3,090
Rent, rates and service charges	2,492	-	2,492	3,836
Insurance	-	-	-	299
Motor and travel	-	-	-	-
Room hire and course expenses	50	2,434	2,484	7,340
Accountancy	586	-	586	726
Telephone	-	-	-	-
Office expenses	83	227	310	3,383
Interpreting fees	280	842	1,122	502
Gifts and entertaining	-	-	-	-
Sundry	-	-	-	-
	3,491	15,891	19,382	32,265
Governance and support costs				
Independent Examiner's fees	720	-	720	720
	720	-	720	720
Total Expenditure	4,211	15,891	20,102	32,985

The Trust for Deaf Studies
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year Ended 31st March 2025

5. Staff Costs				2025	2024
				£	£
Wages and salaries and employers NIC				-	-
Subcontractors				11,063	13,089
				<u>11,063</u>	<u>13,089</u>
No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.					
				no.	no.
Average number of employees in the year involved with:					
Charitable Activities				<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
6. Debtors and prepayments					
Charitable Debtors				-	-
Prepayments				-	-
				<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
7. Cash at bank and in hand					
Bank of Scotland				<u>130,497</u>	<u>94,619</u>
8. Creditors and accruals					
Accrual - Bookkeeping				550	-
				<u>550</u>	<u>-</u>
9. Restricted income funds					
	Balance	Incoming	Outgoing		Balance
	01.04.24	resources	resources	Transfers	31.03.25
	£	£	£	£	£
Family Project	-	-	-	-	-
Short Courses Medical Students	60,243	55,200	(14,104)	-	101,339
Deaf Heritage	(3,542)	-	(227)	-	(3,769)
Deaf Schools Athletics	(1,699)	-	(235)	-	(1,934)
Dementia Awareness	-	-	-	-	-
Deaf Covid Aftermath	(512)	-	(1,325)	1,195	(642)
National Lottery Community Fund for DeafStation	(198)	-	-	-	(198)
	<u>54,292</u>	<u>55,200</u>	<u>(15,891)</u>	<u>1,195</u>	<u>94,796</u>
Bank interest		-		-	
		<u>55,200</u>		<u>1,195</u>	
10. Unrestricted income funds					
General funds	<u>40,327</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>(4,211)</u>	<u>(1,195)</u>	<u>35,151</u>

The Trust for Deaf Studies
Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*
Year Ended 31st March 2025

11. Transfers between funds

Transfers between funds represent the movement of net resources in line with conditions relating to the respective grants received.

12. Transactions with related parties		2025	2024
		£	£
Name of trustee or related party	Legal authority		
H Sutherland, Trustee			
Teaching, lecturing, consultancy and expenses	Trust Deed	-	-
M Gulliver, Trustee			
Teaching, lecturing, consultancy and expenses	Trust Deed	-	4,173
A C Denmark, Trustee			
Teaching, lecturing, consultancy and expenses	Trust Deed	237	-
H A Pender, Trustee			
Teaching, lecturing, consultancy and expenses	Trust Deed	50	303

Annual Review 2024-2025

The Trust for Deaf Studies
The Vassall Centre
Gill Avenue, Bristol BS16 2QQ
Charity Number: 289302



www.deafstudiestrust.org



Chair Report

One of our major projects has finally been completed, albeit with much less data than anticipated, due to a prolonged period of inactivity that was beyond our control. The year 2024 and early 2025 have continued to be challenging for our key members, due to various reasons—illness in some cases and a shortage of trustees in others. We hope these issues will be less significant later in 2025 and into 2026.

As a result of providing yet another three-week training programme for medical students, the Trust remains in a healthy financial position. However, we need to begin investing, as it will otherwise be difficult to apply for grants.

The Trust is now 41 years old. With the current Board and new trustees, we hope to bring in fresh ideas to keep the Trust active. We need people with a strong commitment to research, especially in relation to a changing deaf community where 'Deaf in Covid Aftermath' was the project which tried to examine this. However, there is a growing threat that AI-based BSL translations may create more confusion—particularly in short or urgent messages—instead of serving as an asset.

We continue to try to keep Deaf Heritage work going, as it is vital to share the wealth of resources we have at DST. This relies on support from deaf colleagues.

Jim will be able to share more in his secretary's report. As usual, I would like to thank Jim Kyle, our Secretary, Esther, our Treasurer, and the Trustees for their continuing efforts. I would also like to mention Michelle, Sarah, Jenny, and Steve, who taught on the medical course this year. Thanks also to other contributors in teaching and research.

Clark Denmark, Chair, 2025

Secretary's Report

Deaf Studies Trust is now in its 41st year of operation. We have accumulated a huge array of data on a wide range of topics.

There are archives of the Trust itself and its projects; but also historical material going back to the first deaf school in Bristol in the 1840s and the setting up of the Bristol deaf club in



Deaf Studies Trust Annual Review 2024-2025

1884. We collected and stored a great deal of research and teaching material from the Centre for Deaf Studies in the University from 1977 to 2017. There is work on sign language from infancy into adulthood, work on health and wellbeing, analysis of the deaf community as well as a good deal of collaborative work with international partners. We have video in original U-matic format, through VHS to digital tapes with more recent new direct video from Deafstation. Phew!

We now have the responsibility to digitise, classify, analyse and make available this rich resource for the deaf community. Obviously, this is not going to happen overnight and requires planning and then, funding. It will rely on support from deaf colleagues and in the historical material, insights from the older members of the community. There is, however, some urgency as the deaf community has changed.

The Trust has had a quieter year due to some health complications, but we are hopeful that the Trust's financial position and an expanding Trustee engagement, will push the trust forward into 2026.

Special thanks as always to Esther Drewe who manages our finances and to our Chair, Clark Denmark who shares his enormous experience in all matters to do with the deaf community.

Jim Kyle, Secretary

Deaf in the Covid Aftermath

This project was funded by the National Lottery. It was part of a larger plan which could not be achieved in the end for several reasons which were outside of our control. There were to be three phases starting in early 2023:

(1) **Deaf in the Aftermath** We wanted to collect experiences of individual deaf people aged 20 to 80 years considering age/gender/location/family status/ethnic group and employment characteristics. However, due to changes of staff at GDA who were the lead on the project, there were delays and behind schedule. The final report in 2025 was less than we had planned.

There were to be further phases

(2) **Deaf Community Renewal:**

Establishment of actions to have an impact on the deaf community; on influencers in the community; and on services to be offered

(3) **Deaf Community Empowerment**

This was to support and renew community passing responsibility to deaf people.

The Deaf in the Covid Aftermath (DCA) project was first conceived – 5 years ago. The project was designed to be of vital importance to the service organisations (Gloucestershire Deaf Association and Centre for Deaf People in Bristol). The purpose of the project was to determine the state of the Deaf community prior to Covid, during Covid and now post-Covid. In reality, many of the changes pre-date the DCA project and actually the research work should have been conducted almost 10 years earlier.

Very simply, the Deaf Community does not exist in the same way as before and the sign language at the centre of the community has been put at risk by the factors of health care, interventions, educational changes and in society as a whole.

Positives include the passing of the BSL Act and responsibilities of Government departments; the acceptance and almost promotion of BSL in the media; the creation of an alternative focus for deaf young people in raves and gatherings on a national scale.

The negatives have been in health care (cochlear implantation from infancy, closing of schools for deaf, and centres for adult deaf people, which has removed adult role models and experienced BSL users. The deaf BSL using community has been shrinking. Other factors have been the increase in technologies allowing people to meet visually online and reducing the need to physically congregate. Research on language has advanced with the status of BSL but it is also reflecting the decline in BSL use.

There is a need for the Deaf Studies Trust to adapt to this changing environment.

Deaf Schools Athletics July 2024 at YOSC Supported By Deaf Studies Trust

This was the fourth annual deaf schools competition. As far as we can tell this is the only deaf schools athletics event in England. There were 60 participants from Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Bristol and Wiltshire. They range in age from 7 years to 14 years. As far as can be determined, none of them are registered with an athletics club - which is indicative of the lack of provision and support. They attended with teachers, interpreters and parents. The events ranged from 30m sprints, obstacle course and vortex throws for the youngest to 100m, 400m, Long Jump, High Jump and Javelin for the older group.

Thanks to the participation of officials from Yate AC and Bristol and West AC, These performances were then linked to the England Athletics PB Awards – the mainstream classification for the standard events. With limited prior training or involvement in club athletics, there were several outstanding performances. We had 19 bronze level, 14 silver, 4 gold and one platinum and one elite.

“Dealing with Deaf” - Second Year Medical Students in Bristol

This continues to be a rewarding and effective programme. Twenty students from the University of Bristol Medical School were provided with an immersive course of three weeks duration. By the end of the programme students can carry out a consultation with a deaf patient in BSL. Student reports at the end of the programme are wholly positive and many want to learn more BSL.

The Statement of Financial Activities for the Year to 31st March 2025

The financial situation in outline (31st March 2025) is as follows:

Balance in the bank of £129k. Last year's balance was £94k.

Income over the year has been from the course for Medical students learning about deaf health and communication in October (£55k). Looking forward, the Trust has plans to work on future activities – We started the Deaf in the Covid Aftermath project in conjunction with GDA and CfD Bristol, but this has been terminated early in March 2025, for reasons beyond our control..

Medic student training has again take place in Sept – Oct 2024.

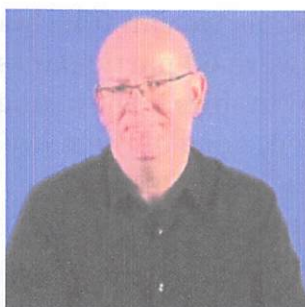
We have continuing overheads of rent, accounting and website costs amounting around £6k per annum. We do not have any pension liabilities and we contract as necessary for different activities.

The Trust is in a good financial position at this time.

Esther Drewe April 2025

The Deaf Studies Trust continues to move forward in its work. It succeeds with low overhead margins and does not seek to generate large profits on its work.

The Deaf Studies Trust strives continuously to make Deaf people's lives more valued and understood by the society at large.



Chair: Clark Denmark



Secretary:
Jim Kyle



Treasurer:
Esther Drewe



Trustee: Hilary
Sutherland

The Trust for Deaf Studie
www.deafstudiustrust.org

