

Charity registration number 506791

Company registration number 01323762 (England and Wales)

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

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**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

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The Council of management present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 March 2022.

**Officers & Council of Management**

Cheshire Deaf Society (operating as Deafness Support Network) is both a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The society is governed by trustees collectively known as the Council of Management. The members of the Council are both Directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and charity trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2006.

The members of Council are responsible for the policy and strategy of the Society. They have special responsibility to ensure that all aspects of the Society's activities are properly conducted and carried out in full compliance with the Society's Memorandum and Articles of Association, although day to day management is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and senior staff.

**The Council of Management**

The following were members of the Council of Management during the year:

**Chair**

Mr B Colman (resigned 21 July 2021)  
Mr D Horrocks (appointed 21 July 2021)  
resigned 11 August 2021)  
Mr Steve Crump (appointed 6 September 2021, resigned 27 April 2022)  
Mr D Fardoe (appointed 27 April 2022)

**Vice Chair**

Mr D Horrocks (resigned 21 July 2021)

**Treasurer**

Mr R Edwards (resigned 13 July 2022)  
Mrs J Stringer (appointed 13 July 2022)

Secretary Held by Chief Executive Officer - David Horrocks (appointed 1 October 2021)

**Members of the board of trustees**

Mr P Morley  
Mr D Pane  
Mrs J Huntington (resigned 18 February 2022)  
Miss N Doyle (resigned 15 October 2021)  
Mr R Edwards (appointed 12 August 2021)  
Mr R Gould (resigned 15 October 2021)  
Tina Louise Longergan (appointed 12 July 2022)  
Mr J Mander (appointed 27 April 2022)

**Auditors**

DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited  
Chester House  
Lloyd Drive  
Cheshire Oaks Business Park  
Ellesmere Port  
Cheshire  
CH65 9HQ

**Bankers**

National Westminster Bank  
PO Box 4  
Bull Ring  
Northwich  
Cheshire  
CW9 5BN

**Solicitors**

Brabners  
Horton House  
Exchange Flags  
Liverpool  
L2 3YL

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Services are currently offered from four local centres:

- Northwich (Registered Office)
- Chester
- Macclesfield
- Warrington (Training services only)

Supported accommodation services are located at Stepping Stones, Lavender Lodge and two cluster homes, all based in Northwich.

**Governing Document**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such it does not have a share capital. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. These documents were amended by special resolution in order to change the geographical area for DSN from Cheshire and the surrounding areas to Cheshire, the north-west, and north-Wales. The amendment was ratified by members at the Annual General Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

**Recruitment and Appointment of Council of Management**

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's articles are known as members of the Council of Management. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Council are elected to serve for a period of three years, after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting of members.

The Council seeks to ensure that the needs of D/deaf people are appropriately reflected through the diversity of the trustee body. To enhance the potential pool of trustees the charity continually seeks to identify D/deaf individuals, who would be willing to become members of the Council, through networking with other organisations in the local area and throughout the local D/deaf communities.

Traditional business skills are also well represented on the Council. To maintain this broad skill mix, Council members are requested to provide an up-to-date list of their skills and in the event of particular skills being lost to retirements from the Council, new individuals are approached to offer themselves for election. DSN will continue to actively look to enhance the skill base of the Council of Management through personal development of existing members and appointment of new trustees where appropriate.

In March 2021, the CEO, M Lunney, left the organisation, and a new recruitment process for a new CEO was initiated. On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Board contracted S Crump under a consultancy contract as Interim CEO until this recruitment process was completed. D Horrocks was appointed as CEO and started his role on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and S Crump then accepted the role of Chair of the Board until a new Chair was recruited.

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**Trustee Induction and Training**

Most trustees are familiar with the practical work of the charity, having already been involved with the charity, or the local D/deaf community, in one form or another. Additionally, new trustees are invited and encouraged to visit the charity's various offices and meet with the Chief Executive Officer and Chair to familiarise themselves with the charity and the context within which it operates.

A trustee induction pack is provided which includes the following information:

- Trustee role description
- The history of D/deafness Support Network
- Organisation charts
- Annual review and service leaflets
- The Essential Trustee (An introduction & what you need to know)
- Statutory and Management Accounts
- Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Towards 2022 (Our 5-year plan & strategic document)
- Minutes of previous Council and members' meetings
- Organisational risk register

An annual trustee strategy session, held off site for one day each year, also addresses issues of trustee development and considers the strategic development of the organisation.

**The implications of COVID 19 related control measures**

In March 2021, the lockdown was lifted by the government and DSN's plans were modified in line with the Government guidance for this.

**Risk Management**

The Council of Management conducts a regular review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated regularly. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate and manage the risks the charity faces - appropriate assurances being given to the officers and trustees by the Executive Management Team (EMT).

EMT has dedicated a considerable amount of management and personal time to assessing and understanding the potential implications of COVID-19 on DSN's governance, charity income, expenditure and commitments, and the value of DSN's assets and liabilities. Robust measures have been put in place, specific to the needs of DSN, to contain the impact of the COVID-19 virus.

Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan that will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place, being managed and amended since March 2020 to reflect the potential impact of the COVID-19 virus, to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients, and visitors to the charity's premises. These procedures are reviewed annually to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

EMT met every two weeks to discuss operational issues and ensure that associated risks are identified, managed, and mitigated in a pro-active manner. This approach to risk management is further underpinned and informed by an annual review of DSN's policies and by DSN's on-going Social Accounting programme, which ensures a more rounded approach to stakeholder involvement in the identification and management of risk.

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DSN continually works to improve its reporting framework to enhance strong governance. The reporting dashboard for trustees and senior managers continues to be revised as appropriate and has proved to be of significant benefit to trustees and senior managers in monitoring operational performance. This is a live process which will continue to develop to ensure it best meets business needs.

**Organisational Structure**

Under its constitution, the charity has a Council of Management of more than 3 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Company Secretary, who is also the Chief Executive Officer, sits on the Council but has no voting rights. As of 31 March 2022, there were a total of 4 members, with an additional 3 new Trustees pending registration with the Charity Commission and Companies House at the time of writing.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility for the provision of the service rests with the Chief Executive Officer, along with the EMT. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met. The EMT has responsibility for the day-to-day operational management of the charity, individual supervision of the staff and ensuring staff continue to develop their skills and working practices in line with good practice.

**Related Parties**

In so far as it is complementary to the charity's objectives, the charity is guided by both local and national policy. Services are delivered in partnership and attract funding from various organisations that include:

- Children's and Adult Social Care Service (Sensory Services), through contracts with Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West & Chester Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham.
- Supported Living contracts, through Cheshire West & Chester Council and social care teams in numerous local authorities.

*DSN has a wholly owned subsidiary company, DSN Cymru, which is currently dormant.*

**Objectives and Activities**

The object of the Charity as stated in our Memorandum and Articles of Association is the relief of D/deaf persons in Cheshire, the north-west, and north-Wales. DSN deliver this by providing the best choice and quality of services DSN can, as efficiently as DSN can, for as many people as possible, within the resources available to us.

DSN reviews its aims and objectives each year, seeking to deliver activities and outcomes that achieve them. This report will highlight achievements against those objectives and describe some of the activities carried out. DSN have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning for our future activities. The charity seeks to meet its objectives through working to a set of agreed values and priorities and has published a five-year plan.

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**Towards 2022: Our five-year plan 2017-2022**

DSN's vision is a world where D/deaf people can communicate effectively and live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives. "Towards 2022" is the guiding strategy for DSN in the period 2017-22 and was developed with full input from service users, staff, commissioners, trustees, and other stakeholders. It identifies clear strategic priorities and signals our vision and values as DSN move forward. "Towards 2022" identifies 5 strategic themes that provide a focus for DSN over this timeframe. These themes are:

- Providing real access to opportunities and support to communicate effectively and enhance independence
- Leading healthier lives with improved social and emotional wellbeing
- Promoting positive actions to combat the threat of social isolation and loneliness for all
- Enabling people and communities to effectively shape and influence the services and support they need
- Ensuring DSN remains financially resilient, maximising available resources to deliver our strategic aims and vision

Since its publication in April 2017, the "Towards 2022" document has been widely shared with our users and stakeholders. DSN continue to receive positive feedback for DSN's direction of travel and commitment to continuous improvement. DSN believe that this document continued to prepare the organisation for the increasingly challenging economic environment in which DSN and the wider social care and charitable sector operate.

Due to the impact of COVID 19, the development of DSN's new strategy was delayed and is now due to commence on 01 April 2023. Additionally, the "Towards 2022" strategy was extended by an additional 12 months to cover the outstanding period.

**Achievements and Performance**

Our main activities during the year are described below. Traditionally all our activities have focused upon providing services and support to D/deaf people. This focus has further expanded into the provision of full sensory loss services (D/deaf and visually impaired) in Cheshire East and Flintshire, enabling ever more citizens to take a full and active role in wider society and to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

DSN has been broadly successful in retaining contracts and securing alternative investment streams to further develop services for the D/deaf community of Cheshire and surrounding areas. This success is against a background of many similar organisations facing financial conditions that have threatened their on-going existence. DSN has been able to respond to real challenges by demonstrating the quality of the services DSN provide and the value DSN deliver through efficient and effective deployment of resources. DSN will continue to focus on the pillars of Quality and Value, Person Centred Care, and Innovation in the years ahead.

DSN has successfully maintained the core of its established services across Cheshire while expanding its reach and service provision into north Wales. DSN continue to deliver high quality services valued by users and commissioners alike. The economic climate, notwithstanding the COVID-19 virus, has been extremely challenging. DSN has however, maintained, and in some cases enhanced, its service delivery for sensory communities throughout the year.

DSN focuses continually on introducing operational efficiencies by re-designing service delivery and enhancing its partnerships with commissioners. EMT works hard at fostering ever-improving relationships with key commissioners and funders to ensure DSN is in the strongest possible position for upcoming and longer-term contract negotiations.

To avoid over-reliance on limited funding pools, DSN look continuously at opportunities to develop alternative income streams. This strategy allows DSN to be better equipped to make informed assessments of all funding opportunities and develop a shared understanding of our priorities and objectives and how they will be achieved. It also ensures DSN allocate our limited resources to opportunities that will provide the most beneficial outcome for DSN and its service users.

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When identifying suitable opportunities DSN considers our key skills and track record, emerging government policy and available resources (both internal and external). DSN's fundraising efforts have been focused on enhancing our community engagement in addition to the pursuit of grants and trust funding. Regular strategy reviews ensure these efforts remain fit for purpose.

Every year, DSN publishes and distributes to all stakeholders an annual Achievement Report ("Insight"). This is aligned to an annual action plan which highlights several key areas in which the charity wishes to make solid progress in the year ahead. The action plan is developed through trustee engagement and through consultation with stakeholders and is in line with the overall strategic themes and priorities as laid out in our 5-year plan.

DSN formally reviews all policies and procedures annually and this was completed during this financial year. This exercise considers changes in legislation, regulations, and developments in good practice. EMT undertakes this process and changes made to any policies and procedures are highlighted to and ratified at board level by all trustees and shared with all staff at all locations.

In addition to information contained in this document under divisional updates, there has been considerable progress in the following areas following on from FY2020/2021:

**Improved Infrastructure**

The ongoing advances in technology, increased reporting measures, the ability to store employee personal details in line with GDPR and provision of self-service functionality, alongside cost savings, all made the decision to migrate to new systems the most viable solution to ensure the longer-term performance of the HR and finance functions. The introduction of a separate HR solution will allow greater flexibility in employee and manager's ability to request & approve leave via mobile/tablet devices. Emergency contact information will be accessible to managers in the event of any accidents/ill health at work where next of kin should be contacted. Details will also be available to access in the event of disaster recovery/business continuity processes.

Improved reporting supported the production of monthly & quarterly analysis for EMT & provided significant time savings for both the Management Support Officer & Finance Support Officer, by replacing manual tasks with automated ones.

**Campaign for more accessible BSL Information**

DSN has engaged fully with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and health forums (including Healthwatch and health & wellbeing boards) and contributed strongly to many public stakeholder events, ensuring appropriate access to processes for BSL users. This initiative has also ensured that local authorities have taken consideration of BSL when redesigning services.

**Social Accounting**

DSN is proud of the services and support that DSN provide and DSN remain committed to ongoing continual improvements to make sure that our service users experience the maximum possible benefits. Our Social Accounting programme continues to help us to examine our performance and further develop our services. By looking at what DSN do and collecting feedback from the people with whom DSN work, DSN are able to see where things can be improved. Collecting feedback from the people who receive the services means that they get the opportunity to be involved in the future planning of the services and how they are run.

In these challenging financial times, and to help funders decide to invest in our services, it is important that DSN evidence what DSN are doing and how DSN deliver value for money. By looking at the services DSN provide and measuring the impact of those services on peoples' lives, DSN can demonstrate the value of the work DSN does to commissioners, funders, and the communities DSN serve. This commitment to Social Accounting helps us to raise the profile of DSN and increases awareness of the high-quality help and support that DSN consistently deliver.

DSN collect information in the form of facts and figures, e.g., how many people DSN has supported, how many pieces of equipment DSN have supplied, how many training courses DSN has delivered, etc., and feedback from service users and other stakeholders using questionnaires, meetings, and capturing comments, compliments, complaints, etc.



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**Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**

DSN is committed to delivering excellent services for our community, with an emphasis on meeting evolving user needs and enhanced innovation. DSN aim to deliver this commitment whilst ensuring that impact on the environment is minimised and that all activities are conducted safely by well-trained and qualified employees.

Overall responsibility for developing and reviewing the effectiveness of corporate policies on social, ethical, and environmental matters lies with the DSN Executive Management Team, as delegated by the Board of trustees. These policies are communicated and applied across all departments to ensure compliance with the policies. DSN's policies and procedures, including those relating to social, environmental, health and safety, employment, and ethical matters, are communicated to all staff via the induction training, on-going personal developmental training, and internal communications. All policies and procedures are reviewed annually, and updates are communicated to staff.

Whilst as an organisation our major focus is on meeting the needs of D/deaf people, their families and carers in Cheshire and surrounding areas, DSN has recently broadened its reach to provide a dual sensory service to include the blind and partially sighted in some areas service. DSN continually strives to engage and interact with the wider community and to have a voice on wider issues of social importance.

As a result of this outward facing attitude, DSN are delighted to have worked in partnership with other charitable and public benefit organisations to raise awareness of over-arching social issues including the combatting of social isolation and loneliness, awareness raising and the fight against hate crime (DSN offices act as a safe space, publicised in the local area for the reporting of hate crime) and the development of youth services.

**Operations Division**

**Social Care**

For the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, DSN is pleased to report continued provision of our social care contracts with the four local authorities. DSN are currently in contract with Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC), Cheshire East Council (CEC), Flintshire County Council (FCC), and Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC), which has been increased by a half time SSO, meaning we now have a permanent full-time provision within the area.

DSN social care staff continued to work throughout the pandemic and during the slow return to the "new normal" delivering all of our contracted service. We continue to effectively monitor our service delivery and adhere to all contractual monitoring requirements. In addition to this DSN utilises its commitment to a Social Accounting model to capture service user experience and satisfaction, enabling us to use the qualitative and quantitative data to improve customer experience and deliver sustainable improvements. Our compliance officer is constantly looking at new and initiative ways to collect data.

The model also allows us to inform the commissioners in the local authorities of our success measures, including outputs, outcomes, and impact for our service(s) users.

**Health Awareness and Deafness (HANd)**

This project aims to improve understanding of wider health and well-being issues from a D/deaf perspective. The "topic" for the workshops are co-produced with the D/deaf attendees and Initiatives included in the HANd project vary depending on people's wishes. DSN are delighted to have secured an additional year of funding from NHS Cheshire CCG for 2021/22. The project delivers workshops that are within the original footprint of Cheshire West CCG. Their "Being Well" initiative and key priorities around long-term conditions: Diabetes, Asthma/COPD, Cardiology/CVD and Cancers etc. remain the same, however as one might expect the main topic throughout this year has been Covid 19 related.

DSN have been unsuccessful once again in getting Public Health funding, but we will continue to argue for this as DSN feel strongly that such services across Cheshire will provide further health benefits for the communities we serve. The Executive – Operations is the DSN representative and active participant of The Sector Leadership Group (CWaC) who collectively are involved in the development of the new Care Communities and the Developing Connected Communities programme. DSN continue to be the voice for D/deaf communities on all such matters.

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Health inequalities continue to be experienced by D/deaf people such as making their own GP appointments, accessing pharmacy services, and arriving for a hospital appointment to find an interpreter has not been booked. DSN will continue to address barriers to service provision whilst promoting new and innovative ways of Health education.

Over the years the number of available BSL signed health videos has increased substantially and these are promoted through our Workshops however, D/deaf people have told us that they value the opportunity of question-and-answer time directly with a health professional. DSN will explore using webinar developments with a 'live' interpreters at our future Workshops, if successful it will hopefully increase access to health professionals and improve the overall health & wellbeing of D/deaf people.

DSN continued to deliver health messages and support people in different ways throughout the duration of the lockdown and continued to spread the word about mental health, supporting staff and service users alike. DSN believe that there is no health without mental health.

**DSN Retail Ltd (Positive Hearing)**

Positive Hearing hasn't traded very much during this period but have when approached met requests for fitting commercial loop systems. The relationship however between Positive Hearing and the Positive Hearing Limited Liability Partnership continues to grow.

In July 2021 a meeting of the directors of Positive Hearing recommended that Gill Reeder would resign her Directorship of DSN Retail and that DSN the charity be appointed the sole member.

That the DSN Retail board be augmented and strengthened with the appointment of additional DSN trustees as Directors of the Company. This to include it's Treasurer, and one other, to be agreed by the trustees. This to give the board a broader trading perspective as opposed to focusing solely on Positive Hearing and Positive Hearing LLP.

Furthermore, that the strengthened board and newly appointed CEO, work to assemble a business and developmental plan that maximises the potential of DSN Retail as an income generator for DSN.

DSN's *incus* Team will then provide all training through this new business

As with all commercial service provision, Positive Hearing Limited Liability Partnership audiology had to close its doors due to the pandemic. Both Macclesfield and Northwich clinics were hit hard but once Government guidelines permitted the Northwich clinic to re-open its doors for business, people felt safe to return to the service. Service provision has begun to slowly recover and despite almost 3 months of no trading Positive Hearing LLP are looking to "gift" approx. £3,000.00 to DSN. Positive Hearing's financial year is 1<sup>st</sup> Jan - 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Community Engagement**

The post of Community Engagement Officer commenced January 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 which includes the management of volunteers.

Post Covid our volunteer numbers (excluding Trustees) dropped to zero. We integrated a new fundraising and volunteer platform 'Enthuse' and re-established our Team Kinetic page with Cheshire West Voluntary Action gaining three new volunteers in one month.

DSN attended monthly Volunteer Management meetings with both CVS Cheshire East and Cheshire West Voluntary Action, enabling us to continue supporting volunteers whilst working within best practice.

Training opportunities in Volunteer Management, various fundraising webinars and meet the funder webinars were attended on both the East and West of Cheshire.

Fundraising has been slow coming out of the pandemic, but we are advertising 'do it yourself' fundraising opportunities on our website with enrolment through the Enthuse platform along with year-round Step-Up challenge and legacy 'leave a gift in your will.'

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Talks started about purchasing a community engagement vehicle to enable out-reach work and promotion of services across Cheshire and North Wales particularly in the more remote, rural areas covered by DSN. A vehicle is on order and it is expected to be with use by the end of 2022.

**D/deafness & Dementia**

DSN's research project started in October 2014 with Dr J Littlejohn starting a 2-year part time post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Manchester. The next phase of our research has extended the fellowship at the University of Manchester (UoM) for a further two years. Commencing 1st March 2020, just as the pandemic hit the UK, the project would have investigated the auditory biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease with the aim to understand who with hearing loss is at a greater risk of developing dementia. This would have allowed us to understand the mechanism of the relationship between hearing loss and dementia. The pandemic meant the research had to be re-defined as testing with individuals wasn't permissible. Now that lockdown restrictions are slowly lifting, DSN expects the research to re-commence.

Interest in the research continues with Dr Littlejohn being in great demand to speak about this issue at local, national, and international venues/conferences, which demonstrates not only the importance of this research but also that DSN is at the very heart of this pioneering research, whilst at the same time being recognised at the highest level.

Negotiations are already underway between DSN and UoM to finalise a further "Gift agreement between DSN (the Donor) and the UoM to support Dr Jenna Littlejohn's Research Fellowship. This agreement will run from November 2022 for 2 years.

**I'm Hear!**

Following our successful bid for a further 3 years of funding, the I'm Hear! Project, funded by BBC Children in Need is now in Year 7, and the project will run until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

The I'm Hear project offers support, tailored to meet the communication needs of each individual child and their family. Bespoke resources are used to improve communication; use of different coping strategies; how to include a D/deaf child in family activities; ways to avoid conflict with siblings; signposting to support services; identifying social activities or clubs in which a child is interested and wants to participate. Children aged 8+ are signposted to DSN's "Youth Vibe", where they can meet and interact with other D/deaf children and siblings. Since the project started on 1st October 2014, DSN has supported over 200 D/deaf children/young people, aged from 0 to 18 years, and their families across Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Warrington, Liverpool, and the Wirral.

As our new cohort of children and families increases, we will restart the monthly group activities – likely to start in early 2023. In the meantime, we will offer two larger 'Family Events' for both children and families supported through the new funding, and also past project participants. Similarly, when we have established a new cohort of children, we plan to restart the football and/or other sports activities for D/deaf children and siblings. These group activities will enable parents to meet other parents of D/deaf children, to practice communication and share experiences.

Under the new funding, we have returned to our original core service, offering up to 10 home based communication sessions with families of D/deaf children. To ensure the support is flexible, we can also offer remote sessions via video, or a hybrid arrangement using a mix of in person and remote sessions. We are able to do this using tablets provided in June 2020, through our successful application for booster funding from BBC Children in Need.

**Youth Service - Youth Vibe**

DSN's Youth Service, Youth Vibe, provides opportunities and activities for young people aged between 8 to 19 years and linked to D/deafness: D/deaf; hearing impaired; friends and siblings of/or Children of D/deaf Adults (CODA). DSN also support young D/deaf adults up to 25 years, taking them on as young volunteers, and supporting them to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Our current Youth Vibe delivers:

- Accessible youth activities for D/deaf young people 8-19 years
- Young Leaders programme for young people aged 13-25 years

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Our membership database now includes children and young people from Cheshire and surrounding areas with 20-30 attending each week. This figure includes young people that are D/deaf or hearing impaired, Children of D/deaf Adults (CODA) and hearing friends and siblings. There is a variety of communication methods used amongst this cohort of young people, from BSL, speech and sign, signed supported English and speech.

Our young leaders and Duke of Edinburgh's programme continued although the pandemic did curtail a lot of the usual outdoor activities. Many of the young people are working towards their Bronze or Silver Award.

Chester and Crewe Youth Vibe Youth clubs and holiday activities have all recommenced to some extent following Government guidelines around COVID-19 and DSN have also restarted our Young Leaders programme. The new Youth Vibe Matters forum in both Chester and Crewe will be extremely valuable for our young leaders to have their say and perhaps review what is important to them in the new society they live in after lockdown.

***Incus Training***

*Incus* – A standard in sensory inclusion for Care Providers

*Incus* Care which was re-launched in 2020 had not been successful in delivering the initiative to the Care homes due to covid restrictions still being quite tight within the care home environment.

In January 2021, an *incus* administrator was employed part time to contact the Care homes in Cheshire West, Cheshire East, Wrexham and Flintshire, Warrington and Halton and Wirral. Details of our brochure was sent along with the offer of a bespoke package of training which could be delivered either face to face or via zoom/teams.

A few care homes showed an interest but still had the tight restrictions on visitors. Some care home had closed down and others were understaffed due to either sickness or shortages.

One Care Home in Puddington (Chapel House) has requested the training and this is booked in for April 22.

Deaf Awareness was also part of our remit and this training was available to any organisations where it would benefit staff within their working environment.

Recent internal discussions approved the appointment of a Training Manager and a move for Lisa Birtles to *incus* this team will then be known as *incus* training team. The manager post will be advertised and in place in September 2022 and Lisa's move will take place after the current BSL courses have been completed (July 2022).

Further agreements have also been reached, in that *incus* training will take on the responsibility for all "in house" staff training which will begin 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – the appointment of administrator will begin late 2022 with a view to starting January 2023 to allow time to set up systems and manage bookings.

A new logo has been approved.

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**Supported Living/Deaf Community Division**

**Supported Living Service**

Deafness Support Network's Supported Living Service continues to provide a stable and happy home environment.

The service we provide is a highly specialist service, due to the complexities of our Tenants, all of whom are Deaf, or Deaf Blind, with a Learning Disability, and other complex needs.

We have four homes all close to each other in the Northwich area, where there is a vibrant Deaf Community, who welcome our Tenants into the wider local Deaf Community, providing social interactions, friendship, and activities for them to join in.

Due to the complex needs of our Tenants, it is important our staff are trained and skilled in all aspects of the care/support needs of our Tenants. Most of our staff are Deaf themselves and proves to be positive role models for our Tenants. It is our policy that all our staff are required to achieve a minimum of level 2 British Sign Language (BSL), we also require them to be skilled in "total communication" techniques due to the complex requirements of our tenants and their communication needs.

The Supported Living Service staff are committed to supporting each individual tenant to achieve the highest possible level of independence, which varies immensely from one tenant to another. It is essential as a staff group that we provide the opportunities and the support required to enable each tenant to reach their own full potential. We work within an Outcome Framework specifically designed for our each tenant, this enables us to map each tenant's set goals, aspirations and achievements or, on occasion, to acknowledge where we have not been able to move a Tenant forward with a specific target or set outcome.

Our Supported Living Service is committed to delivering a person-centred approach, tailored to everyone's needs and making sure we value each of our tenant's abilities and individualities.

Four of our tenants are either working, or taking part in the supported employment initiative, staff are also working with several Tenants who are showing an interest in working in a voluntary placement or part time employment appropriate to their desires and capabilities. We have two tenants in paid part-time employment.

Our services are regularly inspected and monitored by Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Care Quality Commission. Due to the specialist service we provide, we have Tenants who reside with us from out of the catchment areas, therefore we also work closely with the placement Authorities which include Stockport, Rochdale, Bradford, Wirral, Warrington, Liverpool, and Oxfordshire and Birmingham.

We are currently, assessing our properties, and looking to the future for our Tenants, and their changing needs, with a view to relocating to homes for life.

**Day Services**

The Tannery is the focus of our Day Services provision, based in Northwich. The Tannery is a specialist service for Deaf and deaf blind people with complex needs from across the region.

We pride ourselves on providing a person-centred day service, tailored to the needs of each service user. We believe each person is best placed to lead their own personal learning and development plan. This programme is developed by working with each person and getting to know their personalities, capabilities, and aspirations. An essential part of a person's development and learning is to encourage and enable them to reach their full potential.

Our staff team are Deaf themselves, and use a Total Communication approach, due to the varying communication methods used by our Service Users. Total communication is central to the development and confidence building of each of our service users, leading to a further increase in their personal growth, independence, and development.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022***

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Our staff and volunteers are qualified in British Sign Language (BSL) for those service users who use this method of communication and Objects of Reference, and Hands-On Sign Language are used with our Deaf blind service users. However due to the complex needs of some of our service users, it is important we use other appropriate methods to ensure that the services we provide are fully inclusive. Staff are always creative in finding ways of modifying and adapting their communication to meet the needs of each service user.

DSN's Day Service, not only provides, training, life skills, workshops, and activities, including a weekly gym session provided by a qualified gym instructor, but also a safe place where they meet and share friendships and communication and continue to develop their social skills. The Tannery, prevents, isolation and loneliness.

DSN consistently takes steps to further develop the range and quality of the educational outdoor activities available to our service users. We arrange days out and teach travel training on the bus across a wide geographical footprint, which has resulted in strong positive feedback from service users, families, and carers.

**Communication Service**

DSN's Communication Services, provides an excellent and professional service.

We hold a Register of British Sign Language Interpreters, it is important to us all Interpreters who wish to join our register are qualified, and have undergone the necessary stringent checks, to enable us to contract them to work in the community, including monitoring their abilities to ensure we match the right person for each job they are assigned to.

We are continuing to see a growth in bookings as services realise local provision has the advantage of knowing the area and potentially knowing the Client, ensuring the Interpreter meets the needs of the booking and the customer.

DSN employs Personal Communication Assistants through the Access to Work initiative. They work with our Deaf staff across Cheshire, enabling and empowering them to attain equality in their daily work.

We also provide note takers and palantypists for meetings if required. We not only provide face to face Interpreters, but also virtual Interpreters as and when required.

Communication is important to everyone, as we all know poor communication can lead to all kinds of problems, some extremely serious and possibly fatal outcomes, particularly, in health appointments, it is important BSL Interpreters are booked for every appointment, ensuring at all times, the information health professionals are sharing, is in the patients first and preferred language, of BSL, and provided by a qualified interpreter as the guidance stipulates. Hopefully with the introduction of the Accessible Information Standard, all Deaf people will receive the communication support they require.

Becoming an official BSL Interpreter requires extensive training, often at university level, and takes many years. Currently, there are fewer than 1000 qualified Interpreters in the UK. DSN are committed to increasing the number of Interpreters, we employ 2 fully qualified Interpreters and 2 Trainee Interpreters, who are at the end of their training, and both will hopefully become qualified by the Summer of 2023.

DSN also provide BSL courses, we have a high success rate of taking our students from BSL Level 1 right the way through their learning journey to achieve their BSL Level 6 Interpreting Diploma in Sign Language and Translation.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

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**Financial Review**

**Statement of Financial Activities - Income and expenditure (Page 20-21)**

DSN have delivered a financial performance at operational level that is broadly in line with the results from the previous year. Looking at this performance in more detail, income has increased from the previous year at £2,207,407 (2021: £2,045,257) due to the increased and revised service provision within the Social Care and Supported Living services. Management of operating expenditure has continued this year and remains a focus of the Board. However, given the increase in service provision and investment in IT infrastructure, expenditure has increased on the previous year to £2,201,855 (2021: £2,105,922).

The net effect of the above is an operational surplus of £5,552 (2021: deficit £60,665). Following the capital gain on our investment and the gain linked to our responsibilities under the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS") our overall net surplus was £677,829 (2021: surplus £332,964).

**Balance Sheet (Page 22)**

In terms of our Balance Sheet, the value of our investment has increased by £297,277 during the year. This figure excludes the investment income received in the year which is shown in the Income and Expenditure statement. This is due to strong performance in investment markets.

As of December 2022, the investment was valued at £3,235,536.

At the 31 March 2022 there were cash balances of £91,232 (31 March 2021: £144,055). Current assets cover current liabilities in a ratio of 1.75 : 1. The value of our liability under the LGPS reduced by £385,000 to £183,000. Our net assets at 31 March 2022 were £4,328,166 (2021: £3,650,337).

Additional commentary on our investment policy, reserves and focus on financial sustainability are detailed later in this report.

**Internal Controls**

To provide reasonable assurance against material misstatements, DSN have in place effective internal controls covering income, expenditure, and commitments. The appropriate management information is prepared and reviewed regularly by both the Executive Management Team and the Board of Trustees. Through a combination of these internal controls, our strategic plan and annual budgets approved by the trustees, DSN seek to ensure that the charity is committed to a sustainable level of expenditure and retains adequate resources to continue as a going concern.

The trustees along with the Executive Management Team continue to ensure that adequate consideration is given to the longer-term funding challenges that may arise when applying for or considering new or continuing service provision. Over the coming years DSN will aim to retain, expand, or secure our current service provision in line with our Mission Statement and in support of the charity's beneficiaries.

**Investment Policy**

The governing documents of the charity (Memorandum & Articles of Association) provide the trustees with the power to invest any monies not immediately required for any purpose, as considered appropriate.

Having considered the options available and financial advice received, the trustees selected a long-term partner to provide guidance and professional services to facilitate the optimisation of returns, within agreed risk and ethical parameters. The Fund is managed by CCLA who are one of the UK's largest charity fund managers according to the latest Charity Finance Survey. CCLA only manage investments for charities, religious organisations, and the public sector and as such understand the particular needs and challenges facing charity investors.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

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The charity's current investment is held in a Common Investment Fund. The Fund consists principally of equities however it does include other asset classes and is well diversified. The Fund aims to provide a long-term total return comprising growth in capital and distributions. The approach taken by the Fund Manager should help to protect both capital and income from the effects of inflation.

The trustees have decided to continue utilising some portion of the established Free Reserves to support the delivery of the adopted organisational strategy.

The trustees, with regard to the liquidity requirements of the organisation and to the reserves policy, operate a policy of maintaining available funds necessary to meet day-to-day operational requirements in an interest-bearing deposit account.

The performance of our investment has provided an invaluable contribution in recent years that helps to offset the impact of our commitments in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme and supports funding in much needed services such as youth provision, which may otherwise go unfunded.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The trustees receive information from the Executive Management Team that forecasts the expected level of income for the next 12 months based on the best evidence that is reasonably available. They then assess associated opportunities, contingencies, and risks. The trustees have examined the charity's reserves in the context of the key risks identified.

In the light of current economic conditions and the likelihood of short to medium term reductions in the level or availability of funding, the trustees have elected to utilise a proportion of Free Reserves to develop and maintain the provision of existing services. Free Reserves are defined as Total Funds less Designated or Restricted Funds less amounts invested in tangible and intangible fixed assets. As per the Balance Sheet on P22, at 31 March 2022, Free Reserves were calculated to be £2,725,115 (2021: £2,042,651).

There is an expectation from the trustees that there will be deficits for the next few years, given their commitment to funding services that otherwise would not be funded. This emphasises the importance of the Free Reserves. It remains the trustees' view that it is prudent to ensure that sufficient reserves are retained to provide financial flexibility.

The trustees have decided to commit £120,673 to allow the charity to continue providing vital services and research. In summary, the society should hold reserves totalling at least £1,295,604 which will:

- meet the cost of approximately 6 months' operational expenditure (£1,074,931);
- enable the charity to continue providing vital services and research (£120,673);
- provide an element of security for any short-term volatility in the value of our investment due to market conditions and potential cash flow requirements (£100,000).

The difference between our level of Free Reserves and the reserves needed is represented by surplus reserves of £1,429,511.

DSN have maintained Designated Funds of £500,000 which have been set aside by trustees to cover any unanticipated costs should the Supporting Living Service be adversely impacted by any unexpected future funding changes.

#### **Outlook for Future Periods**

Although our funding streams are consistent there are concerns for the future. Before the pandemic struck, public spending on adult social care provision had fallen in real terms over the past decade and now, as a result in the global economic downturn, DSN anticipates that funding will be further squeezed. Our ability to plan for the future of our contracts and services remains uncertain and the lack of legislative progress on matters relating to Health and Social Care.

As previously reported DSN has upskilled staff to meet the increasing requirement from Local Authorities for more generic workers. The multi-skilled staff DSN employs put us in a strong position to meet any new contracts or current contractual redesigns. The skill base DSN have also opens the possibility of more partnership opportunities should they arise. Given the outlook for the UK, DSN believe that funders will be looking for added value that DSN can provide within the contracts.



**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)**  
***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022***

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There is ongoing restructuring of funding streams within Local Authorities which may impact on the funding DSN receive for the provision of our Supported Living Service. DSN remains fully involved in user assessments and on-going commissioner negotiations in respect of Supporting People and Care funding. This is consistent with the charity's overall approach going forward.

Our financial prudence and management of reserves leaves DSN well placed to meet these challenges and DSN continue to actively target income generation from non-traditional resources. The impending economic downturn will impact for the next couple of years at a minimum and DSN know this will present us with challenges, but DSN also hope there will be opportunities. Therefore, DSN will continue with the strategy of extending our funding base, which has been successful to date.

By embracing wider health and social care agendas and demonstrating a commitment to effective partnership development to deliver D/deaf-centric services that will meet the criteria for success in these areas, DSN will continue to provide valued specialist services. This will help to safeguard essential programmes and develop new initiatives in the years ahead.

Our ongoing investment in the Positive Hearing programme and the continued research work into D/deafness and Dementia are good examples of taking appropriate routes to secure continued growth. DSN continue in our strategy of positive engagement with users and commissioners. DSN strongly believe this enables us to deliver innovative person-led services leading to a reputation for quality, effectiveness, and value.

**Financial Sustainability**

Our budget for the next financial year (to 31 March 2023) shows a deficit of £417,399. This budget reflects anticipated reductions in income, expenditure to continue unfunded but necessary services and research and a requirement to make a cash payment of £108,000 (paid over 12 months) to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

As in previous years, our budget is stated prior to any capital increase in the value of our investment.

The Charity continues to work hard to manage and reduce the use of agency staff, which has an adverse impact on financial performance. Our investment strategy and effective management of reserves provides DSN with the opportunity to invest in our staff and services to ensure that DSN continues to innovate and achieve a sustainable balance of high quality and efficient services.

**Responsibilities of the Council of Management**

Company law requires the Council of Management as Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the surplus or deficit for that year. In preparing those financial statements the Council is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the Society will continue in existence

The Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Society and to enable its members to ensure that financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY  
DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK  
TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**


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**Annual General Meeting**

To raise public awareness of the charity's work and to demonstrate that its aims continue to be carried out for the public benefit, the charity holds its Annual General Meeting in public. The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022, at which the Council's FY21/22 Report and Statement of Accounts were ratified.

Approved by the Council of Management on 25 January 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Mr D Fardoe (Chair)  
144 London Road  
Northwich  
Cheshire  
CW9 5HH

  
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**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY  
DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK  
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**TO THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT OF CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Cheshire Deaf Society (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 30 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Council of management with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**Other Information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Council of management are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**TO THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT OF CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**

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**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of Council of management**

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Council of management, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Council of management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Council of management are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council of management either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, by for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities including fraud is detailed below.

**Our approach was as follows**

We understood how the charity is complying with relevant frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement including how fraud might occur by discussing with the management and the board of trustees. We enquired of management as to any known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Based on this understanding we designed specific audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:**

the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and the Directors' Report included within the Trustees Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY  
DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK  
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)  
TO THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT OF CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**

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**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mrs D D Lea FCA, FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited**

30 January 2023

**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

Chester House  
Lloyd Drive  
Ellesmere Port  
Cheshire  
United Kingdom  
CH65 9HQ

DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>									
Donations and legacies	3	79,642	-	-	79,642	16,963	-	7,132	24,095
<u>Charitable activities</u>									
Supported Living	4	1,497,354	-	-	1,497,354	1,377,981	-	-	1,377,981
Communication services	4	206,501	-	-	206,501	111,066	-	-	111,066
Day Services	4	82,880	-	-	82,880	66,487	-	-	66,487
Social Care	4	165,345	-	17,500	182,845	275,215	-	-	275,215
Training Service	4	49,303	-	-	49,303	19,538	-	-	19,538
Youth Services	4	661	-	9,477	10,138	10,890	-	-	10,890
Projects	4	7,417	-	-	7,417	44,652	-	17,500	62,152
Other trading activities	5	3,068	-	-	3,068	9,824	-	-	9,824
Investments	6	88,259	-	-	88,259	88,009	-	-	88,009
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,180,430</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,977</b>	<b>2,207,407</b>	<b>2,020,625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,632</b>	<b>2,045,257</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>									
Events and Fundraising	7	37,063	-	-	37,063	23,417	-	-	23,417
Charitable activities	8	2,138,985	-	25,807	2,164,792	2,057,420	-	25,085	2,082,505
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>2,176,048</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,807</b>	<b>2,201,855</b>	<b>2,080,837</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,085</b>	<b>2,105,922</b>

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**  
**INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	297,277	-	-	297,277	501,629	-	-	501,629
<b>Net incoming resources</b>		301,659	-	1,170	302,829	668,887	-	(227,923)	440,964
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	227,470	-	(227,470)	-
<b>Net incoming resources</b>		301,659	-	1,170	302,829	668,887	-	(227,923)	440,964
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>									
Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined benefit pension schemes		375,000	-	-	375,000	(108,000)	-	-	(108,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		676,659	-	1,170	677,829	560,887	-	(227,923)	332,964
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		3,122,446	500,000	27,891	3,650,337	2,561,559	500,000	255,814	3,317,373
<b>Fund balances at 30 March 2022</b>		3,799,105	500,000	29,061	4,328,166	3,122,446	500,000	27,891	3,650,337

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY  
DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK  
BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 30 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		1,073,990		1,079,795
Investments	14		3,235,536		2,938,259
			<u>4,309,526</u>		<u>4,018,054</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	15	381,584		245,253	
Cash at bank and in hand		91,232		144,055	
		<u>472,816</u>		<u>389,308</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	16	(271,176)		(199,025)	
Net current assets			<u>201,640</u>		<u>190,283</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>4,511,166</u>		<u>4,208,337</u>
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>			<u>(183,000)</u>		<u>(558,000)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u><u>4,328,166</u></u>		<u><u>3,650,337</u></u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Restricted funds			29,061		27,891
Unrestricted funds - designated			500,000		500,000
Unrestricted funds - general			3,799,105		3,122,446
			<u><u>4,328,166</u></u>		<u><u>3,650,337</u></u>



**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY  
DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK  
BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**

**AS AT 30 MARCH 2022**

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The charitable company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 30 March 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Council Of Management on 25 January 2023

Mr D Fardoe  
Chair



Company Registration No. 01323762

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	23		(127,383)		(81,239)
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(13,699)		(19,000)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		-		9,670	
Purchase of investments		-		(40,000)	
Investment income received		88,259		88,009	
<b>Net cash generated from investing activities</b>			74,560		38,679
<b>Financing activities</b>					
Payment of obligations under finance leases		-		(10,800)	
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		(10,800)
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>			(52,823)		(53,360)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			144,055		197,415
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			91,232		144,055

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

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**1 Accounting policies**

**Charity information**

Cheshire Deaf Society is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 144 London Road, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5HH.

**1.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

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

**1.2 Going concern**

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

**1.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available to further the aims and objectives of the charity.

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

Designated funds are held as a contingency to cover fixed costs in the event of a shortfall in funding for ongoing projects and services.

**1.4 Income**

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

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

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

**1.5 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates. All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on the basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned based on estimated usage.

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

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

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**1 Accounting policies**

**(Continued)**

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses. The costs of minor additions or those costing below £500 are not capitalised. No depreciation is provided in respect of freehold land and buildings, since, in the opinion of the trustees, the ongoing maintenance of the properties maintains the residual value of the freehold properties above their original cost. Depreciation is provided for property improvements included within the accounts with a value of £277,150.

Depreciation of assets is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Property improvements	10% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	20% and 14% on cost
Motor vehicles	25% and 17% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

**1.7 Fixed asset investments**

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

**1.8 Impairment of fixed assets**

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

**1.9 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**1.10 Financial instruments**

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

**Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

---

**1 Accounting policies**

**(Continued)**

***Basic financial liabilities***

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

***Derecognition of financial liabilities***

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

**1.11 Taxation**

As a charity, Deafness Support Network is exempt from the tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

**1.12 Employee benefits**

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

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

Deafness Support is a member of the Cheshire Pension Scheme which is funded by contributions from the employees and the charity as an employer. The assets of the scheme are held separately in a fund administered for the benefit of local authority employees and those other schedule bodies and is managed in accordance with the local government pension scheme regulations 2014 (as amended). The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme where the share of assets and liabilities applicable to each employee is not identified.

Accordingly these financial statement include pension costs payable on a defined contribution basis in accordance with section 28 FRS 102. Contributions to the scheme are based on the applicable participating organisation taken as a whole. The pension charge recorded in these accounts is the amount of contributions payable in the accounting year together with an agreed additional payment of £108,000 in respect of pension deficit.

Alternatively, employees may opt to join the Group Personal Pension scheme operated by NOW pensions as a defined contribution scheme which is funded by contributions from employees and the charity as employer. The charity has a group personal pension scheme operated by Friends Life which is now closed to new members.

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

**2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Council of management are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

**3 Donations and legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted funds general 2022 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds general 2021 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2021 £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Donations and gifts	5,397	5,554	7,132	12,686
Legacies receivable	74,245	-	-	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	11,409	-	11,409
	<u>79,642</u>	<u>16,963</u>	<u>7,132</u>	<u>24,095</u>

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY  
DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

**4 Charitable activities**

	Supported Living		Communication services		Day Services		Social Care		Training Service		Youth Services		Projects		Total	
	2022	£	2022	£	2022	£	2022	£	2022	£	2022	£	2022	£	2022	2021
Charitable activities	1,497,354		206,501		82,880		182,845		49,303		10,138		7,417		2,036,438	1,923,329
Analysis by fund																
Unrestricted funds - general	1,497,354		206,501		82,880		165,345		49,303		661		7,417		2,009,461	1,905,829
Restricted funds	-		-		-		17,500		-		9,477		-		26,977	17,500
	1,497,354		206,501		82,880		182,845		49,303		10,138		7,417		2,036,438	1,923,329

**Specific grants included within the above income figures**

	Supported Living		Communication services		Day Services		Social Care		Training Service		Youth Services		Projects		Total	
	£		£		£		£		£		£		£		£	£
Cheshire West and Chester	12,583		-		-		-		-		-		-		12,583	
Cheshire West Voluntary Action	514		-		-		-		-		-		-		514	
Armed Forces	-		-		-		17,500		-		-		-		17,500	
BBC Children in Need	-		-		-		-		-		9,477		-		9,477	
NHS Cheshire CCG	-		-		-		-		-		-		4,247		4,247	
	13,097		-		-		17,500		-		9,477		4,247		44,321	

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

4 Charitable activities	(Continued)									
	Supported Living	Communication services	Day Services	Social Care	Training Service	Youth Services	Projects	Total 2021		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Charitable activities	1,377,981	111,066	66,487	275,215	19,538	10,890	62,152	1,923,329		
Analysis by fund										
Unrestricted funds - general	1,377,981	111,066	66,487	275,215	19,538	10,890	44,652	1,905,829		
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,500	17,500		
	1,377,981	111,066	66,487	275,215	19,538	10,890	62,152	1,923,329		



**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY  
DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

**4 Charitable activities**

(Continued)

Specific grants included within the above income figures	Supported Living	Communication services	Day Services	Social Care	Training Service	Youth Services	Projects	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Big Lottery	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,528	18,528
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,824	36,824
Cheshire West CCG	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,335	8,335
Cheshire West & Chester	24,522	-	-	-	-	-	8,331	32,853
Armed Forces	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,500	17,500
Crewe Town Council	-	-	-	-	-	2,446	-	2,446
Ovingdean Hall	-	-	-	-	-	5,115	-	5,115
Bradford Metropolitan Council	2,309	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,309
	<u>26,831</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,561</u>	<u>89,518</u>	<u>123,910</u>

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

**5 Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £
Fundraising events	3,068	9,824

**6 Investments**

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £
Income from listed investments	88,259	88,009

**7 Events and Fundraising**

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Fundraising costs	37,063	23,417
	37,063	23,417

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

8 Charitable activities	Supported Living 2022	Communication Services 2022	Day Services 2022	Social Care 2022	Training Service 2022	Youth Service 2022	Projects 2022	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	616,700	100,922	72,839	227,875	21,287	31,655	80,384	1,151,662	1,197,232
Other direct costs	135,132	75,314	2,314	30,704	16,318	8,255	30,992	299,029	311,108
	<u>751,832</u>	<u>176,236</u>	<u>75,153</u>	<u>258,579</u>	<u>37,605</u>	<u>39,910</u>	<u>111,376</u>	<u>1,450,691</u>	<u>1,508,340</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	379,768	62,148	44,855	140,327	13,109	19,493	49,501	709,201	569,265
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	2,623	429	310	970	91	135	342	4,900	4,900
	<u>1,134,223</u>	<u>238,813</u>	<u>120,318</u>	<u>399,876</u>	<u>50,805</u>	<u>59,538</u>	<u>161,219</u>	<u>2,164,792</u>	<u>2,082,505</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>									
Unrestricted funds - general	1,134,223	238,813	120,318	399,876	50,805	33,731	161,219	2,138,985	2,057,420
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	25,807	-	25,807	25,085
	<u>1,134,223</u>	<u>238,813</u>	<u>120,318</u>	<u>399,876</u>	<u>50,805</u>	<u>59,538</u>	<u>161,219</u>	<u>2,164,792</u>	<u>2,082,505</u>

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

8 Charitable activities	(Continued)									
	Supported Living	Communication Services	Day Services	Social Care	Training Service	Youth Service	Projects	Total 2021		
For the year ended 30 March 2021	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Staff costs	689,606	79,572	62,747	235,626	21,309	22,462	85,910	1,197,232		
Other direct costs	169,311	44,270	5,802	28,943	19,964	5,698	37,120	311,108		
	858,917	123,842	68,549	264,569	41,273	28,160	123,030	1,508,340		
Share of support costs (see note 9)	327,898	37,835	29,835	112,036	10,132	10,680	40,849	569,265		
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	2,822	326	257	964	87	92	352	4,900		
	1,189,637	162,003	98,641	377,569	51,492	38,932	164,231	2,082,505		
<b>Analysis by fund</b>										
Unrestricted funds - general	1,189,637	162,003	98,641	377,569	51,492	38,932	139,146	2,057,420		
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,085	25,085		
	1,189,637	162,003	98,641	377,569	51,492	38,932	164,231	2,082,505		

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

**9 Support costs**

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	357,783	-	357,783	331,195	-	331,195
Travel	6,975	-	6,975	3,195	-	3,195
Administration and premises	238,161	-	238,161	182,153	-	182,153
Postage and printing	6,479	-	6,479	10,352	-	10,352
Financial costs	738	-	738	304	-	304
Depreciation	13,197	-	13,197	27,274	-	27,274
General expenses	5,793	-	5,793	7,042	-	7,042
Legal and professional	80,075	4,900	84,975	7,750	4,900	12,650
	<u>709,201</u>	<u>4,900</u>	<u>714,101</u>	<u>569,265</u>	<u>4,900</u>	<u>574,165</u>
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	<u>709,201</u>	<u>4,900</u>	<u>714,101</u>	<u>569,265</u>	<u>4,900</u>	<u>574,165</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £4,900 for audit fees.

**10 Council Of Management**

None of the Council of management received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

**11 Employees**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Executive	3	3
Operations	18	16
Supported Living	34	31
Finance & Personnel	8	8
Total	<u>63</u>	<u>58</u>

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

<b>11</b>	<b>Employees</b>	<b>(Continued)</b>	
	<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Wages and salaries	1,251,391	1,230,732
	Social security costs	99,214	91,458
	Pension costs	178,866	206,238
		<u>1,529,471</u>	<u>1,528,428</u>
	Total number of employees whose remuneration was above £60,000	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
		<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
	£80,000 - £90,000	1	-
<b>12</b>	<b>Net gains/(losses) on investments</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds general 2022</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds general 2021</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Revaluation of investments	<u>297,277</u>	<u>501,629</u>

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

**13 Tangible fixed assets**

	Freehold land and buildings	Fixtures and fittings	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
At 31 March 2021	1,285,006	65,201	133,913	1,484,120
Additions	5,880	7,819	-	13,699
	<u>1,290,886</u>	<u>73,020</u>	<u>133,913</u>	<u>1,497,819</u>
<b>At 30 March 2022</b>				
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>				
At 31 March 2021	260,946	38,318	105,061	404,325
Depreciation charged in the year	2,249	11,446	5,809	19,504
	<u>263,195</u>	<u>49,764</u>	<u>110,870</u>	<u>423,829</u>
<b>At 30 March 2022</b>				
<b>Carrying amount</b>				
At 30 March 2022	<u>1,027,691</u>	<u>23,256</u>	<u>23,043</u>	<u>1,073,990</u>
At 30 March 2021	<u>1,024,060</u>	<u>26,883</u>	<u>28,852</u>	<u>1,079,795</u>

**14 Fixed asset investments**

	Listed investments
	£
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 31 March 2021	2,938,259
Valuation changes	297,277
	<u>3,235,536</u>
<b>At 30 March 2022</b>	
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 30 March 2022	<u>3,235,536</u>
At 30 March 2021	<u>2,938,259</u>

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

**15 Debtors**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	239,626	139,890
Other debtors	68,936	-
Prepayments and accrued income	73,022	105,363
	<u>381,584</u>	<u>245,253</u>

**16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other taxation and social security	28,319	26,689
Trade creditors	118,093	21,841
Accruals and deferred income	124,764	150,495
	<u>271,176</u>	<u>199,025</u>



**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY  
DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

17	Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total
		2022	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021	2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Fund balances at 30 March 2022 are represented by:								
	Tangible assets	1,073,990	-	-	1,073,990	1,079,795	-	-	1,079,795
	Investments	2,735,536	500,000	-	3,235,536	2,438,259	500,000	-	2,938,259
	Current assets/(liabilities)	172,579	-	29,061	201,640	162,392	-	27,891	190,283
	Provisions including pensions	(183,000)	-	-	(183,000)	(558,000)	-	-	(558,000)
		<u>3,799,105</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>29,061</u>	<u>4,328,166</u>	<u>3,122,446</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>27,891</u>	<u>3,650,337</u>

**CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**  
**DEAFNESS SUPPORT NETWORK**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

**19 Movement in funds**

	At 1.4.21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31.3.22 £
<b>Unrestricted income fund</b>					
General funds	2,782,186	2,180,431	(2,176,049)	-	2,786,568
Pension reserve	(558,000)	375,000	-	-	(183,000)
Revaluation reserve	898,260	297,277	-	-	1,195,537
	<u>3,122,446</u>	<u>2,852,708</u>	<u>(2,176,049)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,799,105</u>
<b>Designated funds</b>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500,000</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
National Lottery Grant	5,115	-	-	-	5,115
Cheshire East New Home Bonus Grant	1,075	-	-	-	1,075
Fundraising Balances	4,201	-	-	-	4,201
Armed forces	17,500	17,500	(25,807)	-	9,193
BBC Children in Need	-	9,477	-	-	9,477
	<u>27,891</u>	<u>26,977</u>	<u>(25,807)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,061</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>3,650,337</u>	<u>2,879,685</u>	<u>(2,201,856)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,328,166</u>

The original National Lottery grant of £212,585 was received in prior years for an extension to 144 London Road, Northwich. This work has been completed and the extension is fully operational.

Fundraising income of £20,000 was raised for the Richard Sharp Project for the upkeep and maintenance of the Sensory room and café, as well as to support the delivery of the Deafness & Dementia projects. The funds were spent leaving a balance of £1,000 which we were permitted to use for any purpose. This balance has therefore been removed from restricted funds.

Grants have been received in prior years for the provision of activities for the Youth Service. Grants from Anne Duchess of Westminster and Cheshire Community Foundation have been fully utilised. A balance of £1,075 remains from the Cheshire East New Home Bonus Grant, and this will be used against the provision of the Youth Service.

The Fundraising Balances refers to small fundraising and grant balances.

An Armed Forces Grant has been received for the provision of services to Armed Forces veterans. The total value of the project for a 2 year period is £70,000 and the first funds of £17,500 were received in March 2021. These funds will be used for the provision of the Veterans Project for the period of the scheme.

The BBC Children in Need grant has been received for the Youth Vibe Project

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2022**

**19 Operating lease commitments**

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	30,052	24,728
Between two and five years	-	24,728
	<u>30,052</u>	<u>49,456</u>

**20 Post Balance Sheet Events**

In November 2022 the Charity made a payment of £414,513 to secure the purchase of a new property. A withdrawal of £425,000 was made from the Investment portfolio to finance the acquisition.

**21 Related party transactions**

Remuneration of £18,539 was paid to Mrs L Birtles, who is daughter of the trustee Mr P Morley (2021 - £17,243) . The remuneration was paid to carry out her role on behalf of the Training Service.

DSN Retail Ltd, trading as Positive Hearing which is run as a not for profit business with Social Enterprise ethos and is a company limited by guarantee registered at 144 London Road, Northwich. The company is devoted to providing the latest in technology products and systems to the deaf community in Cheshire. The company is founded on a strong evidence base that there are a significant number of deaf people who require help and assistance with new products together with their existing products and devices and this leads to a great improvement to their everyday lives socially and professionally. Gill Reeder, who is DSN's Executive of Operations is a director of DSN Retail Ltd.

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**22 Pension Cost**

The charity participates in the Cheshire county council pension scheme, a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme where the share of the assets and liabilities applicable to each employer is not identifiable. The scheme is administered for the benefit of local authority employees and other bodies and is managed in accordance with technical actuarial standard 100: Principles for Technical Actuarial Work, which came into force on 1 July 2017.

The employers contribution made to the scheme in the year was with an employers contribution of between 5.5% and 8.5% of pensionable pay. During the year to 31st of March 2022 Deafness Support Network made additional payments of £108,000 towards a pension deficit. A further £108,000 will be payable in the year to 31st of March 2023. This is in addition to the standard employer's contributions.

The results and assumptions of the most recent valuation of the scheme are as follows:-

Valuation date	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
Valuation method	Projected unit credit	Projected unit credit
Value of assets	£2,849,000	£2,630,000
Value of liabilities	£3,032,000	£3,188,000
Funding level for accrued benefits	93.9%	82.5%
Investment returns on accumulated assets	7.00%	13.90%
Salary scale increase per annum	4.00%	3.55%
Pension increases per annum	3.30%	2.85%
Discount rate	2.70%	1.95%
Rate of Consumer Price Index	3.30%	0.70%
Rate of price inflation	3.85%	1.50%

<b>23 Cash generated from operations</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Surplus for the year	302,829	440,964
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(88,259)	(88,009)
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(8,538)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(297,277)	(501,629)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	19,504	44,449
Actuarial revaluation of pension fund	375,000	(108,000)
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(136,331)	54,446
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(302,849)	85,078
<b>Cash absorbed by operations</b>	<b>(127,383)</b>	<b>(81,239)</b>
<b>24 Analysis of changes in net funds</b>		
The charity had no debt during the year.		