

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 01323762 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 506791

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024**

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CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024**

TRUSTEES	D Ball (appointed 26.7.23) D Fardoe (Chair) Ms L Holmes (appointed 26.7.23) Ms T L Lonergan J Mander (Vice Chair) P D Morley D L Pane Ms J Stringer (Treasurer)
COMPANY SECRETARY	Mrs G Reeder
REGISTERED OFFICE	144 London Road Northwich Cheshire CW9 5HH
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	01323762 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	506791
AUDITORS	Murray Smith LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditors Darland House 44 Winnington Hill Northwich Cheshire CW8 1AU
SOLICITORS	Butcher & Barlow 2-3 Royal Mews Gadbrook Park Northwich Cheshire CW9 7UD
BANKERS	National Westminster Bank 33 Eastgate Street Chester CH1 1LG

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024**

The council of management present their report and financial statements for the year ended 30 March 2024.

Officers & Council of Management

Cheshire Deaf Society (operating as DSN) 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 Council of Management during the year are documented in 'Reference and Administrative Details' on page 1.

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.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The object of the Charity as stated in our Memorandum and Articles of Association is the relief of 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 benefits 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.

Significant activities

Our main activities during the year are described below. Traditionally all our activities have focused upon providing services and support to Deaf people. This focus has further expanded into the provision of full sensory loss services (Deaf and visually impaired), 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 successful in retaining contracts and securing alternative investment streams to further develop services for the Deaf community of Cheshire and surrounding areas. DSN has been able to respond to real challenges by demonstrating the quality of the services DSN provides and the value DSN delivers through efficient and effective deployment of resources. DSN will continue to focus on Quality and Value, Person Centered Care, and Innovation in the years ahead.

DSN has successfully maintained the core of its established services across Cheshire whilst expanding its reach and service provision into North Wales. DSN continues to deliver high quality services valued by users and commissioners alike. DSN has 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. The Organisational Management Team ("OMT") 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. DSN recently, through a tendering process, successfully secured a further 5 year +1, +1 contract with Flintshire and Wrexham Local authorities to deliver services.

To avoid over-reliance on limited funding pools, DSN looks 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 allocates our limited resources to opportunities that will provide the most beneficial outcome for DSN and its service users. DSN has applied to and is awaiting results from the Big Lottery Community Fund for funding for Youth Services.

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

DSN has completed a new strategy document and will produce an annual outcomes and action plan report highlighting key areas in which the charity wishes to make further progress in the year ahead.

DSN formally reviews all policies and procedures annually and this exercise considers changes in legislation, regulations, and developments in good practice. OMT 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.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

Compliance

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 provides 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 helps us to raise the profile of DSN and increases awareness of the high-quality help and support that DSN consistently delivers.

DSN collects 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.

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 OMT. 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 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 Deaf people, their families and carers in Cheshire and surrounding areas, DSN has broadened its reach to provide sensory services to include the blind and partially sighted in some areas. 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, published in the local area for the reporting of hate crime) and the development of youth services.

DSN is delighted to report that we have been awarded accreditation with the Good Business Charter. This demonstrates our commitment to CSR.

Operations Division

Social Care

For the year to 30th March 2024, 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).

We continue to effectively monitor our service delivery and adhere to all contractual monitoring requirements. In addition to this DSN utilises its commitment 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 innovative 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) on users.

Health Awareness and Deafness (HANd)

This project aims to improve understanding of wider health and well-being issues from a Deaf perspective. The "topic" for the workshops are co-produced with Deaf attendees and Initiatives included in the HANd project vary depending on people's wishes. This project is funded by Cheshire East Physical Health Support Grants 2023-2024. They have invited DSN to apply for their "Fund it Forward" support to allow the project to continue for a further year.

Health inequalities continue to be experienced by 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.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

DSN continues to deliver health messages and support people in a variety of different ways and continues to spread the word about mental health, supporting staff and service users alike. DSN believes that there is no health without mental health.

Positive Hearing

Positive Hearing LLP (Audiology) continues to operate as a partnership with DSN and Silk Hearing. This partnership operates from DSN's registered office at 144 London Road, Northwich. DSN receives a 50% share of the profits from the LLP.

Community Engagement

DSN's Community Liaison Officer promotes our work in the Community and provides information to potential new service users.

DSN used a legacy fund to purchase a new Community vehicle. This enables out-reach work and the promotion of services across Cheshire and North Wales, particularly in the more remote, rural areas covered by DSN.

Sensory Loss & Dementia

DSN's research project alongside the University of Manchester has recommenced following a suspension due to maternity leave.

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 continuing, and the project will run until 30th 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 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 Deaf children and siblings. Since the project started on 1st October 2014, DSN has supported over 200 Deaf children/young people, aged from birth to 18 years, and their families across Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, Warrington, Liverpool, and the Wirral.

We offer two larger 'Family Events' for both children and families who are / have been supported through the programme. These group activities enable parents to meet other parents of Deaf children, to practice communication and share experiences.

The funding allows DSN to offer up to 10 home-based communication sessions with families of Deaf children. To ensure the support is flexible, we offer remote sessions via video, or a hybrid arrangement using a mix of in-person and remote sessions.

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 deafness: deaf, hearing impaired, friends and siblings of/or Children of Deaf Adults (CODA). DSN also supports young 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- 9 years
- Young Leaders programme for young people aged 13-25 years

Our membership database now includes children and young people from Cheshire and surrounding areas with 20-30 attending each week. There is a variety of communication methods used at Youth Vibe for young people, from BSL, signed supported English and speech.

Incus Training

Incus - A standard in sensory inclusion for Care Providers, and the training department for DSN.

Deaf Awareness Training is part of our remit, and this training is available to any organisation where it would benefit staff within their working environment.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

Further agreements have also been reached, in that incus Training will take on the responsibility for all "in house" staff training.

BSL tuition is available from Level 1 to Level 6 and Level 6 interpreter, and interest from schools and other education establishments has begun to increase. The BSL Act and recognition of BSL as a language has prompted this growth.

DSN has, for the first time, introduced a trainee programme for BSL Tutors and has appointed a young Deaf individual who has successfully passed the first year modules of the course.

Supported Living Service

DSN's Supported Living service continues to provide a residential environment and operates from four group homes within the Northwich area.

This service is a specialist service designed to meet the needs of those tenants with complex needs (Deaf, deafblind, with an additional disability).

Our Tenants integrate into the wider local Deaf Community, enabling social interactions, friendship, and activities for them to join in.

Due to the complex needs of our tenants, it is important that our staff are trained and skilled in all aspects of care/support. Many of our staff are Deaf and prove to be positive role models for our Tenants. It is DSN's policy that all staff are required to achieve a minimum of level 2 British Sign Language (BSL).

DSN staff are committed to supporting each individual tenant to achieve the highest possible level of independence. By using a person-centred approach within an outcome framework, goals and aspirations are set for each tenant and achievements are recorded via annual reviews.

Our services are regularly inspected and monitored by Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Care Quality Commission. We also have tenants who reside with us from out of our catchment area, for example Stockport, Rochdale, Bradford, etc.

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. This service is provided from Tuesday to Friday each week.

Our programme is designed to encourage each person attending to develop and learn, thus reaching their full potential.

Our staff and volunteers ensure that the most appropriate communication method is used for each individual attending.

DSN's Day Service has a variety of activities, including a weekly gym session provided by a qualified gym instructor, and is also a safe place where people meet and share friendships and continue to develop their social skills. The Tannery prevents isolation and loneliness.

Communication Service

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

We have a number of British Sign Language Interpreters who are all qualified and registered with the NRCPD who we can utilise for BSL interpreter requests.

We can provide note takers and palantypists for meetings, and are able to provide virtual interpreters via video link if required.

Currently, there are fewer than 1,000 qualified Interpreters in the UK. DSN are committed to employing qualified interpreters. We currently employ 3 fully qualified Interpreters and 1 trainee.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****STRATEGIC REPORT****Statement of Financial Activities - Income and expenditure**

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 decreased to £2,298,669 compared with £2,403,780 in 2023. Management of operating expenditure has continued this year and remains a focus of the Board. There have been some increased costs for the revised service provision within the Social Care and Supported Living services and investment in IT infrastructure. Overall expenditure has decreased to £2,670,463 compared with £2,696,955 in 2023.

The net effect of the above is an operational deficit of £315,746 compared with an operational deficit of £293,175 in 2023. Following the gain on revaluation of our investment portfolio and the loss linked to our responsibilities under the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS") our overall net deficit was £664,158 compared with a net deficit of £2,608 in 2023.

Balance Sheet

In terms of our Balance Sheet, our investment portfolio increased by a market revaluation of £115,636. Furthermore, there were withdrawals of £1,050,000 taken from the investments during the year. These withdrawals have funded the purchase of a new property, and have assisted with cashflow. Funds have also been placed into a High Interest Treasury account in order to achieve higher income returns. The investment fund valuation excludes the investment income received in the year which is shown in the Income and Expenditure statement. At the year end the valuation of investments was £1,269,739 compared with £2,204,103 in 2023.

At 30 March 2024 there were cash and short term investment balances of £480,891 compared with £109,594 in 2023. Current assets cover current liabilities in a ratio of 3.5:1. The value of our asset under the LGPS reduced by £271,000 to an asset ceiling figure of £nil. Further details are disclosed within the notes to the accounts. Our net assets at 30 March 2024 were £3,661,400 (2023: £4,325,558).

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

Investment policy and objectives

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 manages investments for charities, religious organisations, and the public sector and as such understand the particular needs and challenges facing charity investors.

DSN also utilises a high interest treasury account operated by NatWest.

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 the available funds necessary to meet day-to-day operational requirements.

The performance of our investment has provided an invaluable contribution in recent years that helps to support funding in much needed services such as youth provision, which may otherwise go unfunded.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The trustees receive information from the OMT 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, at 30 March 2024, Free Reserves were calculated to be £1,228,040 (2023: £1,956,060).

There was an expectation from the trustees that there would be deficits over previous years, given their commitment to funding services that otherwise would not be funded. However, the Trustees' emphasis now is to reduce ongoing deficits by managing costs and increasing income wherever possible. The 2024-2025 budget should reflect this.

The trustees agreed to commit funds to allow the charity to continue providing vital services. In addition, reserves should:

- meet the cost of approximately 6 months' operational expenditure.
- meet legislative standards at our newly purchased properties to continue as HMO's and reflect modern working practices.

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 Organisational Management Team (OMT) and the Board of Trustees. Through a combination of these internal controls and our 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 OMT 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.

Financial Sustainability

Our budget for the next financial year (to March 2025) shows a deficit of £461,461. This budget reflects anticipated reductions in income, along with increased expenditure required to allow us to continue unfunded but necessary services and research along with a requirement to make a cash payment of £108,000 (paid over 12 months) to the Local Government Pension Scheme. We are in negotiation to exit this scheme and are hopeful that this will be concluded in 2024-2025. In addition we are reviewing working practices and are hopeful that our deficit for 2024-2025 will be much lower than indicated in our budget.

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.

Annual General Meeting

On 17 July 2024, the Council of Management approved the 2023-2024 Report and Statement of Accounts.

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 47th Annual General Meeting will be held in November 2024 at which the Council's 2023-2024 Report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to Members.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

STRATEGIC REPORT

Outlook for Future Periods

Although our funding streams are consistent there are concerns about 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 is a concern.

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 believes that funders will be looking for added value that DSN can provide within the contracts.

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 continues to actively target income generation from non-traditional resources. The 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 hopes 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 sensory-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 research work into Dementia and sensory loss and our partnership with The Hearing Centres in the Positive Hearing programme are good examples of taking appropriate routes to secure continued growth. DSN continues to positively engage with users and commissioners and we strongly believe that this enables us to deliver innovative person-led services leading to a reputation for quality, effectiveness, and value.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

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.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

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 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 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 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.

Mr D Horrocks resigned as CEO on 15 August 2023 and Mrs G Reeder was appointed as interim CEO on this date.

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 30 March 2024, there were a total of 8 members.

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 OMT. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met. The OMT 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.

Induction and training of new trustees

Most trustees are familiar with the practical work of the charity, having already been involved with the charity, or the local 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 the organisation
- 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
- 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.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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 County Borough Council.
- 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.

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 Organisational Management Team (OMT).

OMT 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 which ensures a more rounded approach to stakeholder involvement in the identification and management of risk.

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.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Cheshire Deaf Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024**

AUDITORS

The auditors, Murray Smith LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 17 July 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Signed by:

David Fardoe

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D Fardoe - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cheshire Deaf Society (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 30 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (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 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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 charitable company'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 trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes 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 trustees 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 trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The audit procedures designed to identify irregularities included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims
- Enquiry of company staff with responsibilities for compliance matters to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.


There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, 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, intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

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Michael Benson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Murray Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Darland House
44 Winnington Hill
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 1AU
18-07-2024
Date:

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds	2023 Total funds as restated
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	3,525	1,000	4,525	3,549
Charitable activities	5				
Supported living		1,523,456	-	1,523,456	1,602,237
Communication services		282,339	-	282,339	247,551
Day services		87,191	-	87,191	67,265
Social care		247,489	-	247,489	285,406
Training service		32,780	(102)	32,678	54,819
Youth services		1,763	42,426	44,189	41,389
Projects		503	-	503	4,483
Investment income	4	57,297	-	57,297	75,673
Other income		19,002	-	19,002	21,408
Total		2,255,345	43,324	2,298,669	2,403,780
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	6				
Supported living		1,814,770	4,800	1,819,570	1,430,900
Communication services		230,189	-	230,189	274,069
Day services		62,836	-	62,836	102,035
Social care		324,940	5,759	330,699	542,952
Training service		124,867	-	124,867	108,665
Youth services		70,615	207	70,822	122,662
Projects		31,480	-	31,480	115,672
Total		2,659,697	10,766	2,670,463	2,696,955
Net gains/(losses) on investments		115,636	-	115,636	(163,433)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(288,716)	32,558	(256,158)	(456,608)
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit schemes		(408,000)	-	(408,000)	454,000
Net movement in funds		(696,716)	32,558	(664,158)	(2,608)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		4,293,230	32,328	4,325,558	4,328,166
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		3,596,514	64,886	3,661,400	4,325,558

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

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.

The notes form part of these financial statements

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY (REGISTERED NUMBER: 01323762)**BALANCE SHEET
30 MARCH 2024**

		2024	2023 as restated
	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	1,868,474	1,566,170
Investments	14	1,269,739	2,204,103
		<u>3,138,213</u>	<u>3,770,273</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	15	248,835	435,020
Investments	16	400,000	-
Cash at bank		80,891	109,594
		<u>729,726</u>	<u>544,614</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(206,539)	(260,329)
		<u>523,187</u>	<u>284,285</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>3,661,400</u>	<u>4,054,558</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>3,661,400</u>	<u>4,054,558</u>
PENSION ASSET	21	-	271,000
		<u>3,661,400</u>	<u>4,325,558</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>3,661,400</u>	<u>4,325,558</u>
FUNDS	20		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		3,096,514	3,522,230
Pension fund		-	271,000
Designated fund		500,000	500,000
		<u>3,596,514</u>	<u>4,293,230</u>
Restricted funds		<u>64,886</u>	<u>32,328</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>3,661,400</u>	<u>4,325,558</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17 July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

 285AADFFEDF84D7...

D Fardoe - Trustee

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024**

		2024	2023
	Notes	£	as restated £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(546,990)	(393,835)
Net cash used in operating activities		(546,990)	(393,835)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(536,042)	(531,477)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		347,032	-
Sale of fixed asset investments		1,050,000	868,000
Addition of current asset investments		(400,000)	-
Interest received		10,344	-
Dividends received		46,953	75,673
Net cash provided by investing activities		518,287	412,196
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(28,703)	18,361
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		109,594	91,233
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		80,891	109,594

The notes form part of these financial statements

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(256,158)	(456,608)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	78,738	39,296
(Gain)/losses on investments	(115,636)	163,433
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(192,032)	-
Interest received	(10,344)	-
Dividends received	(46,953)	(75,673)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	186,185	(53,436)
Decrease in creditors	(53,790)	(10,847)
Difference between pension charge and cash contributions	(137,000)	-
Net cash used in operations	<u>(546,990)</u>	<u>(393,835)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 31.3.23 £	Cash flow £	At 30.3.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>109,594</u>	<u>(28,703)</u>	<u>80,891</u>
	<u>109,594</u>	<u>(28,703)</u>	<u>80,891</u>
Liquid resources			
Deposits included in cash	-	-	-
Current asset investments	<u>-</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>
Total	<u>109,594</u>	<u>371,297</u>	<u>480,891</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****1. CHARITY STATUS**

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.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

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 £.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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
Freehold buildings	2% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	33% on cost
Motor vehicles	17% on cost

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued****Tangible fixed assets**

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.

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.

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).

Taxation

As a charity, DSN 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.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included 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.

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.

DSN is a member of the Cheshire Pension Scheme, a Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"), which is funded by contributions from the employees and the charity as an employer. The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme, and the assets are held separately from those of the charity in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income/(expenditure) are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in the income and expenditure account.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued****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.

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.

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.

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.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Donations	<u>4,525</u>	<u>3,549</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Income from listed investments	46,953	75,673
Deposit account interest	<u>10,344</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>57,297</u>	<u>75,673</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		2024	2023 as restated
	Activity	£	£
Charitable activities	Supported living	1,523,456	1,602,237
Charitable activities	Communication services	282,339	247,551
Charitable activities	Day services	87,191	67,265
Charitable activities	Social care	247,489	285,406
Charitable activities	Training service	32,678	54,819
Charitable activities	Youth services	44,189	41,389
Charitable activities	Projects	<u>503</u>	<u>4,483</u>
		<u>2,217,845</u>	<u>2,303,150</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 7) £	Totals £
Supported living	1,210,617	608,953	1,819,570
Communication services	117,275	112,914	230,189
Day services	61,640	1,196	62,836
Social care	313,029	17,670	330,699
Training service	118,901	5,966	124,867
Youth services	70,822	-	70,822
Projects	<u>15,405</u>	<u>16,075</u>	<u>31,480</u>
	<u>1,907,689</u>	<u>762,774</u>	<u>2,670,463</u>

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****7. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Supported living	583,393	25,560	608,953
Communication services	112,914	-	112,914
Day services	1,196	-	1,196
Social care	17,670	-	17,670
Training service	5,966	-	5,966
Projects	16,075	-	16,075
	<u>737,214</u>	<u>25,560</u>	<u>762,774</u>

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 as restated £
Audit fees	-	5,500
Audit fees - current year	7,860	-
Audit fees - accountancy	2,100	-
Audit fees - previous auditor	15,600	-
Depreciation - owned assets	78,738	39,296
Surplus on disposal of fixed assets	<u>(192,032)</u>	<u>-</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 March 2024 nor for the year ended 30 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 March 2024 nor for the year ended 30 March 2023.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 as restated £
Wages and salaries	1,760,160	1,636,344
Social security costs	146,672	130,052
Other pension costs	104,586	88,008
	<u>2,011,418</u>	<u>1,854,404</u>

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****10. STAFF COSTS - continued**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023 as restated
Executive	2	3
Operations	33	34
Supported living	35	31
Finance & administration	13	13
	<u>83</u>	<u>81</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024	2023 as restated
£70,001 - £80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds as restated
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	2,549	1,000	3,549
Charitable activities			
Supported living	1,592,574	9,663	1,602,237
Communication services	247,551	-	247,551
Day services	67,265	-	67,265
Social care	251,281	34,125	285,406
Training service	54,819	-	54,819
Youth services	41,389	-	41,389
Projects	4,483	-	4,483
Investment income	75,673	-	75,673
Other income	21,408	-	21,408
Total	<u>2,358,992</u>	<u>44,788</u>	<u>2,403,780</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Supported living	1,430,900	-	1,430,900
Communication services	274,069	-	274,069
Day services	102,035	-	102,035
Social care	514,892	28,060	542,952
Training service	108,665	-	108,665
Youth services	109,201	13,461	122,662
Projects	115,672	-	115,672
Total	<u>2,655,434</u>	<u>41,521</u>	<u>2,696,955</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	<u>(163,433)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(163,433)</u>

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds as restated
	£	£	£
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(459,875)	3,267	(456,608)
Other recognised gains/(losses)			
Actuarial gains on defined benefit schemes	454,000	-	454,000
Net movement in funds	(5,875)	3,267	(2,608)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward			
As previously reported	4,299,105	29,061	4,328,166
Prior year adjustment	-	-	-
As restated	4,299,105	29,061	4,328,166
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	4,293,230	32,328	4,325,558

12. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

The 2023 opening pension reserve figure has been restated to reflect the correct position at 31 March 2022, through a transfer of £183,000 to the general reserve fund.

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
COST				
At 31 March 2023	1,736,988	125,712	156,666	2,019,366
Additions	484,585	3,108	48,349	536,042
Disposals	(155,000)	-	(18,670)	(173,670)
At 30 March 2024	2,066,573	128,820	186,345	2,381,738
DEPRECIATION				
At 31 March 2023	263,934	79,113	110,149	453,196
Charge for year	41,563	20,514	16,661	78,738
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(18,670)	(18,670)
At 30 March 2024	305,497	99,627	108,140	513,264
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 30 March 2024	1,761,076	29,193	78,205	1,868,474
At 30 March 2023	1,473,054	46,599	46,517	1,566,170

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	Listed investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	2,204,103
Disposals	(1,050,000)
Revaluations	115,636
	<hr/>
At 30 March 2024	1,269,739
	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 March 2024	1,269,739
	<hr/>
At 30 March 2023	2,204,103
	<hr/>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Cost or valuation at 30 March 2024 is represented by:

	Listed investments £
Valuation in 2024	1,269,739
	<hr/>

15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Trade debtors	170,221	299,574
Prepayments and accrued income	78,614	135,446
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	248,835	435,020
	<hr/>	<hr/>

16. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Treasury bank account	400,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Trade creditors	75,714	150,786
Social security and other taxes	43,634	64,930
Accruals and deferred income	87,191	44,613
	<u>206,539</u>	<u>260,329</u>

18. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Within one year	5,744	86,723
Between one and five years	12,097	-
	<u>17,841</u>	<u>86,723</u>

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

			2024	2023 as restated
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	1,868,474	-	1,868,474	1,566,170
Investments	1,269,739	-	1,269,739	2,204,103
Current assets	664,840	64,886	729,726	544,614
Current liabilities	(206,539)	-	(206,539)	(260,329)
Pension asset	-	-	-	271,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,596,514	64,886	3,661,400	4,325,558

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 31.3.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	3,522,230	(425,716)	3,096,514
Pension fund	271,000	(271,000)	-
Designated fund	500,000	-	500,000
	<u>4,293,230</u>	<u>(696,716)</u>	<u>3,596,514</u>
Restricted funds			
National Lottery	5,115	-	5,115
Fundraising balances	5,201	(3,800)	1,401
Armed forces	15,258	(1,480)	13,778
BBC Children in Need	6,754	37,838	44,592
	<u>32,328</u>	<u>32,558</u>	<u>64,886</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>4,325,558</u></u>	<u><u>(664,158)</u></u>	<u><u>3,661,400</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	2,240,345	(2,781,697)	115,636	(425,716)
Pension fund	15,000	122,000	(408,000)	(271,000)
	<u>2,255,345</u>	<u>(2,659,697)</u>	<u>(292,364)</u>	<u>(696,716)</u>
Restricted funds				
Fundraising balances	1,000	(4,800)	-	(3,800)
Armed forces	(102)	(1,378)	-	(1,480)
BBC Children in Need	42,426	(4,588)	-	37,838
	<u>43,324</u>	<u>(10,766)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,558</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,298,669</u></u>	<u><u>(2,670,463)</u></u>	<u><u>(292,364)</u></u>	<u><u>(664,158)</u></u>

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued****Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 31.3.22 £	Prior year adjustment £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	3,799,105	183,000	(459,875)	3,522,230
Pension fund	-	(183,000)	454,000	271,000
Designated fund	500,000	-	-	500,000
	<u>4,299,105</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,875)</u>	<u>4,293,230</u>
Restricted funds				
National Lottery	5,115	-	-	5,115
Home Bonus grant	1,075	-	(1,075)	-
Fundraising balances	4,201	-	1,000	5,201
Armed forces	9,193	-	6,065	15,258
BBC Children in Need	9,477	-	(2,723)	6,754
	<u>29,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,267</u>	<u>32,328</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>4,328,166</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,608)</u>	<u>4,325,558</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	2,358,992	(2,655,434)	(163,433)	(459,875)
Pension fund	-	-	454,000	454,000
	<u>2,358,992</u>	<u>(2,655,434)</u>	<u>290,567</u>	<u>(5,875)</u>
Restricted funds				
Home Bonus grant	-	(1,075)	-	(1,075)
Fundraising balances	1,000	-	-	1,000
Armed forces	34,125	(28,060)	-	6,065
BBC Children in Need	9,663	(12,386)	-	(2,723)
	<u>44,788</u>	<u>(41,521)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,267</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,403,780</u>	<u>(2,696,955)</u>	<u>290,567</u>	<u>(2,608)</u>

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 31.3.22 £	Prior year adjustment £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	3,799,105	183,000	(885,591)	3,096,514
Pension fund	-	(183,000)	183,000	-
Designated fund	500,000	-	-	500,000
	<u>4,299,105</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(702,591)</u>	<u>3,596,514</u>
Restricted funds				
National Lottery	5,115	-	-	5,115
Home Bonus grant	1,075	-	(1,075)	-
Fundraising balances	4,201	-	(2,800)	1,401
Armed forces	9,193	-	4,585	13,778
BBC Children in Need	9,477	-	35,115	44,592
	<u>29,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,825</u>	<u>64,886</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>4,328,166</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(666,766)</u>	<u>3,661,400</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	4,599,337	(5,437,131)	(47,797)	(885,591)
Pension fund	15,000	122,000	46,000	183,000
	<u>4,614,337</u>	<u>(5,315,131)</u>	<u>(1,797)</u>	<u>(702,591)</u>
Restricted funds				
Home Bonus grant	-	(1,075)	-	(1,075)
Fundraising balances	2,000	(4,800)	-	(2,800)
Armed forces	34,023	(29,438)	-	4,585
BBC Children in Need	52,089	(16,974)	-	35,115
	<u>88,112</u>	<u>(52,287)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,825</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>4,702,449</u>	<u>(5,367,418)</u>	<u>(1,797)</u>	<u>(666,766)</u>

National Lottery funding is to support youth activities.

The Armed Forces grant is to support ex-members of the military who suffer from hearing loss.

The BBC Children in Need grant is for the I'm Hear project, which supports deaf children and their families.

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****21. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS**

The charity participates in the Cheshire County Council pension scheme, a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme.

The employer's contribution made to the scheme in the year was set between 5.5% and 8.5% of pensionable pay. During the years to 30 March 2024 and 30 March 2023 Cheshire Deaf Society made additional payments of £108,000 towards the pension deficit. This is in addition to the statutory contributions.

Whilst the scheme currently shows a surplus position, Cheshire Deaf Society are required to continue to make payments of £108,000 per year due to the time between actuarial valuations. The board of trustees have agreed in principle that the charity will exit the scheme as of 31 March 2025 so that future additional contributions to the scheme are not required.

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Current service cost	27,000	33,000
Net interest from net defined benefit asset/liability	(15,000)	3,000
Past service cost	-	-
	<u>12,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>
Actual return on plan assets	<u>(300,000)</u>	<u>(212,000)</u>

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Opening defined benefit obligation	2,420,000	3,032,000
Current service cost	27,000	33,000
Contributions by scheme participants	7,000	6,000
Interest cost	110,000	81,000
Actuarial losses/(gains)	(17,000)	(638,000)
Benefits paid	(264,000)	(94,000)
	<u>2,283,000</u>	<u>2,420,000</u>

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024****21. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS - continued**

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Opening fair value of scheme assets	2,691,000	2,849,000
Contributions by employer	149,000	142,000
Contributions by scheme participants	7,000	6,000
Expected return	125,000	78,000
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(425,000)	(290,000)
Benefits paid	(264,000)	(94,000)
	<u>2,283,000</u>	<u>2,691,000</u>

The amounts recognised in other recognised gains and losses are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2024	2023 as restated
	£	£
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(408,000)	454,000
	<u>(408,000)</u>	<u>454,000</u>

The major categories of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets are as follows:

	Defined benefit pension plans	
	2024	2023 as restated
Equities	45%	43%
Bonds	41%	39%
Property	13%	16%
Cash	1%	2%
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance Sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	2024	2023 as restated
Discount rate	4.80%	4.75%
Future salary increases	3.50%	3.70%
Future pension increases	2.80%	3.00%

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024

22. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Remuneration of £23,980 (2023 - £19,312) was paid to Mrs L Birtles, who is daughter of the trustee Mr P Morley. The remuneration was paid to carry out her role on behalf of the Training Service.

Remuneration of £10,144 (2023 - £nil) was paid to Ms A Pane, who is daughter of the trustee Mr D Pane. The remuneration was paid to carry out her role as BSL Tutor.

Remuneration of £19,245 (2023 - £17,479) was paid to P Craige, who is mother of the trustee T Lonergan. The remuneration was paid to carry out her role as Project Manager.

DSN Retail Ltd ceased to trade on 8 June 2023. During the financial year the company paid a donation of £1,409 to DSN (2023 £17,000).

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024**

	2024 £	2023 as restated £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	4,525	3,549
Investment income		
Income from listed investments	46,953	75,673
Deposit account interest	10,344	-
	<hr/> 57,297	<hr/> 75,673
Charitable activities		
Charitable activities	2,217,845	2,303,150
Other income		
Expected return on pension scheme assets	15,000	-
Other income	4,002	21,408
	<hr/> 19,002	<hr/> 21,408
Total incoming resources	<hr/> 2,298,669	<hr/> 2,403,780
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	1,282,815	1,164,012
Social security	146,672	130,052
Pensions	104,586	88,008
Other direct costs	365,392	415,244
Fixtures and fittings depreciation	8,224	8,251
	<hr/> 1,907,689	<hr/> 1,805,567
Support costs		
Support costs		
Wages	477,345	472,332
Postage and printing	9,530	6,459
Travel	13,337	7,829
Administration and premises	321,260	334,192
Financial costs	1,316	1,444
Legal and professional	35,944	32,587
Freehold property depreciation	41,563	738
Fixtures and fittings depreciation	12,290	21,098
Motor vehicles depreciation	16,661	9,209
(Profit) / loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	(192,032)	-
	<hr/> 737,214	<hr/> 885,888
Governance costs		
Auditors' remuneration	25,560	5,500

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

CHESHIRE DEAF SOCIETY

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	as restated £
Total resources expended	2,670,463	2,696,955
Net expenditure before gains and losses	(371,794)	(293,175)
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	115,636	(163,433)
Net expenditure	(256,158)	(456,608)