South of Scotland Deaf Children's Society
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 24th September 2026 via Zoom

Chair's Report

Our Mission
Create a community by connecting deaf and hard of hearing children and their families across the South of Scotland.

We will do this by:

- Organising events for deaf and hard of hearing young people and/or their families
- Advocating for the rights of deaf and hard of hearing young people in the Scottish Borders and their carers, with a focus on BSL, deaf awareness and policy change
- Sharing information and resources to support and inform families with deaf and hard of hearing young people

Trustees & Committee members

Current Trustees: Susie Compton (Chair, Treasurer), Marnie Wood (Secretary), Jenna Green (Advocacy).
Committee members: all Trustees as well as Charlotte Laidlaw and Sally Kitchen.

Thanks and acknowledgement to departing trustees Monica Walker and Fi Beal. Your support, energy, enthusiasm and knowledge was invaluable and we appreciate and thank you for all the time and effort you gave to SSDCS. Welcome to Jenna as new trustee.

Charity Activities September 2024-2025

I want to acknowledge and thank committee members, and supporters, past and present, for all their efforts to improve the lives of d/Deaf children and their families. Looking back over the year it is clear that the passion to make a difference remains strong, despite our limitations on time, energy and finances. I look forward to continuing to make the world more accessible and supportive for d/Deaf children and families.
A sample of activities SSDCS provided:

- Shared information about events for d/Deaf kids and families via our facebook page

- Organised soft play events in Galashiels in May and June that welcomed new families and generated ideas for other events.
- Hosted opportunities for families of d/Deaf children to meet and chat e.g. Brew & Blether evenings, PJ movie night.
- Extensive range of conversations with other organisations and institutions regarding support for families of d/Deaf children - see Engagement Report from Jenna.

Finance

Bank Account balance as at 24/09/2025 is £562.34.
Funds received from NDCS grant (£500) and individual donation (£181).
Expenditure on cost of soft play and zoom. See Accounts for details.

Future Plans

Based on the conversations had whenever members meet it is clear we are not short on ideas of what we want to do or change. We will continue to develop the ideas that the Committee feels it can realistically deliver. Current plans are:

- to continue the advocacy work Jenna and Marnie do as summarised in the Engagement Report,
- to continue to host online opportunities for parent support,
- arrange further meet ups for families as and when possible, and
- continue to share wider opportunities and information with members on the facebook page.

Susie Compton
Chair SSDCS
24the September 2025