Trustee's Annual Report Report — Grampian Deaf Children's Society



Reporting Period: March 2025 – March 2026
Presented by: Karrie Williams, Treasurer and Co chair- Sandra Stark- Co chair
Registered Scottish Charity SC053956

32 Harcourt Road,
Aberdeen,
AB15 5NZ

admin@gdcs.info

Find us on facebook at Grampian Deaf Children's Society- We have a private group for parents and carers and a separate public page.

Trustees for 2025-2026

Karrie Williams- Treasurer and Co chair
Sandra Stark- Co chair
Nicola Allan- Vice chair and social media
Katie Townsend- Co Secretary
Hannah Smith- Co Secretary
Maree Valentine- Co Safeguarding
Lindsey Woods– Co safeguarding (Resigning as of March 2026)



Aims and objectives of the charity

VISION
A world without barriers for every deaf child and young person.

MISSION
To overcome the social and educational barriers that hold back deaf children in the Grampian area covering Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.
To support deaf children and young people along with their families and friends.



We run events for deaf children, children of deaf adults, siblings and wider families.

Events are aimed to be free unless in exceptional circumstances.

We aim to:

- Run events for all above to spend time together
- Run a secure private Facebook page
- Promote British Sign Language



Charity structure, governance and management

Charity is governed by its constitution.
Constitution adopted in September 2024 by the trustees.

A group was formed of people who were interested in supporting the restoration of the previous established charity in the Grampian area. The current trustees were voted in by this group.

All trustees are at present parents of deaf children.

Decisions are made by the elected committee- mainly via whats app!

Before any money is spent it must be agreed by 2 people
Treasurer supported by Chris West – Accountant and a friend of Karrie Williams
Accounts will be scrutinised by Donna Erskine and submitted with OSCR.

Charity wins this year



https://gdcs.info/highlights-of-2025/

As a committee we have had a fantastic first year, officially registering as a charity, seeing our membership grow and then running a large volume of a range of events in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

There has been tremendous fundraising undertaken by members and friends of the charity. This has been so valuable to helping us!

Thank you to Susan Mair from Aberdeen School for the Deaf for interpreting for the Stickman performance.





Overview of Financial Position

The previous historic branch of Grampian Deaf Children's Society folded.
Their remaining bank balance was held by NDCS while the new charity was formed.
Thank you to the NDCS for this start up money.

Historic funds from NDCS £11,733.58 (opening balance)

Total income £11,376.43
Total expenditure £5,323.79
Net position (Surplus) £6052.24
Current bank balance £17,786.22 ***(*£1,058.72 is ring fenced grant money and unspent money to be returned to NDCS by Summer 26)***

All money is stored in one account and accessible at all times
No formal reserve is set however committee have aimed to protect the historic fund.

Breakdown of Activities

Launch event 2025: £672.35

Summer 2025:

- Playtown £39.50
- Duthie Park £56.00
- Garioch Bowling £145.90 (grant money)



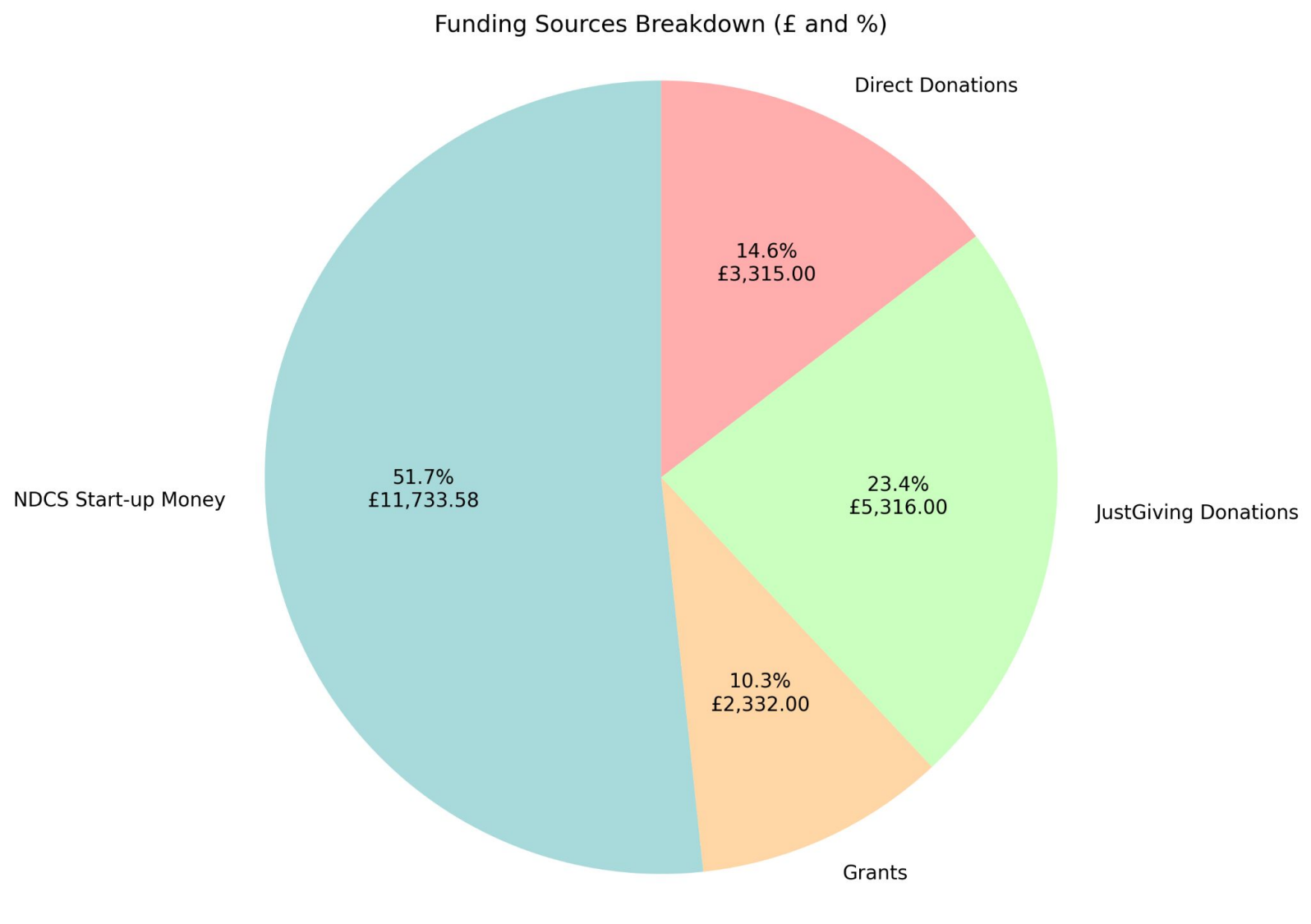


Autumn/Winter 2025:

- Pumpkin Patch £72.00
- Home for Hamish £228.80
- Stickman £337.50
- Santa’s Grotto £140

(Note: 14 tickets for one events were unsused approx. £122.87 spent on unused tickets — a change of practice was made to prevent recurrence)

Income Breakdown



Thank you to all those who have fundraised for us.

Well done to every kilt walker- this was our largest fundraiser!

Special thanks to:

- Darts club
- Inverurie Garden Centre
- Bright Horizons nursery
- Aberdeen Tailors Incorporated
- Garioch charity shop
- NDCS
- Dawn Lynch – Our first marathon runner!

Grants

Garioch Charity Shop grant received - £200 *(*Note- the unspent £54.10 was donated to the charity)*

Grant proposal was to provide a one off bowling event in the Garioch area for deaf children and families to meet, see other children who sign/uses deaf technology.



Money spent on one trip to the Garioch bowling alley.

NDCS community grant scheme grant received-£2,132.00

Aims of project- To develop the language and communication skills of young deaf children.
Project delivered: 1 block of two classes of BSL – Preschool and Primary
Deaf tutor Mags McNulty hired to teach both classes

- Total spent £1,073.28
- Total remaining £1,058.72





Expenditure Breakdown



Charity funded family events 2025- £1546.15
(* this excludes grant funded events and includes only events which took place in this annual year)

Start-up costs - £1172.63

Website - £237.79

- *We are really proud of our website. The creating and management of this website is solely done by the donation of Graham Brunos extensive time and skills. If a monetary value were to be attached to this, it would be financially significant.*
- *Thank you Graham for your charity work.*
- *All events are advertised and all event booking is done via this website.*

JustGiving fees - £180

First Aid training and 2 x first aid kits - £202

- *All committee members completed this is Jan 2026 to ensure everyone feels equipped to deal with an emergency.*

Activities Planned for 2026



More BSL classes

Kiltwalk registrations open now





Partnering with Inverted Aberdeen

Pizza making





Priorities

Running events for deaf children, children's of deaf adults of all ages and their families
Ensuring funds align with values
Encouraging kiltwalkers
Finding best opportunities for running events
Completing a second block of BSL classes
Exploring a wider range of events for different ages





Summary

An excellent successful first year with a large number of activities
A huge learning curve for all committee members

Majority of events had higher attendance of preschool/primary children

Strong financial position with a surplus of funding after year 1
Financial stability due to historic funds and fundraising efforts

This charity is run by all busy parents – finding times to meet or practicalities of running a charity covering a large geographical area is no mean feet!

Thanks to all our supporters and NDCS

Questions?





