

Annual Review

2019-2020



BRITISH DEAF ASSOCIATION

The BDA stands for **D**eaf **E**quality, **A**ccess and **F**reedom of choice

Who we are / What we do



Pride Celebration, NI

The British Deaf Association (BDA) is a Deaf-led organisation, focusing on Deaf people who use British Sign Language (BSL) or Irish Sign Language (ISL) as their first or preferred language.

The BDA is the leading Deaf organisation in the UK run by Deaf people; united by shared experiences, history and most importantly, by BSL and ISL.

Since 1890, the BDA's long standing

commitment has been to ensure that the language, culture, community, diversity and heritage of Deaf people should be protected. The BDA does this by valuing the rights of Deaf people – with all their diverse experiences and abilities – and the usage of BSL and ISL.

The BDA wishes to see a society where sign language users have the same rights, responsibilities, opportunities and quality of life as everyone else.

The BDA stands for Deaf Equality, Access, and Freedom of choice:

Equality

To ensure Deaf people have access to information and support in their preferred language and have the same opportunities, to achieve the same outcomes, as hearing people. Legal recognition of BSL and ISL is essential for awareness, recognition, respect, and equality of access and achievement for Deaf people.

Access

Every Deaf person must have access to services – from government level down to their local shop – in their preferred language.

Freedom of Choice

Every Deaf person should have the right to choose to sign or speak or both without sanction and without obstacles.

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Belfast Statement on Mental Health and Deafness (European Conference)



Photo Walk Day, Edinburgh



Derby Deaf Community Open Day organised by Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

Welcome

Welcome to the BDA's 2019-2020 Annual Report and Financial Statement.

2019-2020 was a challenging year for Deaf people in the UK. The impacts continued with welfare reform, cuts in funding and uncertainty over Brexit. The devastating COVID-19 lockdown towards the end of the financial year highlighted the need for essential life-changing information to be given in both British Sign Language (BSL) and Irish Sign Language (ISL) – the latter being used by some Deaf members in Northern Ireland.

We reflect on the history of the BDA, formed in 1890 partly in response to the threats to Deaf language and education rights posed due to decisions made at the Milan conference of 1880. In 2019, the BDA continued to advocate for those rights, enable people to realise those rights, challenge when they were not upheld and empower Deaf communities. However, in spite of the advances of the last century, another year has passed without meaningful realisation of many rights for Deaf Sign Language users in the UK, especially

around securing a BSL Act in Westminster. Scotland has shown leadership in this regard, in 2015, with the passing of the BSL (Scotland) Act. The return of Stormont in Northern Ireland shows promise as a BSL/ISL bill is noted in their programme, 'New Decade, New Approach', published in January 2020. With ever-increasing awareness and exposure of BSL in the

mainstream, BDA will continue to press for a BSL Act for England and Wales.

The BDA remains a conduit for the community; a membership organisation run by and for Deaf people. We celebrate our language, culture and history, and seek to build and improve our community. However, too often our projects provide



for people who have been let down, left out, and excluded.

The BDA's core projects, as part of our programme of community development, have continued to provide resources and services for sign language users across the UK. We have continued to lobby governments and service providers, and



take a seat at a table where ever possible as part of our ethos, 'nothing about us without us'.

The BDA's youth project, Deaf Roots and Pride, (see page 15) gives hope for the future – for both our young people and our community as a whole. Our teams of mentors have demonstrated the rich seam of diverse and talented role models for deaf young people within our community. Once again, the young people who have been involved in the project have themselves shown the fabulous potential they have in all that they have achieved.

The BDA, as a sign language organisation, produced videos in sign language on a wide range of topics – reaching out to 523,214 people.

In October 2019, the BDA welcomed a new Board, following the EGM, to carry on the legacy and to develop a new strategic



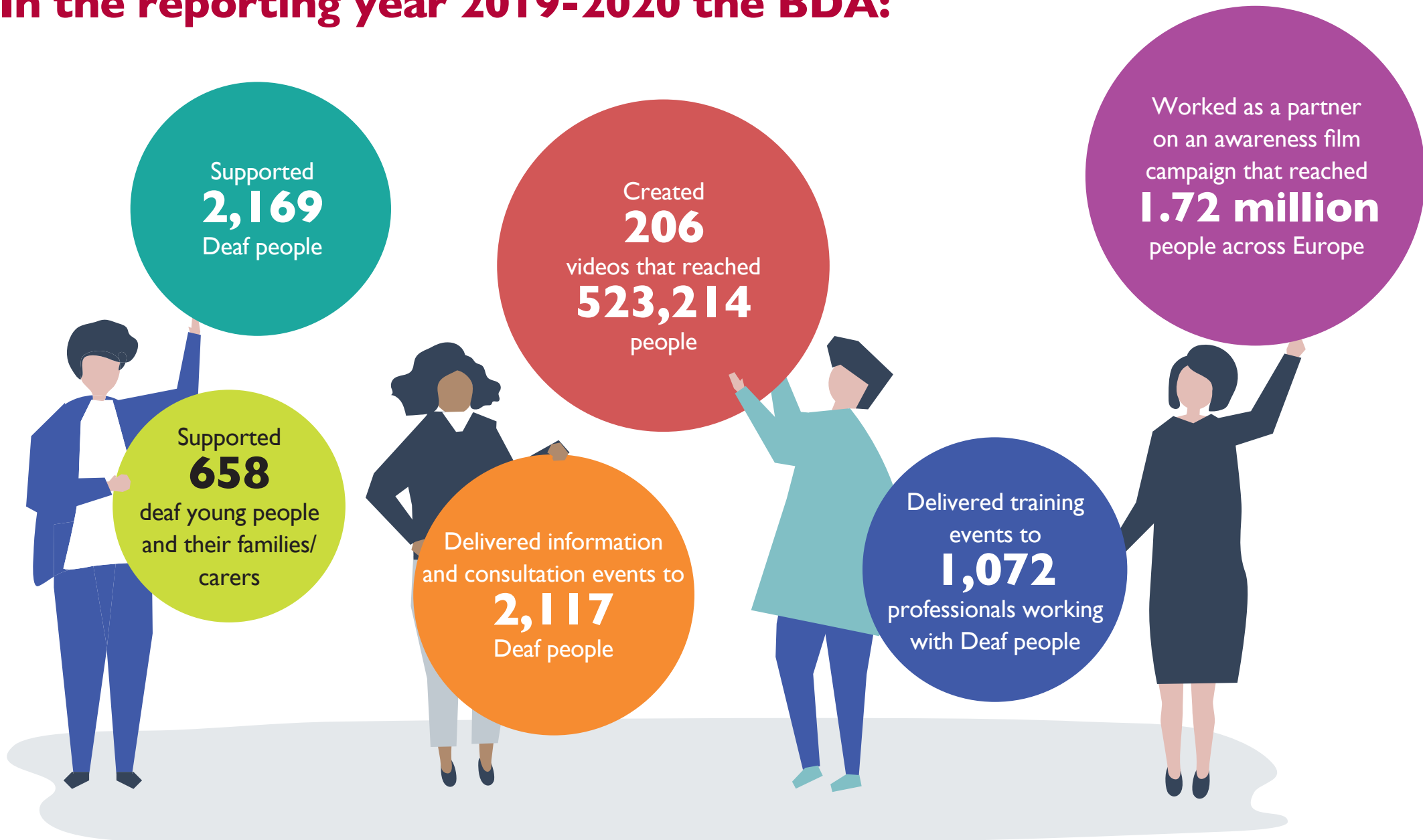
New Board at their first meeting – December 2019

plan for the next phase in building the case for a BSL Act. This strong new board of eight Deaf individuals have a diverse range of skills and experiences. Linda Richards is the Chair and Gloria Pullen is Vice-Chair.

We hope that this report provides an interesting and informative log of the work of the BDA over the past year, as well as the challenges we faced. As we look to the next year with the strong spirit and resilience of the founders of the BDA, we thank our members, volunteers, funders, and staff for all of their generosity and hard work in continuing to make a difference for our community.

The Key Figures

In the reporting year 2019-2020 the BDA:



Access and Inclusion

Access and Inclusion is a key theme of the BDA's work. The Access and Inclusion project aims to support Deaf people with the specific challenges they face due to isolation or exclusion.

As BSL and ISL do not have legal recognition throughout the UK, many Deaf sign language users face systemic barriers in their day to day life. The Access and Inclusion project addresses those barriers through one-to-one support from Deaf advocates and information sessions. Advocates do not represent Deaf people, but work alongside them, as support, in resolving issues and providing impartial information and guidance.

The Access and Inclusion project also organises group events for Deaf people, such as sign language tours and experiences, to promote participation and involvement with the wider community.

1,501 Deaf people were supported in the last year through this service. Of those who responded, 96% reported that



BT Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh – BSL Tour



Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin, Midlothian – BSL Tour

they felt a lot better informed because of the BDA's support.

There were various Access and Inclusion projects delivered within the UK.

So glad to finally be able to access legal services. Before meeting the advocacy officer I was denied a BSL interpreter due to costs. My advocate was able to empower me on my rights to an interpreter.

Advocacy beneficiary

Access and Inclusion (cont'd)



Bridgeton Bus Garage, Glasgow – BSL Tour



BSL Roadshow – Inverness, Highland



The Hill House,
Helensburgh – BSL Tour

*Thank you for your great patience
with me and to the case team as it
was so sensitive and very emotional.*

Client's Next of Kin



DRP Transitions Apprenticeship Day, Glasgow



I have previously accessed mainstream Advocacy services. However, they did not fully understand the issues I was facing. The BDA Advocacy Officer is Deaf and can fully empathise; therefore they have been able to help me find an appropriate solution.

Deaf Client



SCOTLAND

The BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 project aims to support the engagement of BSL users across Scotland, by providing them with a range of opportunities to participate and contribute as equal and valued citizens in wider Scottish society. We will also support the engagement of BSL users with public bodies, national and local, and ensure they are able to access information, and, receive support and training for the implementation of the BSL National Plan and Local Authority Plans.

- BDA Scotland was in contact with all 32 Local councils to discuss their local BSL plans in preparation for the National Progress Report in 2020.
- BDA Scotland staff and outreach workers work to ensure councils and public bodies are aware that we are here to support them.
- BDA Scotland worked with the BSL community for contributions, gathering feedback and views, identifying good practice and areas for improvement. Recommendations were made in the National Progress Report in 2020.
- BDA Scotland organised 6 BSL tours and 113 Deaf people attended.
- BDA Scotland created 35 BSL videos for the Deaf community.



International Week of the Deaf, NI



VRS Apps Roadshow, Wales

Wales

The BDA Wales Advocacy team (funded by the National Lottery) consists of two part-time Advocacy Officers and one full-time Advocacy Co-ordinator. In this reporting period, the team served 98 clients with over 120 different cases, dealing with high demand for support regarding PIP claims.

The Advocacy team also organised a number of Deaf Information Sessions covering a wide range of topics, such as Video Relay Services, Next Generation Text Relay, Dementia, Mindfulness, Gwent Police, Diabetes and Pride Cymru as well as roadshows about bus passes and Universal Credit.

The team responded immediately to the Wales COVID-19 lockdown at the end of the reporting year by producing daily summarised information in BSL. As one person said of the service: *Wonderful daily news summary from the BDA throughout coronavirus. This has been very valuable, it is more clearer and it focus on key points from the Welsh Government, information e.g. R rate, Test, Trace and Project, COVID-19 app, traffic lights and Public Health Wales on statistics, and, 'How are we doing?'*

Northern Ireland

The BDA (NI) Advocacy project is funded by the Health & Social Care Board and has been a key service within Northern Ireland from the outset of the NI office. Consisting of three staff, one full-time and 2 part-time, the team provide a range of advocacy services across the whole of the province, including personal advocacy, group advocacy, Deaf equality Training (DET), training to service providers, consultations, and information sessions to the Deaf community.

Information sessions have been delivered on a wide range of topics, such as: Healthy Minds Workshops, Bowel Screening, Chest Heart & Stroke, Breast Cancer, Diabetes and Arthritis while DET has been delivered to such services as Nursing Students at Magee College, Staff at City & Mater Hospitals and Nursing Homes.



The Access to Justice was funded by the Community Fund to improve access to the Justice Sector for Deaf people in Northern Ireland. This 24-month project was a collaborative approach with a Deaf Advisory Group, involved in all aspects of the project, along with academic researchers from Universities in the USA and Queens, Belfast. The project culminated in the production of a report with recommendations presented to all levels and sectors within the Justice department at our very successful launch in December 2019. Key achievements include:

- Provision of workshops for the Deaf

community on such things as Legal Aid, Scam Wise, Tours of Prisons and Courts, and a Facebook live event.

- Production of signed videos explaining the various areas of the Justice Sector such as Police, Prison, Solicitors, Courts – these are available on the websites of the BDA, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Justice Department, and the Law Society, to allow Deaf people to gain the knowledge of what their services are for.
- Production of guidelines for professionals working within the Justice Sector on ‘How to work with Deaf people’.
- BSL Equality Training provided to PSNI, Prison Service and Judges.

See below for some of the responses from participants:

- This is brilliant stuff and I can’t believe how clear to watch Johnny with our brilliant sign language interpreters, to answer the Q&As on live when we are at home.
- This is definitely among the best if not the best project of its type that I have seen. I hope this can be a beacon for better Access to Justice for the Deaf

“

I will be more sensitive to the needs of Deaf people who come before the Care Tribunal, allocating more time for the case, and making sure an interpreter is appointed and appropriate technology is used.

**Attendee at BSL & ISL
Equality Training, BDA Access
to Justice project**

”

Community throughout Europe and beyond, Attendant at Report Launch.

- The role of the DAG – inspiring to hear how involved they were in the project, Justice Sector Employee.
- I would be keen to devise a workshop with a focus on practical training and if possible a degree of role playing for the Judges, Colton, The Hon Mr Justice.
- I was at it in Omagh and I thought it was VERY informative and well worth to attend, build resilience against scammers. Deaf attendant.

Family Signing in the Home



Family Signing in the Home (FSH) continues to be a sought-after service in Northern Ireland by families of newly diagnosed babies/children. Twelve new families comprising 17 deaf children completed the 20 week course during 2019-2020. One family was funded by the Department for Communities and two were funded by Foyle Meats. With over 70 attending, weekly classes were made up of the immediate family (parents and siblings) and also included aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, childminders and even a youth group leader.

The FSH is unique in that families can input into the curriculum and receive tailored sign classes relating to subjects that are of interest and use to them.



- 100% of families reported an improvement in communication.
- 100% of families reported an improvement in family relationships.

In total, 70 participants were directly involved in attending classes made up of:

- 58% – nuclear family – parents and siblings only.
- 16.5% – wider family – grandparents, aunts, uncles.
- 25% – others – childminders, carers and family friends.

Here's what they said:

- Has made a huge difference as we can understand the kids better and



can better communicate with them. Behaviour is also improving as there is less frustration – now we can understand them and get our messages across.

- I think in terms of us as a family – it has brought us a lot of confidence in terms of what the future looks like for [child's name].
- More able to deal with situations when no implants, and more confidence when in company of those who sign.
- It has made a massive difference for example with this recent coronavirus, I have had the skills to sit and explain it all to [child's name] whereas before I would have really struggled.

Perspectives on the Care of Deaf Children Seminar

Following on from the successful audiology seminar held in March 2018, BDA (NI) proposed holding a further seminar for audiologists and speech therapists. The Department for Communities funded this event.

The workshop 'Perspectives on the Care of Deaf Children' took place on Monday 10th February 2020 at the Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim. In total, 16 delegates attended and Dr Kate Rowley of the University College, London, delivered a well-received presentation on 'Language development and literacy skills in deaf children'.

Feedback from both audiologists and speech therapists:

- Helps me adapt and modify my approach to my service user to enhance their experience of my service.
- Absolutely sign language is crucial from birth, early intervention is key.
- There are things I can take away – put into more practice. Be more cautious of my language in interacting.



100% of delegates stated that they felt better informed on up to date research and practice.

100% also agreed that the event would

change their perspective on the care of deaf children, that they had gained knowledge and understanding of the importance of early intervention and of acquiring language early.

Transforming the Deaf Dementia Experience

Transforming the Deaf Dementia Experience Project

This project identifies and works with Deaf people who have dementia and their carers. It enables them to receive information, share their knowledge and experience of living with and managing dementia, and is communicated in British Sign Language (BSL).

- Five BSL dementia friendly training sessions with Deaf clubs/groups, reaching 68 participants; 14 BSL dementia friendly training sessions for care homes and organisations, reaching 200 participants.
- Three dementia stakeholder meetings were held with 11 stakeholder members.
- This empowered and gave ownership to Deaf carers to support BDA Scotland and to evaluate and monitor our project.
- Completed our Deaf-user friendly toolkit in plain English and BSL: 'Remember ...The Deaf Dementia Experience in Scotland... A Toolkit for All.



Dementia Stakeholders Meeting, March 2020

- Distributed a survey and analysed responses to increase our understanding of the issues and concerns that Deaf community members may face when living with dementia.
- 20 key themes were identified.
- 22 beneficiaries consulted.
- 24 BSL video resources were created.
- 9 BSL videos were released during Carers Week on 10-16 June 2019. Seven videos showed one-to-one interviews with carers.
- Uploaded 23 reminiscence photos with Share: The Deaf Visual Archive.

Deaf Roots and Pride

The Deaf Roots and Pride project supported 864 deaf young people in the last year, through mentoring, activity days, and peer sessions.

37 trained Deaf Mentors and role models provided 1,658 hours of one to one support for deaf young people throughout the year, with the aim of increasing confidence, resilience, independence, improving sign language skills and improving outcomes. During the year BDA carried out 47 activities throughout the UK.

Approximately 9 out of 10 deaf young people are born to hearing parents, who may have no prior experience with Deaf people or Deaf culture. Many deaf children attend mainstream school, where they may be the only deaf child present. Research shows that deaf young people often lag behind their hearing peers in educational attainment and have higher prevalence of mental health problems. Many issues that deaf young people experience are due to exclusion or social isolation.



DRP East Midlands enjoyed a trip to Derby's Clip 'n' Climb, February 2020

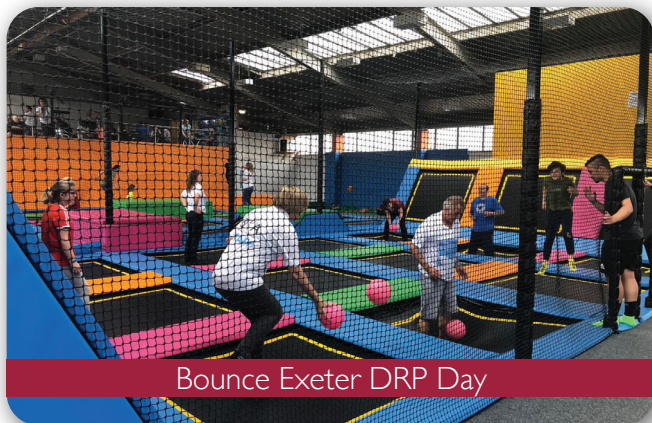
Mentoring by BDA role models is balanced alongside a programme of group activity events, enabling deaf young people to access both individual support and peer support from other deaf young people.

A secondary benefit of the project is the introduction of hearing parents to the Deaf community, through the capable and



DRP Midlands Laser, February 2020

Deaf Roots and Pride (cont'd)



Bounce Exeter DRP Day

independent Deaf role models assigned to their child. One parent of a deaf young person said, “I wish my son had access to this kind of support earlier; he would have a lot more confidence with his social skills if he had this a long time ago.”

Deaf Roots and Pride have been delivering projects throughout the UK for the last seven years. During this time a total of 7,519 mentoring hours were provided to 1,500 young people and 175 events were delivered. BDA has undertaken a review of the project and will be focussing on activities for the future to engage more young Deaf people to become aware of their culture and identity.



I am much happier now because I am able to confide in someone who can empathise with me.

Comment by a mentee

The Deaf Roots and Pride project in Scotland is funded by National Community Lottery and Robertson Trust. It aims to provide deaf children and young adults with the opportunity to be introduced to Deaf culture, Deaf Identity, British Sign Language (BSL), and to meet and participate in workshops and events with positive Deaf role models.

Transition training and networking events are also available for professionals and parents, helping to provide the tools needed to support deaf young people.



Scottish National Port



Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh



Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh



Northern Ireland Generation Game

- Through interaction, 87 deaf young people have been signposted to services which match their needs.
- 23 training / information sessions have been delivered.
- A total of 554 deaf young people, 222 families and professionals attended our 11 events.
- 10 mentors with 22 mentees relationships with total of 335.5 hours of mentoring support.
- 26 new mentee referrals.
- One-to-one and group transition support for 37 deaf young people.
- 5 Youth Advisory Group (YAG) was appointed.
- 15 teachers attended transition training.

I always worried about [my child]'s future as he hasn't got the chance to meet many Deaf people... this project should help my son to accept who he is, and live in the real world instead relying on me as his mother all the time. It is difficult for me to show him as I am hearing, so he needs to meet other Deaf people who go through same experience as him.

Mother of a Deaf young person

Deaf Roots and Pride (cont'd)

A perfect opportunity for our students to meet and talk with Deaf professionals to learn how they overcame barriers and achieve their career paths.

Careers Advisor at a Positive Deaf Role Models event

- 11 BSL videos about transitions were created.
- DRP Scotland created 11 BSL videos for transitions.
- Jock Young Award 2019 – there were 12 nominees for applications and selection. The winner received their award in front of their friends and family at their place of study.
- 38 BSL educational videos posted on social media for deaf young people.
- 100 % of young people involved in the DRP project felt that it had helped them



DRP Day, Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland Generation Game

to learn important things about being Deaf.

- 96% of deaf young people stated that



Taste Your Future at
St Roch's Secondary School, Glasgow

the project gave them more self-confidence to overcome barriers and participate.

Improving Services for Deaf People (Including the BSL/ISL Charter)



The BDA works by the mantra “nothing about us without us”. In our work lobbying for improvements to services for Deaf people, the BDA always ensures this is done through targeted engagement with the Deaf communities that are being served.

Teams across the UK have spearheaded engagement and consultations with local Deaf communities, ensuring Deaf sign language users have a seat at the table with service providers and bodies whose work impacts our lives. Throughout the year, the BDA have worked with 2,076 people from a broad spectrum of 331

service providers and bodies. Linked to this work, 109 sessions were held with members of the Deaf community, allowing Deaf people to access information, support, and advice that enables them to participate and engage with wider society.

The Access & Inclusion (BSL Charter) Officer, worked to empower local Deaf communities and to campaign for improved access to local services. This included working with respective local community groups, setting up forums and training events in line with the BDA's objectives.

Key outcomes in this reporting period include:

BSL Charter:

- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board and North East Derbyshire District Council sign up to the BSL Charter with the commitment to all pledges.
- Wolverhampton Homes also signed up to the BSL Charter for one pledge.
- City of Wolverhampton council achieved the pledge; consulting formally and informally with the local Deaf community regularly, with further recommendations to move forward.
- Currently working with Greater London Authority and Rykneld Homes in readiness to sign up to the BSL Charter in 2020.

Training workshops and events:

- Road Traffic Collision training exercise for Deaf volunteers and Emergency staff – delivered in partnership with Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue service.
- Worked with Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service to host the first Deaf Community Open Day that saw over 100 people attending.

Improving Services for Deaf People (Including the BSL/ISL Charter) (cont'd)



North East Derbyshire District Council has shown its commitment to the Deaf community, by becoming the first district council in the UK to sign up to the British Sign Language Charter, September 2019

- Delivered 27 BSL Equality training and 10 BSL taster training sessions.
- Achieved funding to facilitate a series of local well-being workshops for Deaf residents in Leicestershire to talk, discuss and understand the concept of well-being and the importance of better well-being in the local Deaf community.
- Worked with Derbyshire Safeguarding Board and Derbyshire Deaf Forums to

carry out presentations and surveys to local Deaf communities to find out what they know about safeguarding and how to improve the information for the Deaf community.

- Partnership with Derbyshire Law Centre and Deaf-initely Women to host the first Free Legal event for Derbyshire, attracting 49 enquiries from 28 Deaf people for legal advice.

Very informative, I like the term used as being in a language minority group as opposed to a disability group. It has made me appreciate what Deaf people go through on a day to day basis.

Attendee, BSL/ISL Equality

As the only devolved nation with its own Sign Language Act, Scotland has already made strides in ensuring that the Deaf community are consulted, through the BSL National Plans and local plans. BDA Scotland have continued to provide guidance and support as part of this process. During the reporting year, BDA Scotland provided their expertise to the Scottish Government linked to the BSL Scotland Act.

Research and Policy

The BDA's key aim is that the rights of Deaf sign language users are fully recognised, and that Deaf people are able to access all areas of public life on an equal basis with others.

Our core aim for many decades has been full legal recognition of British and Irish Sign Language throughout the UK. Several years after achieving a BSL Act in Scotland however, full UK legal recognition has yet to be achieved. The Northern Ireland Assembly has been re-established and a BSL/ISL Bill is now in the programme for Government. The BDA is positioning themselves to make the case for a BSL Act as a priority with Westminster and the Wales Assembly.

In the past reporting year:

- BDA collaborated with other organisations on the 'Save the Red Button' campaign. Thousands of signatures were presented to 10 Downing Street calling for the BBC to reverse its decision to abolish the 'Red Button' service. The BBC has now reviewed and reversed their decision.



House of Commons launches BSL interpretation of PM Questions, February 2020

- BDA also worked with United Kingdom Council on Deafness, Action on Hearing Loss and Sign Health to make the case for a BSL Emergency Relay. This was making the case that while a 999 call is immediately accessible for those who can hear on the phone, there was no alternative for Deaf people who use sign language. Ofcom has now picked this up and is taking the lead on this. BDA will continue to remain involved and engaged with Ofcom.
- During the year, Prime Minister's Question Time began a pilot of having a sign language interpreter, providing this in BSL. Access was shown on the Parliament TV channel. BDA has been invited to participate on the consultation and review with the Parliament media team. Early indications show this is likely to continue as awareness has been raised amongst broadcast technicians that this is easily deliverable.

Research and Policy (cont'd)

As we approach the end of the reporting year, which also saw the spread of the Covid-19 throughout the world, we



recognised how vital it was that the Deaf Community were kept informed of news. There were daily briefings from the Prime Minister's office yet there was no BSL interpreter provision on the main and most accessible news channel for Deaf people – BBC1. In-vision interpreting was available

England

In England, local government engagement continues with existing and prospective BSL/ISL Charter signatories. Work has also continued with the Greater London Authority, and the Mayor of London, who has a manifesto commitment to signing the BSL Charter before the end of his term.



Wales

The BDA have continued their work in Wales, advising on local and assembly panels, particularly on Welsh language requirements for Deaf people. With increasing movement in Wales on rights for sign language users, this was identified as an area for priority work in 2019-2020.

on BBC News, and, the other Home Nations showed interpreters whether in-situ or via a TV monitor on their respective channels. The BDA launched its 'BSL on BBC1' initiative by writing to the Prime Minister's office requesting that the briefings were switched to BBC1.

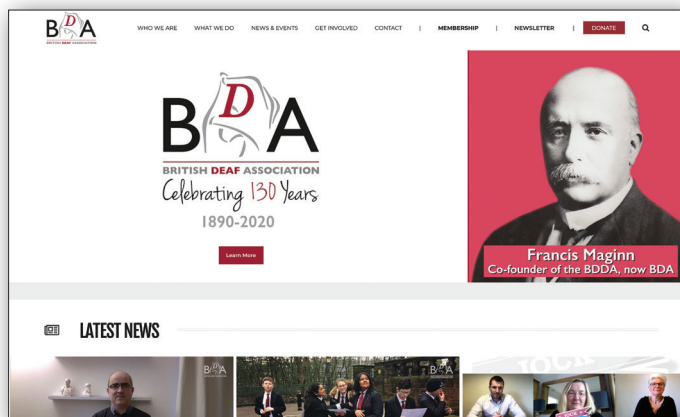
Scotland

As the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015 entered its fifth year, BDA Scotland has become a bridge-builder, ensuring that Deaf people are consulted and included in all elements of life in Scotland. BDA Scotland has continued to provide expert advice in government consultations, and to promote methods of co-production at all levels.

Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Assembly (Stormont) has now been re-established and the BSL/ISL Bill is on the programme for Government. BDA staff in Northern Ireland are continuing to engage with MLAs to ensure the bill goes through.

Sign Language Content

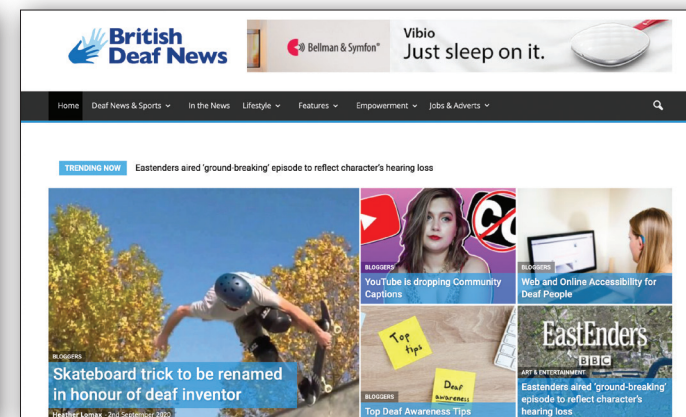


The BDA maintain an in-house Visual Language Team, who produce and edit videos in, and with, British and Irish Sign Language. These videos are shared through BDA channels online and through the BDA website and newsletter, providing updates, news, and information for sign language users in their first or preferred language.



The team also manage and update the online sign language news website, British Deaf News.

In the last reporting period, videos produced by the team achieved a total of 523,214 views, a 7% increase from the previous year (487,500 views). The BDA's largest social media platform



– Facebook – expanded in reach by 29% from 18,462 followers to 23,887 by the end of the year.

The BDA website, which contains a wealth of BSL information videos, as well as useful facts, figures, and guidance, achieved 227,096 page views over the course of the year.

The World Federation of the Deaf and European Union of the Deaf



The BDA is the UK's ordinary member for both the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and the European Union of the Deaf (EUD).

During 2019-2020 the World Federation of the Deaf held their Congress in Paris. Two Trustees from the Board attended this event as delegates. Terry Riley, the

previous BDA Chair, and long-time advocate for the Deaf Community in the UK and around the world, received the WFD First Class Award.

The European Union for the Deaf held their annual General Assembly in Budapest and two Trustees attended as delegates.



Financial Statement

In another challenging year for the UK economy, we can report that **income for 2019-20 decreased by 17.6%**. The BDA **decreased its charitable expenditure by 12.5%**, this is mainly due to the use of designated and restricted funds. The overall result was that the **surplus for the year was £56,157** (2018-19: surplus: £173,109).

Income

Total income decreased to **£1,539,772** (2018-19: £1,868,616). Of this £649,401 was from legacies, which represents 42% of the total income. Legacies remain an unpredictable income source, which should not be relied upon.

Expenditure

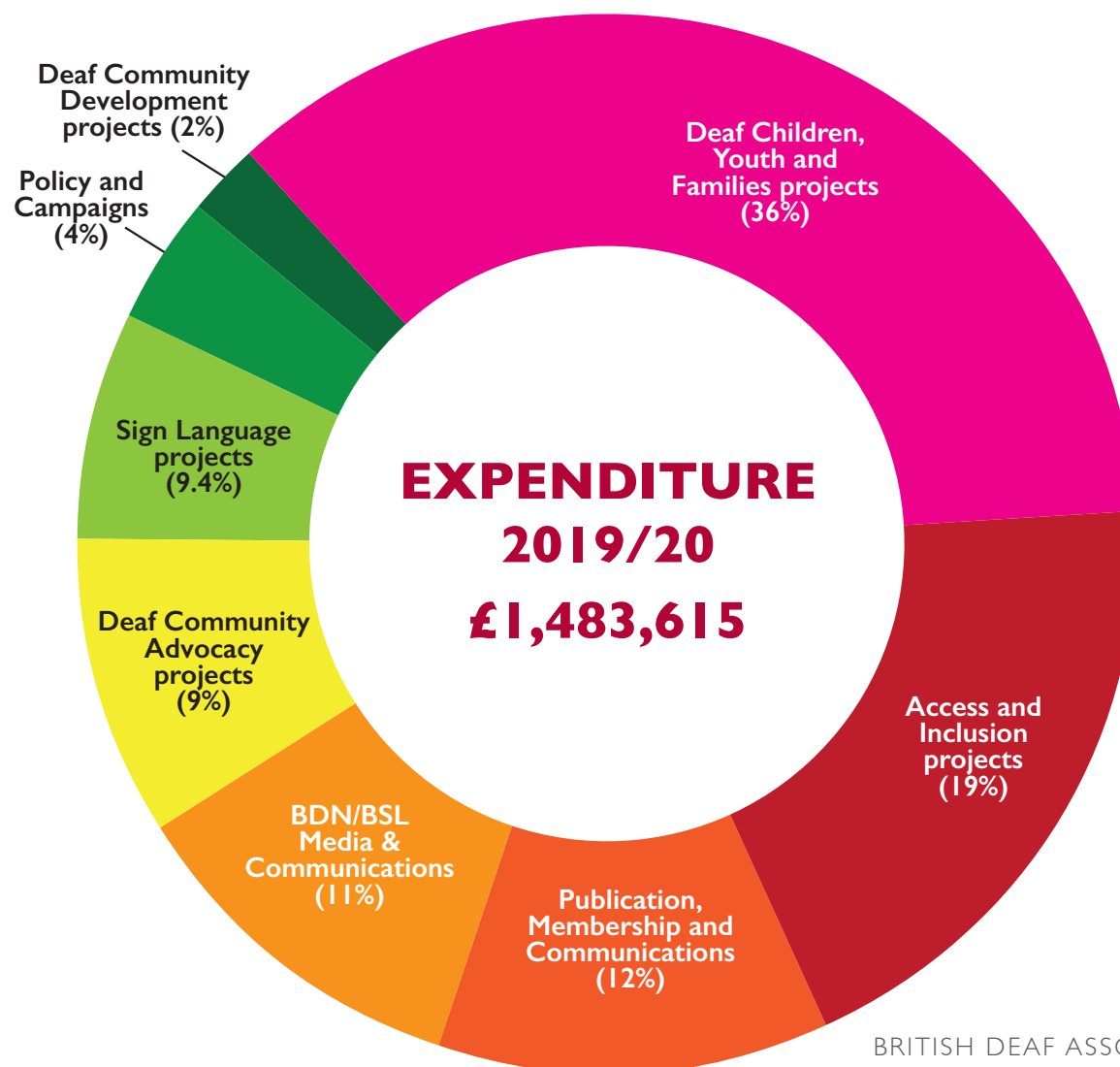
Total Resources Expended: Expenditure decreased during the year by £211,892 to **£1,483,615** (2018-19: £1,695,507) and the breakdown of this is:

- 36% spent on **Deaf Children, Youth and Families projects** (2018-19: 39%)
- 19% spent on **Access and Inclusion projects** (2018-19: 19%)
- 12% spent on **Publications, Membership and Communications** (2018-19: 10%)
- 11% spent on **BDN / BSL Media & Communications** (2018-19: 12%)
- 9% spent on **Deaf Community Advocacy projects** (2018-19: 9%)
- 7% spent on **Sign Language projects** (2018-19: 10%)
- 4% spent on **Policy and Campaigns** (2018-19: 2%)
- 2% spent on **Deaf Community Development projects** (2018-19: 1%)

Membership and Communications
(2018-19: 8%)

- 11% spent on **BDN / BSL Media & Communications** (2018-19: 12%)
- 9% spent on **Deaf Community Advocacy projects** (2018-19: 9%)

- 7% spent on **Sign Language projects** (2018-19: 10%)
- 4% spent on **Policy and Campaigns** (2018-19: 2%)
- 2% spent on **Deaf Community Development projects** (2018-19: 1%)



Funds

Total net assets between funds were £419,599 of which £123,450 related to general funds. In addition, £66,328 has been set aside for business development by way of designated funds. As the BDA has a legal obligation to service additional pension contributions of approximately £147,000 a year to the Pension Trust for twelve years ending in 2025, in order to reduce the charities' multi-employer pension scheme debt, £316,585 has been set aside to meet 2.15 years of the future liability. The Board has maintained its policy to achieve the total cost of the repayment with the aim of locking in these funds, providing reassurance that project funding will not be used to service pension contributions.

In the 2019 – 2020 accounts the Pension Trust liability has been included as part of reporting requirements. This shows that the BDA has a pension fund deficit £393,462 down from £501,811 (2018-19). As the BDA is a member of the Pension Trust with planned repayment scheme until 2025, this balance sheet risk has been

reduced as the BDA has a designated Pension fund to cover the next 2.15 years repayments. If the BDA maintain repayments to 2025 then the Pension liability will not be triggered requiring full liability costs to be recovered by the Pension Trust.

Plans for using the BDA reserves in the next 3 years

In summary, the financial statements for 2019-20 show a surplus mainly attributed to receiving large restricted legacies totalling nearly £189,033. This has increased our restricted reserves balance to £623,284. General reserves however reduced from £237,562 in 2018-2019 to £123,450. The main reason for this was that £100,000 of general reserves was re-designated to reduce the Pension Reserve.

Income and existing project grants will – for one year – underpin work such as Access and Inclusion, Deaf Advocacy, Deaf Roots and Pride, and, the increased use and visibility of sign language and video on social

media platforms through the work of the Visual Language Team.

Therefore, the reserves at 31st March 2020 are:

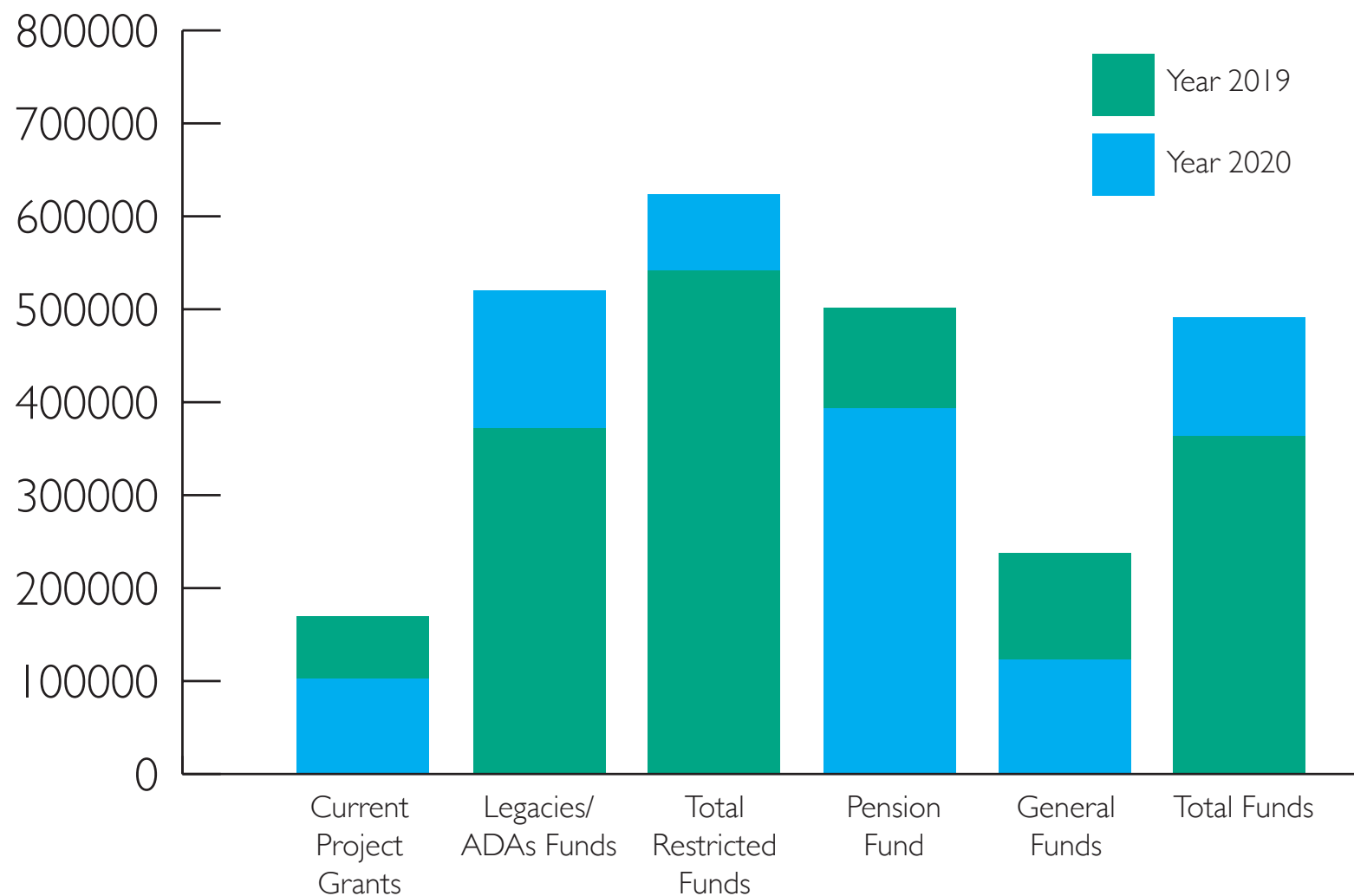
- Current Project Grants: **£102,904** from **£169,562** in 2019
- Legacies/ADAs Funds: **£520,380** from **£371,802** in 2019

Total Restricted Funds: £623,284 from £541,364 in 2019

- Pension Fund: **(£393,462)** from **(£501,811)** in 2019
- General Funds: **£123,449** from **£237,562** in 2019

Total Funds: £419,599 from £363,443 in 2019

As a result of the above, the Board recognises there is still a **very tight free cash reserve representing around 1.9 months of the annual expenditure budget for 2019-20**. However, we are managing to secure grant funding to deliver much needed services to Deaf people.



In conclusion, the BDA will be monitoring its reserves more carefully. **We have also made it a priority to seek new core and project funding from new funders wishing to support much needed Deaf Community projects and provide additional support through visual language communication mediums in our first language, BSL.**

BDA Summarised Accounts

	2019/20	2018/19
Income		
Donations and Gifts	£44,597	£163,294
Legacies	£649,401	£679,638
Sign Language	£22,454	£43,465
Deaf Children, Youth & Families	£348,385	£368,409
Deaf Community Advocacy	£171,427	£165,127
Deaf Access and Inclusion	£149,817	£238,572
Members, Conferences & Congress	-	£3,105
Area Deaf Associations	-	-
Advertising	£29,816	£41,913
Investment Income	£3,010	£2,793
Other Income	£120,865	£162,300
Total	£1,539,772	£1,868,616
Expenditure		
Sign Language	£98,913	£150,188
Deaf Children, Youth & Families	£479,935	£624,122
Deaf Community Advocacy	£125,971	£140,068
Deaf Community Development	£18,634	£22,501
Deaf Access and Inclusion	£257,636	£307,289
Policy & Campaigns	£49,827	£38,913
BSL Media and Others	£144,281	£183,972
Publication and Communications	£165,710	£134,971
Area Deaf Associations	-	-
Fundraising	£105,192	£120,626
Other – Pension Costs	(£8,349)	(£56,000)
Governance and Others	£45,857	£28,857
Total	£1,483,615	£1,695,507
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	£56,157	£173,109

BDA Summarised Balance Sheet

Net Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets

Current Assets

Liabilities – within one year

Liabilities – after one year

Represented by

Restricted Funds

Designated Funds – Development Fund

General Reserves

Pension Reserve

2019/20

£3,463

£1,215,789

(£236,662)

(£562,991)

£419,284

£623,284

£66,328

£123,449

(£393,462)

£419,284

2018/19

£2,365

£1,336,454

(£257,207)

(£718,169)

£363,443

£541,364

£86,328

£237,562

(£501,811)

£363,443

Summarised Accounts

This information is extracted from the BDA Report and Financial Statements for 2019-20. The statutory financial accounts, on which HW Fisher LLP gave an unqualified audit report, were signed off by the Board of Trustees on 10th March 2021 and submitted to Companies House, the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Auditors Report

We have examined the summarised financial information set out in this document to the BDA members and have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether they are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared. In our opinion, the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020.

HW Fisher LLP, Acre House, 11-15 William Road, London NW1 3ER.

An electronic copy of the full report and accounts can be requested by emailing bda@bda.org.uk

Support the BDA – Your help is vital

The BDA relies heavily on support from individuals to carry out its work. If you believe deaf children, young people, adults and older people, should enjoy the same rights, responsibilities, opportunities and quality of life as everyone, please support us now.

Donations

You can donate at **www.bda.org.uk**

Regular Donations

A regular donation via standing order or through your payroll means that we will be able to expand our work and plan ahead with confidence.

Gift Aid

Increase the value of your gift at no extra cost to you. The Gift Aid scheme means that every £1 you donate is actually worth £1.28 to us! The scheme is open to all taxpayers and allows us to reclaim tax you have already paid to the Inland Revenue.

Legacies

Leaving a gift to the BDA in your Will is one of the most effective ways to improve the lives of deaf children, young people, adults and older people across the UK. Legacies large or small make a real difference.

Visit our website **www.bda.org.uk** to find out about new and exciting ways to support our work.

Thank you for all your support

The BDA appreciates the generosity of the many individuals and organisations who have supported our work. There are too many to mention here, but we could not continue our vital work without you.

Fundraising Events

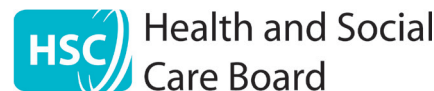
Why not organise or take part in a sponsored or fundraising event that will raise money for the BDA? Please contact us for more information.



Our thanks go to the following funders for the year 2019-20

- BBC Children In Need (Midlands)
- BBC Children In Need (Northern Ireland)
- DRILL – National Lottery Community Fund
- Life Changes Trust
- Masonic Charitable Foundation
- National Lottery Community Fund (Scotland)
- National Lottery Community Fund (Wales)
- Northern Ireland Department for Communities
- Northern Ireland Department for Communities
- Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Board
- Sir Jeremiah Colman Gift Trust
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Government
- The Edith Lilian Harrison 2000 Foundation
- The Jenour Foundation
- The Privy Purse Charitable Trust
- The Robertson Trust
- The Roger Raymond Charitable Trust
- The Sir James Roll Charitable Trust
- The Stella Symons Charitable Trust
- The Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Settlement
- Deaf Roots and Pride Project (Midlands)
- Deaf Roots and Pride Project (Northern Ireland)
- Deaf Access to Justice Project (Northern Ireland)
- Deaf Dementia Project (Scotland)
- Visual Language Project (UK-wide)
- Deaf Roots and Pride Project (Scotland)
- Deaf Advocacy Project (Wales)
- Deaf Roots and Pride Project (Northern Ireland)
- Family Signing in the Home Project (Northern Ireland)
- Deaf Advocacy Project (Northern Ireland)
- Core Service
- BSL (Scotland) Act Project – Digital Communication
- BSL (Scotland) Act Project – Local Authorities & NHS
- Core Service (UK-wide)
- Core Service (UK-wide)
- Core Service (UK-wide)
- Deaf Roots and Pride Project (Scotland)
- Core Service (UK-wide)
- Core Service (UK-wide)
- Core Service (UK-wide)
- Deaf Roots and Pride Project (South West)

And also to those who made generous donations and remembered the British Deaf Association in their Wills.

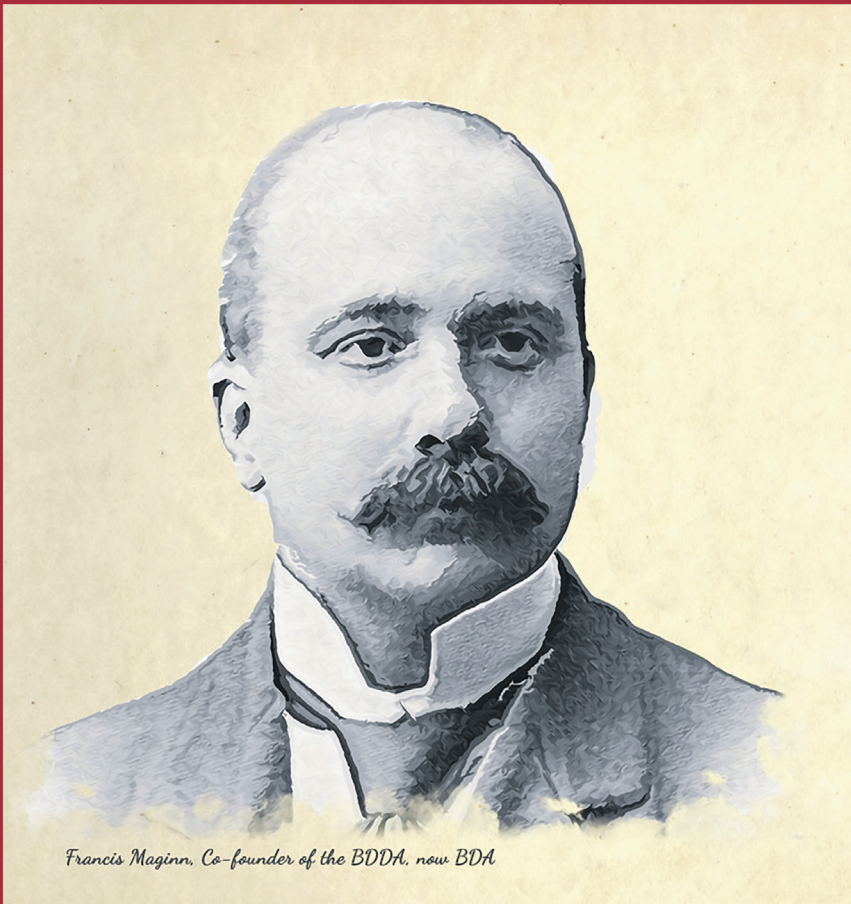




BRITISH **DEAF** ASSOCIATION

Celebrating 130 Years

1890-2020



Francis Maginn, Co-founder of the BDDA, now BDA

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Charity number 1031687 Scottish charity number SCO42409 Company number 2881497