

Down Syndrome Training & Support Service Ltd

Registered Charity No.1130994
A company registered in England
and Wales number 6915555



Annual Report 1st June 2025 — 31st May 2026



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Introduction and overview

Staffing and services

Following the turbulence of last year, this year has definitely been much more positive with regards to staffing and services as a result of improved financial security.

We have acquired three new staff members; Jenn Casper-Smith whose hours have been gradually increasing since February in order to take over from Wendy, who plans to reduce her hours and take semi-retirement next year; Georgina Edwards who became our new Finance Officer in April, after Charlotte Roscoe-Mitchell left our service in February to pursue a different career path. Kate Coates was also employed in April to focus on marketing and social media. In addition, Sarah Bentley took on the role of WisH Club Team Leader when Charlotte Roscoe-Mitchell left, and Karen Barron relocated out of area in the summer, also leaving the charity.

Since last year, we have once again been able to offer transport for families who need it. Our physiotherapy and occupational therapy services have not yet been reinstated, but have remained available as a private service.

Directors

At our AGM in October, Rachel Cruickshank-Sutton and Heather Chattell stood down on rotation, before being re-elected. Phillipa Darbandi also joined the team in October, temporarily taking our number of Directors up to seven.

In January 2026, with permission from the Charities Commission, Jenn Casper-Smith resigned from her role as Director in order to become an employed member of the service.

Training

We have an ongoing mission to support schools, families and healthcare professionals through the delivery of a range of training and workshops, and, with Wendy back to her pre-accident self this year, the number of training sessions delivered has increased by 42%. This is largely due to the delivery of the 22 week online training course, which is now CPD accredited.

In addition to the provision of training, downloads from the website have increased by 28%. This is something which we continue to review, alongside the resources we offer on our website. More informal training has also taken place over the last year, with Jenn providing information sessions to the Bradford Doulas and to midwifery and nursing staff at Bradford Royal Infirmary.

From next year, Wendy Uttley, Laura Hempel and Jenn Casper-Smith will be delivering training and providing assessments, consultations and observations predominantly for educational settings but also as upon request of families. There will continue to be a cost for this service.

Introduction and overview

Early Development Groups and Speech & Language

These vital sessions have continued to run despite facing adversity with regards to funding, which came from our reserves, as the previous National Lottery grant expired. Moving forwards, we are delighted to have been awarded further National Lottery funding to secure the EDGs for the next five years. The Health Lottery currently funds our Speech and Language groups, with continued funding from Baily Thomas next year.

The EDGs have continued to support children, families and a range of professionals across nursery, school and healthcare settings. In addition to the group support, an increasing number of one to one sessions have taken place, providing bespoke support based on individual needs. We also held our very first Graduation Ceremony for those who finished the program this year.

Speech and language sessions continued throughout Jessica's maternity leave, as our other SaLT, Lauren, very helpfully took on Jessica's sessions to prevent disruption to this service.

Evaluations for the above were exceptional and can be found in further detail later in this report.

Family Support Services

Our Family Support Services continue to include: monthly Family Saturday Sessions, WisH Club, Going Out Club, Gym Club, the summer trip, Dance21, Twirly21s and Sibz Zone. We have received positive feedback from those who attend the above services, although the number of dancers attending the dance classes has reduced this year, despite a reduction in the suggested donation fee.

Adult Support Services

These services have sadly continued to decline in uptake, and therefore are due a full re-launch next year. Whilst we have had one young person enrolled on our 'I Can Work' project and two young people have volunteered in our Charity Shop on occasion, we aim to improve engagement in this project next year in order to equip people with the skills required to gain work placements and paid employment.

In the same light, the Independent Living Skills program has not run this year due to a lack of recruitment. Wendy intends to focus on Adult Services in September, when she has handed over the management tasks.

Introduction and overview

Funding

We are delighted that we ended this year in a position of significantly improved financial stability compared to the last!

This is largely due to the bequest of £47,500 which we are incredibly grateful to have received from Janet Mirfield, and the additional security of knowing we had been awarded funding for the next five years from the National Lottery for our project 'From Day One: Enabling a Life of Inclusion'.

Despite being thrilled to be receiving £200,757 over the next five years from the National Lottery, this only funds one of our many, much needed services: our Early Development Groups. We are still reliant on other funding grants, fundraising events, donations, and income from our charity shop to maintain this security.

Due to grants from the Health Lottery, The Wharfedale Foundation and Bailey Thomas amongst others, the amount of income received from grants this year was 47%. Whilst this is a considerable increase on last year (28%), it still remains lower than three years ago and we must maintain alternative sources of funding, such as fundraising activities, our charity shop and events.

Our summer festival 'Chromosome Rocks #25', our celebratory 25th anniversary Fashion Show and our World Down Syndrome Day Sponsored Canal Walk all contributed to our overall funding security, in addition to the efforts of Andy Hibbert and Leo's wheelbarrow walk, events held at both Kildwick and Menston Primary Schools as well as Finn's 8 Mile Fundraiser. Moving forward, becoming Bradford Lord Mayor's Charity of the Year in May will also prove beneficial.

Our charity shop, Chromosome Rocks, has now gained a reputation for quality toys and baby items in Keighley. We must continue to seek volunteers in order to increase the opportunities to open the shop.

Introduction and overview

Aims for 2025-2026

Our aims for 2025/26 were:

- Raise £130,000 so that we are secure for 2026/27
- Improve the promotion and training for ALL across the Yorkshire region (ongoing)
- Staff the charity shop to ensure it is open as much as possible
- Maintain our level of income and service
- Celebrate our 25th anniversary

We have successfully achieved these aims through the many fundraising events and activities which have taken place throughout this year, in addition to income acquired through grants, the provision of training and from our charity shop, taking our total income to £162,308. This has put us in a very secure position and has enabled us to return our service and staffing to previous levels.

Improving the promotion and training across the Yorkshire region is, and will always be, an ongoing aim. We have promoted and trained new organisations and services this year, such as the Bradford Doulas, and intend to continue expanding our reach in the years ahead.

The staffing of the charity shop is still a work in progress; although it has generated slightly more income this year, we remain on a quest for volunteers in order to maximise opening times.

Finally, we celebrated our 25th anniversary with a Fashion Show which also raised funds for the service. It was a great evening with a wonderful atmosphere, made even better with some of our young people modelling at the event.

Introduction and overview

Aims for 2026-2027

Our aims for the next year are as follows:

- Increase the number of children attending Early Development Groups
- Increase the number of professionals benefitting from our expertise
- Improve the confidence and abilities of parents and professionals to adequately support a child or young person with Down syndrome
- Improve engagement with our Adult Services
- Generate income through fundraising events such as Chromosome Rocks 2027
- Increase the income derived from the charity shop

In order to achieve these aims, we intend to continue to promote our training and services across education and healthcare provisions; contribute to workstreams run by Bradford Council; improve our Social Media presence; modernise our branding; review our training costs and downloads from our website; review and relaunch our dance offer; relaunch both the I Can Work and Independent Living Skills projects; widen our range of fundraising activities and events in order to raise £80,000 so we are secure for 2027-2028; and increase opportunities to open the charity shop through the use of staff and volunteers.

Funding 2025 - 2026

The total funding income for the financial year was £162,308

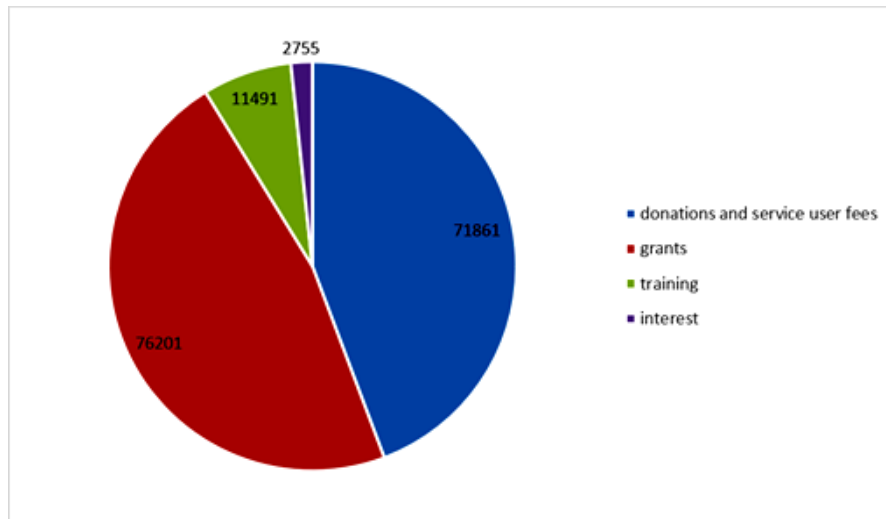
We received:

£71,861 from donations, Gift Aid, fees and fundraising activities (44%)

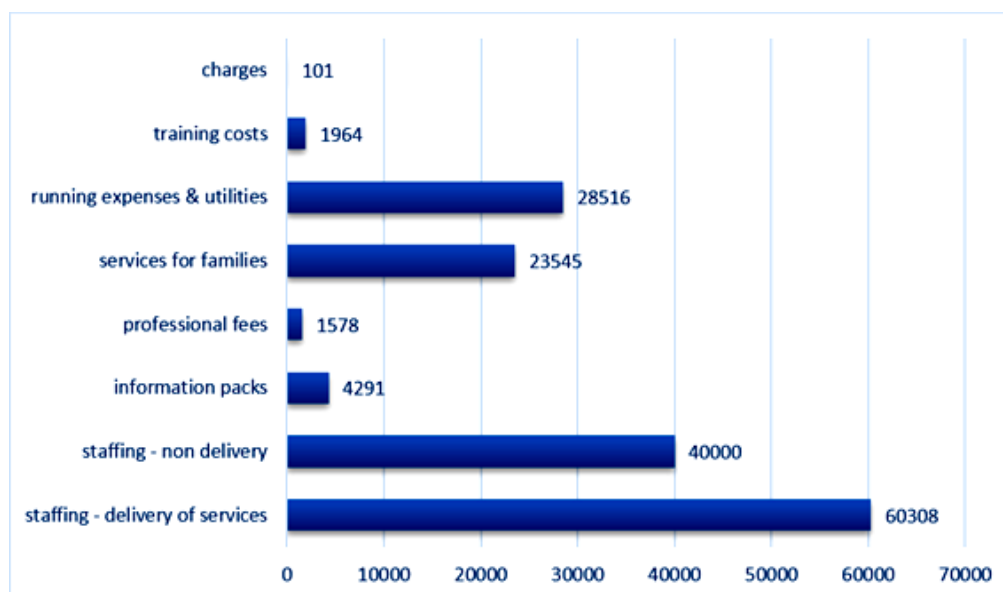
£76,201 from grants (47%)

£11,491 from training (7%)

£2755 from bank interest (2%)



Overall expenditure was £161,286



Over the next few pages we detail this income and expenditure and report on how we are progressing with the training and support services we continue to offer.

Our accounts are inserted on page 61.

Update on our funding situation

Looking back over the past five years:

- June 2021 to May 2022: we spent £157 644 and raised £164 423 (£109 100 from grants)
- June 2022 to May 2023: we spent £153 517 and raised £141 003 (£81 976 from grants)
- June 2023 to May 2024: we spent £172 391 and raised £173 234 (£112 653 from grants)
- June 2024 to May 2025 we spent £157,389 and raised £235,950 (£65,170 from grants)
- June 2025 to May 2026 we spent £161,286 and raised £162,308 (£76,201 from grants)

We have had another great year generating funds. Income very slightly exceeded expenditure leaving a healthy bank balance due to the large amount generated 2024/25.

Explanation of two large amounts:

- In May 2024 we received a large bequest of £47,500 this was included in our income figures for 2024/25, but the legacy is acknowledged in this report as the presentation took place later in the year (see page 20).
- We were awarded £200,757 from the National Lottery, over five years to start 1st June 2026 (see page 10). The award is acknowledged in this report but the figures will be included in our next financial year.

Fundraising Target 2025 to 2026

Following last year's increased income and the future annual income of £40,000 from the National Lottery, we reduced our calendar year fundraising target to £60,000.

Fundraising Target 2026 to 2027

We currently have funds to secure our future for the next 12 months. Our budget has been increased as we have expanded our staffing team; we expect to spend £186,000 over the next financial year.

Our fundraising target for 2027 will be set as we near the end of 2026 but in order to maintain our increased budget, this will be increased to at least £80,000.

National Lottery Success

Funding awarded during financial year 2025-2026, but scheduled to start 1st June 2026

‘From Day One: Enabling a life of inclusion’

We were delighted to learn that we were SUCCESSFUL in our funding bid to the National Lottery.

The funding will start 1st June 2026 and fund our Early Intervention services for FIVE years. The total awarded is £200,757, so roughly £40,000 each year, for a project we have called ‘From Day One: Enabling a life of inclusion’.

The main objective of Down Syndrome Training and Support Service Limited is to provide training, support and guidance to children with Down syndrome, their families and the professionals who work with them in order to improve education, development and inclusion.

The aim of this project: ‘From Day One: Enabling a life of inclusion’ is that a child born with Down syndrome today is provided with the intervention and opportunity to grow up included, educated, and on a progressive route to living and working in mainstream society.

The project builds directly on 25 years of proven work, experience and partnerships, supporting children, young people and their families at every stage of their journey. It fits directly with the overall aim of our charity, supporting children with Down syndrome and their families from birth, and aligns directly with the Reaching Communities funding mission: ‘helping children and young people thrive by developing positive social and emotional skills’.

The funding outcomes we will be reporting on over the next 5 years are:

- Babies with Down syndrome and their families are enabled to come together and feel like they belong from the very beginning.
- Parents feel supported to move from uncertainty to confidence, from fear to celebration of their child’s potential, and from isolation to belonging in a strong community.
- Families feel they belong and are supported from diagnosis onwards.
- Children build the foundations for learning and are prepared for inclusion in mainstream school.
- Children with more complex needs are supported to make progress towards small targets that will enhance their life and wellbeing.
- Parents are equipped with practical tools and confidence.
- Schools and professionals are empowered with strategies to meet needs effectively.



Funding Grants over 2025-2026

Early Development Groups

When the National Lottery Fund expired in March 2025 we funded these groups from our reserves. This service costs on average £2000 each month.

Unrestricted funding from the Masonic Charitable Trust of £15,000 over 3 years was allocated towards costs.

From 1st June 2026 these sessions are fully funded for 5 years thanks to our successful bid to the National Lottery.



Core Running Costs



Our core running costs are about £24,000 per year.

Grants from Jeans for Genes; £5000 until May 2026, and Wharfedale Foundation; £10,000 for over 2 years until September 2026 help to fund these ongoing costs.

We are currently seeking further funding.

The Wharfedale Foundation
BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES IN YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

Speech and Language Group sessions and Oral Motor Therapy

An award of £17,597 from **Awards For All, National Lottery** in February 2024 funded our speech & language group sessions and their administration until July 2025.

Following this we were successful in gaining funding to continue this service until March 2027. Funding of £2000 from **Cyclife**, £21,513 from the **Health Lottery** and £10,000 from **Baily Thomas** currently funds our speech & language and oral motor therapy.



Funding Grants over 2025-2026

Dance Sessions: Dance21 and Twirly21s

In April 2023 we were awarded £10,080 over 3 years from The **Barbara Ward Children's Foundation**; this expired in April 2026.



Funds of £3,354 from the **Shears Foundation** currently funds these sessions.



Down Syndrome Learning Support Packs and New Baby Packs



Sir James Reckitt Trust awarded a grant of £3000 towards Early Year Support Packs (£250 each) and new baby packs, (£10 each)

Family Saturday Sessions & Sibz Zone



Saturday sessions and Sibz Zone were funded by **Bentley Advancing Life Chances**, £500. Then, following winning the **Tesco** vote, £1500 was allocated.

Training for families



Morrisons charitable trust donated £6,780 towards training workshops, February 2025 to February 2026. This was followed with a grant of £6000 from the **Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation**.



WisH Club

Grants from the **Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust**, £2000, and **Ironmongers Foundation**, £4853, expired during this financial year. The club is now funded by the **Co-op Community Fund**, (we are charity of the year), £500, and funding received from the **D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust** - £3545, originally awarded for dance and transferred, with their permission, to the WisH Club.



Funding Grants over 2025-2026

Transport for Families

A number of our funding bids include the cost of transport for families. When we apply for funding for Speech and Language sessions and Early Development Group sessions, we include a budget to fund taxis for our more vulnerable families who would otherwise be unable to attend.

Adult Services: I Can Work and Independent Living Skills

These two projects have been funded by **Aviva Community Fund** and **Austin & Hope Pilkington Trust**. In addition young people can use their Direct Payments to fund the sessions.



Gym Club

Our weekly Gym Club was funded with a grant of £2728 from **Sports England** until December 2025. **Bingley Bubble Community Partnership** then awarded a grant of £2,200 which will fund sessions until Dec 2026.



Summer Trip to Lightwater Valley

£1350 from Bradford Council Shorts Breaks contributed towards our August 2025 trip.



Counselling

Funding from and **Sovereign Healthcare**, was carried forward and funded our counselling services until Oct 2025. We are currently seeking funding for this service.



Subscriptions



Nominet, awarded a grant of £10,000 over 2 years from Dec 2025 to Dec 2027 to fund subscriptions and technology. This includes the website, Microsoft 365, Jotform, Quickbooks, Zoom and the purchase of 2 laptops.

Safeguarding

High Speed Training donated a further 10 online Safeguarding training courses for volunteers to complete during induction.

Fantastic Fundraising Efforts!

We have had another successful year of fantastic fundraising events and donations. Some organised by the charity, other organised by external organisations and enthusiastic supporters.

In total, between us, we have managed to raise £56,817.97.

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

- A Cooper, Leeds Half Marathon, £180
- Jake Scott, Leeds Half Marathon, £840
- Grovehouse Primary School, £147.96
- Adai Tang, £50
- AWB Charlesworth, £75
- Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association, £500
- Greggs, £100
- Bingley Duck Race, £200
- Chromosome Rocks#25 festival July 2025, £3287.30
- Our Fashion Show, £848.30
- Sally Ellis, £10
- K pollard, £350
- Keighley + District Model Aircraft Club, (charity of the year), £280
- M Choudary, £1000
- St Michael's Church, Foulridge, £120
- CAF, £23.52
- Our Christmas raffle, 186.92

Bingley Charity Duck Race

We were one of the 4 charities supported by Bingley Duck Race on Saturday 12th July 2025 and received £200 which went towards our summer trip.



Fashion Show and 25th Anniversary Celebrations

On Wednesday 19th November we held a wonderful Fashion Show fundraiser at Keighley Rugby Union Football Club. The room was packed out with eager supporters and buyers. Eve, Emma and Macey-Jean modelled for us, with their makeup kindly done by Shaheen Bridals.

Along with raffle, tombola, merchandise and handbag stall we raised just short of £1000.

A light buffet was included in the ticket price and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening, which also celebrated our 25th anniversary.

Thank you to **Abass of The Bloom** for his donation of flowers for our first and second prizes, and to Colours Fundraising Fashion Shows for helping us to plan and deliver the event, with their donation of a £50 voucher towards our raffle.



Fantastic Fundraising Efforts!

In July 2025 we won the TESCO token vote, securing £1500 towards our family Saturday sessions.



Thank you to everyone who voted for us at:

Bradford Peel Centre Superstore, Crossflatts Bingley Express, Northcliffe Shipley Express, Bradford Sunbridge Road Express and Baildon Otley Road Express.

Kildwick Primary School raised over £1000



Pupils at Kildwick Primary School worked hard to learn the signs to 21 songs and then perform them raising over £1000 in sponsor money. Wendy visited the school to deliver an assembly and witness their wonderful whole school singing and signing.

Catherine Bartle Art



Catherine Bartle's excellent watercolours are available to buy from our charity shop. Her beautiful artwork has raised £565.18 to date.

- Kildwick Primary School, sponsored sing and sign, £1135
- Maureen Wakelin, £40
- A Scotland, £1
- Jayne Mitchell, £197
- Rawdon Golf Club (charity of the year), £775.63
- Sale of Catherine Bartle Art via Wilsden Watercolours, £565.18
- Menston Primary School, £1494.65
- Christopher Williams, £148
- Ouakila Arbaoui, £15
- Adventure Van Rental Raffle, £170
- Noah & Alice's College collection, £170.80
- Curry & Quiz Night at The Shama, £520.67 (including spring raffle)
- Wendy Birthday fundraiser, £20

Sponsored Events



The total raised by various sponsored events this financial year is **£16,278.73**. Many thanks to everyone who took part. Some are detailed below.

Adam's Embsay Crag Walk



Adam, Esme's big brother walked up Embsay Crag to raising £192.50 (including Gift Aid).

Elijah's Triathlon



A massive congratulations to Elijah, age 9 for completing his Christmas Triathlon; running 10km, swimming 1.5km and a bike ride 40km during the month of December. What a fantastic achievement! Elijah raised £461.88 including Gift Aid.

Finn's Fundraiser



Finn raised £1236.85, including Gift Aid on his 8 mile sponsored walk. Amazing walking Finn, thank you!

Olivia's half marathon



Well done and a huge thank you to Olivia Webster, who ran her first ever half marathon for us! Raising an impressive £790!

David's UK Three Peaks Challenge success!



23 hours, 4minutes against rain, hail, wind, thunder and poor visibility. TOTAL MADNESS!!
Total raised £606.25 (inc Gift Aid)

On 22nd June David Mutton and friends completed the UK Three Peaks for us; Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon:

6am: Ben Nevis
12pm: Drive to the Lakes
5pm: Start Scafell Pike
9pm: Drive to Snowdonia
2am: Start Snowdon
6am: Back on the bus

World Down Syndrome Day

Fundraisers

We had a wonderful time on Saturday 21st March 2026 raising funds and awareness as we walked along the canal from Gargrave to Bingley on our epic sponsored walk.

Mums, dads, grandparents, children, service staff, dogs, all joined, some for the whole 19+ miles, others for a section between one of the several public houses we visited along the way.

Our final total was £7100.77 from JustGiving!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART AND THOSE WHO SPONSORED THEM!



Andy, Leo & the wheelbarrow!



Andy Hibbert pushed a wheelbarrow for 21 miles, either containing Leo or his equivalent weight, and raised £5848.50

Footsteps Theatre School

Dance students at Footsteps Theatre School donned their socks and raised £85.



Gemma-Marie Fawcett

Raised awareness and a total of £281 at Inspiration Nursery

Menston Primary School

Raised a huge £1494.65 through a range of activities to celebrate the lovely Leo and World Down Syndrome Day.

Jakey the Running Man

Ran 20 miles in 2 hours 59 minutes raising £1132 (via a Facebook fundraiser - Paypal).

Our Regular Monthly Donors

Over the year we have had a big push to increase our monthly regular donors. We now have 25 regular donors; donating via PayPal Giving, JustGiving or a direct bank transfer. **A total of £3090.03, an increase of 81%, has been raised this year!**

A massive thank you to:

Jo Morgan,
Gill Martill,
M Simms,
Rachel Casper,
Beverley Coleman,
Avril Dear,
Geoff Sweaney,
Nicky Major,

Karen Bickerton,
Kathy Atawo,
Peter Todd,
Tegan Bowis,
Yasmin Akhtar,
T Akhtar
Jenny Rowlands,
Susan Uttley,
Elanor Murray,

A Rodley,
Nicky Rodley,
Mary Sansom
Yarun Khatun
Mike Hughes
A Robinson
M Khan
Suzanne Pass

Charities of the Year

**CHOOSE US
AS YOUR
LOCAL CAUSE**

Co-op Members can help us
receive a share of £5m from the
Local Community Fund.

Choose us on the Co-op App
or at coop.co.uk/membership



The Co-Op

We are currently one of the Co-op's charities of the year with 945 (last count) members supporting us. To date we have received £500 towards the WisH Club.

KADMAC

Keighley and District Model Aircraft Club have kindly chosen to support us, and so far this year have raised £280.



Lord Mayor's Charities of the Year

In May 2026 we were delighted to learn that we are one of the new Lord Mayor's charities of the year.

Many thanks to Chris Herd, Lord Mayor of Bradford.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of fundraising and raising awareness of our work!



Rawdon Golf Club

Have organised a number of events, some of which are still to come, and have so far raised £775.63!



Collection Tins

These are an easy way to generate funds and this year, our tins have had a revamp! We have raised an impressive £1386.83 from the tins, which is a 133% increase on last year!

Many thanks to the following people and organisations for taking and filling our tins:

Rachel Cruickshank-Sutton
Main Street Deli
Chromosome Rocks Charity Shop
Alison Bailey
Coleman Training
Half Moon Café
Earl of Pigment
Barbells Bingley
Bingley Tea Room
Peacock Bar, Bingley
The Deli @ Eldwick
The Engine Room
Myrtle Grove, Wetherspoons, Bingley



Library Tap, Bingley
White Horse, Bingley
Brown Cow, Bingley
Intrim Hairdressers
Costa Coffee, Keighley
Bingley Methodist Church
Asda Keighley
Elena Keyamy
Holland & Barrett, Keighley
Family Saturday session
Galos, Bingley
Eric Goddard
Meraki Salon, West Marton

Gifts in Kind

Thank you to High Speed Training who donated 10 Safeguarding Training Courses, and Circus Starr who donated 100 tickets for their show at the LIFE Centre in Bradford.

Thanks to Mamas & Papas for their donation of Christmas Outfits, baby clothes and baby items which we have been able to sell in our charity shop, Chromosome Rocks. We would also like to thank the many families, friends and organisations who have donated preloved toys, games, clothing, gifts and household items to resell at Chromosome Rocks.



Gift Aid

Every year we can claim Gift Aid on any monetary donations which we receive. This year we have received an additional £3599.77 in Gift Aid, which is great!

giftaid it

What is GIFT AID and how does it work?

Gift Aid is a scheme run by the government that enables charities to increase the value of donations made by reclaiming the tax you pay when you are working. We can claim 25p per £1 donated, so on a gift of £100, we will actually receive an extra £25, at no cost to you.

So if you pay tax we can claim Gift Aid. When you make a donation to us we will ask you if we can 'giftaid' the money.

Donations made in memory of loved ones

Amazing bequest of £47,500 in memory of Janet

This bequest was received at the very end of our financial year 2024/25 and so the amount was included in the income of 2024/25. However the presentation took place in our financial year 2025/26 and so is acknowledged here but the funding has not been included in our income.

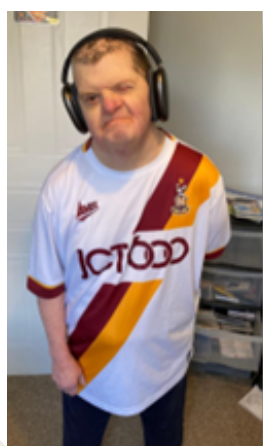
Janet's uncle writes:

'Janet Mirfield was the only child of Marjorie and Kenneth Mirfield. She was born in December 1962. The family home was in Riddlesden, Keighley. Marjorie and Ken worked hard to buy a house before starting a family, Ken in engineering and Marjorie as a burler and mender in the textile trade, work she could do at home when the baby arrived. When Janet was born with Down syndrome they were determined their daughter would not be hidden away. She would be given every opportunity to experience a full life. To that end they succeeded spectacularly. Janet was a treasure, never patronised, always to the fore on family occasions. Her unique contributions to speeches at weddings and significant birthdays always ended with the toast, 'I'll drink to that!'

She travelled Europe on family holidays and loved pop music, especially Elvis Presley. Amblerway provided a permanent home for Janet when her parents died. Marjorie and Ken left their estate in trust to Janet to be divided equally upon her death between a charity supporting people with Down syndrome and the Airedale Hospital Stroke Unit that cared for Ken. There are no family beneficiaries. Down Syndrome Training and Support Services was chosen as it was Marjorie's express wish that their estate should bring benefits locally.'

Janet died in December 2024, days before her 62nd birthday.

Picture shows Janet's Aunt and Uncle who visited the centre in June to award us with the funds and the wonderful framed picture of Janet. We were thrilled to receive this bequest which went towards funding our many services.



In Memory of David Betteridge (Jan 1963-Feb 2025)

David Betteridge sadly passed away in February. He lived in Bradford for most of his life supporting Bradford City Football Club. David loved his fish and chips. A donation of £400 was made in memory of David .

Chromosome Rocks Summer Festival

2025

On Sunday 13th July we held our 3rd 'Chromosome Rocks' festival. The weather was fantastic and everything went to plan. We raised **£3287.30** which is similar to previous years.

A huge thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers and everyone who helped behind the scenes – we couldn't have done it without you.

And a massive thank you to our donors and performers:

- **All Together Now choir**
- **George Webster**
- **dance21**
- **Twirly21s**
- **Wild Geese**
- **Voices of Yorkshire Choir**
- **Guisseley Jazz Band**
- **Bingley Ukuleles**
- **Fire Engine and the team from Keighley Fire Station**
- **Graeme and his team at Keighley Rugby Union Football Club**
- **Oasis Cars for their donation of a limousine ride plus bubbly**
- **Andrew and Linda Warin for their donation of a weekend away in Ingleton,**
- **Bingley Tea Rooms and Harlow Carr for raffle prizes**
- **ASDA donation of bottles**

And more thank yous to the following for donating vouchers for our 'tin tombola':

**Bingley, High Adventure Outdoor Centre,
Clip and Climb Ilkley,
Lazer Zone Leeds,
LS Ten,
Wetherspoons,
Diggerland,
Highfield Hotel,
Eureka!,
Cobbles & Clay,
Ninja Warrior,
Cannon Hall Farm
Thornton Hall Country Park**

Calendar News

The event featured on Calendar News. This is the link to the recording on our Facebook page:
<https://fb.watch/Bv1L22cf9E/>



Online Fundraising and Social Media

We continue to use a range of online fundraising options. These can be browsed via the dedicated fundraising page on our website which provides details and links to: JustGiving, Paypal Giving, Dontsendmeacard.com, birthday fundraisers, leaving a legacy, Give as you live/Easyfundraising, holding a sponsored event and one off/regular donations.

Amounts stated against some events in this report may be different to those listed as often other small amounts come via several routes and are linked up later.

- **JustGiving a whopping £16,278.73**
- **Paypal Giving, £2189.65 (includes running man's total)**
- **Give as you Live, £100.24**
- **Easy Fundraising, £112.50**



Give as you Live and EasyFundraising

We have an account with Everyclick, Give as you Live. If you shop online they will donate a small percentage of your payment to our charity, for example, Sainsburys will donate 6.75% AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU. Visit www.giveasyoulive.com

Public Facebook Page

For more formal and general information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/DownsyndromeTSS/>

Closed Facebook Page

Our closed Facebook page provides information on day to day activities: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DSTSS/>

Instagram

For more formal and general information, go to www.instagram.com/downsyndrometss/

Contactless payments and donations

We are now able to take payments for any of our services and resources, as well as accept donations, using our contactless Sum-Up machine. We can also create QR codes to assist with payments and bookings.



Our Charity Shop: Chromosome Rocks

The shop is a wonderful opportunity for us to raise awareness, raise funds and provide work experience for young adults with Down syndrome.

Over the last financial year the shop has raised £14,200.36.

How amazing is that?!

Our outgoings, rent and insurance, are about £55 per month. A massive thank you to the many, many people who have donated toys, games, DVDs, CDs, clothing, gifts and household goods, and to our wonderful volunteers who enable the shop to be open.

We now have a new sign for the shop, and have been visited by the Mayor of Keighley as well as MP Robbie Moore:

We LOVE our volunteers!

We are so grateful to our amazing volunteers who have given up their own time to run, organise and restock the shop. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you to:

Wendy Uttley
Elanor Murray
Samuel Murray
Nasreen Kauser
Ayesha Ali
Tracy Rodney
Nicky Major
Benjamin Major
Charlie Gibbon

Gerry Hughes
Finn Hughes
Karen O'Grady
Chris O'Grady
Robin Kneebone
Lisa Ord
Yvonne Thompson
Arisha Khuller
Karen Johnson

Jenn Casper Smith
Rebecca Howlett
Pearl Howlett
Beau Howlett
Andy Smith
Leo Smith
Naomi Drake
Shona Preston

Heidi Grosvenor
Karen Barron
Charlotte Roscoe-Mitchell
Aishah
Dan Jamieson
Fran Shaw
Alice Goddard
Eric Goddard
Students from Hazelbeck



Our charity shop has its own Facebook page: [\(2\) Down Syndrome Charity Shop | Facebook](#)



Samuel Murray's volunteering efforts at the shop were formally recognised when he deservedly won the 'Keighley Community Award' this year. Well done, Sam!

We won the Bradford Community Star Award!

Following a nomination for a Community Star Award we attended a wonderful evening in June at the Cedar Court Hotel. We were delighted to win the large voluntary and community group award. Visit [Charity's award win 'fitting' after 25 years of service | Bradford Telegraph and Argus](#)



Our Website

www.downsyndromebradford.com

In the last financial year we have had 1776 unique visitors to the site with 3205 site sessions (91% from new visitors), which is very similar to last year. 76% of visitors were via a mobile phone, 23% desktop and 1% tablet. Most of these were by direct link or Google.

A total of 215 orders were placed raising £6237.14 an increase of 138% on last year. These orders are from bookings for training, events and purchasing resources. 87% orders from new visitors, 13% returning—we need to look into how we can retain visitors.



Resources available

There are a number of resources which can be downloaded from our website, in addition to training videos. Over the coming year, we aim to have a look at the resources we offer with regards to potentially reviewing their pricing and promotion.

Reading & Language

RLI level 1 books (e copies) £10.00	RLI level 1 books (hard copy) £20.00	RLI level 2 books (e copies) £10.00	RLI level 2 books (hard copy) £20.00

Teaching basic number skills

Down Syndrome & a Pathway Through Mathematics £59.99 £25.00	PART 1 - The challenges of basic number skills £5.00	PART 2 Practical Ideas When Teaching Basic Number Skills 0 to 10 £5.00	PART 3 Beyond 10. Practical Ideas to Teach Number Skills Beyond 10 £5.00	PART 4 Can I Catch The Bus? Time and Money Skills £5.00
Add to Cart	Add to Cart	Add to Cart	Add to Cart	Add to Cart

Our Policies

We currently have the following policies in place:

Child protection policy (Officers Laura Hempel & Wendy Uttley)

Complaints policy

Confidentiality policy

Conflict of interest policy

Data protection policy

Day trips policy

Disciplinary policy

Environmental policy

Equality and diversity policy

Fire Evacuation Policy

Fundraising Policy

Grievance policy

Health & safety policy

Key holders policy

Lost Child policy

Maternity policy

Parent participation policy

Personal evacuation plan policy

Recruitment policy

Reserves policy

Safeguarding policy

Social media policy, including e-safety

Touch policy

Volunteer policy

Vulnerable adults policy

Website policies: cookies, terms of service and privacy

Whistleblowing policy

ALL POLICIES ARE REVIEWED ON A ROLLING TIMETABLE

First Aid Trained Staff

Wendy Uttley, Heidi Grosvenor, Nicky Major, Sarah Bentley, Fran Shaw, Charlotte Roscoe-Mitchell, Jenn Casper-Smith, Karen Barron, Laura Hempel and Elanor Murray all renewed their first aid training by May 2025.

GDPR

All of our data is governed by our Data Protection Policy and any personal information collected through our services and training is stored within these guidelines.

Insurance

Our public liability insurance, employers liability insurance and contents insurance is with Illingworth McNair, Markel UK Ltd.

Plastic Free Champions

We are constantly trying to reduce our use of single use plastics at the centre by:

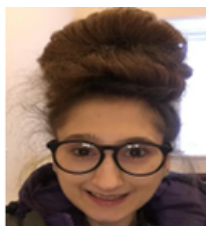
- Using cloths rather than wet wipes
- Encouraging a ban on single use coffee cups
- Encouraging a ban on black plastic bin liners
- Using refillable soap, hand sanitiser and surface cleaner
- Recycling all soft plastics used during our sessions

Our Directors

We currently have six Directors on the Board of Trustees:

- Heather Chattell stood down on rotation and re-elected, Oct 2025
- Lauren Drake
- Farzana Kauser
- Jenn Casper-Smith—resigned 15 Jan 2026
- Jenny Rowlands
- Rachel Cruickshank-Sutton—stood down on rotation and re-elected, Oct 2025
- Philippa Darbandi elected Oct 2025

Thank you to all our Directors for their time, commitment and support.



Lauren Drake

Lauren Bernardina Drake

CertMRCSLT HCPC Reg BSc (Hons)
Highly Specialised
Registered Consultant Speech and
Language Therapist, Licentiate of
Trinity College London.
Joined the Board October 2017.



Farzana Kauser

Farzana Kauser

MA in Logistics, Business
Analytics and Supply Chain
Management. Mum to Amirah.
Joined the Board in Oct 2011.



Heather Chattell

Heather Chattell

Qualified Teacher of the Visually
Impaired (QTVI) Specialist Inclusion
Teams, Sensory Team, Halifax and
mum to Noah. Joined the Board
June 2014.



Jenny Rowlands

Jenny Rowlands

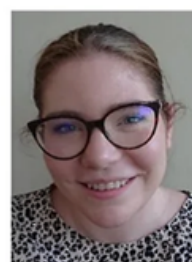
Works in primary schools as the
Director of Funclubs Ltd providing
wrap around childcare. BA (Hons)
Childhood studies and a keen
interest in SEND law. Mum of
Millie. Member of the board 2014-
19 then joined again in 2024.



Philippa Darbandi

Philippa Darbandi

Nico's mum. Elected to the Board Oct
2025. Business Manager at a local
secondary school, Philippa brings
management and finance experience
to our board.



Rachael
Cruickshank-Sutton

Rachel Cruickshank-Sutton

SENDCo in a mainstream
school Mum to Ted - attends
our EDGs. Joined the board
in 2023.



Jenn Casper-Smith

Jenn Casper Smith,

MA in Applied Professional Studies in
Education, PGCE Geography.
Assistant Head for Safeguarding &
SEND in mainstream secondary
school. Mum to Orla. Joined Board
October 2021, resigned 15 Jan 2026.

Our Staff



Wendy Uttley

Wendy Uttley is our Manager & Trainer, 30 hours per week term time/10 hours per week non term time. Wendy manages the groups and develops and delivers training, assessments, observations and consultations. She also delivers some early development groups, writes the monthly newsletter, manages projects, overviews funding bids and attends meetings to promote awareness of the Charity. From September 2026 Wendy's role will reduce to 15 hours per week as Jenn steps into her role as Manager and Trainer.

Jenn Casper-Smith joined our staff team on 1st February 2026, resigning as Director, she commenced working 10 hours per week as Manager and Trainer. From Easter her hours increased to 15 per week and from September 2026 Jenn will take over from Wendy and work 32 hours per week term time/10 hours per week non term time.



Jenn Casper-Smith



Heidi Grosvenor

Heidi Grosvenor, is our Deputy Manager, 32 hours per week term time. Heidi manages the smooth running of the centre and works closely with Wendy Uttley to manage staff, training and services.

Laura Hempel is our Early Years and Family Support Practitioner & Trainer, 14 hours per week, term time only. Laura delivers our early development groups, supports families and contributes to reports and discussion on education and development. Over the last year she has also delivered training, observations, assessments and consultations to educational settings.



Laura Hempel



Nicky Major

Nicky Major is our Adult Support Officer and Funding Events Officer, 11 hours per week term time only. She works to support young people in our Independent Living Skills project and I Can Work project, plans and delivers fundraising events and plays a big role in managing the charity shop.

Our Staff



Georgina Edwards joined our team as Finance Officer April 2026. Georgina works 18 hours per week term time only managing the finances, submitting funding bids and managing collection tins and banking.



Kate Coates joined the team April 2026 as Social Media Officer, 5 hours per week, term time only. Kate is developing our social media, online presence and website.



Sarah Bentley took over from Charlotte as Youth Club Team Leader. Sarah works 4 hours per week managing and delivering our weekly youth club, the WisH Club.



Fran Shaw is one of our Youth Workers. Fran works 3.5 hours on alternate Fridays in the WisH Club.



Jake Scott is one of our Youth Workers. Jake works 3.5 hours on alternate Fridays in the WisH Club.

Staff who have left this year



In February 2026 we said farewell to Charlotte Roscoe-Mitchell. Charlotte had been with us since September 2019, originally a job coach as part of our 'I Can Work' team she soon increased her role to become Youth Club Coordinator in February 2020, supporting the WisH Club throughout lockdown. In July 2020, she also took on the role of Finance Officer and continued in both roles, successfully generating £1000s through funding bids for over 5 years. We wish her all the very best in her new job.

Moving to Bedale, Karen has very recently left our team. Karen started work as Administration Officer in 2017, increasing her role to include Family Support and Housekeeping since 2023. Over the last 3 years Karen has been on many home visits and supported all of our new families. We wish her all the best.



Our volunteers

We could not run our services without the help of our incredible volunteers

A big thank you to all volunteers who have helped us with our administration, family Saturday sessions, trips out, WisH Club, Early Development Groups and fundraising events:

Gerry Hughes, Tracey Rodley, Lisa Ord, Nicky Major, Benjamin Major, Charlie Gibbon, Finn Hughes, Karen O'Grady, Chris O'Grady, Robin Kneebone, Nasreen Kauser, Ayesha Ali, Sam Murray, Elanor Murray, Wendy Uttley, Karen Johnson, Dan Jamieson, Aishah, Naomi Drake, Aarisha Khullar, Shona Preston, Safia Hussain, Callum Hands, Fran Shaw, Sami Ullah, Georgia Bates, Deborah Mackenzie, Abeerah Khan and Mahnoor Iqbal, Rebecca Howlett, Pearl Howlett, Beau Howlett, Andy Smith, Leo Smith, Yvonne Thompson, Rowan and students at Craven College, Ruth Jones and students at Hazelbeck, and the numerous dedicated parents who help out at our events.



We have a volunteer policy in place and all volunteers are recruited by interview, complete Safeguarding training and hold a DBS certificate. Expenses are paid towards travel and subsistence.

Student Placements

This year we have had two Speech & Language students, Olivia Hodgson and Rosie from Leeds Beckett University; and Joshua O'Grady from Titus Salt School also joined to gain experience.

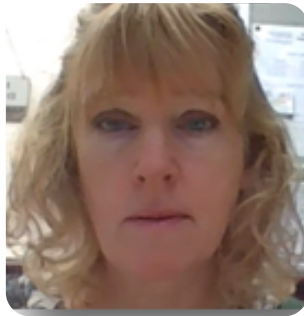
Family and organisational members

The number of families on our membership lists currently 425 and we have 180 organisational beneficiaries, many of whom are schools.

All of our membership forms are now electronic and can be accessed via our website. These keep us up to date with contact details, child's school, permission to use photos of the child, Gift Aid and the option of receiving information and our monthly newsletter by email rather than by post. All forms are compliant with GDPR legislation.

Training

One of our main objectives is to support the education, development and inclusion of people with Down syndrome across all services involved in supporting a child and their family. A large part of this is an ongoing mission to support schools and families through the delivery of a range of training and workshops.



This year Wendy Uttley, Laura Hempel and Jenn Casper-Smith have been involved in delivering training, observations, consultations and assessments.

A total of 91 sessions have been delivered; 50 online and 41 face to face.

The total number of people benefitting directly: 49 parents, 370 professionals and 573 children.

The number of sessions delivered has increased by 42%, but the number of people benefitting has fallen by 41%.

The increase in sessions is because Wendy commenced the weekly delivery of the 22 week online course, which has since gained CPD accreditation. The decrease in numbers benefitting is because we have not delivered at any conferences or larger gatherings.



In addition 83 training sessions have been downloaded from our website.

Last year (2024/25) the only workshop delivered online was the six week behaviour workshop; this year all workshops have been delivered online. The behaviour and sexuality relationships education (ME: My Body, My Friends, My Life) workshops being more popular than the sleep and toileting workshops, though experience shows that all are needed and beneficial.

Moving forward, we need to consider whether cost, timing or commitment to attending over several weeks is prohibitive.

Moving Training Online

Our aim in shifting all workshops and training online was to better meet school staff availability as it becomes increasingly difficult and expensive for schools to release staff to attend external training.

Following feedback we tried to eliminate the need for school staff to spend time travelling to the centre by introducing weekly bite size one hour sessions, which were recorded, should a member of staff miss one.

22 Week Online Course

On Wednesday 17th September 2025 we started our new weekly online training course with a range of schools and parents joining the session. Sessions were followed up with additional handouts, the Powerpoint and the video recording.

The weekly online training covered our full range of training:

Introduction to Down syndrome, signing, teaching number skills, time and money, using visuals to teach communication skills and reading language intervention. Each topic was covered over several weeks and at the end of each topic there was a one hour online group consultation session. Sessions ran every Wednesday, 10am to 11am during term time.

The course has since gained CPD accreditation and will be repeated September 2026.

We started the 22 week online course with 15 attendees but averaged 5 online each week. It was difficult to gather feedback, but comments left were:

'This course has been so valuable in supporting us to develop our curriculum. This will definitely impact provision and therefore progress for the pupil.' SCHOOL

'The course was great and met my needs. Wednesday 10-11 worked well for me. I would have struggled to concentrate after school with the children around. I appreciated the recordings too when C had appointments etc and I missed the live sessions. Thanks so much for all your training.' PARENT

We know from the many years of experience that the content of our training is good and very relevant. Our aim is to ensure this training is fully promoted and further encourage and better enable school staff to access this training.

Training statistics

Pre-recorded downloads from our website:

Introduction to Down syndrome	14
Teaching basic number skills (inc time & money)	2
Expectations of behaviour	3
Reading Language Intervention	24
Let's make it visual	9
Signing & Down syndrome	7
Assembly on Down syndrome	11
Phonics and Down syndrome	5
What Time Is It?	4
Money Programme	4
TOTAL DOWNLOADS	83: a 28% increase

Maths Resource

Down Syndrome & A Pathway Through Mathematics

During the summer of 2024 Wendy put together a new resource bringing together teaching notes, activities, worksheets, videos and visual resources to print off.

The resource is aimed at ability level rather than age, and helps parents and practitioners to understanding how and why children with Down syndrome find maths a challenge, how they learn to understand numbers, count and calculate and learn about time and money.

Throughout the resource there are lots of examples of tried and tested effective teaching activities from early to adult years. This has now been downloaded 8 times from our website.

Training statistics

Attendance at face to face and online workshops:

Course title	No. of times delivered: Sept 2024 - July 2025	Number of Attendees
Introduction to Down syndrome	9 face to face, 1 online	194 professionals, very similar to last year
Signing and children with Down syndrome	1 face to face	4 parents, 0 professionals (93% decrease)
The inclusion of children with Down syndrome - expectations of behaviour—six week workshop	1 online	6 parents 8 professionals
Sexuality relationships education course: ME, my body, my friends, my life	1 face to face, 1 online	10 parents 23 professionals (not delivered last year)
Toileting workshop	1 online	5 parents (not delivered last year)
Sleep workshop	1 online	3 parents (not delivered last year)
Assemblies	3 face to face	540 pupils 30 professionals
Consultations	23 online 6 face to face	20 parents 70 professionals
Observations	10 face to face	31 professionals 10 children
One to one assessments	10 face to face	10 parents 10 children
22 week online training course covering all areas of learning	22 sessions online	1 parent 14 professionals
Public and private sessions for young people	1 face to face	13 young people
	Total online 50 Total face to face 41 Overall total 91 (42% increase)	49 Parents 49 370 Professionals 370 573 Children/YP 573 Total: 992 = a 41% decrease

Introduction to Down Syndrome

This course was delivered twice at our centre, face to face. The first session was attended by 15, the second by 5. This course was paid for by donation as we did not wish cost to be prohibitive, however attendance was still much reduced on previous years.

In addition, the course has been downloaded from our website 14 times and Wendy and Laura have been into seven schools to deliver the course direct and once online. Jenn has also delivered a summarised version to the Bradford Doulas. **The total number of beneficiaries from the course was 194; very similar to last year.**

Comments about Introduction to Down Syndrome:

'It was really informative and I learned loads about the barriers and challenges people with Down syndrome face.'

'The delivery of the training was top-notch, and I loved hearing the lived experiences - it made the whole thing so much more meaningful.'

'Thanks again for sharing your expertise and making it such a great experience.'

'This training was really comprehensive but delivered clearly in a way that could be understood by all. It was well presented and informative.'

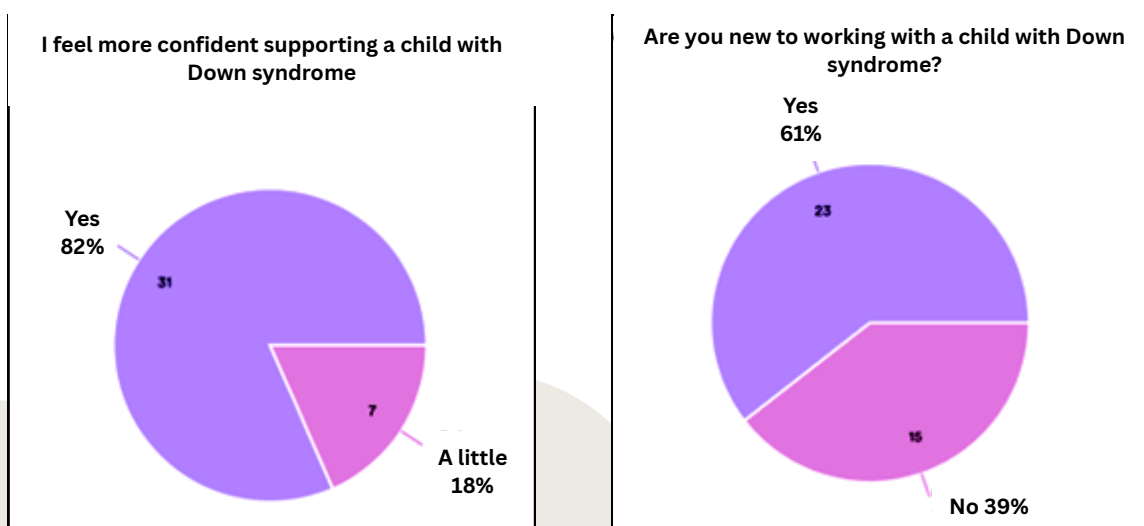
'Personal stories are useful to see the impact on daily lives.'

'Well structured and informative session that was really well delivered and easy to follow and understand.'

'Lots of background and medical explanations, which was useful.'

'Working memory, 2 digit span were all new concepts to me, makes sense now and I will have a better understanding of people affected by Down syndrome. Would like further info not because today's course was lacking just because I'd like to know more and make sure I get things right.'

'Jenn is passionate and knowledgeable and had given thought to the role of our organisation in relation to supporting families with babies who have Down syndrome'



Online Workshops

Comments about Sexuality & Relationships Education Workshop:

This workshop was delivered over 2 hour sessions for 5 weeks. Due to the nature of the topic it was not recorded.

'Although it was online, I felt like the group got to know each other and a safe space was created so everyone could share information.'

'I think it worked well in the morning but with enough time to get sorted for the day. I liked that everyone was given time to have their turn to speak and discuss their child/child they support but also plenty of time for Wendy to deliver her content.'

'The topic is so huge and under-addressed that we felt short of time but that's also a compromise, because none of us find it easy to duck out of daily commitments even for a total of ten hours.'

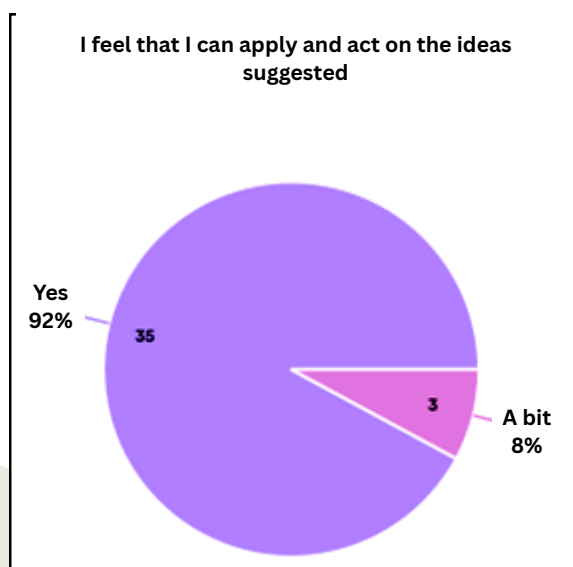
'Sessions well organised. In terms of timings, as I work in a school I found it difficult to allocate 2 hours to the training session due to break duties which I am required to carry out. If the sessions were held on an afternoon that would work better but I appreciate that mornings will be better for parents taking part in the sessions.'

'I enjoyed the sessions, they were informative and it was very interesting to meet the parents of children with Down syndrome and have an insight into their lives. Enjoyed interaction and group conversations.'

'Of most practical benefit were the ideas on helping a person with Down syndrome to form real friendships and ideas on motivating my son to take an interest in self-care.'

'I enjoyed the activity about social circles and who to hug and who not. How to work through this stuff with the child and help their understanding.'

'I feel more able to speak bluntly and freely about issues/problems.'



Online Workshops

Comments about the Six Week Behaviour Workshop:

This workshop is delivered over weekly 2 hour sessions for 6 weeks. It is a very popular workshop and has been delivered online for several years. Again, due to the nature of discussions this course is not recorded.

'I have benefitted most from the interaction with the parents as it has helped me to understand the challenges they face each day.'

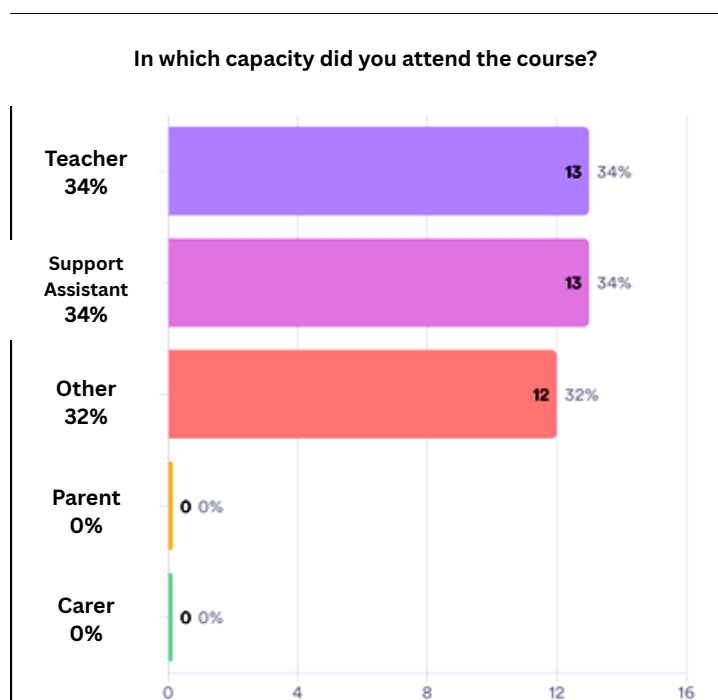
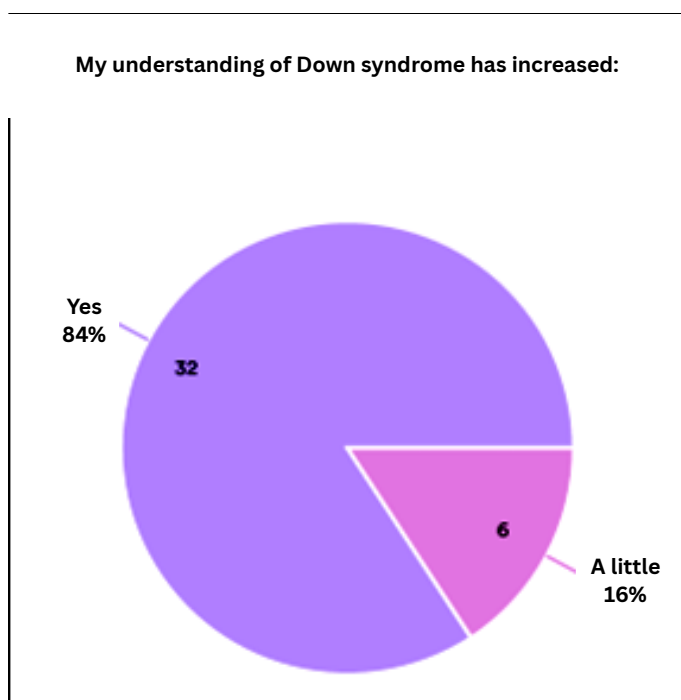
'I feel able to help some of our children better. Able to help a key child and know what to work on.'

'Wendy was very supportive of all professionals, parents and children and every child had a plan put in place to help the children. We have already seen a difference in the child we support and we are hopeful this will continue.'

'I believe it's better for parents and professionals to work together so we can support the children better.'

'I have really enjoyed the sessions, I feel like the 6 weeks has flown but been so helpful. I was nice to also listen to other people and strategies that they have used/been suggested to them.'

'Just wanted to say thank you so much for going into my child's school and doing the training. School have turned around and there's a massive change in the school's and my child's behaviour and her education. I wanted to give you a recommendation and say thank you so much as a parent. She now loves school and calls it her school family.'



Consultations, Observations and Assessments

These services have been very much in demand this year, with a total of 23 online and 26 face to face sessions taking place. This has benefitted 101 professionals and 30 parents, which is a slight increase on last year. It is great to be directly involved with so many schools!

Consultations

These are offered face to face or online, via Zoom, and include discussions on EHCPs, concerns over school placement and behaviour.

Observations

These are offered in school. We can come into school and observe for 1 to 2 hours, preferably while the child is doing some literacy and number work within their usual timetable. It is also good to observe interactions with other pupils and staff, transitioning around school and general inclusion. This is then written into a detailed report which includes suggested targets.

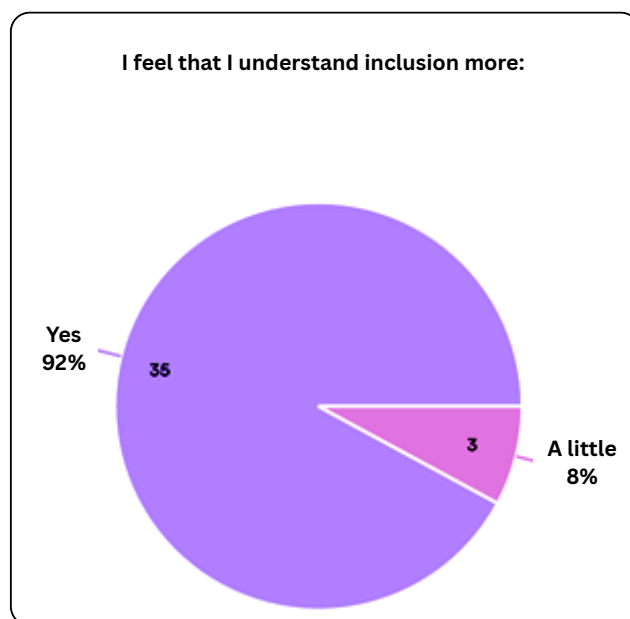
Assessments

Assessments are offered at our centre. A child can be assessed across maths, reading, language, speech and general development. This usually takes one hour. This can be followed up with a detailed report and suggested targets if requested.

Assemblies

A pre-recorded assembly is FREE to download from our website. We are also available to come into school and deliver an assembly on Down syndrome. Such assemblies are about 30 minutes long allowing for questions and answers.

We have delivered three assemblies this year.



Training for young people

Public vs Private Training

During the year we have held two training sessions for young people:

The first in November when we discussed public and private body parts, appropriate greetings and public and private touch.

The second session was held in May 2024 when we delivered separate sessions for girls and then boys covering private personal touch and hygiene, using models of female and male genitalia to help demonstrate and explain.

Full lesson plans were shared with parents before the sessions so the topic can be revisited and reinforced at home.

Wills and Trusts Information Evening

Online event

On 15th October Michelle, independent financial advisor from Eccles Greenwood and Jenny Barron, solicitor from AWB Charlesworth held an online informative evening detailing trusts, wills and power of attorney. The event was very successful with nine people attending and the information recorded and shared for several who were unable to attend.

Training for Health staff



DOWN SYNDROME TRAINING & SUPPORT SERVICE LTD
Registered Charity No. 110284
A company registered in England and Wales No. 0911003

DOWN SYNDROME

Learn something new whilst having a brew
Improving practice • Raising expectations
Free training modules for health visitors and midwives

1. Meet a baby with Down syndrome and their parents
Learn about the ways you can help support them:
2. What is Down syndrome? Society's view, your expectations and using appropriate language.
3. Additional health and medical needs that may be present when a baby has Down syndrome:
4. Ways you can help to support a baby/infant with Down syndrome as they develop.
5. Meet an adult with Down syndrome who has benefitted from the right support, from the start:

Each module is 15 - 20 minutes long and provides a helpful overview of how you can support the baby and their family. Scan the QR code to download for free!
Email: office@downsyndromebradford.co.uk for more information and training

There has been a push on training for Health staff this year, following increased attendance at the Bradford and Airedale Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership meetings. This has enabled partnerships to be enhanced across the area between ourselves and hospital provisions.

We have visited the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Transitional Care, Labour and Postnatal wards at Bradford Royal Infirmary and delivered informal staff training to nurses and midwives working in those areas. This took place in the form of a 'Tea Trolley', whereby **between 30-40 staff members have been informally educated** about what our service offers and how they can support new parents of a baby with Down syndrome, including the importance of their language and approach, all whilst having a cup of tea.

Training posters have been created with QR codes for the 5 free training resources which are available to download from our website. These have been put up in all staff areas, shared across two staff Facebook groups and also shared across a Student Midwifery WhatsApp for students training through The University of Bradford. In total, there have been 3 downloads of the modules.

In addition to Bradford Royal Infirmary, whilst it has not been possible to visit Airedale Hospital maternity wards due to a temporary relocation, the training posters have been shared amongst nursing teams and put up in the main staff area.

We have also had the pleasure of working with Bradford Doulas, and provided a condensed version of 'An Introduction to Down syndrome' for 8 Doulas as part of their training.

At the request of the Screening Leads at Airedale Hospital and Bradford Royal Infirmary, we have devised an leaflet titled 'Navigating the early days' which can be handed to parents when they are informed that there is a chance their baby could have Down syndrome. This was devised as a precursor to the 'new parent' packs to provide prospective parents with information which they would benefit from during the pregnancy. After an initial six were provided to Airedale Hospital, they requested a further ten leaflets. Bradford Royal Infirmary have been provided with six leaflets also.



RECEIVING THE NEWS
Whether you've just received a high chance result or just given birth to a beautiful baby with Down syndrome, we are here to support you.

PREGNANCY
Whilst your pregnancy will continue as any other, if it is likely that your baby has Down syndrome you may have been offered further testing.

DURING PREGNANCY
You should still expect to have the standard 12 and 20 week scans and see your midwife regularly, but you should also be offered additional scans and hospital appointments:

It is completely normal (and ok) to feel worried, unsure, and not certain about the future at the moment.

Our service offers support for babies, children and young people with Down syndrome, as well as their families. We understand that this can be a daunting time and that you may have lots of questions about the future. We can help with overcoming any uncertainty and navigating the next few months and beyond.

Questions you may want to ask:

- What are the risks associated with further testing?
- Who should I contact if I have questions or concerns?
- What should I expect during my pregnancy and when I give birth?
- How do I get in touch with a local Down syndrome support group?
- Where can I find out more information?

Questions you may want to ask:

- Have scans picked up any medical concerns for my baby?
- Where can I get further information about this issue?

Down Syndrome Training & Support Service Ltd
WEB: www.downsyndromebradford.com

New Parent Packs

The pack is aimed at new parents, or parents-to-be, and contains information on local and national support and a booklet comprised of pictures and lovingly written accounts of some of our members' children.



In addition, our 'Pathway Through Health' booklet is in the packs, in order to ensure parents are able to navigate the Healthcare system and seek adequate support for their child's development. We also produce a 'Pathway Through Education' booklet to help parents when the children get a little bit older.

This year, 16 'New Parent Packs' have been distributed to local hospitals; 6 to Airedale and 10 to St Luke's, Bradford.

The packs are a vital support for new parents, and over the coming year we aim to update these.

Home Visits

Our Family Support Officer has made 7 home visits this year to new families. When families make contact with the group we offer, whenever possible, a home visit followed by an invitation to attend the second hour of our youngest early development group. We encourage new families to join this so they can chat, get to know each other and do some singing and signing as a gentle introduction to our early development groups. This year we have had one family consistently attend the babies group, and two others attend on a more sporadic basis.



Learning Support Packs

In order to support our Early Development program and enable parents to replicate learning outside of the sessions, all children who attend are provided with a Learning Support Pack. The support packs are housed in a sturdy plastic box and contain a range of resources and information which is relevant for many years, in particular the first five years of life.

Each pack contains the first two See & Learn Language and Reading kits produced by Down Syndrome Education International, a home Numicon kit, our publications 'Signing and Down Syndrome', 'Teaching Basic Number Skills', 'Down Syndrome and a Pathway Through Education', 'Down Syndrome and a Pathway Through Health' and a magic bag.

We have a number of packs which are made up and ready to go for our new cohort next year. These packs were funded by The Seedling Foundation in 2024.

Early Development Groups

Delivering vital intervention for babies and young children with Down syndrome, in addition to providing support for their parents, since 2005.

Our Early Development Groups are for infants and young children with Down syndrome aged 12 months to 5/6 years of age. Babies are also welcome to join in the second part of our youngest group.

At the beginning of the academic year, Laura and Wendy began delivering 6 regular group sessions and Wendy delivered an additional 5 regular one to one sessions for children with more complex needs. When Jenn joined the team in February, she shadowed Wendy for the delivery of our youngest group and took over this group from Easter.

In total, 43 children and their families have benefitted from these sessions; including 5 one to one sessions and 3 babies. One to one sessions are used to support children who need more specific input. In addition, for a fee, we can undertake an assessment and produce a written report should a school or parent request one.

We are thrilled to have received National Lottery funding of £200,757.00 for our *From Day One: Enabling a Life of Inclusion* program which will enable our Early Development Groups to continue over the next five years. The EDG fee remains at a suggested donation of £10 per session for families, although families remain able to attend regardless of payment.



Overview of our Early Development Groups



Our Early Development Groups take place at our centre in Bingley and children attend with their parents/carers initially, and then with school staff once they start attending primary school.

Professionals attend not only to support children, but also to observe best practice as a training exercise. This year we have had both an NHS Physiotherapist and NHS SaLT observe the sessions, in addition to a representative from the Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership.

The five year intervention programme runs for two hours every fortnight. It uses a range of fun, short activities to work on sitting and other early motor skills, interaction, looking & listening skills, feeding, drinking, early number skills and speech & language development. We use singing and signing to improve engagement and learning.



As part of our 'From Day One: Enabling a Life of Inclusion' program (see further information on EDGs), we have updated our Early Development Group booklets for families and schools. Families who join our babies group receive EDG Year One booklets as a starting point for the five year journey ahead.



Graduation

In July 2026 we held our first Graduation ceremony to celebrate the students who have finished the Early Development Group Programme. We were thrilled to have the Lord Mayor attend the ceremony, which was a ticketed event held at Bingley Methodist Church. Laura gave a short speech about each child before they were presented with a certificate, a medal and a bar of chocolate by the Lord Mayor. The graduates were cheered on by family, friends and some school staff as they donned their graduation gowns and caps!

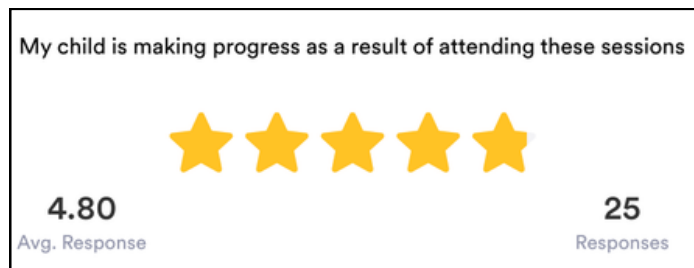


Prior to graduation, reports had been written detailing the progress of each child across literacy, numeracy, speech, language, communication, feeding skills, fine and gross motor skills and behaviour. In addition to providing the families with this report to share with schools, we also send information offering training and support.

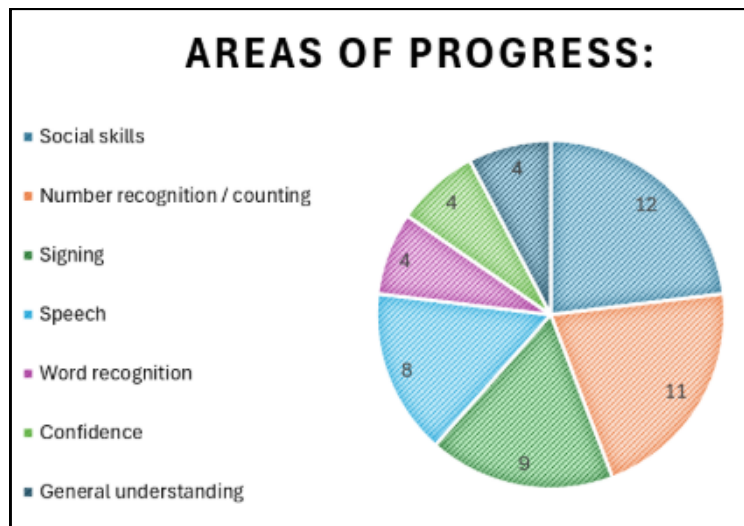
Evaluation Report Summary

Our Early Development Group evaluations provide lots of encouraging feedback, all of which can be read here: [EDG Evaluation 2026](#). Thank you to the 24 families and 2 professionals who completed the survey.

Here is a summary of the findings:



Analysis of the findings shows that of the 52 examples provided, social skills (including turn-taking), number recognition/ability to count, and signing were the most acknowledged areas where development has been seen.



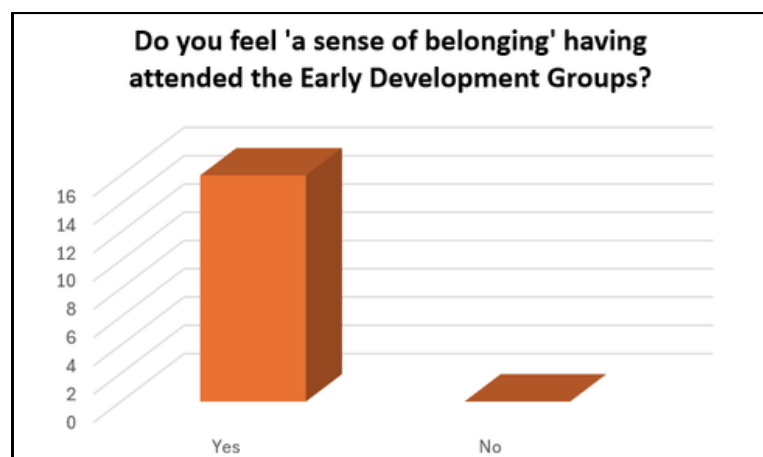
“The phonics sessions are very helpful which help with speech development. We are very grateful for the resources provided by the group they have been used by us as a family to help support my child's development in speech and language, understanding and social communication”

“My son has picked up so many skills by attending every fortnight for example being able to communicate and recognise certain things and being able to follow instructions. The list is endless as to what he has picked up by regular attendance”

“My child has made new friendships, improved his communication skills, and grown in confidence. He enjoys the sessions, interacting with others, and learning new skills in a supportive environment”



Evaluation Report Summary

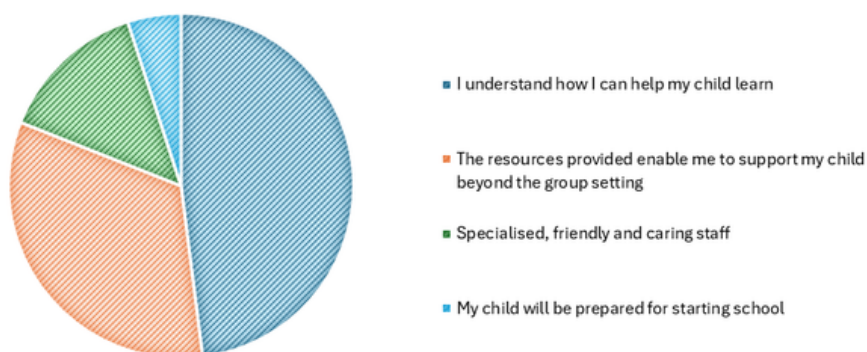


100% of those who responded to this question reported that they did feel a sense of belonging following attending our sessions. Additionally, all respondents felt welcome on their first visit. This is incredibly important, as the first visit can often be the most daunting for families. It is promising that all those who completed the survey had a positive experience.

97% of families reported feeling 'positive' or 'extremely positive' about their child's future

as a result of the sessions. **This is an increase of 10% from last year's evaluations.** The reasons for this have been categorised into four groups:

WHY I FEEL POSITIVE ABOUT THE FUTURE

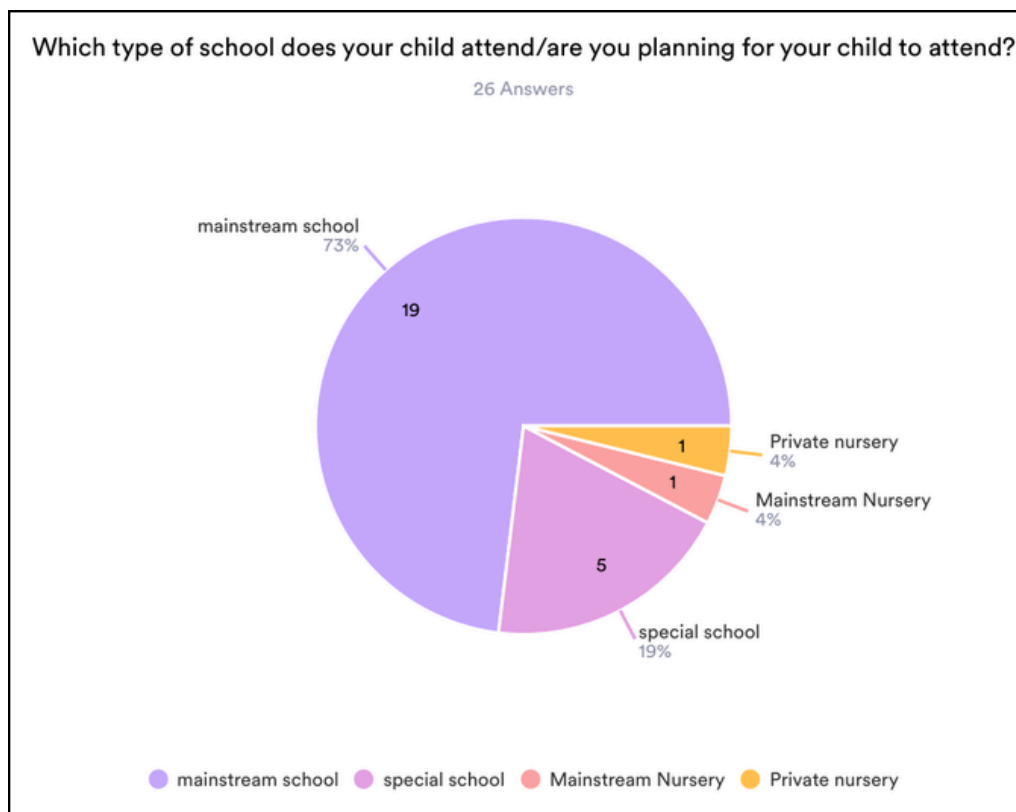


"I know that my daughter has had the specific vital support needed from birth to aid learning and development to allow her to have the best start in life; that her physical and learning abilities won't stop her from growing into the best possible person functioning to the best of her abilities. Knowing to implement this from birth has allowed us as parents to envision a future where she can be part of the community, living her best life to the fullest"

Evaluation Report Summary

Future education:

One of our aims is to ensure people with Down syndrome are included in all aspects of society. Attending mainstream educational settings is the start of this, and our findings showed that 81% of parents either intend to, or currently send, their child to a mainstream provision.



Quotes such as those below highlight how the sessions are enabling children with Down syndrome to succeed in schools, by offering support not only to the child, but to teaching staff too:

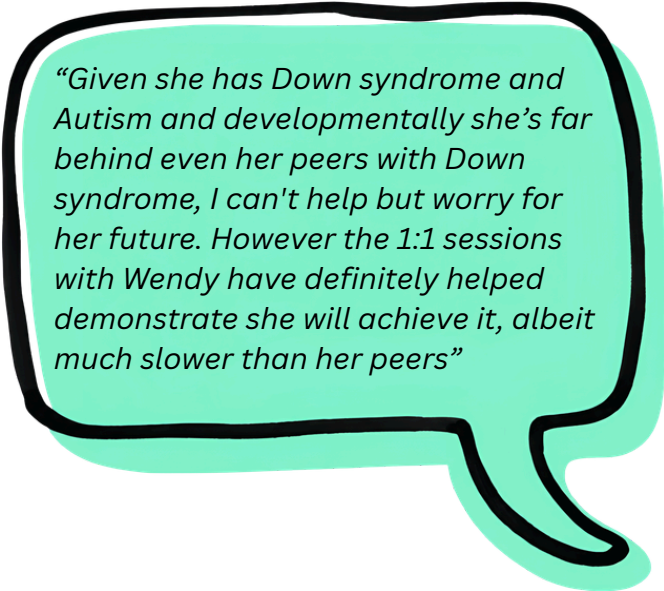
“We use the resources provided in the group to develop and refine our teaching over the four weeks before returning to the group. This approach ensures that our teaching is accurately pitched and that we are providing O with materials that are both familiar and accessible to her. Additionally, we mirror the teaching styles used in the development group, which helps maintain consistency and supports her continued progress”

“These sessions not only support the children’s learning and development, but also support their progression and give them the opportunity to reach their potential.”

1:1 sessions

Alongside our EDGs, we offer a number of bespoke 1:1 sessions

Our 1:1 sessions are for children and young people with more complex needs, who require more individualised interventions. This year we have supported a number of children and young people, up to the age of 15 years old, in working on specific aspects of their development.



"Given she has Down syndrome and Autism and developmentally she's far behind even her peers with Down syndrome, I can't help but worry for her future. However the 1:1 sessions with Wendy have definitely helped demonstrate she will achieve it, albeit much slower than her peers"



"It's been a long time coming but finally she's starting to understand her colours and counting"

We are finding that there is an increase in demand for 1:1 sessions, and due to Wendy reducing her hours from September, Laura will be also taking on some 1:1 sessions.

Speech and Language Group sessions

Adequate speech and language input for children and adults with Down syndrome is crucial for their development, with research demonstrating that children and young people with Down syndrome benefit from monthly input with gains still being made in their 20's.

Despite this, statutory SaLT services have long waiting lists, are only accessible for a set number of sessions and therefore lack continuity, in addition to the therapists rarely having specialised training in supporting those with Down syndrome. This is why there is a need for our service to provide monthly, specialised speech and language input.

We offer group sessions to all children and young people over the age of 5. Under 5's are offered fortnightly sessions via our Early Development Groups and these sessions address their early speech, language and communication needs. We also offer occasional one to one sessions should a child/young person or adult need a little additional support.

We employ two highly specialised therapists, Lauren Drake and Jessica Foley, trained by ourselves, to deliver up to 13 group sessions each month. **This year 43 children and young people have benefitted from the sessions.**



Jessica (right) went on Maternity Leave for six months, so Lauren (left) has very helpfully covered Jessica's sessions so her students were not left without support. We are very grateful to Lauren for doing this and enabling our children and young people to have consistency.



Learning opportunities

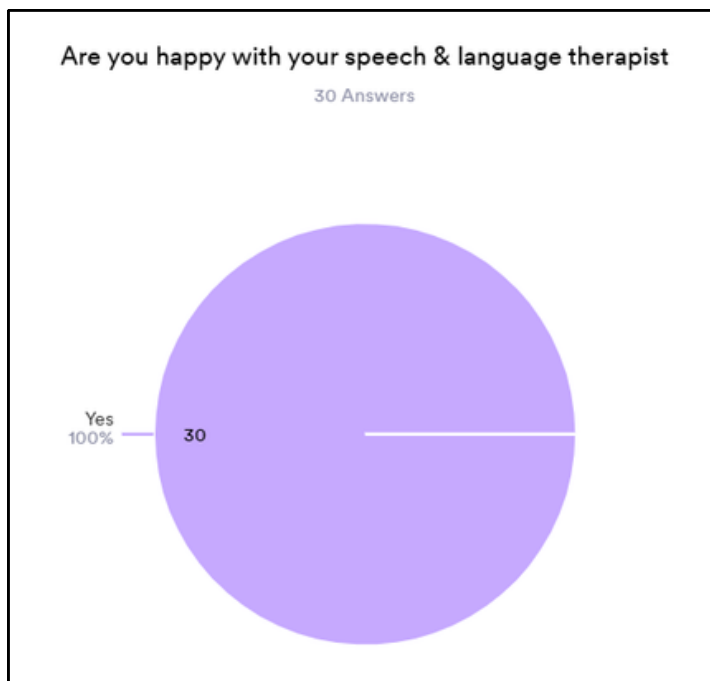
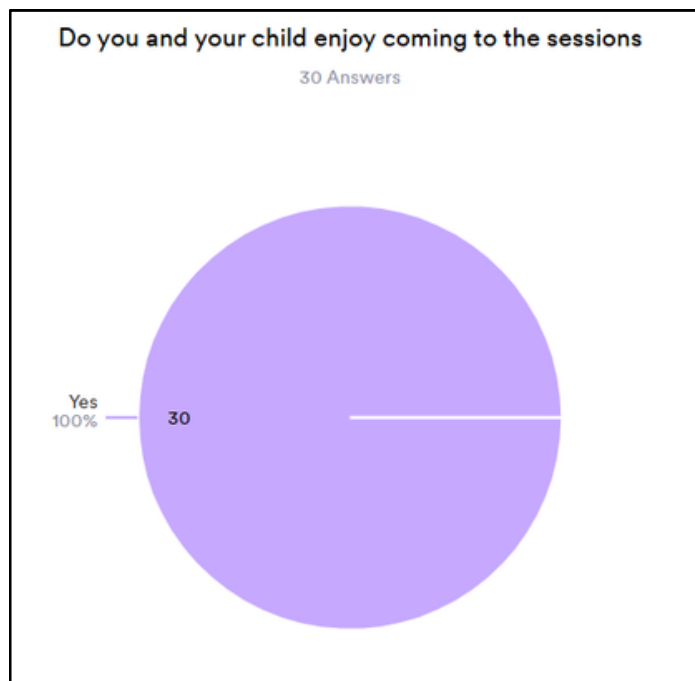
Throughout the year two Speech & Language students from Leeds Beckett University have joined us to gain work experience: Olivia Hodgson and Rosie Manners. We are delighted that we are able to help train future therapists gain knowledge and understanding of people with Down syndrome.

In addition, we invited a Speech and Language Therapist from Airedale Hospital to observe one of Laura's Year 5 Early Development Group sessions. This has enabled her to improve her own practice and aid her understanding of how to support someone with Down syndrome due to their individual learning profiles.

S&L Evaluation Report

We had 30 responses to our S&L evaluation form, with parents of children from ages 5 through to adulthood completing this. Thank you to all those who took time to complete the survey! The responses can be read here: [Speech & Language Report 2026](#)

Below is a summary of the report:



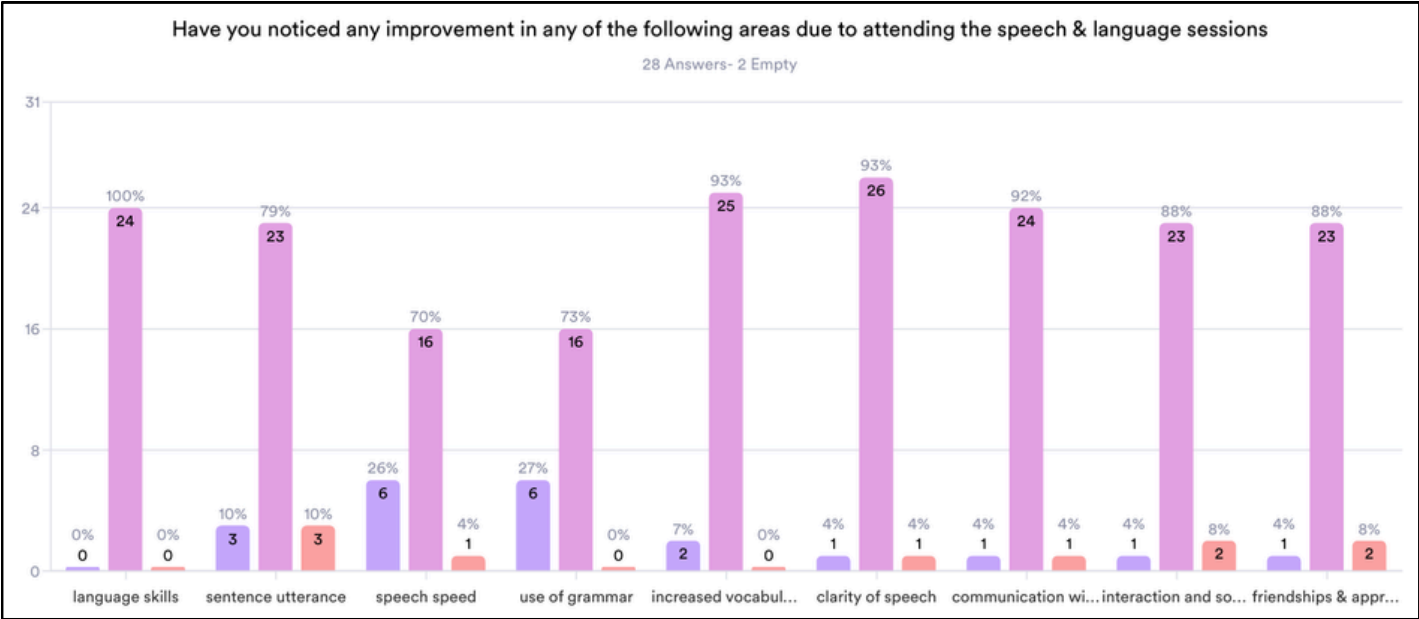
It is great to see that all respondents were happy with their therapist and enjoyed the session. This is crucial for successful engagement. Comments relating to the above responses were as follows:

“Lauren is great, she adapts things based on the attention/interest levels of the group. She uses the interests of the children to engage them. She is firm but fair. My son enjoys interacting with her”

“Without these extra sessions I would not be aware of different learning techniques specific for my child with child Down syndrome”

“We really value the therapist's expertise and ongoing support and appreciate the positive impact it has had on both S and our family. We sincerely hope S will be able to continue accessing this support next year, even if it means contributing towards the cost of additional sessions, as we have found it to be one of the most beneficial services available to him. Unfortunately, there is currently no equivalent level of specialist Down syndrome support available to us through school or NHS services, so we feel this ongoing input is invaluable to his development”

S&L Evaluation Report



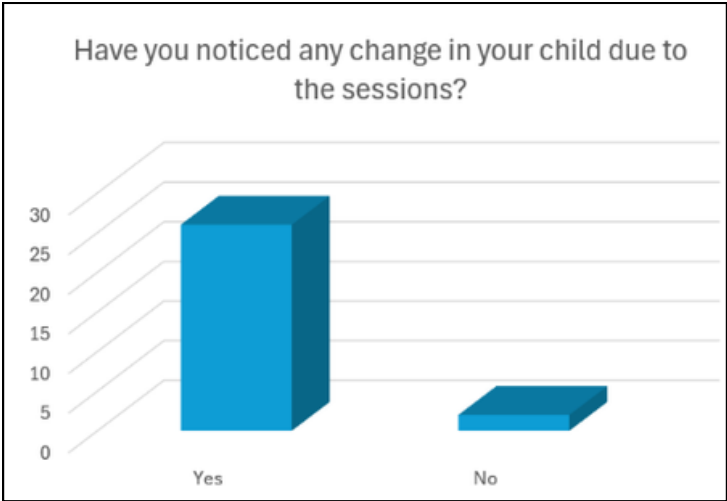
Clarity of speech, increased vocabulary and communication with family were the most common areas of improvement, with speech speed and grammar having less notable impact. Comments provided refer to needing more time to develop a particular skill, and age being a factor in this.

To summarise this, 90% of parents felt that the sessions were impacting upon their child/young person for the following reasons:

Increased confidence

Made more friends

She's friendlier



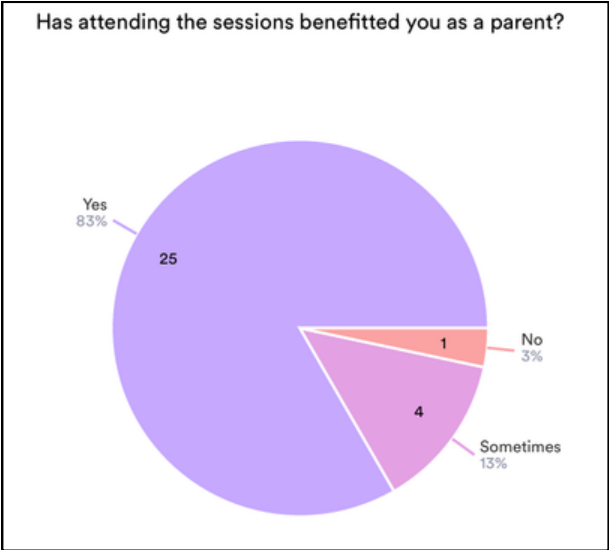
Improved listening

Improved communication

More accepted

S&L Evaluation Report

In addition to the benefits to the child or young person, parents reported benefitting, too:



Data
It's helpful to see what strategies Lauren uses and to understand then practice them at home. She's also available to ask specific questions about developing speech and language skills. .
They give me ideas of how to help my son with his speech
The sessions are well structured, practical and tailored to children's needs. They help him develop his communication, language, early literacy and confidence.We learn a lot through observations as well.
She has good speaking skills
Just making me more frustrated at the moment. The change to the later group isn't working, he's not on the same level.
Massively, as I can ask specific questions about T's speech & language needs.
My child looks forward to every session.
Rewarding and fulfilling to see my son improve with his communication and listening skills
It helps us as a family, communication skills for I for when he is meeting with friends as he is sometimes socially isolated, and it helps families give advice to each other and know we are not alone and we have a community.
It teach me how to teach M at home
From an early age I mirrored the classes and it helped A with school work and introduced some Makaton and signing in school too

Occupational Therapy & Physiotherapy

Although we have been unable to offer these services as we used to due to the change in our financial circumstances, we have funded several sessions for some of the children who access our bespoke, 1:1 interventions.

Counselling

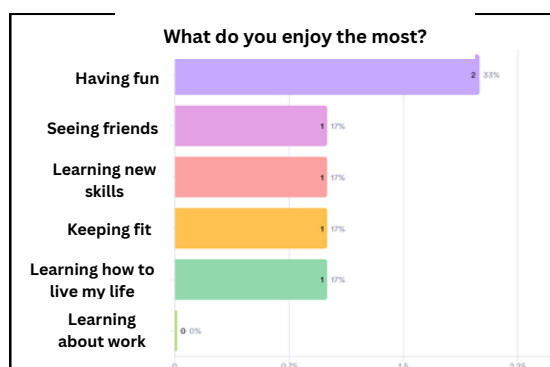
We are very lucky that our wonderful counsellor, Gill Iley has continued to work with our families. In the last year, Gill has provided 100 sessions to ten different people. We are very grateful to Gill for the support which she is able to offer.

Adult Services

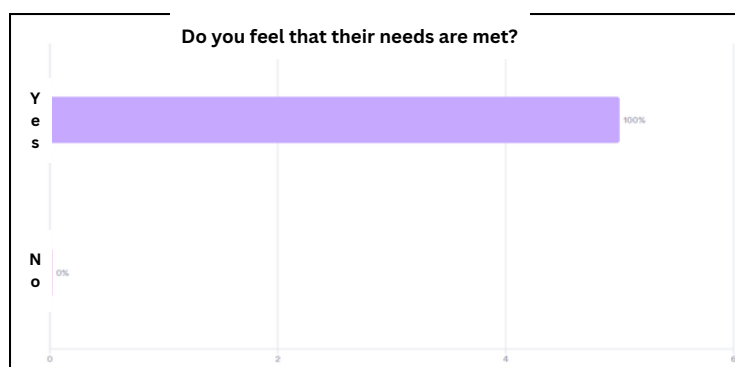
We have continued to offer the following services throughout the last year:

- Our WisH Club for young people aged 11 to 25
- The Going Out Club - running once per half term. No upper age limit.
- Dance21 - our dance group for young people aged 12+. There is no upper age limit.
- Our adult Speech & Language group - this meets every month. One month the young people practice skills at the centre, the following month they put these skills into real life practice - going on a train/bus/to the café or garden centre. Again no upper age limit.
- Our weekly Gym Club at Pinnacle Performance in Bradford
- Counselling for adults with Down syndrome with Gill Ilys.
- Our 'I Can Work' project.

Across the range of activities attended, the feedback from the young people about what they enjoy the most is as follows:



Parental feedback: 100% of respondents agree that their child's needs are being met through our Adult Services:



Independent Living Skills

I Can Shop, Cook & Clean

This year we did not manage to recruit any young people to undertake this project.

Moving forward we need to better promote the service which delivers a range of activities in our basement where we have created a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.

Students work through a programme of activities covering washing, cooking using the microwave, kettle, toaster and hob, cleaning, ironing, vacuuming, shopping, washing up and travel training.



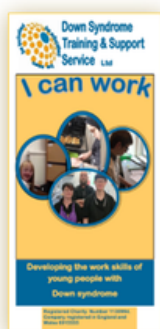
I Can Work

Unfortunately, our 'I Can Work' project has not been as busy this year. We changed the way the project was funded, requesting that Direct Payments be used to pay for the placement. Originally our I Can Work project aimed to place adults with Down syndrome aged 18+ in a real paid work placement. This is no longer the case and the project has floundered since lockdown.

Next year we aim to improve and relaunch this project as it is very important that the young people we are investing so much in can progress into real work placements as they leave education.

Charlie, supported by Nicky, has continued as our only placement working as the centre and our charity shop. He has also helped with collections at ASDA and the Coop and staffed an information stall at Hazelbeck's open day. He has undertaken travel training and is well on his way to becoming an independent traveller.

During the summer break 2025, Alice volunteered at our charity shop for two full days.



In March 2026 Joshua joined us for the week. Josh attends Titus Salt School and came along for a week of work experience. He helped out at the centre and our charity shop and did a little travel training.



WisH Club



WisH Club stands for 'Weekend is Here' and is a Youth Club which runs at our centre. It is designed specifically for young people with Down syndrome.

Our sessions provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment where members can socialise, develop independence, try new activities and most importantly, have fun with friends who understand them.

Every young person is encouraged to participate at their own pace, celebrate their achievements and build confidence in a relaxed and friendly setting.

We work on personal targets for the young people across self care skills, friendship skills and appropriate social behaviours. The setting is an ideal place to work on these skills as it is a safe and supportive environment.



Charlotte, who ran WisH Club for a number of years, left in February due to a career change. We then employed Sarah Bentley to run this service, alongside Jake Scott and Fran Shaw.



Wish Club

There are 23 members who attend Wish Club and most Fridays we have on average 10 young people in attendance.



Each week, Sarah plans sessions based around different themes, for example:

- Time
- Online safety
- Life skills at home
- Personal hygiene
- Working together - cooperation games
- Developing money skills

Wish Club was funded by a grant from the Iron Mongers from April 2025-April 2026..

We would like to thank our staff and volunteers (Callum, Sami and Georgia) for enabling our adults and young people to benefit from Wish Club.



Going Out Club

It's been another busy year for the Going Out Club; there have been multiple evenings spent dancing at Mavericks; tea out at the Shama; bowling; a gym session and a visit to see Sister Act at the theatre. Thank you to Sarah for organising all of these fab activities!



Going Out Club runs once per half term, with no upper age limit.



Gym Club

Our Gym Club has continued to run from Pinnacle Performance Fitness Studios with Sophie Robinson, for anyone aged 11+ who wishes to attend. Sessions take place on a Tuesday at 4.15-5.15pm, with a suggested donation of £5.

Gym Club is funded until the end of this year, so we are currently looking for funders to enable this to continue. There are eight people who have benefitted from attending over the year, with five of these on a regular basis.



Dance Classes



We offer two dance groups for children between the ages of 5-12, and also for those aged 12+. Classes take place at Footsteps Theatre School in Bradford and are led by the very talented Claire King.



Twirly 21s

This class is for our younger dancers and runs on a Saturday at 2.30-3.30pm. Not just for the children, the session provides an opportunity for parents to meet and chat whilst their child is dancing; something which can be missed once the children no longer attend the Early Development Groups. We have 5 children attending on average each week. The suggested fee (by donation) is £2 per dancer.

Dance 21s

Young people aged 12+ can attend this group, which runs on a Thursday evening from 6pm-7pm. Dancers are asked to pay a donation of £3.50 per class, which also helps them to use their money skills. There are 12 members, with 5 regular attendees per week.

Due to reduced numbers, we have requested parental feedback on the location and timing of the classes. However, the results suggested that neither of these factors were a problem, but that people couldn't always commit to attending due to other family arrangements.



Family Saturday Sessions

Taking place on the second Saturday of the month at Bingley Methodist Church (with the exception of January and August), we have continued to welcome new families amongst our regular attendees.

Setting up for sessions has become much quicker with a consistent and reliable team of volunteers who know where everything goes. We have also had a number of new volunteers recently, who have been fantastic at supporting the children, allowing parents to converse with each other. Thank you to everyone who helps keep these sessions running, as well as to our funders: Bentley Advancing Life Chances and Tesco



Wendy, Jenn, Laura or Ruth deliver one of the circle sessions or the Magic Bag, which encourage children and their parents to sing and sign to popular nursery rhymes or counting songs. We also like to test our gross motor skills with the stretchy elastic, and the parachute game.

There have been 27 families who have benefitted from the Family Saturday Session in the last year.

In addition to our standard activities, we have also had soft play and a ball pool, which was a hit. With thanks to one of our lovely families, our mums got the opportunity to undertake some flower arranging and create their very own bouquet for Mother's Day.



George Webster visited us in February and we had our annual insect treat from Into The Wild, which the children and Sibz always love.

Family Saturday Sessions

After an hour of activities, families are all invited into the dining room for refreshments. The children all sit alongside each other at the table, with snacks and drinks. Parents are also able to have a cup of tea or coffee and cake or a biscuit. It is a really nice environment for both children and parents to socialise with each other. It often creates the opportunity for informal support around topics such as eating or drinking with parents sharing which beakers have been the most helpful; school applications and EHCPs; tips on managing behaviours or toilet training etc. Parents find it useful to have staff and other parents around for such discussions.



“

The Saturday groups provide a genuinely safe and welcoming space where you are surrounded by people with real lived experience who truly understand the journey you're on. There is no judgement, just kindness, support and a shared understanding.

The fact there was something for everyone; parent chat, both mums and dads, activities for siblings and professional support for M was, and still is, unique but is what makes it so accessible.

The whole family benefit. H and E both absolutely love it. E adores Sibz group. I find it really helpful and lovely to meet other families. Knowing so little before T was born, going to Saturday Sessions helped me make connections that have been both a source of emotional support but also practical

”

Sibz

The Sibz group has continued to run, thanks to Elanor, who plans and delivers these sessions. Sibz is for siblings aged 6+ and a number of older siblings have enjoyed creating crafts, designing Pokemon posters and also rock painting throughout the year. Sibz runs in a small room at Bingley Methodist Church whilst the Family Saturday Session takes place, and is an opportunity for siblings to discuss experiences, feelings or concerns, and just have fun!



Summer Trip to Lightwater Valley!

This year's Summer Trip was to Lightwater Valley Theme Park and took place on Thursday 21st August 2025. The weather held long enough for us to be able to enjoy ourselves without getting soaked!



16 families joined us and we are grateful to Bradford Short Breaks, who partially funded this lovely day out, alongside donations from Bingley Duck race and some of our members.



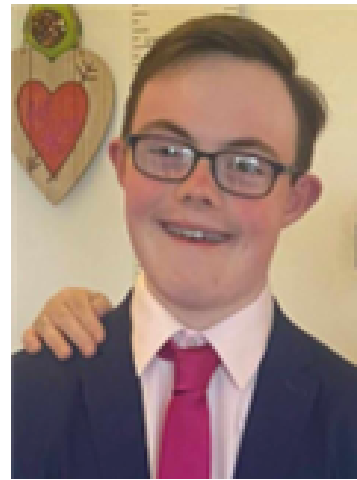
Achievements

GCSE success!

Noah Chattell and Alice Goddard acquired some incredible GCSE Results in August 2025.



Alice's 4 GCSEs are in English Language Grade 1, English Literature Grade 1, Combined Science Trilogy (physics/chemistry/biology) Grade 2 and Grade 1.



Noah gained 3 more: Photography Grade 3, Catering Grade 3 and Biology Grade 2.

Both students went on to Craven College after finishing High School.

A sporting legend!

We would like to pass on a huge congratulations to Ben for winning the Under 18s Young Disability Sportsman Award at this year's Bradford Sports Awards last week! Ben was described as both a 'determined and competitive sportsman':



Benjamin Major

Since joining Saturday Wheels and Monday Boccia/Boxercise sessions, Benjamin has matured into a determined and competitive sportsman, developing impressive motor control and decision-making. He has integrated seamlessly into the Special Olympics Yorkshire team and, in his very first national cycling competition at Wyke, was already standing on the podium. A fantastic start to what promises to be an exciting sporting journey.

Accounts: 1st June 2025 to 31st May 2026

Annual General Meeting Minutes October 2025

Present: Steve Robinson; Gerry Hughes; Wendy Uttley; Isabel Ashman (zoom); Jenny Rowlands; Michael Hughes; Finn Hughes; Jenn Casper-Smith; Rachel Cruickshank-Sutton; Ruth Worby; Nicky Major; Elanor Murray; Benjamin Ashton

Apologies: Louise Hobley; Avril Dear; Nicola Booth; Sheryl Ashton; Wendy Rhodes; Julie Earl; Kim Booth; Nazneen Rani; Heathe Chattell; David Chattell; Lauren Drake; Melissa Ratcliffe; Claire Harwood; Farzana Kauser; Philippa Darbandi

1. Meeting minutes from last year's AGM accepted.

2. Presentation of reports: The Accounts Annual return (compiled by WYCAS) was accepted by all present. Wendy then delivered a presentation detailing the progress report. Highlighted points below:

Aims and Priorities for the year were:

- Improve the promotion and training for ALL across the Yorkshire region (ongoing)
- Fully establish our adult support services- Independent Living Skills and 'I Can Work' projects. Working well.
- Review support for dads and siblings – less progress as this has not been a priority
- Organise a large fundraising event for 13th July 2025 – successful
- Plan and deliver another conference day for parents and professionals- cancelled due to funding crisis and reduced capacity
- Celebrate 25 years- its going to be our silver anniversary – 19th Nov fashion show will incorporate celebrations

Funding crisis at the end of 2024:

- Staff are still working on reduced hours
- The centre is now open in a Friday with Wendy Utley and Jenn Casper-Smith

End of National Lottery funding led to:

- Two staff did not have their contract renewed
- One staff member did not return after a period of illness and was not replaced

Funding:

- 91k of 100K target
- National Lottery bid rejected in September 2024
- Currently on stage 2 of second attempt, they will only fund Early Development Groups
- Grants have dropped from 65% to 28%
- This reflects a significantly changing financial landscape

WiSH Club:

- Up and running again

Charity shop update:

- Provides work experience
- Vital funds for the charity
- Needs volunteers
- Needs stock (children's toys and clothes are selling well)

3.Aims for next year (current financial year)

- Raise £130,000 so that we are secure for 2026/27
- Improve the promotion and training for ALL across the Yorkshire region (ongoing)
- Staff the charity shop to ensure it is open as much as possible
- Maintain our level of income and service. We hope to have another Chromosome Rocks event on 6th June 2026
- Celebrate our 25th anniversary

4. Election of Directors:

Heather Chattell and Rachel Cruickshank –Sutton stood down on rotation and were re-elected. Philippa Darbandi was elected as a director. We now have 7 directors.

5. AOB – there was no other business to report.

6. End of AGM & refreshments and performance by twirly21s

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 10.30 AM ON 10TH OCTOBER 2026
AT
BINGLEY METHODIST CHURCH

You are warmly invited to our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 14th October, 10.30am at Bingley Methodist Church, where we will be celebrating the achievements of our last financial year.

AGENDA:

1. Present and apologies
2. Accept the minutes from our last AGM
3. Presentation of reports: Accounts Annual Return and Progress Report
4. Plans for the year ahead
5. Election of Directors: Lauren Bernadina-Drake and Farzana Kauser to stand down on rotation/be re-elected if so wish
6. AOB
7. End of AGM and refreshments