



**North London Deaf Children's Society AGM Committee Report for 2023
Presented to members at our AGM Party held at Martins Primary School
on 28th April 2024**

The NLDCS aims to offer support by providing accessible events and activities for deaf children and their families in an inclusive, safe environment where ideas and knowledge can be shared and friendships made. Many events are heavily subsidised by the NLDCS and some are free of charge to members. This year we have been delighted to be able to hold a range of activities and gatherings in person and welcome new families and professionals to our growing network.

Our year in numbers	2023	2022	2021
Subsidised or free events for families	7	9	7
Email communications	20	14	17
Newsletters	6	7	2
Mailing list of members, schools, professionals	143	135	117
Families who attended our events this year	37	37	53
Age range of children	0 – 14	0-14	0 -13

Events Over The Year

February 2023: NLDCS Annual General Meeting (AGM)

At the NLDCS AGM held in Summerside School on 11th March 2023, members were presented with an account of our activities in 2022, the financial statement for the period 2021 -22 and committee members and officers were elected.

We invited a wonderful storyteller to entertain everyone at our AGM party, ran arts and craft activities and families contributed to a delicious bring and share feast.

June 2023: Dinosaur Live at Arts Depot

Children parents and carers met for an amazing BSL supported show of dinosaurs of all sizes with the chance to pet dinosaurs afterwards!

July 2023: Coffee morning for NLDCS parents and carers

After identifying an interest amongst parents and carers to meet up to chat without needing to keep an eye on children, we organised a coffee morning at Kenwood House café during the school day to bring parents together.

July 2023:
Picnic in Highgate Woods

Following the success of previous summer picnics we had planned to hold another family picnic in beautiful Highgate Woods but unfortunately we were unable to go ahead due to bad weather.

September 2023:
Festival of Books at the British Library

The Festival of Books at the British Library was a fully accessible Family Day organised by Camden Learning, Frank Barnes School and other deaf friendly organisations, delivered in British Sign Language and spoken English. Families came to make, touch, sign and explore, create, share and celebrate stories and favourite books. Our committee ran an eco arts and crafts activity stall open to all.

October 2023
Royal Observatory and Planetarium

Our outing to Greenwich was a great success. Some families travelled together by boat to the Planetarium where we were invited in as a group first to ask questions and choose the best seats before being joined by the rest of the audience. We sat back in our seats admiring the changing display on the ceiling to learn about the planets. BSL interpretation was provided thanks to Ben Jefferson.

December 2023
Winter Party

We held a winter party at Summerside School, inviting Jump High who added the thrill of trampoline acrobatics, the energy of Zumba, and the magic of festive costumes, creating a high-flying, dance-tastic experience that left children and adults breathless and bursting with laughter and joy. Families brought food to share and the event was a great chance for families to get to know each other.

December 2023:
Theatre Trip

Over 50 of us from age 5 upwards attended Chickenshed's captioned production of The Toymaker's Child in December and enjoyed a magical, colourful, inspiring and

thought-provoking musical show with integrated sign language. Well done to all NLDCS members who were involved in the production.

Families commented:

“A huge thank you. The show was amazing and I even was drawn to tears at the end for some reason. Thank you....(my daughter) has now requested many times can she go up there and perform”

Committee Activities

The committee elected at the AGM in March 2023 Kam Makram and Natali Collins (co-chairs), Donna Apparicio (treasurer) Zibiah Loakthar (secretary), Nosheen Akhtar (safeguarding), Esther Conway (communications), Rayan Basma, Denis Coelho, Suki Gill, Barbara Kasperska, Pari Kotecha, Lauren Rapacioli, Marvi Rauf and Linda Sells. A very big thank you to Linda Sells and her family for long standing support at NLDCS activities over many years. Linda is stepping down from the committee.

This year we have continued our regular committee meetings online.

Committee members continue to attend both Barnet, and Haringey and Enfield Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG) meetings with local authority and NHS staff in attendance to establish contacts, represent other families and find out news and information.

The NLDCS website continues to include a resources and information page, deaf specific learning resources as well as other useful online links. Communications to members have included information about NLDCS and National Deaf Children's Society events in addition to information about local services for deaf families. We also share details about other events and news that might interest our members, for instance opportunities to attend discounted theatre events and activities organised by other groups. These include BSL activities for young people at Remark! and stay and play schemes for young deaf families held at Laycock, Blanche Neville and Frank Barnes primary schools and relevant calls for participants in research studies.

We have a private **Facebook Group** for members in addition to an **Instagram** account, growing this as a way to share ideas, stories and news. Committee members are up-to-date on safeguarding issues. All hold DBS certification.

As a committee we explore different fundraising ideas and also seek out resources in kind. We were pleased to secure discounted tickets from Chickenshed and Arts Depot. A big thank you to all who have made donations to our charity and to the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) for their ongoing support.

Plans for 2024

We've already organised a successful Laser Quest event for young people aged 7+ and have a number of ideas in the pipeline for the coming year. Plans include a trip to London Zoo to see the lion cubs and a theatre visit to see Chickenshed's production of Peter Pan.

As always we welcome everyone's ideas and suggestions for activities. Watch out for news via email, our website and social media of plans for activities and outings!

CAN YOU HELP? We welcome new committee members. Our charity activities are run entirely by volunteers, the majority of whom are NLDCS parents and carers. People of all ages can join our committee at any point in the year. We welcome people with a few hours a month spare to join the team. We can offer support, mentoring and training to people who may be new to being a charity trustee. We are especially looking for people with good organisational skills to help organise events, people with experience in Mailchimp and WordPress to help with our communication, people with fundraising ideas and people with experience of deafness. We hold meetings online with enabled captioning to support our committee members who are deaf. We rotate between Monday and Thursday evenings. Committee meetings are held at 8.30pm, in the hope that by then those of us in charge of young children may have managed to put them to bed! Getting involved on a committee can be a great way to build friendships with families from across different North London boroughs.

A big thank you from the committee and all our families to everyone who has volunteered their time and expertise for the NLDCS this year. Our activities run on volunteer power. Everyone coming together to offer time ideas and resources enables NLDCS to continue to make a difference to the lives of deaf children and their families.