

THE DISABILITY UNION

Annual Report 2022



The Disability Union

The way to bring about inclusion for Disabled People has changed. We are no longer an isolated minority hidden away in secluded institutions.

We are an increasingly influential voter and consumer group seeking to be our own representatives.



Why The Disability Union Works

We empower Disabled People to become champions for themselves and others by bringing them community, opportunity and unity.

Community

By bringing Disabled People together in our regular social events, online community and campaigns we help each other, make friends and make change together. Just some of our community projects include:

- Providing much-needed services that have taken a huge hit by government cuts
- Hosting sensory play sessions involving music, movement, and stimulating the senses through play
- Working with local visitor attractions to increase accessibility and inclusive practices
- Working with businesses and organisations to promote and raise awareness of accessibility within our communities
- Regular social groups and events for members online and in person

Why The Disability Union Works

We empower Disabled People to become champions for themselves and others by bringing them community, opportunity and unity.

Opportunity

We provide opportunities around employment, politics, sports and every other aspect of life including:

- **1:1 support from a caseworker on disability-related issues.**
- **Disability Union Skills Academy – 700+ online courses on everything from confidence to software development and beauty therapy.**
- **Regular online or in person events focused on employability, inclusion in a workplace etc.**
- **Our Disability and Democracy project that is helping Disabled People get into politics.**

Why The Disability Union Works

We empower Disabled People to become champions for themselves and others by bringing them community, opportunity and unity.

Unity

Besides the right not to be discriminated against or bullied, fair treatment also includes dignity. This is why we are working alongside national health trusts to ensure Disabled People are treated with respect. Our recent projects include:

- Accessible play areas
- Accessible leisure centres
- Lobbying MPs regarding the neglect of Disabled People during the pandemic
- Changing Places toilets
- Accessible entry into the employment sector

THE DISABILITY UNION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

"This has been an exciting year of expansion and consolidation. Having got through its earliest stages of development, The Disability Union has been broadening and professionalising its work. We've expanded our community projects (Sensory Superstars, Disability & Democracy, and Cuts Cut Chances), and have begun our political work. 2023 is going to be about building on this years successes with our community and political projects."



George Baker, Director

THE DISABILITY UNION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

"2022 has been such a great year for The Disability Union. I am particularly proud of the casework team who have completely revamped the system and process so its fast, reliable, and has therefore allowed us to successfully help over 80 members with their disability-related issues. Of course, none of this would be possible without our valued members who, like us, are empowered to fight for fairness and equality. We are excited to support even more members in 2023 and continue the fight for Disability inclusion."



Lauren Toovey, Director

THE DISABILITY UNION

2022 Finances



2022 Income

Annual Revenue from Memberships: £18,272.98

Community Grants: £10,970

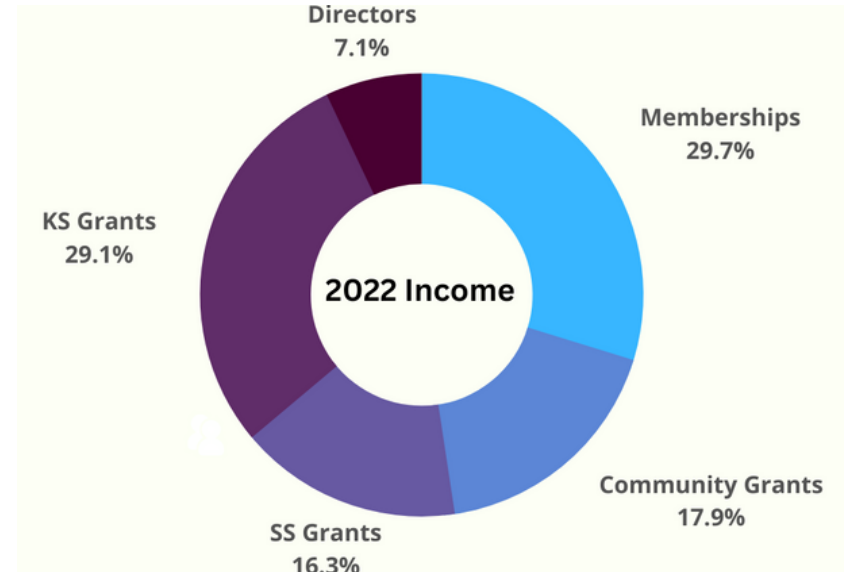
Sensory Superstars Grants: £10,000

Kickstarters Grant: £17,852.74

Director's Input: £4,331.70

Total: £61,427.42

Total Number of Members: 628



2022 Income

Annual Revenue from Memberships:

£18,272.98

This is the total amount we have received from both annual and monthly memberships.

Community Grants:

£10,970

We used £8,970 of our Paul Hamlyn Foundation grant to hire our Strategic Development Officer, £1,000 from Little Lives, and £1,000 from Arnold Clark.

Sensory Superstars Grants:

£10,000

We received £10,000 from The National Lottery to fund our Sensory Superstars project.

Kickstarters Grant:

£17,852.74

We took part in the Government's Kickstart Scheme where we provided a job to 3 16-24 year-olds on Universal Credit for 6 months. Each Kickstarter had lived experience of being Disabled or a carer.

Director's Input:

£4,331.70

Our Director's topped up the remaining funds needed for the year.

Total:

£61,427.42

2022 Outgoings

Casework Department: £9,879.84

Community Department: £10,616.64

Sensory Superstars: £10,000

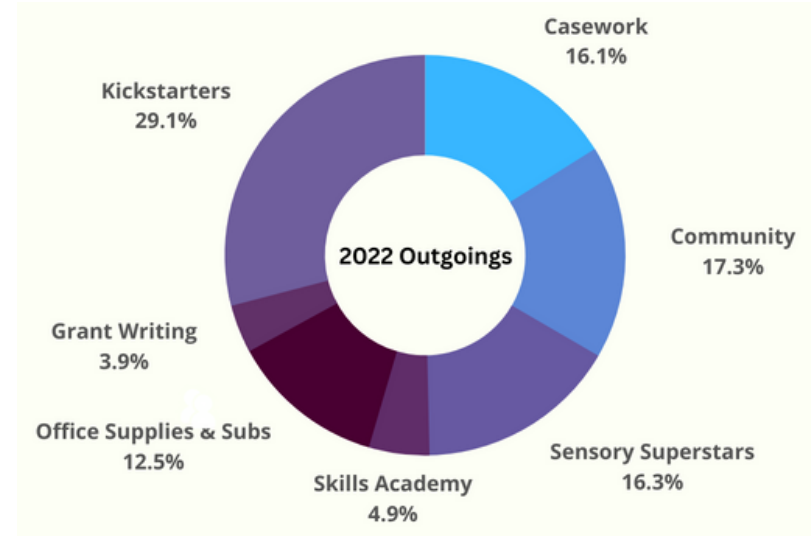
Skills Academy: £3,000

Office Supplies & Subscriptions: £7,678.20

Grant Writer Salary: £2,400

Kickstarter Wages: £17,852.74

Total: £61,427.42



We aim to be fully self-funded by the year 2027.

2022 Outgoings

Casework Department: £9,879.84

The casework department were covered by membership fees.

Community Department: £10,616.64

The community department and Sensory Superstars were funded solely through grants.

Sensory Superstars: £10,000

The Skills Academy was funded through membership fees.

Skills Academy: £3,000

Office Supplies & Subscriptions: £7,678.20

Memberships include our website hosting and phoneline were covered by memberships. Business insurance and accountancy were covered by the Directors. Others were covered by grants.

Grant Writer Salary: £2,400

Grant writing was funded by the directors.

Kickstarter Wages: £17,852.74

Our Kickstarter wages were covered 100% by the Government Kickstart Grant.

Total: £61,427.42

THE DISABILITY UNION

2022 Achievements

Here are just some of the things we've accomplished this year:



Cuts Cut Chances

We organised our first-ever campaign 'Cuts Cut Chances' to raise awareness of and reverse Hampshire County Council cuts to SEN school transport. Our campaign included:

- Multiple media appearances on BBC and ITV
- An in-person protest outside the HCC headquarters in Winchester which enabled us to gain further talks with councillors and raise awareness of the issue through the media
- We had constructive engagement with the council and individual sympathetic councillors
- Through the pressure we applied through the media and general advocacy for parents, we managed to get results for over dozens of parents and children who were left without transport.



Disability & Democracy



The Disability Union

Disability & Democracy

Increasing disability representation in politics

Participants:

- Tony Slaven, UNISON
- Daisy Cooper, MP
- John McDonnell, MP
- Vicky Foxcroft, MP
- Kirsty Smillie, The Disability Union
- Kirsty Blackman, MP
- Cllr George Baker, The Disability Union

WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE, 11AM

We hosted our Disability & Democracy webinar (watched by over 100 people), where we were joined by MPs, councillors, and trade unions to discuss how Disabled People can become more involved with politics and remove the barriers within the system to enable them to take part in local and national politics. We want to see Disabled People in parliament.

Political Work

We started our political lobbying work and have had multiple meetings in Westminster with MPs. George is now a part of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Disability.

We are now planning an exciting project for the second half of 2023 that will provide online coaching and educational support to train Disabled People to run for elected positions in the local government campaigns or other user-led groups. This will be a pilot study to create an ongoing mechanism of training Disabled People for political office.



Sensory Superstars



Tasha and Char have hosted an incredible 42 Sensory Superstar sessions around Gosport. The Disability Union is working towards ensuring a legacy that every child will have the right and ability to access play and education, and our Sensory Superstar sessions offer sensory play and opportunities for all children to explore, learn and develop, regardless of physical, mental, or cultural differences.

Casework

Our team of caseworkers have helped over 80 members with their disability-related issues. They have assisted with benefit applications, PIP appeals, legal referrals, reasonable adjustments in the workplace, provided well-being support, and more.



National Diversity Award

We were nominated and shortlisted
for a National Diversity Award.



News Coverage

We were featured in the news multiple times, highlighting the most important Disability-related issues.



Campaign Toolkit


We created our Disability Rights Campaign Toolkit – a fill-in-the-blanks toolkit to host a successful campaign.



Skills Academy

700+ COURSES AVAILABLE

THE DISABILITY UNION SKILLS ACADEMY



**STUDY
ANYWHERE,
ANYTIME**

- ✓ Comprehensive syllabus
- ✓ Every course is accessible
- ✓ Detailed lessons created by experts

**EMPLOYABILITY
SKILLS**

- ✓ Bespoke training courses to suit the individual learners
- ✓ Interview skills
- ✓ CV writing
- ✓ IT skills including Microsoft Word, Excel & PowerPoint

**EMBARK ON
A NEW
CAREER
PATH**

- ✓ Learn a new skill
- ✓ With courses ranging from Beauty Therapy to Retail Banking
- ✓ All courses are recognised by the CPD accreditation body

On our mission to help Disabled People get into work, over 276 hours were spent on our Skills Academy, and 64 courses were successfully completed.



Manor Farm

We worked with Manor Farm (a farm in Southampton) who have now implemented:

- An incredible accessible play area both indoors and out
- Hands-on sensory learning with the animals
- A sensory garden and classroom where local SEN schools can visit
- Makaton throughout the farm



Open Day

To celebrate our partnership, we hosted an open day at Manor Farm to celebrate the hard work carried out by the farm to improve their accessibility. A diverse community came together to celebrate acceptance and inclusion for all.



Join us for our SEN day at

MANOR FARM

MAY 19

BIRD FEEDER MAKING

MESSY PLAY, DANCING & SINGING WITH SENSORY SUPERSTARS

FACE PAINTING

10am - 2pm (Farm open until 5pm)
No booking needed
Pay at the farm reception like usual

Pyland's Ln, Southampton, SO31 1BH

Online Social Events

We hosted over 26 online social events from DIY adaptive clothing workshops to BSL classes and seated yoga.



MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28 7pm Skills Academy 	1	2	3 1st Autism group 	4 4pm Members Social	5  Labour Party Conference
6	7	8	9	10 6pm Adapt to perform workout 	11 4pm Members social	12
13	14	15	16  5pm Removing barriers	17	18 4pm Members social	19
20	21 7pm Meditation with Mark 	22	23	24	25 4pm Members social	26
27	28	29	30	31 Film Club 	1	2



MEDITATION MONDAY
WITH MARK
7Pm
25/04/2022



Sophie's Legacy



We partnered with Sophie's Legacy to fulfill Sophie's wish. We provided the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth with 50 sensory play boxes for the children to enjoy whilst the play specialists and teachers are not working. We will continue to provide play in the hospital children's ward.

THE DISABILITY UNION

We will continue to support and fight for change in 2023.

**To find out more, visit:
www.disabilityunion.co.uk**

