

East Kent  
**mencap**

# Annual Report

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023





# Foreword from our Chair of Directors

2022/23 was a very challenging year of consolidation at East Kent Mencap, with Covid continuing to present difficulties to the health and social care sector.

The charity has continued to maintain its position during challenging times and ensured our membership is empowered and listened to.

We have negotiated our way through the many external economic pressures and continued to steer the organisation in the interests of our membership.

Our thanks go to all the amazing employees, volunteers and fantastic supporters.

**Amy Rutland**  
Chair

## Contents

Foreword from our Chair.....	1
What is a learning disability, our mission & numbers at a glance.....	2
Public services.....	3
A year in photos.....	4
People say.....	6
Member's Committee.....	7
Financials.....	8

Income and expenditure.....	9
Balance sheet.....	10
Auditor's statement.....	11
From the CEO & contact us.....	12

## What is a learning disability?

A learning disability is a reduced intellectual ability which affects someone for their whole life. People with a learning disability tend to take longer to learn and may need support to develop new skills, understand complicated information and interact with other people. They might need help with some everyday tasks like socialising or managing money. Some people with a learning disability also experience mental health issues.

## Our mission

At East Kent Mencap our mission is to provide choices and opportunities for people with a learning disability so that they can lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. We want everyone with a learning disability to be valued equally, listened to and included in their community.

## East Kent Mencap numbers at a glance



# Public services

East Kent Mencap is committed to supporting the local economy, advocating for sustainability and improving the lives of residents within the local community.

## Promoting Economic Sustainability

**119**

Local residents employed across East Kent

**32**

New employees joined the charity



**1,064**

Local residents supported towards employment

**22,282**

Hours of apprenticeship training completed

## Raising Living Standards of Local Communities

**109**

Low income households received a free laptop and connectivity device, reducing their digital poverty. In partnership with East Kent College and The Community Renewal Fund.

**65% of laptop recipients**

Also signed up for face-to-face digital training and skills.



**20**

Tablets distributed to communities in partnership with Royal Mencap

All employees receive the living wage or higher for meaningful work.

## Ethical Values & Culture East Kent Mencap Policies & Procedures Promote:

Integrity  
Impartiality  
Equity  
Accountability  
Financial Efficiency  
Psychological Safety  
Kindness  
Wellbeing

### THROUGH

- Action against bribery slavery and radicalisation
- Upholding British values
- Equity for all
- Buying local and Kent first



- Transparent financial reporting mechanisms
- Professional Code of Conduct
- Employee assistance



## Promoting Equity and Fairness

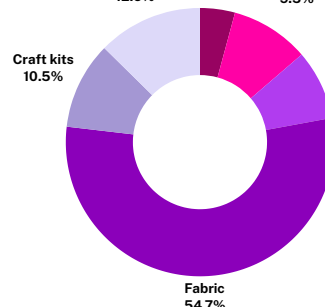
**28**

Hours of supported employment are worked at East Kent Mencap each week



## Promoting Environmental Sustainability

Paper, books, magazines 12.6%  
Haberdashery, hardware 9.5%  
Wool 8.4%  
Fabric 54.7%  
Craft kits 10.5%



### The ScrapStore:

- Over 1,024kg saved from landfill
- The ScrapStore welcomed 95 people, who chose 122 baskets of material
- All employees offered climate change training



# 4 A year in photos

## April to June



Celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style, thanks to funding from the Arts Council England.



The Getting On with Learning Difficulties (GOLD) Group started Learning Disability Week in June by yarnbombing the bandstand in Ellington Park, Ramsgate.



Our first Spring Forward Campaign was launched, showcasing the many talents of people with a learning disability and raised £2,300.



Our Easy Read Group collaboration with Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust was awarded 'Group of the Year' by the Patient and Carer Partnership Team.

## July to September



The Swale Hub welcomed a speaker from the Bumblebee Conservation as part of their Bee Road Project, funded by Sheerness Town Council.



Funding from the Let's Get Digital Project helped our GOLD group to learn about producing a podcast, giving them a platform to express their views.



East Kent Mencap employees accepted three awards for excellence in social care, with five finalists overall in the KiCA Care Awards.



The photography and art groups at Herne Bay and Thanet Hubs showcased their creations at Sandwich Arts Week.

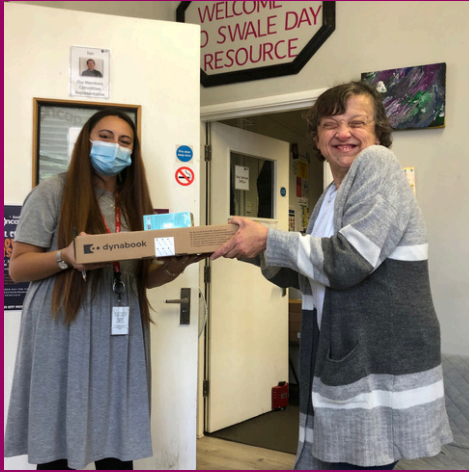


# 5 A year in photos

## October to December



Hosted a celebration at Ashford Mencap to start planning more events going forward.



Worked with the Community Renewal Scheme to give away free laptops to assist families who are digitally excluded.



Partnered with Books Beyond Words to run our first Book Club in Thanet.



COVID restrictions were still very much in place for vulnerable people, so we hosted a virtual Christmas disco that everyone from across East Kent could enjoy.

## January to March



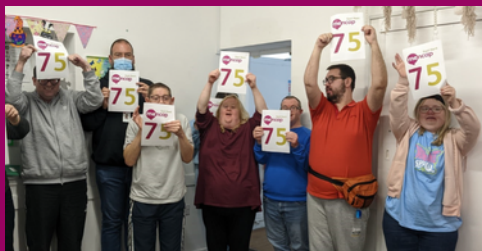
Work was completed on a new roof and toilets at our listed building, Foresters Hall, thanks to funding from the Colyer Fergusson Charitable Trust.



The GOLD project secured continuation funding of 3 years from the National Lottery Community Fund.



Our Jubilee Film was a runner-up in the Smiley Charity Film Awards and six representatives from East Kent Mencap attended the awards ceremony.



We launched our 75th anniversary and look forward to a year of celebrations.



# People say...

"I have just started going to the Margate Hub and am enjoying myself very much. It is a great place to go where I feel welcome."  
MB member.



"The team seems to work incredibly well together and communication between them is fantastic. It's a wonderful team you have for IJ." Paige, Mental Health Practitioner.

"East Kent Mencap gives everyone a voice to speak up. They treat everyone as an individual with dignity and respect, promoting rights for people with Autism and learning disabilities."  
Support Worker, Thanet.

"We are so pleased with the excellent care, support and attention H receives. She's clearly very happy in her environment, all the staff plays such an important role in this." H parents.

"My job gives me great joy. Seeing a member's beaming smile when they achieve something new is so rewarding." Senior Support Worker, Herne Bay.



"Being able to work alongside people and see them flourish, overrides the challenges that we faced during the pandemic."  
Support Worker, Thanet.

"Working with a passionate and caring team that supports people with a learning disability to achieve the things they want out of life, means my job makes a positive difference."  
Admin team member.

# Member's Committee

**The Members Committee has 10 members who represent all the people who use our services across our geographic locations.**

This year they have:

- Welcomed more members to the Board
- Represented the charity at events
- Suggested, supported and took part in the implementation of successful fundraising projects
- Suggested, supported and implemented member-led meetings for members and tenants
- Created easy-read policies which are used across East Kent Mencap and other organisations
- Liaised with support service managers to find solutions to the problems and barriers people with a learning disability are facing
- Worked in partnership with local Health Authorities to create easy-read documents and to discuss access to local services
- Continued to represent members and services by providing vital feedback
- Became more visible within our community
- Continued to support the development of digital services
- Continued to invite and discuss requests from Managers, Senior Management Team and Chief Executive Officer



In November the Member's Committee welcomed Ben and David





## Financials

Total income for the year amounted to £3,017,203, comprising £2,951,874 generated from charitable activities.

In comparison to the previous year, the income was £3,045,763, of which £2,933,111 was made up of charitable activities which represents growth.

Two of the Charity's properties were sold in June 2022, generating a profit on disposal of £218,567.

Included in the total funds for the year ended 30th March 2023, are tangible fixed assets of £2,996,748 of which freehold property is stated with a net book value of £2,919,985.

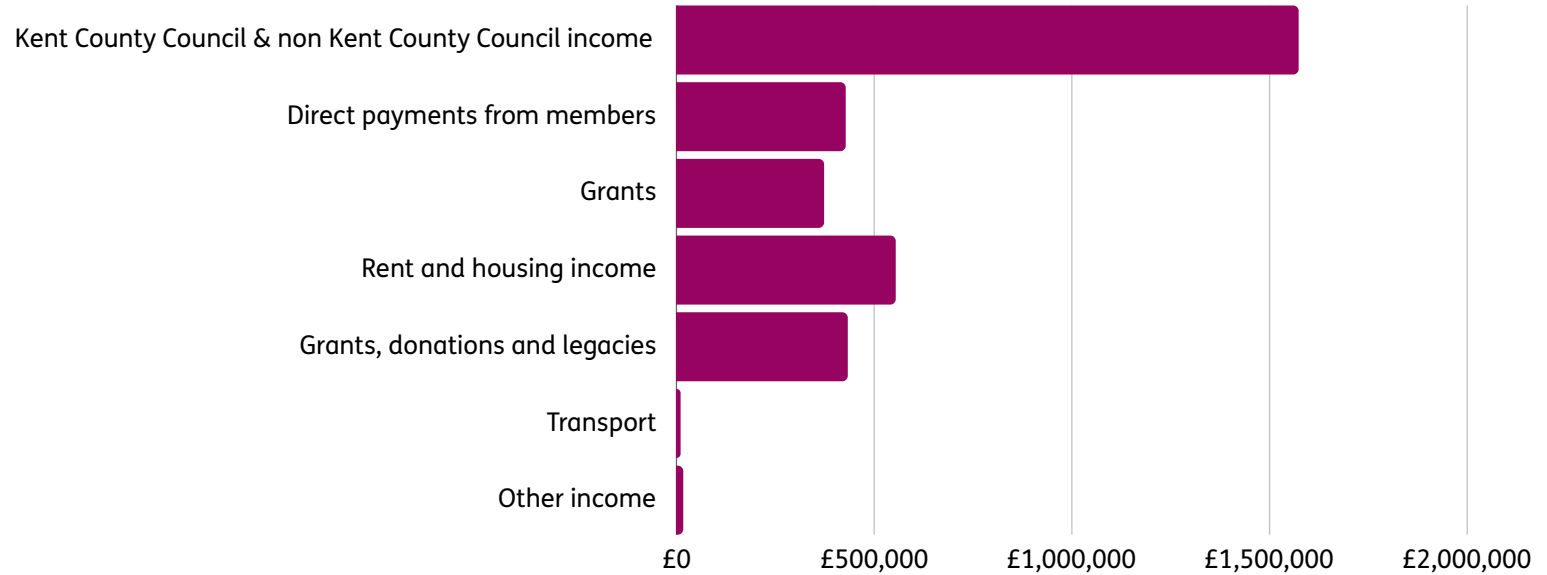
Total expenditure for the year amounted to £3,257,229, leading to a net movement of funds and a deficit of £21,459. Compared with the year ended 30th March 2022, after total expenditure of £3,050,276, there was a reported net movement in funds and a deficit of £4,513.

The Directors (Trustees) reviewed the Reserves policy and agreed that East Kent Mencap should hold reserves equal to one to two months of employee payroll.

As of 30th March 2023, the amount of total funds held by East Kent Mencap was £2,821,677, of which the unrestricted reserve total was £2,478,788.

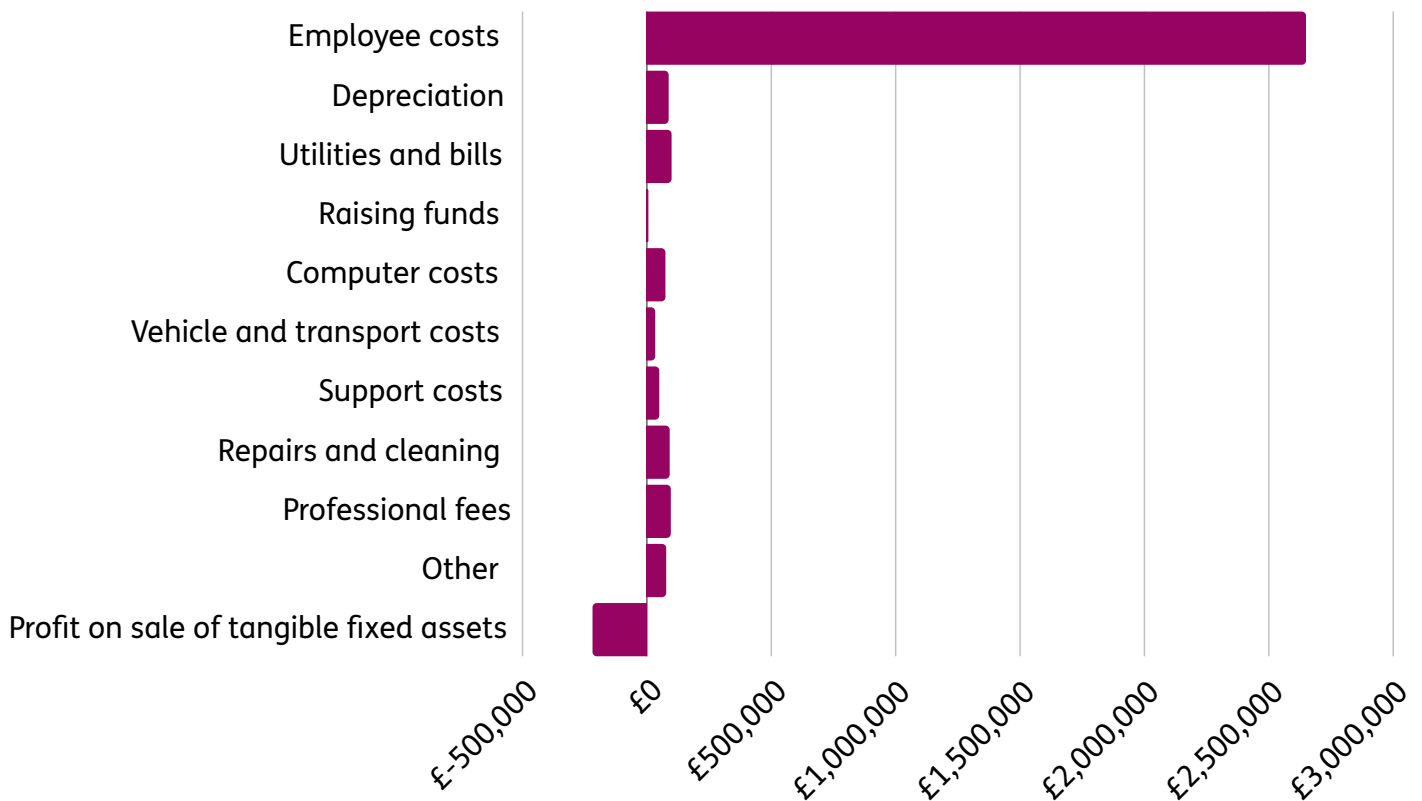
# Income

Total: £3,017,203



# Expenditure

Total: £3,038,662





# Balance sheet

As at 30th March 2023

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	2,996,748	3,017,180
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	464,532	407,082
Cash at bank and in hand	451,894	632,893
	<u>916,426</u>	<u>1,039,975</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(271,530)</u>	<u>(291,828)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b><u>644,896</u></b>	<b><u>748,147</u></b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b><u>3,641,644</u></b>	<b><u>3,765,327</u></b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(819,967)	(922,191)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b><u>2,821,677</u></b>	<b><u>2,843,136</u></b>
<b>Charity funds</b>		
Restricted funds:		
Restricted funds	342,889	193,657
Unrestricted funds	2,478,788	2,649,479
<b>Total funds</b>	<b><u>2,821,677</u></b>	<b><u>2,843,136</u></b>

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Directors and signed on their behalf by Amy Rutland, Chair, 20th December 2023.

# Auditors' statement

**UHY Kent LLP**

**Chartered Accountants**

“In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as of 30th March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.”

“Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.”





# From the CEO

I am very proud of everyone's achievements during the past year, as people who used our services seized new opportunities and experiences.

The Members Committee has done an incredible job, speaking to people to hear their views, find out what is important and represent them in our meetings; they are integral to our strategy.

We are thrilled to have won three Kent Care Awards, recognising the incredible work of our employees providing outstanding support for people with a learning disability.

I extend my gratitude to our award-winning employees, exceptional volunteers and dedicated supporters. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people with a learning disability.



**Jason Gerlack**

CEO

## Contact us



[www.eastkentmencap.co.uk](http://www.eastkentmencap.co.uk)



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Registered charity number: 1188118  
Company number: 12263702

“Seeing the people I support smile, lets me know I have made a positive difference.”

Support Worker, Herne Bay

