



**Corra Foundation
Learning & Development workshop
Building Unrestricted reserves
30 November 2017**

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- What prompted the change to build reserves?
- How was this decision made and what were the options?
- What has been working well and any challenges?
- Is there anything you wish you had known? Any key learning?
- Where is your organisation in this journey?



- National charity, based in Stirling with 19 volunteer-led branches and 3 Adult Networks across Scotland
- We aim to inspire and enable dyslexic people, regardless of their age and abilities, to reach their potential in education, employment and life

Dyslexia Scotland's strategic aims

1. To provide and promote high quality services that inspire and enable children, young people and adults with dyslexia to reach their potential

3. To give people with dyslexia a strong individual and collective voice

2. To influence and achieve positive change at a national and local level

4. To ensure that Dyslexia Scotland is a sustainable, efficient and effective organisation

Aim One - Our core services



Helpline



Tutor List



List of
Approved
Assessors



Assessments
on our premises



Employment
Service



Resources &
Leaflets



Conference, Roadshows,
Workshops & Training



Support of projects
for the
Scottish Government
and other partners



Local events and
activities by
Branches



Quarterly magazine



A website



Social Networks

“I passionately plea that more people will do more to achieve a better chance for those who could so easily be damaged, and even lost, by their own frustrations.”

**Sir Jackie Stewart,
President of Dyslexia Scotland**



Aim Two: Our Ambassadors – helping us to inspire change



- What prompted the change to build reserves?
- How was this decision made?
- What were the options?

- 2014-15: the Board's previous target to build its unrestricted reserves to a level equivalent to 3 months running costs for the organisation was increased to **6 months** running costs.
- **Why?** Projections for **income** and expenditure, current liabilities and an estimate of likely needs and risks over the next few years.
- In particular, 3 significant sources of restricted funding were **due to expire** in 2016 totalling **£213,500 /year**. **If not renewed, the unrestricted reserves would be needed to continue to run the charity whilst sourcing alternative funding.**
- **2015-16: all 3 significant sources of restricted funding were renewed.**
- 2016-17: Once these funding streams were confirmed, we recruited an Employment Adviser (May 2016) using some unrestricted reserves, as well as a George P. Livanos Foundation donation.

What has been working well? Any challenges?



Unrestricted reserves

- **Donations and legacies** (e.g. Just Giving donations; employee volunteering events; Gift Aid tax; nominated charity funds (SFA); general donations; Stirling Classic car show)
- **Income from charitable activities** (e.g. Membership fees; Conference fees; Training income; Assessment income; painting & book sales)
- **Investment income** (RBS interest: over £34,000 in 2014 and 2015)
- **Philanthropists and Gift Aid** (Sir Jackie Stewart, 2015: £50,000 & fees from media interviews; Peter Livanos, 2013 & 2016: £50,000)
- **Fundraising events** e.g. Inverquharity castle Art exhibition
- **Different responses** from Trusts about level of reserves

• Any key learning?



- Keep ongoing record of deadlines for funding reports
- Monitor funding streams and expiry dates – plan ahead
- Carefully consider purpose of fundraising events – can cost more in staff time than amounts raised. Is that time better spent on service delivery or targeted funding applications?
- If you receive large donations, clarify what the donors' expectations are and claim back gift aid if appropriate
- Build good working relationships with your funders and be honest about what you/they need – e.g. donation of jewellery for auction

Where is our organisation in our journey?

Aim Four: A sustainable, efficient and effective organisation

Sustaining funding

- 8 staff members (Employment Adviser and Events administrator joined us in 2016/2017)
- Projects e.g. new website and webchat (2015); Employment Service and Youth Day (2016); Dyslexia Unwrapped (2017)

Governance structure

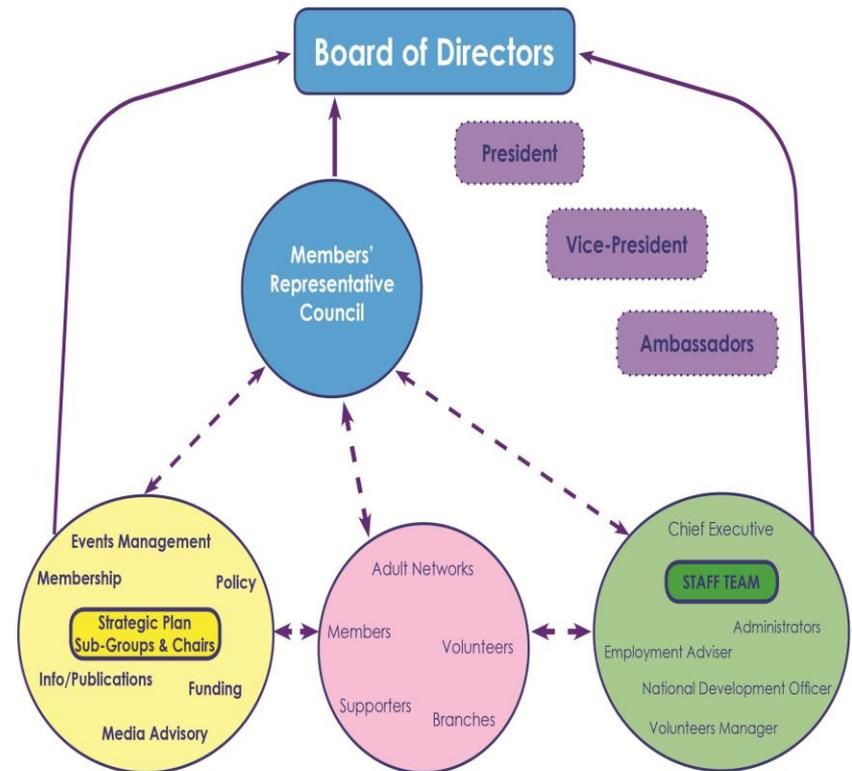
- Board, Council, Sub groups

Branches, Adult Networks, Volunteers

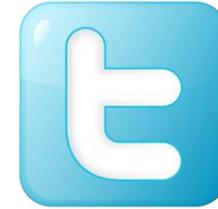
- Annual residential since 2013
- Working towards Investors in Volunteering Award
- 19 branches, 3 Adult Networks
- 117 national and 95 local volunteering roles

Membership

- Individual & Corporate membership



Connect with us



@dyslexiascotlan
@DSUnwrapped

www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk

www.unwrapped.dyslexiascotland.org.uk

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