



# TALK Surrey CIO

Supporting people with aphasia after stroke & brain injury

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-25



# **TALK Surrey CIO CONTACT DETAILS**

## **PATRONS**

Anne Milton

Peter Walker

## **TRUSTEES**

**Carol Sacchett**

*Interim Chair and SLT Liaison*

**Fred Fulcher**

*Treasurer (appointed June 2025)*

**Evelyne Collins**

*Volunteer Liaison*

**Gill Simmons**

*Safeguarding Lead*

**Clive Moon**

*Secretary*

**Tanya Gregory**

*IT Lead*

**Janette Turner**

*Service user involvement*

**Mike Waite**

*Service user representative*

*(appointed June 2025)*

## **OPERATIONS MANAGER**

Sharon Spurdle

## **GROUPS COORDINATOR**

Jenny Wilson

## **FUNDRAISING & DONATION ENQUIRIES**

[fundraising@talksurrey.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@talksurrey.org.uk)

## **REFERRALS AND VOLUNTEER ENQUIRIES**

07718 425953

email: [info@talksurrey.org.uk](mailto:info@talksurrey.org.uk)



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

## – CAROL SACCHETT

Welcome to our Annual Review for 2024-2025. We have a lot to be proud of this year and many people to thank.

Firstly, **thank you** to our two dedicated **staff members: Operations Manager, Sharon Spurdle and Groups Coordinator, Jenny Wilson.**

**Sharon** has worked hard to **raise awareness** of TALK's work among local speech and language therapists and voluntary organisations. This ensures we get a steady stream of new referrals.

- In 2024-25, we received **26 new referrals**.
- We currently support **68 members** and their families across our four groups.
- Each group completed **38 two-hour sessions** - a total of **304 hours** of social and communication support.

Sharon also recruited several **new volunteers** and organised **training** for them. We also ran **refresher training** for existing volunteers, delivered by a local speech and language therapist.

**Jenny** has provided excellent **support for our groups** and volunteers throughout the year. She sourced several **new external presenters** and helped organise **outings** to local places of interest.

We sincerely **thank all our wonderful volunteers**, especially our four volunteer **group leaders**, Marianne, Caroline, Evelyne and Carol.

Our volunteers planned and led an interesting and **varied programme of activities** during the year. Their care,

support and enthusiasm are central to our work and help members to feel included and engaged.

We also thank all our **members and their families** for their ongoing support.

We thank our **Board of Trustees** who work hard behind the scenes to ensure TALK can continue to provide much-needed support for people with aphasia.

We were sorry to lose **Phil Welland**, our new Chair, who left TALK in September 2024. Although he wasn't with us for long, Phil's input was much appreciated.

We also thank **Angel Wu**, who stepped down from the Board of Trustees in April 2024. Angel worked hard on TALK's behalf, supporting us with fundraising.

We are extremely grateful to **David Gunn**, who stepped down from the role of **Treasurer** at the end of March 2025 after more than 8 years with TALK. David worked tirelessly to ensure the financial stability of TALK. We will certainly miss his input to the Board.

Finally, we are grateful to all our **funders, donors and supporters**, large and small. We would not be able to continue without their help.

We are confident that **TALK remains in a strong position** at the end of the 2024-25 financial year, enabling us to continue our work and meet our objectives.

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024-25

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH OTHERS

- We continue to work closely with our local **NHS Integrated Stroke Delivery Network** and NHS Speech and Language Therapy services to make sure that people with aphasia have a voice.
- TALK delivered a 6-week **“Waiting Well” group** to support people with aphasia on the waiting list for NHS speech and language therapy. This was paid for by **Central Surrey Health**. The group offered information and support for people in the early stage of recovery. Group members and their carers learned new strategies for effective communication.
- We have liaised with local **minority ethnic communities** to **increase diversity** in our membership. We want to reach all people with aphasia in the local area.

## VOLUNTEER AND CARER EVALUATION

In 2024, students from **University College London** carried out interviews with some of our **Volunteers and Carers**. These highlighted the **benefits of TALK** for members, their families and our volunteers. **Key themes** were:

- **a sense of belonging**
- **increased confidence**
- **the value of peer support**

*He comes home having connected with people that matter to him and done something that feels positive to him for his speech.*

*It's nice meeting other people and getting their take on things. You just realise that you're not alone and that there are other people going through difficult times as well.*

*It's very rewarding when you actually get somebody who comes in new and has got no confidence at all. And ... they end up, you know, smiling and laughing and joining in and... just getting confidence really.*

*I think it's because they all know they're together, even the carers agree, and it is the - is the company and the togetherness.*

# WHY TALK?

Aphasia (also referred to as dysphasia) is a communication disability caused by damage to the language centre of the brain, often as a result of a stroke.

People with aphasia may have difficulty speaking, reading, writing and understanding what is being said.

The resulting frustration and isolation can impact not only on their quality of life but also that of family and friends.

People with aphasia often experience anxiety, depression and low self-esteem.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We aim to support people with aphasia by providing long term communication and social support to promote confidence, increase wellbeing and participation in the community.

### WE DO THIS BY:

- **Enabling them to practise all aspects of communication**
- **Familiarising them with strategies to aid conversation**
- **Helping them to rebuild confidence and self esteem**
- **Encouraging them to become socially independent**
- **Providing them and their families with information, advice and ongoing support. This includes peer support and an opportunity for carers to support each other.**
- **Helping them to live positively with aphasia following stroke**



# FUNDRAISING & PUBLIC AWARENESS

## Grant-making Trusts and Foundations

- In 2024/25, TALK secured **grants totalling £44,030**.
- We thank the following organisations for their continued support:
  - Bramley Nursing Association
  - Elmbridge Partnership Fund
  - The Masonic Charitable Foundation
  - The National Lottery Big Community Fund
  - St Peter's Relief in Sickness Fund
  - Walsingham Care
- We were very pleased to receive a new 5-year funding commitment from the **National Lottery Big Community Fund** starting in April 2024.
- The total award is **£143,000**. This provides significant stability to our charity's finances.

## Community Fundraising

- TALK received many generous **donations** from individuals. These came to a total of just over **£13,000**.
- We sincerely thank all those who contributed, in particular:
  - the family and friends of **Joy Shearman** (Walton group volunteer)
  - the family and friends of **Don Jones** (Guildford group member)
  - the family and friends of **Jennie Coope** (Walton group member)
  - **St Mary's Church, Send**

- We also raised over **£5,000** from **community events**. We thank:
  - the three riders who took part in the **Ride London 100-mile cycle** in June 2024, raising over £3,000.
  - **Abigail Large**, who ran the Surrey Half-Marathon in March 2025, raising £250.00 for TALK.
  - **Alexander Gurr**, who ran the Brighton Marathon in March 2025, raising over £1000 for TALK.

**ALTOGETHER, OUR TOTAL FUNDS RAISED THIS YEAR CAME TO £62,898.00.**

**WE WISH TO THANK ALL DONORS, FUNDRAISERS AND SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.**

## Public Awareness

- As well as building key relationships with healthcare professionals, TALK also seeks to educate the wider community about aphasia and TALK.
- If you know a local group that would like a short talk about what we do, please let us know

# TREASURER'S REPORT 2024-2025

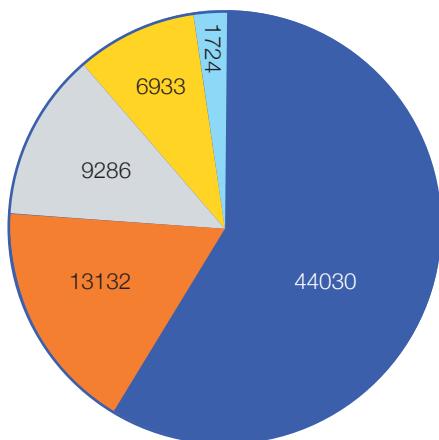
## Result for the year

- The result for the year to 31 March 2025 was a **surplus of £33,624**. (2024: surplus of £20,492). This is represented by a surplus of income over expenditure of £33,624 on unrestricted funds and break-even point on restricted funds.
- At the end of the financial year TALK maintained a balance of funds in excess of six months operating costs.

## Income

- Reported income for 2025 was **£75,145** (2024: £93,821).
- Total income from grant-making trusts was £44,030.
- The Charity will continue to seek funding from grant-making trusts towards core costs, so that unrestricted funding can be used for the benefit of group activities.
- The chart shows the importance of grant income. Some of the grants are awarded over a number of years which helps protect future funding.

### Income 2024-25



- Grants
- Bank interest
- Fundraising events

- Donations and legacies
- Member contributions

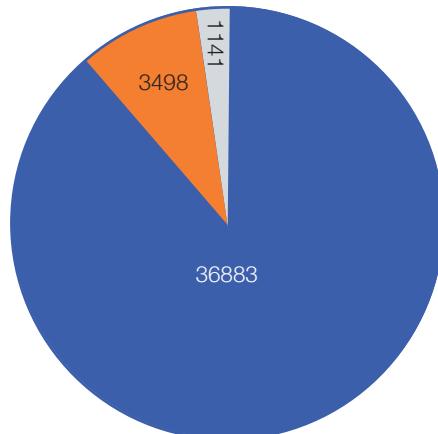
## Expenditure

The total costs for the year were £41,522 (2024: £73,329).

The reduction in costs compared to last year is due to savings on staff salaries. We were without a paid fundraiser for the whole year.

Trustees remain committed to carefully controlling expenditure and will continue to seek funding support for specific costs where appropriate.

### Expenditure 2024-25



- Charitable activities
- Governance
- Raising funds

# WHAT WE DO – OUR SERVICES

**There are four accessible TALK Groups in Surrey, located in:**

- **Walton on Thames - Monday pm**  
(*The Walton Centre, Walton on Thames, KT12 2PB*)
- **Guildford - Tuesday am**  
(*St. Catherine's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, GU2 4HF*)
- **Ashford - Wednesday am**  
(*Salvation Army, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, TW15 3JY*)
- **Knaphill – Thursday am**  
(*Dramatize Community Centre, Knaphill, Woking GU21 2SP*)

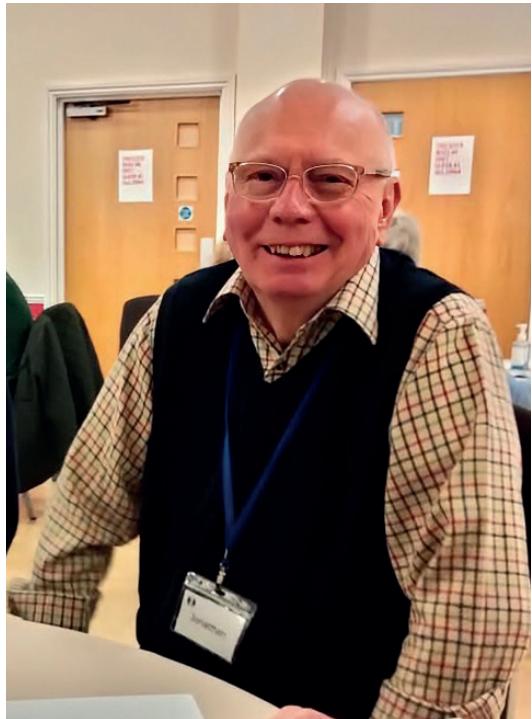
- **Trained volunteers work with people with aphasia within a group setting providing a friendly, understanding environment for supported conversations.**
- **Members can engage with other people with aphasia and take part in stimulating and varied group sessions with excellent communication support.**
- **Activities may include: discussions, aphasia-friendly worksheets, quizzes, music therapy, art therapy and outings.**
- **We work closely with speech and language therapists, the Stroke Association, social care teams, and other organisations supporting people with aphasia.**



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

As a small charity, TALK relies on its team of dedicated volunteers. Their work is essential in providing a highly valued service to people with aphasia.

We have over 45 volunteers who contribute hugely to the well-being of our service users. Our volunteers have excellent listening skills, show patience, understanding and enthusiasm in their work.



## Training and Support

- Induction training for new volunteers
- Speech and language therapist led training programme
- First aid training
- Safeguarding training
- Regular Volunteer Group Leader meetings providing updates and peer support
- Volunteer Planning meetings
- Ongoing support from Groups Coordinator, Volunteer Liaison Trustee and Operations Manager



# TALK Group Activities

## Walton group outing to Brooklands



## Ashford group enjoying their sessions



# TALK Group Activities

## Knaphill group outing to RHS Wisley



## Guildford group visit to Guildford Cathedral





[www.talksurrey.org.uk](http://www.talksurrey.org.uk)

Registered Charity: 1176014

