



# Autumn 2025 Newsletter

Issue 31

*Season's  
Greetings*



**LOLLIPOP (YORK & DISTRICT)**

Supporting children, young people and families with deafness

# Contents

## Welcome to the Autumn Term 2025 edition!

- Updates from the Trustees
- BSL Lessons - poll
- Upcoming activities for 2026
- Photos from Autumn Term activities
- Our brilliant Christmas Party!
- Castle Howard Christmas visit
- Fundraising and funding news and updates
- SEND Central – new York Hub!
- Christmas fun and games



**Cover and Contents images: Members meeting Stitch and trying out their circus skills at our Christmas Party.**

**BSL VIDEO**

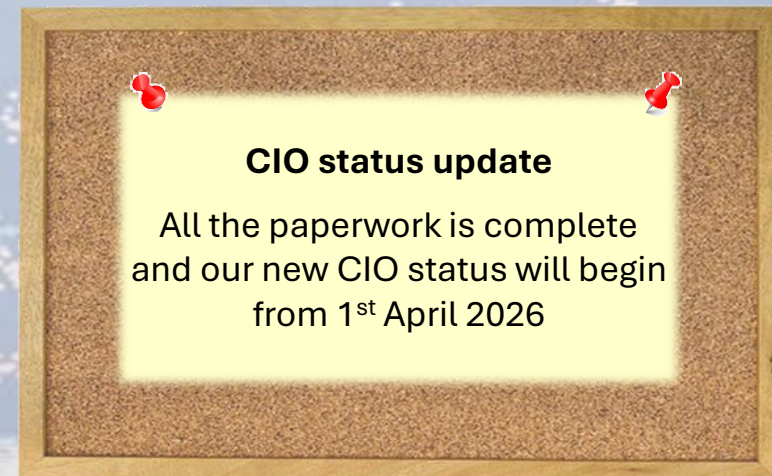
# Trustee Updates

## Our Trustees met in November for a regular meeting and our annual AGM

Our Service Manager, Heidi McCollin, left us for pastures new in September and we wish her the best of luck in her new role! Heidi had been with us since 2019 and saw Lollipop through a huge amount of change for which we are grateful. Operations Manager, Deb Walker has stepped up to fill the role, with the possibility of a new Service Manager, or similar role being recruited for in 2026 when our new funding period has begun.

All Trustees are continuing in their roles for another year, and we would love to hear from parents who would like to join our Board! To find out what's involved please contact Deb ([operationsmanager@lollipop.org.uk](mailto:operationsmanager@lollipop.org.uk))

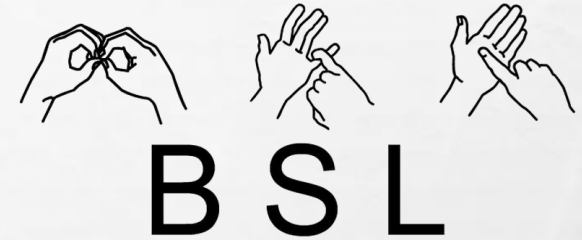
We would like to make a special mention in memory of Pam Saunders, great grandma to two Lollipop members and who was also an active member of our fundraising committee. Pam sadly passed away earlier this year and she is missed by staff and trustees who remember her enthusiasm and kindness. It is with enormous thanks to her family, friends and loved ones that donations were made to Lollipop in her memory.



**BSL VIDEO**

# BSL lessons poll results

In November we launched an online poll to gauge interest in BSL lessons. We had a great response from 29 families, and here is a summary of the results.



85% of respondents said they were most interested in lessons for the whole family to attend.

80% of respondents said they were interested in a longer course over one academic year that had the option of assessment for a qualification at the end.

90% of respondents said they would like themselves and/or their children to gain a BSL qualification at the end of the course.

Thank you for such a fantastic response! We will be working in the background to source funding for this brilliant potential new project!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

# Activities coming up in the New Year!



Membership is  
**FREE!** New  
members always  
welcome!

**FREE activities for deaf children and young people age 0 – 25 in York!**



## Spring Term 2026

|                           |            |                             |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| January 24 <sup>th</sup>  | Ages 8+    | Obliviar VR Experience      |
| January 25 <sup>th</sup>  | Ages 0-7   | Crazy Tykes Party           |
| February 28 <sup>th</sup> | Ages 0-5   | Little Llamas, Malton       |
| March 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Ages 6+    | Cook's Place, Malton        |
| March 21 <sup>st</sup>    | Ages 0 – 5 | Lollipop Lane, Selby        |
| March 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | Ages 6+    | Crazy Golf, York Golf Range |



There will be a BSL interpreter and/or communications support (as needed) at every event

Find our most up to date activity and membership information on our website and socials!  
[www.lollipopryork.org.uk](http://www.lollipopryork.org.uk) | @lollipopryork | @lollipopryorkanddistrict

**Our Activities Co-ordinator, Anna, has been busy planning these brilliant activities for members in the first few months of 2026!**

To members and parents – if you see Anna at activities and have ideas for activities you'd like to do, she'd love to chat to you!

Or send a message to her at

[info@lollipopryork.org.uk](mailto:info@lollipopryork.org.uk)



**BSL VIDEO**

# Autumn term activities

**Photo from our September activity at Agility!**



Our first activity of the new school year was held at Agility. It was for all ages to get together, and it was a huge turn out with over 60 members attending.

We had exclusive use of the venue to help ensure the most deaf-friendly environment, with delicious pizza served upstairs afterwards to recharge!

It was great to welcome new members we had met at the Summer activity at Newby Hall 😊

**BSL VIDEO**

# Photos from our October activities

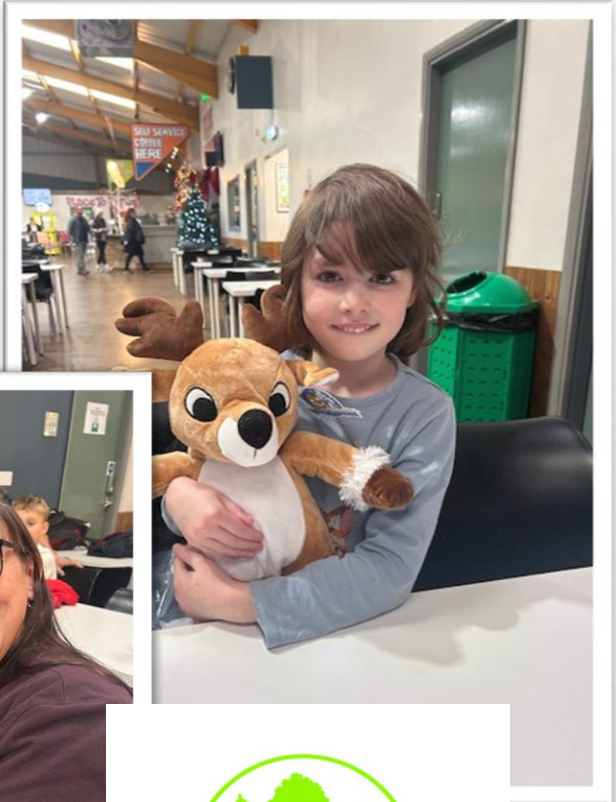
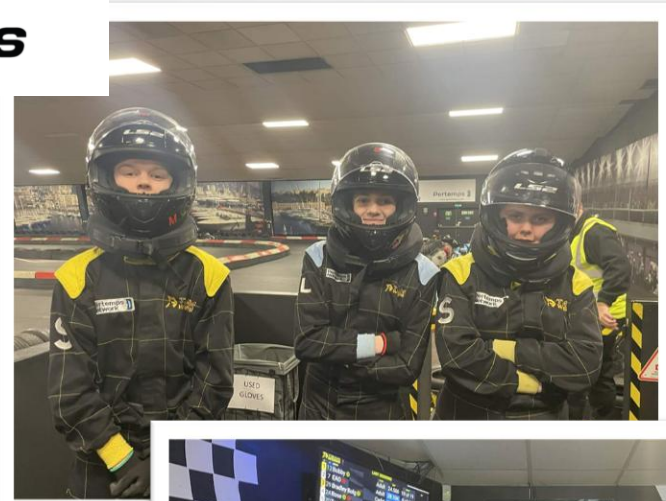
We had exclusive use of World of the Their Own and Action Zone in Harrogate and Knaresborough



# November activities

Photos from Teamworks go karting and The Web Adventure Park

**TEAMWORKS**

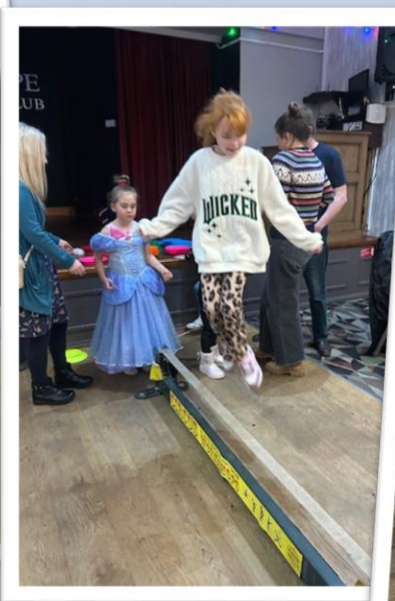


**theWeb**  
ADVENTURE PARK

A teddy bear making workshop for our younger members and go karting for members aged 8+

# Festive Fun!

Christmas party time at our annual party held at Bishopthorpe Social Club



Members loved meeting Stitch, trying out their circus skills with [Circus Skills York](#), and learning Christmas songs with [Sign with Sarah-Jade](#) and her BSL choir!

# Santa's grotto at Castle Howard!

A huge thank you to [Castle Howard](#) for hosting our younger members once again for a magical Christmas experience meeting Father Christmas's helpers and then the man himself!

Castle Howard source funding for this visit, which means our members and families attend for the whole day free of charge, with Lollipop funding one of the BSL interpreters.

Staff there have recently attended Deaf Awareness training with Doncaster Deaf Trust, and we are proud to partner with an organisation that invests in this training.



[Link to York Press article: Castle Howard awarded Deaf Awareness stamp of approval](#)

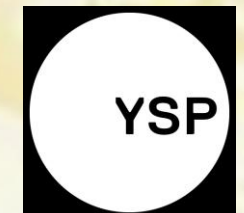
**BSL VIDEO**

# Fundraising news

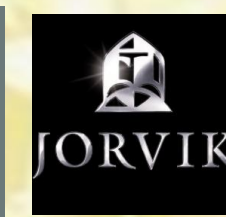
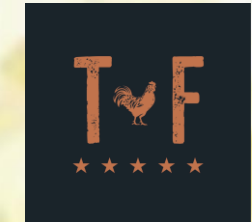
**Our Christmas Prize Draw and raffle total for 2025 is £1,120!**

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for the draw which took place at our Christmas Party on 7<sup>th</sup> December at Bishopthorpe Sports and Social Club.

Your support meant we raised a fantastic amount! Many generous businesses donated prizes this year and we send a huge thanks to them!



## Prize Donors 2025



**We have recently had successful funding applications with the Birkdale Trust (£2,500), The Silvia and Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust (£2,000) and the George A Moore Foundation (2,000).**

**BSL VIDEO**

# Fundraising news

Let's celebrate our fundraising superstars!



Lollipop parent Roy Gibson ran the Yorkshire Marathon in October, raising £1,289 and smashing his fundraising target!



Skelton Primary School's recent non-uniform day raised £64!



York-based company Onebright had a team paddling for Lollipop and Place2Be in the legendary York Dragon Boat Race in July. They raised a brilliant £686.15 for Lollipop – thank you so much!



Sign Senei run CPD events for sign language and communications professionals. They held a charity fundraising session in September and chose to donate the funds to Lollipop!

Thank you to the Charles Brotherton Trust who recently made a grant of £325

North Yorkshire County Council recently wound up one of their internal charities for community activities and donated a portion of the remaining fund, £1,458.47.

**BSL VIDEO**

# SEND Central

## York's new hub for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Lollipop's Operations Manager, Deb Walker and Parent Liaison Officer, Cheryl McBride visited the open event on Saturday 20th September and we hope to be a part of the community around the new hub in Clifton, so watch this space!



York SEND  
Local Offer

# SEND CENTRAL

Check out York's new hub for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families.

Pop in for information, advice and more! You do not need to have an Education Health and Care Plan.

The graphic features a blue background with colorful circles and a photo of a woman and a child working together at a table.



### Find us at

SEND CENTRAL, Clifton Children's Centre,  
Clifton Green Primary School, Kingsway  
North, Clifton, YO30 6JA

Or find out more about support for children  
and young people with SEND in York at  
[www.yorksend.org](http://www.yorksend.org)

Supported by:  **Raise York**  
Your Family Hub Network

Delivered by:  **CITY OF  
YORK  
COUNCIL**

The graphic includes a photo of the SEND Central building and a yellow footer with logos for Raise York and the City of York Council.

[SEND Click here to go to the City of York SEND Central webpage](#)

[BSL VIDEO](#)

# Christmas fun and games!

It's our favourite time of year to cosy-up with a puzzle!



Click on each puzzle to be taken to a print-out version!  
[Click here for emoji game answers](#)



Wishing all our members and supporters a fabulous Christmas and New Year!

**BSL VIDEO**