**Leave a Gift to Hearing Loss Cornwall**

At **Hearing Loss Cornwall** our funding is all generated locally and all our activities are focused on helping d/Deaf people in Cornwall.

With as many as 1 in 5 people in Cornwall living with deafness or hearing loss, this represents a huge proportion of our community facing daily challenges.

Your legacy will enable us to maintain and develop our services for the growing numbers of people having to adapt to this sensory loss.

**Hearing Loss Cornwall** acknowledges the devastating impact that lack of hearing, one of our major senses, has on an individual’s quality of life. Deafness remains “The Hidden Heartache”.

Because hearing loss tends to disrupt interpersonal communication and to interfere with perception of meaningful environmental sounds, some individuals experience significant levels of distress as a result of their hearing problems.

*“Most days I vacillate between acceptance and a barely perceptible desperation.”*

*“Ordering things over the phone has led to anxiety attacks”*

*“I cannot go on coping and pretending there is nothing wrong!”*

*“People at work sometimes think I am stupid!”*

*“I have no social life, I prefer not to go out – “I want to be around people but it’s difficult to convince them to come to my house and sit in a well-lit, silent room with just me”.*

Unfortunately, as well as the physical and emotional challenges that deafness presents, deafness and hearing loss is often still shrouded in stigma, shame and embarrassment.

A Gift in your Will does not have to be large to make a difference. Just a small percentage of what is left, after your loved ones are provided for, could have a huge impact.

**What we do**

**We are the only charity in Cornwall whose sole purpose is to support people who are Deaf or live with hearing loss.**

We are a small but dedicated team providing Deaf people and those with hearing loss access to the support they require to enable them to live more fulfilling lives, feel more empowered and less isolated.

Through communication, signposting, advocacy and practical support, we help people to acknowledge their hearing loss and be able to adjust to life with hearing challenges, working closely with audiology teams, Cornwall Council, businesses and service providers.

We also support the Deaf community in various ways. We especially try to ensure that vital communication support is in place for the non-hearing community to access medical, mental health, dental, social care agencies and other meetings or appointments which are necessary to aid their daily lives. We also liaise with the police, the magistrates and Crown Courts and mental health services or charities to ensure that Deaf people get the help they need when the “hearing” world creates barriers.

We provide specialist advice about hearing assistive aids and devices and offer a trial loan system on some devices. Everyone’s deafness is different and therefore there is a huge challenge in knowing what systems will be functional.

Offering practical support, advocacy, outreach sessions and deaf awareness trainings we are dedicated to helping d/Deaf people live their lives rather than battle through it.

**Why leave a legacy to Hearing Loss Cornwall?**

**Your Will is the simplest way for you to make sure that you provide for your family and friends and for any charity you choose.**

While deafness is rarely a condition that attracts much support or sympathy, anger, frustration, guilt, depression, paranoia, misinterpretation, loneliness, social anxiety, paranoia, social introversion, and stress are all emotions strongly related to hearing loss which all impact on people’s mental health.

With your legacy we can continue to work to enhance their sense of belonging and provide access into the hearing world that simply takes the wonderful world of hearing for granted.

**Message from our Executive Officer**

Not to hear those retched seagulls, the baby crying, the loud music and people arguing - sounds” good? Not really, as being Deaf or experiencing hearing loss removes you from full engagement in everyday things. What you lose is people – conversation, banter, gossip and information! Even family and friends can be intolerant of deafness!

Hearing loss has been described as a ‘ticking timebomb’, as by 2030, it will be amongst the top ten disabilities in the world – above diabetes and cataracts, yet deafness and hearing loss remain a hidden disability.

Daily, we work with people who struggle through even mundane tasks and things we take for granted. Our aim is to be there to offer support and guidance. By donating to Hearing Loss Cornwall, you can help us to provide essential services to Deaf people or those living with hearing loss in Cornwall.

Hearing Loss Cornwall are seeking support to broaden the scope of “Deaf Awareness Trainings” to medical and social care providers, care homes, educational centres and businesses to create a level of awareness that enables society to engage appropriately with the many people affected by this isolating condition and be more understanding of their challenges.

While current numbers of people living with hearing loss in Cornwall are estimated at 1 in 5, add to this figure the number of younger people projected to go deaf much younger, due to the use of personal hearing systems, and we are presented with a challenging statistic! Further to this are the higher than national average number of Deaf BSL users in the Duchy who rely on vital communication support that we provide.

If you decide that you want to leave a legacy to help Hearing Loss Cornwall to continue our essential work then please discuss your decision with your family so that they are made aware and are supportive of your intention to leave us a gift in your Will. As there are a number of different types of gifts you can leave, you will want to have an understanding of what your preferred option is. Whatever your choice, you can be assured that every penny will be spent wisely for the benefit of people in Cornwall.

Hearing Loss Cornwall looks forward to developing its future, to be vital and relevant in generations to come. On behalf of everyone who is Deaf or affected by deafness or hearing loss, I would like to thank for your consideration in supporting our local charity.

**Thank you!**

**Clare Greenwood, Executive Officer**

**Why make a Will?**
While we understand that you will want to ensure that your family and loved ones are best cared for, you may also wish to donation to your chosen cause/s Do not assume that your money and property will automatically go to your family.

If you die without leaving a will, the law dictates who inherits what you leave. If you thought that you had left people well provided for they could face great difficulties without a valid will so don’t put it to one side for a rainy day, make sure you act now.

**Executors** - These are people you select to act for you after your death, who are responsible for the terms of your will being complied with. They have legal responsibilities to collect in your assets and pay any debts, such as your funeral bill, and then distribute your assets to those people named in your will. Somebody who is to benefit under a will can also be an Executor but all your Executors must be over 18 years of age. Sometimes it can be difficult to ask friends and family to be your Executors, in which case please remember that your solicitor can offer this service.

 **Charitable Giving** - If you feel you would like to leave a legacy to a charity that is special to you, any gift to a UK registered charity is free of Inheritance Tax and will be deducted from your estate (your money, possessions and property) before the Tax is worked out.

**Ways you can leave gifts to charity in your Will** - You can either leave a fixed sum (known as a ‘Pecuniary Legacy’) or part or all of your estate once other gifts have been distributed (known as a ‘Residuary Legacy’). Giving is simple and you will just need to tell your solicitor the name of the charity you favour (you can specify a local branch if you prefer) and they will take care of the rest

**Updating your Will** - If your circumstances change – if you move home, get married or divorced or have children you need to amend your Will. You should speak to your solicitor for more information.