



Annual Impact Report

For the year ending March 2025

The Uphill Ski Club of Great Britain t/a Disability Snowsport UK

DSUK
Disability Snowsport UK

Why does adaptive snowsport matter?

Disabled children and adults across the UK say that they are not as physically or socially active as they'd like to be. The number of disabled people in the UK is rising and therefore the need that DSUK meets is growing too.

Overall, in the UK there are around 16.1 million disabled people across all age groups. Around 11% of children and 23% of working age adults are disabled.

Snowsport helps people to be happy, active and make friends. It enables freedom, independence, and wellbeing through activity.



Who are Disability Snowsport UK?

The charity grew out of a project to help people with cerebral palsy improve their coordination and balance during the 1970's led by consultant paediatrician David Morris. In 1982 The Uphill Ski Club was registered as a charity. After two other disability snowsport groups joined together with the Uphill Ski Club, Disability Snowsport UK was created.

Our Vision

Mountains and ski slopes free from barriers where disabled people can learn and take part alongside family, friends and community.

Our Mission

To make snowsport accessible for everyone, regardless of disability, injury, mental health, neurodiversity or experience



We ask ourselves each day “What do disabled people want from Disability Snowsport UK?”

Disability Snowsport UK
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Our Values

Welcoming: Everyone is included, respected, and supported.

Listening: People are treated as experts in their own lives, and the charity listens to the whole community to understand their needs.

Challenging & Supporting: By working collaboratively with individuals and partners, the charity helps people grow, reach their goals, and achieve meaningful progress.

Transparent: The charity is open, fair, and honest in its actions, communication, and feedback.

Activity at a glance

- **5,839 adaptive snowsport lesson attendances** — a 54% increase on targets and 20% higher than pre-pandemic levels.
- **1,534** individual children and adults participated in lessons across nine UK snowsport schools.
- **853 members** including children, adults, families, partners and volunteers.
- **67** skiers, snowboarders, and carers joined our Andorra holiday programme, supported by Crystal Ski.
- **9 local groups** providing recreational sessions across the UK, including the successful relaunch of the Scotland group.
- Recognised as **Paralympics GB x Toyota Every Body Moves Club of the Year 2024** for our commitment to inclusion.



Impact

Disability Snowsport UK’s members and learners are a diverse group of people. We work with individuals and families from across the UK with a wide range of long-term conditions, impairments and injuries.

Their ages range from the under 9s (10.21%) to the over 70s (1.12%). The biggest age group are 10 – 19 years old (38.95%).

Sometimes people think of adaptive skiing as sit skiing, but what we offer is as likely to be for stand-up skiers and snowboarders who require specialist help to learn as for those who use specialist equipment.

Learners and families consistently rate their lessons five out of five stars.

Around half of members tell us us their mobility is affected by their condition or impairment, and many of our learners are stand up skiers and or snow boarders. Learners tell us that their disabilities have a significant impact on their day to day lives. Day-to-day activities include independently (without help) getting dressed, putting on your shoes, eating and drinking.

Learners

We asked how snowsport has made an impact on participants’ quality of life. Participants were asked to rate answers from 0 to 10, with 0 being 'No Improvement' and 10 being 'Exceptional Improvement'. Impact across all areas was fairly to very high.

How has your involvement with Disability Snowsport UK changed the following aspects of your life?	Average
The opportunity to take part in something fun and exhilarating.	8.58
Feelings of freedom and independence.	8.00
The state of your mental wellbeing.	7.89
Self-confidence and sense of achievement.	7.87
Access to inclusive activities, that you can participate in alongside friends and family.	7.21
Physical fitness (e.g. stamina, balance, co-ordination, core strength)	7.08
An increase in understanding amongst family/friends/others of your skills and potential.	6.79
A change in understanding amongst family/friends/others of your disability/condition.	6.53
Access to social opportunities and the snowsport community.	6.19

Impact

“Learned that even when told things aren’t possible finding the correct people you can make things possible with a little help”

“It has made me more bold, brave and encourage others to do/be the same”

“The ski activity has helped rebuild my strength & mobility, which are still progressing – this progression has allowed me to return to other sports hobbies, improved my quality of life”

DSUK activity has inspired 75% of participants to go out and do new and different things their daily lives.

“Get a new job, but also to seek out new active sports that I didn’t think was possible with my condition”

Participating in snowsport has helped parents and carers better understand their child’s potential and their disability. They tell us that their own wellbeing has improved too:

- “I didn’t realise how much coordination he had until I saw him ski.”
- “She’s more focused and determined than I ever gave her credit for.”
- “It’s changed how I think about what’s possible for him in the future.”
- “It’s made us all more adventurous.”

Feedback from parents and carers helps us to understand the impact on children or people who can’t complete member and learner surveys themselves. Importantly, it also shines a light on the difference adaptive snowsport and DSUK’s services make for families as a whole.

Parents & Carers

We asked parents and carers: ‘Since your family member/person you support started activity with DSUK, how much of an improvement have you experienced in the following (that you believe to be as a direct result of or directly connected to DSUK activity).’ Answers were rated from 0 to 10, with 0 being 'No Improvement' and 10 being 'Exceptional Improvement'.

Questions about how DSUK has made an impact on your quality of life	Average
Your understanding of the participant’s skills and potential.	8.38
Changes to your mental well-being.	7.65
Access to inclusive activities, that you can take part in with the participant, and with the wider family/group.	7.52
Opportunities for you to have time for yourself.	7.00
Your understanding of the participant’s disability/health condition.	6.92
Changes to your physical well-being.	6.15
Opportunities for you to socialise and meet others with similar experiences and situations.	6.12

Strategic pillars

Disability Snowsport UK's current strategy focusses on four key areas.



Building a Strong Adaptive Snowsport Community

Our adaptive snowsport community continues to grow, with participants reporting life-changing experiences. **Learners and families consistently rate their lessons five out of five stars, highlighting increased confidence, independence, and joy.**

Local volunteer-led groups remain the heart of DSUK — providing regular recreational and social snowsport opportunities. Hundreds of volunteers contribute their time, ensuring disabled skiers and snowboarders can progress and belong.

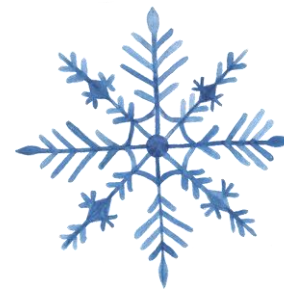
Creating an Inclusive Snowsport Sector

We work closely with industry and charity partners, Snowsport Scotland, Snowsport England, and the British Association of Snowsport Instructors to make the sector more inclusive.

Key achievements this year include:

- Safeguarding audit and funded programmes for new learners.
- Supporting the development of adaptive qualifications and coaching pathways.
- Corporate partnerships raising awareness of accessibility in the snowsport industry.

Our partnership with the Royal British Legion for the Invictus Winter Games demonstrated the transformative power of sport for recovery and mental wellbeing.





This is Josh, shortly after abseiling off the Forth Bridge to raise funds for DSUK



Fundraising with purpose

Fundraising with purpose means focussing on our ‘why’, and inspiring people to take action to support the development of adaptive snowsport for the benefit of disabled children and adults, and their families. It complements all of our strategic objectives, in line with our vision and values. In 2024/25 we raised:

- Donations and legacies: £263,497 (2024: £300,635)
- Other trading activities: £100,862 (2024 £60,781)

Fundraising remains vital to keeping adaptive snowsport affordable. We’ve diversified income through prize draws, third-party events, and new retail and training initiatives launching in 2025–26.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, fundraisers and partners — including Crystal Ski, Ellis Bringham, IGLU Ski, and Brigade Electronics — and to the many charitable trusts and foundations supporting our mission.



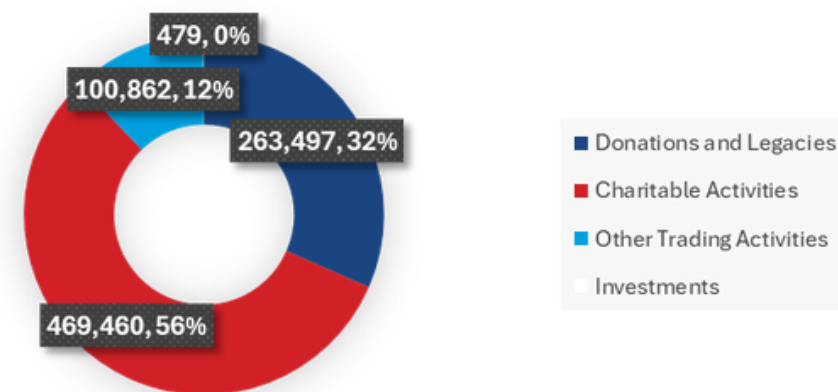
A Sustainable and Resilient Organisation

Following the impact of the pandemic, DSUK has stabilised operations and strengthened governance. Key developments include:

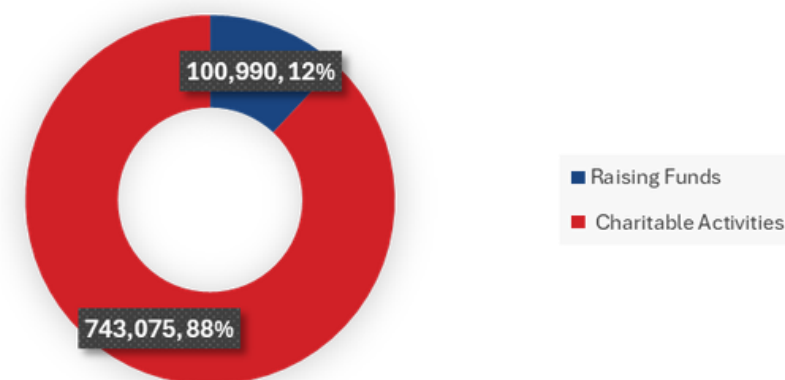
- A regional management structure improving local delivery and connected leadership.
- Enhanced safeguarding, risk management, and asset maintenance programmes.
- Expanded fundraising and operations teams to better serve members and volunteers.
- Reduced major risks from 44% to 8% of total identified risks.

Finance

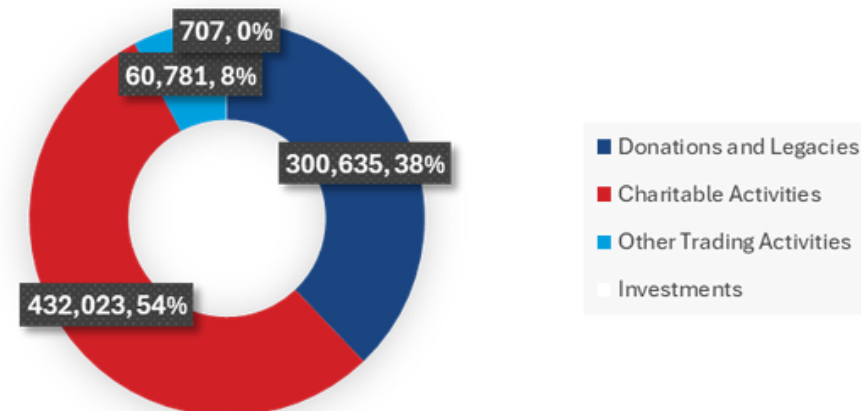
Income 2025



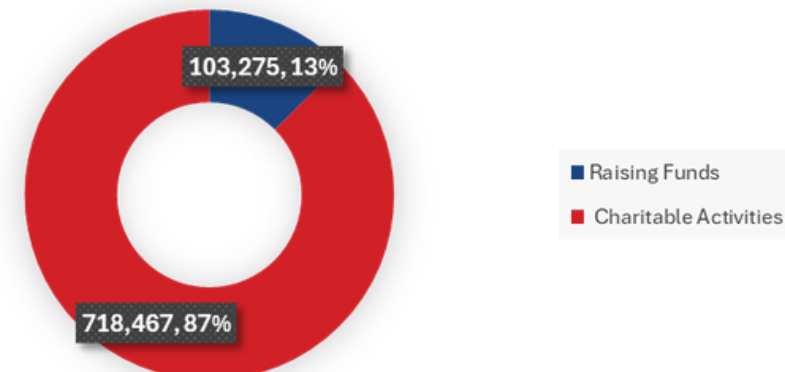
Expenditure 2025



Income 2024



Expenditure 2024



	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024
Net Income / (Expenditure)	(15,700)	5,933	(9,767)	(5,082)	(22,514)	(27,596)

After some challenging years due to the pandemic, Disability Snowsport UK is on the road to recovery.

The Audit & Risk committee monitor finances on a monthly basis and we've successfully reduced our deficit from – £142,420 at its peak in 2021 to –£9,767. 2025/26 will put the organisation back into a surplus.

Financial position:

- Total expenditure: £844,065
- Deficit: £9,767 (largely due to depreciation, not cash loss)
- Total reserves: £131,703 (2024: £141,470)
- Free unrestricted reserves: £56,672
- Target reserves for 2025–26: £172,000 (met post year-end)

You can read the full accounts here <https://bit.ly/3LVMyy6>

Robinson's story

Robinson lives with multiple complexities, cerebral palsy, severe epilepsy, is a fulltime wheelchair user, is non-verbal and has severe learning difficulties. As a pupil at Foxfield School for children with special educational needs in Wirral, he took part in a bi-ski session at the Snow Centre.

That first experience on the slopes was transformative. Robinson became visibly energised, awake, smiling and fully alert. His mum described it as the most engaged she had seen him in a long time.

Since then, skiing has become a regular and essential part of Robinson's life. He now skis once or twice a month, and the benefits are profound. His mum, Maureen, explains:

"He wakes up as soon as he gets to the Snow Centre. The six to eight runs he gets give him an exciting rush and the cold air must have a real effect on his mental state. Robinson instinctively moves with the turns and bumps and each run helps him engage his core muscles. He is so awake, engaged and animated and he's excited to communicate with me and the instructors through noises, eye contact and movements of his head and body."

Maureen would like to Robinson to go more often but with the family having limited income this isn't always easy. Even so, Maureen sees the bi ski sessions as great value for money, considering the enjoyment Robinson gets out of them and the impact this has on his quality of life.

Robinson's journey on the snow has continued to grow – he has skied with Ross at our Snowsport School at Cairngorm Mountain and his family is now planning his first ever ski trip to Austria this March. He'll be able to ski alongside his sister and experience the amazing snowy mountain environment – a milestone they once never imagined possible.

"Skiing is so unique – there's no other activity that affects him like this. It's amazing to see."

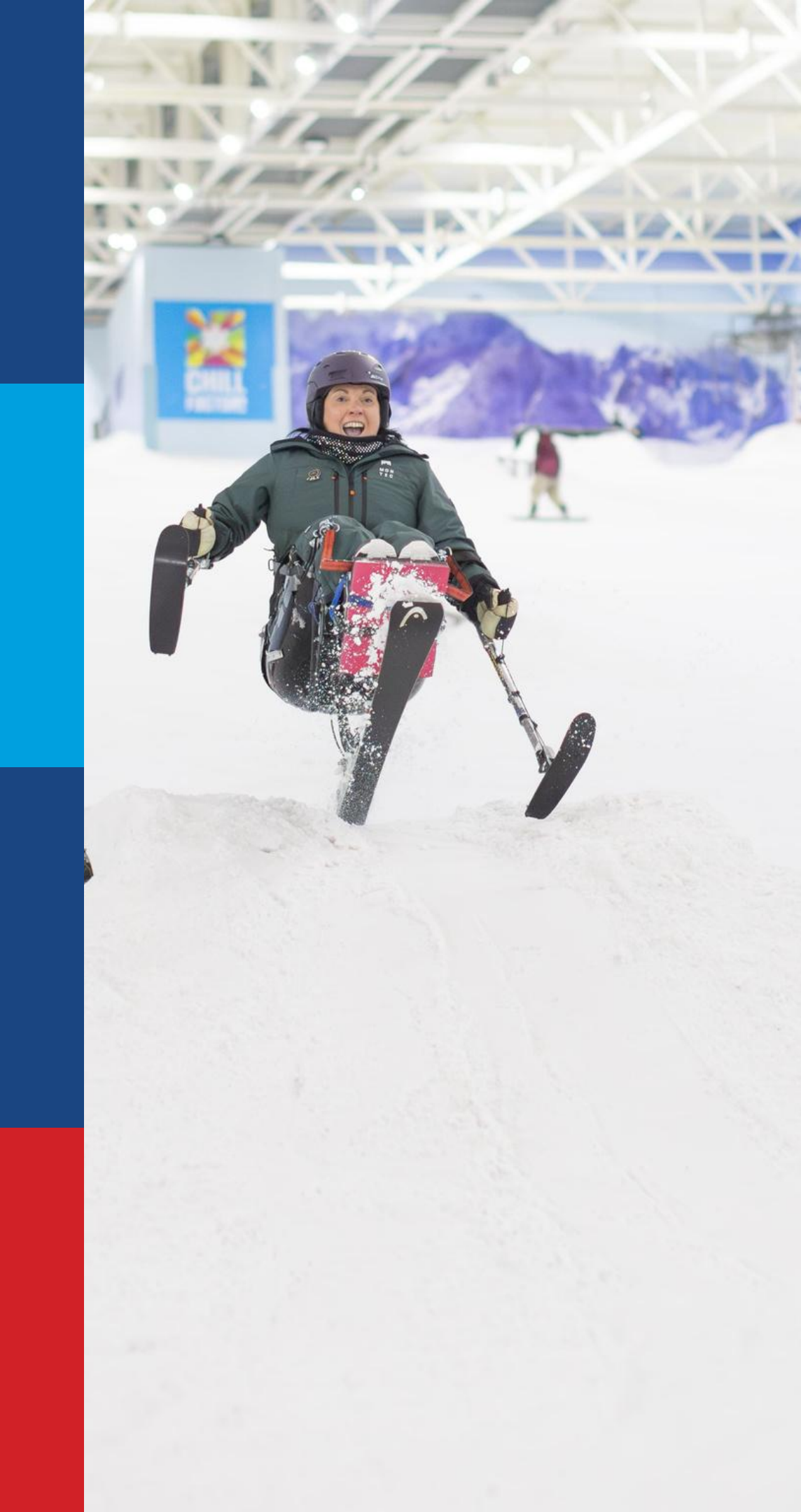


Invictus Winter Games 2025

DSUK worked with the Royal British Legion and Team UK snowsport athletes at the first **Invictus Winter Games 2025**, achieving six medals in sports coached by DSUK. The programme inspires recovery and rehabilitation. The lead snowsport coach, Liz Clifford tells us:

“Ultimately what's helped the team to achieve this is by participating in sport whilst being reassured that they are valued, seen and heard. To then see so many of them finding joy in the activity and simply saying 'That's so much fun, when can we do that again' is beyond words.”



A photograph of a person in a green ski suit and helmet jumping over a snow mound in an indoor ski facility. The person is wearing a green jacket, black pants, and a black helmet. They are in mid-air, with their skis visible. The background shows a large indoor ski area with a blue wall and a sign that says "CHILL FACTORY".

Next steps

Looking Ahead: 2025–26 Priorities

- Launch a learner certificate scheme to track and celebrate progress.
- Develop a state of the nation report on inclusivity in snowsport.
- Support adaptive qualification development with national governing bodies.
- Build a new website and work towards Cyber Essentials accreditation.
- Introduce a legacy and in-memory giving programme.
- Expand impact reporting and data collection to demonstrate outcomes.
- Continue to grow partnerships with other disability organisations, sector partners, allied health professionals, venues and schools and raise awareness across the UK and beyond.

Volunteers and Member Engagement

Volunteers are the backbone of DSUK — from instructors and holiday helpers to fundraisers and board members.

The Skiers & Snowboarders Involvement Group (SSIG) ensures that people with lived experience shape our decisions, policies, and strategy.

Our annual member surveys and AGM weekend continue to strengthen community connection and co-production.

Thank You

Every lesson, every smile, and every achievement is made possible by our community — learners, families, volunteers, donors, partners, and staff.

Together, we are changing lives and proving that snowsport truly is for everyone.

Learn more or support our work at <https://www.disabilitysnowsport.org.uk>

Disability Snowsport UK (The Uphill Ski Club of Great Britain)

Scottish Charity Number: SC040699 | Charity Commission Number: 287106

Company Number: 01681335 (England and Wales)

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