

MS CENTRE DORSET

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

OUR MISSION

*To encourage and support local people living with
multiple sclerosis in attaining their full potential*

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ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

MS CENTRE DORSET is a registered charitable incorporated organisation

Charity registration number: 1182285

Address: Church Lane
West Parley
Ferndown
Dorset BH22 8TS

Trustees and manager

During the year and up to the date of signing of this report, the following persons served as Trustees:

Mr Keith Hunt (Trustee since 1 March 2019)
Mrs Sam Simon (resigned on 1 June 2024)
Miss Deborah Trickett (resigned 1 July 2024)
Mrs Anne Wilson-Croome (resigned 1 September 2024)
Mrs Sara Walker (appointed 4 July 2024)
Mr Robert Osborough (appointed 4 July 2024)
Mrs Elizabeth Neal (appointed 8 August 2024)
Mrs Louise Fazakarley (appointed 6 June 2025)

Miss Tina Cresswell resigned as Centre Manager with effect from 31 December 2024.
Mrs Diana Logan-Watts was appointed as Centre Manager with effect from 1 January 2025.

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc
CAF Bank Ltd

Accountants: Newton Magnus Ltd
Arrowsmith Court
Station Approach
Broadstone
Dorset BH18 8AT

TRUSTEES' REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, governance and management

MS Centre Dorset (MSCD) is a charitable incorporated organisation, incorporated on 1 March 2019. The governing document is our constitution adopted on 2 November 2018, and amended on 5 October 2021. The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees, which meets quarterly. There are currently five Trustees, two of whom are users of the Centre.

MSCD was dormant until 15 December 2022, when it acquired all the assets and liabilities of the former Bournemouth branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and it took over the management of the Osborne Centre in West Parley. The building and land remain the property of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, who have provided MSCD with a 50 year lease on a peppercorn rent.

One of the Trustees who served during the year were former members of the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Bournemouth Branch, who previously ran the Osborne Centre.

Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms before they must retire from the Board, but may be reappointed after a break of 6 months. Any person who is willing to act, and who would not be disqualified from acting, as a trustee may be appointed by a decision of the Board of Trustees. The trustees have undertaken a trustee skills audit to identify gap areas in the skills, knowledge and experience of the Board. Following the year end one new Trustees have been appointed to the Board: Mrs Louise Fazakarley (who has a physio background)

Our Trustee Induction pack sets out key documents, policies and procedures. New trustees are invited to meet with key members of the Centre, our service users and other stakeholders to understand the culture and priorities of MSCD and are offered suitable training and support where needed.

Any decision of the Board of Trustees must be by a majority of the trustees present and voting at a quorate meeting. Decisions may also be made by a majority of the trustees voting by electronic means, unless one or more of the trustees has a conflict of interest. In the event of an equality of votes, the chair of the meeting has a second or casting vote. Trustees are required to declare any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest before any voting takes place.

The day-to-day management of the Osborne Centre has been delegated to the Centre Manager, who has established an Operations Committee to assist her in the execution of her responsibilities.

The trustees have reviewed the major risks to which MSCD is exposed, and have put in place systems and procedures to mitigate and manage all identified risks, including, but not limited to, safeguarding, health and safety and finance.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity, as set out in our constitution, are:

- (a) To support and relieve people affected by multiple sclerosis,
- (b) To encourage people affected by multiple sclerosis to attain their full potential as members of society by improving their conditions of life,

At our centre in West Parley, we provide a welcoming and safe environment where local people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) can socialise, meet and support one another. We offer our members a range of exercise and physical activities to help them stay mobile, active and independent. Our centre allows day respite for families and relatives of people living with MS. Through MateS, we offer support and knowledge, in a neutral location and outside normal business hours, to people who are recently diagnosed.

The centre has been running since 1984 and until December 2015 was managed by the Bournemouth branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, a national charity headquartered in London. When the Multiple Sclerosis Society determined it no longer wished to run day centres it offered the Bournemouth branch committee members the opportunity to take over the management of the centre. MSCD was created in 2019 for this purpose. The actual transfer of the operations was stalled through the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. It finally took place on 15 December 2022.

The charity has one member of staff – the Centre Manager – who has been in post since 1 January 2025. We also have a team of around 40 volunteers who help with activities and services.

Our centre is open from 9am until 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have a well-equipped physio suite, where our service users can participate in a variety of different exercise activities. We have a service level agreement with a local firm of physiotherapists, who oversee all the exercise activities, including group classes and individual exercises.

Our exercise equipment includes motorised bikes, standing frames, tilt tables, and weights. In addition, we organise weekly yoga classes suitable for both ambulant and wheelchair users, which are run by a qualified yoga teacher. We also have a tai chi class which we offer once a week. We encourage all our service users to participate in some form of exercise suitable to their level of activity.

Our day centre provides a welcome environment where many of our service users meet and socialise after an exercise class or stay for the whole day. Our kitchen is run by volunteers providing teas, coffees, cake, and lunch.

We have engaged a local firm of qualified carers. Two qualified carers are on site during opening hours to support any service user needing personal care assistance or help with feeding.

We have a fleet of five fully-adapted minibuses, which we use to transport service users needing travel assistance to and from the centre. All drivers and driver assistants are volunteers and are subject to DBS checks.

Achievements and performance during the year

On average, around 50 service users attended the Centre on each day it was open, almost all of whom participated in some form of physical activity. We provided exercise classes, one-to-one mobility sessions, seated yoga, Tai Chi and static bike sessions. As well as offering our service users the opportunity to meet and socialise with other users, craft activities and quizzes were organised by some of our volunteers. We also contracted a hairdresser to visit regularly providing washes, cuts, blow dries and dyes – this was especially appreciated by our members who find it impossible to get to a salon.

Other much enjoyed functions were Christmas lunches on the 2 days we were open in the week leading up to Christmas, with carols to sing along to, and occasional accompanied trips in our minibuses to local attractions on days that the Centre was not open

We offered our service users free lunches during the winter months from grants received for providing food and warmth.

Financial review of the year

Income receipts for the year totalled £164,675, which included a legacy of £31,369, two restricted grants totalling £9,395 and one restricted donation totalling £3,259. Expenditure for the year was £185,494.

The charity had no endowment funds at any time during the year.

Our opening bank balance on 1 April 2024 was £182,214 and our carried forward balance at the end of the year was £160,870, which include our newly opened savings and business account, with CAF Ltd, during the year. We are now holding a cash balance of £525, which is predominately cash for floats required during various fairs.

The trustees review, on a regular basis, the financial risks that the charity faces and the possible financial impact this could have on our operations. We have determined that between six and nine months of free reserves should be sufficient to allow us to respond to any potential shortfall in income receipts or unexpected expenditure.

As part of our strategic planning, the trustees are in the process of reviewing how the additional reserves over and above the stated level can be best spent for the benefit of our service users.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The trustees regard MSCD's provision as manifestly for the public benefit in that it provides a safe, accessible, supportive and welcoming environment for local people living with multiple sclerosis to participate in physical and social activities, improving both their physical and mental health. Many of our users tell us they see their regular visits to the Centre as a highlight to their week when they have very limited other opportunities to be out of their homes and in company of like-minded people.

Our day centre also offers family carers of our service users a few hours respite each week, which is essential to their health and wellbeing.

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity law and good practice requires the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the charity's affairs, of its income and expenditure for each accounting year and a statement of assets and liabilities at year end.

In order to achieve this, the trustees must comply with their obligation under the Charities Act 2011 with regards to the keeping of accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements are accurate and comply with applicable accounting regulations.

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees' Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 4 December 2025



Elizabeth Neal
Trustee



Keith Hunt
Trustee

MS CENTRE DORSET

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of MS Centre Dorset

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 10 & 11.

Respective responsibilities of members and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144) of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is required.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145(1)(a) of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b)) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

MS CENTRE DORSET

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.


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C Dunn FCCA
Newton Magnus
Chartered Certified Accountants
Arrowsmith Court
Station Approach
Broadstone
Dorset BH18 8AT

Date: 10 December 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year to 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Previous year to the nearest £
Receipts				
Donations from service users	63,058	-	63,058	51,325
Donations – other	34,062	3,259	37,321	50,723
Legacies	31,369	-	31,369	2,500
Grants	712	9,395	10,107	8,275
Gift aid	-	-	-	1,313
Fundraising activities	21,750	-	21,750	24,660
Interest	225	-	225	-
Sales of Goods purchased for resale	333	-	333	-
Sub total	151,508	12,654	164,162	138,796
Asset & investment sales	513	-	513	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	151,706	12,654	164,675	138,796
Payments				
Light and heating	5,734	-	5,734	9,072
Water, sewerage, cleaning	9,501	-	9,501	8,832
Repairs and maintenance	15,638	-	15,638	10,991
Insurance	2,580	-	2,580	2,273
Telephone, internet	898	-	898	599
Printing, postage, stationery	718	-	718	1,135
Marketing/fundraising costs	1,695	-	1,695	3,582
Food and drinks	6,363	5,998	12,361	11,051
Transport	23,123	-	23,123	21,235
Carers	20,181	-	20,181	18,822
Charitable activities	50,195	-	50,195	45,306
Employment costs	12,302	-	12,302	10,581
Volunteer expenses	599	-	599	1,676
Bank charges	476	-	476	254
Legal and accounting expenses	6,264	-	6,264	1,287
Staff training	792	-	792	80
IT software and support	3,212	-	3,212	180
Cost of Goods purchased for resale	1,524	-	1,524	-
Sub total	161,785	5,998	167,784	146,956
Asset & investment purchases				
Bikes, standing frame, garden furniture, computer	14,451	3,259	17,710	7,356
Sub total	14,451	3,259	17,710	7,356
TOTAL PAYMENTS	176,236	9,257	185,494	154,312
Net of receipts	(24,216)	3,397	(20,819)	(15,516)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds previous year end	181,216	998	182,214	197,730
Cash funds this year end	157,000	4,395	161,395	182,214

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
Cash funds	Current account	56,245	4,395	-
	Business account	5	-	-
	Savings account	100,225	-	-
	Petty Cash	525	-	-
	Total cash funds	157,000	4,395	-
Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Investment assets	None	-	-	-
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Motor vehicles	Unrestricted		
	Exercise equipment	Unrestricted		
	Furniture, fixtures and fittings	Unrestricted		
	Computer equipment	Unrestricted		

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Liabilities	Sundry suppliers	Unrestricted	7,049	April 2025

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Elizabeth Neal, Trustee
Date: 4/12/25

Keith Hunt, Trustee
Date: 4/12/25