

DSO TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR PERIOD TO END OF 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

“What a truly wonderful place, everyone was so friendly & made me so welcome”(Local MP Gen Kitchen)

The DSO Board of Trustees continues to be humbled by the feedback which we receive on a weekly basis; we are told that, even after six years, we continue to bring joy to so many people for whom DSO provides support whether they be carers or those living with dementia (“Its lovely to see his spark & humour reignited”). Equally as Trustees we continually draw attention to those who selflessly give in their own way by volunteering as the Charity continues to thrive on the efforts of an amazing level of commitment and support from unpaid volunteers. The DSO website content & social media platforms provide a graphic into the charity’s weekly activities for anyone seeking proof of what we are told are “moments of magic”;

II. OVERVIEW of CHARITY’S ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST REPORT

We are acutely aware of the logistical difficulties facing both Care Homes and those living privately in terms of accessing our weekly sessions. One initiative which we trialed is that of a Transport Grant to enable those living privately to attend more easily. Our increased commitment to networking across the local Charity sector has enabled us to both spread DSO’s word but also share experiences and lessons learned with other organisations. An obvious result of this is that numerically, as our data collection since the Charity’s previous Annual Report illustrates, our reach is increasing (an average in-person attendance of 110 in 2024 which in 2025 has increased further still to 135) with the associated pressures which this places upon our organisation. The simple issues of the requisite layout of the room, the moving of chairs and tables, the provision of an increased number of teas and coffees and car-parking pressures have each placed demands on us for which we have had to find solutions.

Feedback from our clients is that there remains a real appetite for more than one weekly session. We have withstood this development up to this point largely because of the burden upon Trustees in particular but no doubt the issue will be debated again in our forthcoming annual strategic review. A distinctive feature of our activities is our continuing use of a Zoom facility. The extended reach which this provides certainly outweighs the technical challenges with which we continue to wrestle; however, nothing can come close to the in-person experience and we invite anyone to visit our free Thursday morning sessions.

We conduct, at the end of each reporting period, a wide-ranging Strategic Review of the Charity’s activities enabling us to re-establish commonly-held values, agree measures of success and future direction. This re-focused our determination to build upon our commitment to social prescribing by extending further our already-strong links with local community groups especially those involved in support for those living with

dementia. Dementia Friendly network breakfast meetings have been attended by Trustees and the contacts created and cemented have undoubtedly provided benefits for those who attend DSO. Similarly our continued involvement with the Northants Community Fund network has opened up yet further new links across a wide spectrum of community groups.

One of our stated objective is to provide support to attendees and their families outside of our weekly sessions because so many have voiced feelings of isolation when faced with a diagnosis of dementia. One example has been a visit by solicitors from local law firm Tollers.) *"I think that it's truly inspirational to add these extra benefits for carers such as the latest one covering legal and financial advice"*

At the same time Manual handling training, refresher Dementia awareness training and safeguarding training have been further developed for both volunteers and supporters because we as Trustees acknowledge our broader responsibilities in working with vulnerable adults.

Recognition of the Charity at the Annual NCF Awards Evening with Happy & Healthy Communities award for DSO itself was a well-received accolade but the award of Volunteer of the Year to Alan Mason was confirmation of the joy which Alan brings with his dancing feet each week even after he has accompanied many clients from their minibuses and positioned them in his meticulously planned seating arrangements! Alan's modesty is such that he received the award on behalf of a whole team of volunteers".

A 5 Year Anniversary Celebration with the deliberate objective of involving family members who might not normally be able to see their loved ones benefiting from DSO on a weekly basis was an enormous success.

Another specific event was that of a Donors & Sponsors' Thankyou Morning in November 2024. Intended as a public recognition of the humbling benefaction from an increasingly broad range of both Community groups and private individuals.

In our last strategic review we set ourselves the task of achieving even greater variety of content, in part in response to customer feedback when we invited their suggestions. As a result we have recently witnessed the enormous success of an African Youth Drumming Group as well as an exceptional Elvis Tribute performer who was not allowed to leave the building until he agreed to return again!

III. SUMMARY OF DSO ACTIVITIES

- I. Weekly Zoom and in-person singing sessions
- II. Promotion of Dementia awareness amongst attendees and contacts.
- III. Provision of wider support for families via specific information events.
- IV. Safeguarding training for all Trustees, supporters and volunteers
- V. Continued collaboration with local primary schools: Ruskin Infants and Wellingborough School as part of their community education programmes.
- VI. Promotion of DSO activities through increased social media publicity campaigns (Maurice's Bring Me Sunshine went viral with over 2k views on Facebook including direct feedback from the son and daughter of Eric Morecombe) – as well as mainstream media coverage of events such as the Christmas Party on Anglia News and BBC East as well as local radio (ie interviews with both BBC Northampton and Times Radio) & newspapers.

Specific events to be noted:

- VII. Visit by African Drumming youth Group.
- VIII. Christmas Party event with involvement of Wellingborough Community Gospel Choir and included 42 children from Wellingborough School being taught choregraphical moves by our very own Grace (the attendance on that day was 230 people ranging in age from 6-102!)
- IX. 5-year Anniversary Celebration event in July 2024 attended by family members with involvement again from Wellingborough Community Gospel Choir which includes the majority of DSO's trustees and a sizeable number of our own volunteers.
- X. Northampton Community Foundation networking & workshop day,
- XI. Diwalhi Celebration Session
- XII. Visit by All Saints Primary School Choir
- XIII. As part of Dementia Action Week Trustees attended Kettering General Hospital Information Day.

IV. CONCLUSION

Trustees are regularly reminded of DSO's charitable objectives and the Charity Commission responsibilities at our regular meetings. In our last Annual Review meeting we committed to building upon our social prescribing links with other organisations as well as providing support for attendees beyond the reach of our weekly sessions. As stated a number of clients have benefited from contacts and introductions which we have facilitated with regard to solicitors, private care sector individuals and support groups.

Trustees take a genuine sense of pride in the Charity's activities and successes which are documented on our social media platforms (***see Website and Social Media presence on Facebook & Instagram highlighting current activities, regular news sheets and testimonials***). The current annual financial Report provides evidence of the Charity's continuing meticulous financial management and also, most importantly, the ongoing benevolence of our numerous benefactors.

There is a sense of sadness that by the very nature of our clients' condition we have had to come to terms with the fact that the cruelty of dementia will take some of our attendees; nothing prepares us for this but families invariably thank us for having brought some light into their lives and those of their loved ones. "DSO was such a wonderful space for mum to forget about her dementia each week & feel a real joy"

GRB
Chairman of Trustees
June 2025.

Dementia Sings Out
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity number: 1186115

Tax reference number: 2616622750

Trustees

Catherine Barrett

Ian Barrett

Garry Bowe – Chairman

Ruth Bowe

Judith Chapman

Lucy James

Stephen Line - Treasurer

Kathryn Manning

Background Notes for the year ended 30 November 2024

The Dementia Sings Out charity:

- aims to provide weekly music and singing sessions for the benefit of those living with Dementia and their carers residing in Northamptonshire.
- has no employees, and all the charity's activities are carried out by volunteer helpers who provide their time free of charge.
- derives its income from third party donations and the National Lottery Community Fund.
- has no assets other than its bank account.

Dementia Sings Out
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Receipts and Payments Account
For the year ended 30 November 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations	13,007	10,824
The National Lottery Community Fund	18,078	8,723
Total Receipts	31,085	19,547
Payments		
Music director fees	7,050	6,900
Room hire	7,520	7,280
Refreshments	1,831	1,270
Website costs	1,065	1,056
Other consumables	546	181
Marketing and printing	976	116
Training costs	0	94
Insurance	54	218
Miscellaneous	365	35
Total Payments	19,407	17,150
Excess Receipts over Payments	11,678	2,397
Balance at bank 1 December 2023	33,506	31,109
Balance at bank 30 November 2024	45,184	33,506

Dementia Sings Out
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Balance Sheet
As at 30 November 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted reserves	45,184	33,506
Represented by:		
Bank Balance	45,184	33,506

The Receipts and Payments Account of the Dementia Sings Out charity for the year ended 30 November 2024 and its Balance Sheet as at that date as set out on pages 2 and 3 were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



S P Line: Trustee

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Dementia Sings Out

On accounts for the year ended

30 November 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1186115

Set out on pages

2 and 3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 November 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and 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 to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

24/06/25

Name:

IAN PAUL BLANCHARD

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):

FELLOW OF THE INSTITUTE & FACULTY
OF ACTUARIES

Address:

JUNIPER HOUSE, ST JAMES ROAD

SW4T

LONDON SW41 6AN

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern
(see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and
guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None

Dementia Sings Out
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity number: 1186115

Tax reference number: 2616622750

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Ruth Bowe

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Independent Examiner's Report

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Date:

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Name:

IAN PAUL BLANCHARD

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
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