



**dish**  
benefits you

**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1198841**

**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

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**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Disability Information Service Huntingdonshire (DISH) is registered with the Charities Commission (No. 1198841) and is constituted by Deed of Trust.

**Registered Office**

6 Oak Drive, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. PE29 7HN

**Trustees (as of 31st March 2024)**

Mr D L Bowers	(Chair until 25.1.24)	
Ms A Bosse	(Vice Chair)	
Ms S Ferrelly		(resigned 1.1.2024)
M Griffin		
Mr W V Templeton		
Mr N C Wells		
Ms M Chanakira	(Treasurer)	
Ms E Blake		(resigned 27.6.2023)
Mr R Johnson		(resigned 28.4.2023)
G Wark		(appointed 28.6.2023)
A Lyons		(appointed 28.6.2023)
C Harding		(appointed 12.12.2023)
G Williams	(Chair from 25.1.2024)	(appointed 12.12.2023)

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives and aims**

**DISH's aims are to:**

- relieve people with disabilities and disadvantaged people living in Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Cambridge City so that they may lead active and fulfilling lives integrated into society.
- eliminate discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

**Ensuring our work delivers our aims**

We monitor and review all our deliverables and activities within our regular Trustee Board committee meetings.

We monitor and review the progress of the work and the benefits the have brought to those groups of people we help. We regularly engage our clients by phone/questionnaires/testimonials to request feedback on our service. We inform funders of our progress.

We regularly, and in accordance with our agreements update our funders.

**The focus of our work**

Our main objectives for the year continue to be the provision of information, advice practical support to people of all ages with any disability in the Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Cambridge City.

- We carry out welfare benefits assessments, and make applications. This service is in great demand, particularly for Personal Independence Payments (PIP) (adults), Employment Supplement Allowance (ESA) (adults), Capability for Work forms (UC50 - Adults), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) (children), Attendance Allowance (AA) (elderly), We also support clients with additional issues which may cause financial or emotional difficulty.
- Our clients often have multiple needs, and we work with other organisations through referral and signposting to support the needs where DISH cannot.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

- At our disability friendly office we provide face to face interviews and give advice on the phone. Most importantly, though, for our many housebound clients, we make home visits. We appeal against refused applications at Benefits Tribunals where we have supported the initial application.. Very few organisations locally offer these particular services.
- Welfare benefit applications are complex and time consuming. It can take up to 4 hours to complete a PIP, DLA or ESA form, not including time to obtain medical, educational and social reports from professionals. This is often an impossible task for the most vulnerable in our community. We establish relationships and trust with our clients.

**Public benefit**

**How our activities deliver public benefit**

- Filling an advice gap: There is currently a lack of sufficient local welfare advice available to local people with disabilities and carers of disabled people, who are more adversely affected than any other group by current welfare changes, and who need higher levels of guidance and support to complete lengthy and complicated application forms.
- Improving quality of life: In Our experience, and demonstrated by research, receiving appropriate advice, maximising income, and access to resources not only improves the daily living experiences of people with disabilities, but also has a beneficial effect on mental and physical health, employability, and general well being, thus helping to reduce pressure on other stretched local NHS/Statutory services.
- Resourcing families: The needs of a disabled child are more expensive. Improved income allows parents to not only meet these needs, but gives them more opportunities for independence, and the prospect of taking up employment and training. It reduces stress, and improves family life.
- Addressing digital exclusion; taking services to clients: The Department of Work and Pensions, and local Councils increasingly provide almost exclusively online access to services. We can help digitally excluded disabled people, to make online applications, and give the disabled housebound access to information and advice through home visits.
- Tribunal Appeals: We provide informed support to Appeal at Tribunals against refused benefits applications for those who have no legal knowledge, and can't afford legal representation.

**Who used and benefited from our services?**

- We have a well established reputation with local people with disabilities, local authorities, agencies and partners in the charity and voluntary sector in Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Cambridge City. We provide continuity of service, having clients who return over the years. Much work is gained by word of mouth.
- We continue to support children and families, adults and an increasing number of elderly people.
- We have continued to visit those people with disabilities who are housebound, and have provided online, telephone helpline and e-mail advice. We have conducted office based interviews.
- We have successfully represented clients at an increased number of Appeals to Benefits Tribunals.
- We recruit and train volunteers. The majority of our management committee, staff and volunteers either have a disability, or have experience of caring for someone who has a disability, giving us unique insights into coping with disability and the benefits system.
- We have well established links with NHS practices, health professionals, Community and Voluntary organisations and family services. They are able to signpost their clients to our services.
- Through our links with partner agencies, we have been able to signpost people to those who have specialist expertise in areas other than ours.
- We provide value for money to our funders: over this past financial year (April 2023 to March 2024) with eleven part-time staff, we dealt with more than 5,000 contacts with more than 800 clients. These were mostly by telephone or office-based interviews. In financial terms, on an annual expenditure of about £140,000 we obtained over £750,000 (annual equivalent) in welfare benefits for our clients.
- Government welfare changes which involve a rolling programme of reassessing the needs of PIP clients, and the rollout of Universal Credit, has progressively increased the need for our service.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial review**

In 2023, the closing balance from DISH, register charity 1061702 was transferred to this newly incorporated charity. This is shown as a donation received from 'DISH - the old charity' totalling £156,470. The split was unrestricted funds of £74,022 and restricted funds of £82,448.

Annual Budgets are set which form the basis of our expenditure pattern and an account of actual income and expenditure is reported to the management board at each bi-monthly meeting. We adhere to agreed financial procedures which follow the Charity Commission guidelines.

### **Reserves policy**

The Management Committee has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 3 and 6 months of expenditure.

The charity's trustees agreed that the reserves policy is to keep a minimum unrestricted funds of £50,000 in the bank at any given time to ensure that the charity can continue to deliver the DISH programme in the long term.

### **Funding**

DISH has been privileged to be awarded support through funding from existing grant donors, new donors and one off donors as well. This however does not stop DISH from regularly investigating and pursuing new sources of funding. Pressure on Local Authority funds and the low return from the money markets has continued to make the situation for local charities quite challenging, and short term funding makes future planning difficult.

DISH has received funding over the past financial year from the following public bodies and charitable organisations:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| - <i>Alan Boswell Charity</i>           | - <i>Kate Farrar Trust</i>            |
| - <i>Alchemy Trust</i>                  | - <i>Magic Little Grants</i>          |
| - <i>Bergman Lehane Trust</i>           | - <i>Marsland Macdoo Law</i>          |
| - <i>Breathe HR charitable donation</i> | - <i>National Lottery</i>             |
| - <i>Cambridge City Council</i>         | - <i>NPC</i>                          |
| - <i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>  | - <i>Pat Newman Memorial Trust</i>    |
| - <i>Cambridgeshire Community Fund</i>  | - <i>Pierrepoint Trust</i>            |
| - <i>DC Moncrieff Trust</i>             | - <i>Places for People</i>            |
| - <i>Earl Fitzwilliam Trust</i>         | - <i>St Ives Town Council</i>         |
| - <i>Ellis Mahuro Trust</i>             | - <i>St Neots Mayroal Charity</i>     |
| - <i>Frank Litchfield Trust</i>         | - <i>South Cambs District Council</i> |
| - <i>Groundwork UK</i>                  | - <i>The Langley Trust</i>            |
| - <i>Huntingdon Freemens Trust</i>      | - <i>The Co-op</i>                    |
| - <i>Integrity Team</i>                 |                                       |

We have also had a number of cash donations from friends and clients, and from fund raising activities. We thank all those organisations and individuals who have supported us.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

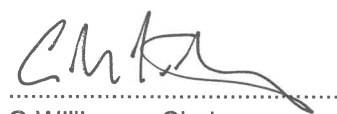
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Charity's bankers are CAF (Charities Aid Foundation)

The Independent Examiner is K F Green, trading as Tacconi, Green & Co,

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 17th September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



G Williams - Chair

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 6 to 10.

**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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the 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.



K F Green (FMAAT)  
32a East Street  
St. Ives  
Cambs  
PE27 5PD

Dated:

7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Donations &amp; legacies</b>				
Grants	31,655	268,048	299,703	147,806
Donations	17,629	-	17,629	29,122
DISH - donation from old charity	-	-	-	156,470
Other income	3,019	-	3,019	1,759
	52,303	268,048	320,351	335,157
<b>Investment income</b>				
Interest received	4,684	-	4,684	1,250
	4,684	-	4,684	1,250
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	56,987	268,048	325,035	336,407
<b>Raising donations &amp; legacies</b>				
Staff salaries & NI costs	-	225,770	225,770	147,330
<b>Support costs</b>				
Rent, rates & service charge	9,197	-	9,197	8,727
Staff & volunteer travel	2,942	-	2,942	1,115
Postage & stationery	1,000	919	1,919	1,960
Telephone	1,561	-	1,561	1,434
Insurance	1,247	-	1,247	2,312
Conference & training	4,000	1,540	5,540	5,539
Advertising & promotion	-	-	-	1,546
Subscriptions	-	3,037	3,037	1,199
Repairs & computer costs	11,354	-	11,354	6,397
Accountancy	740	-	740	715
Professional fees	7,202	-	7,202	8,311
Miscellaneous expenses	-	2,873	2,873	2,022
<b>Finance</b>				
Bank charges	70	-	70	72
<b>Total resources expended</b>	39,313	234,139	273,452	188,679
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	17,674	33,909	51,583	147,728
Accumulated funds brought forward	73,406	74,322	147,728	-
<b>Accumulated funds carried forward</b>	91,080	108,231	199,311	147,728



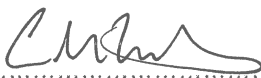
**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	4	-	-	-	-
Current account		31,618	-	31,618	31,725
Deposit accounts		65,798	160,675	226,473	171,349
Cash in hand		-	-	-	-
		97,416	160,675	258,091	203,074
<b>Less Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors & accruals	5	(6,336)	(52,444)	(58,780)	(55,346)
		(6,336)	(52,444)	(58,780)	147,728
<b>Net assets</b>		91,080	108,231	199,311	147,728

**FUNDS**

Unrestricted funds	6	91,080	-	91,080	73,406
Restricted Funds	6	-	108,231	108,231	74,322
		91,080	108,231	199,311	147,728

These accounts were approved on behalf on the Managing Committee by

  
 .....  
 G Williams - Chair

  
 .....  
 M Chanakira - Treasurer

17th September 2024

**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Note**

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Investments**

Investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year. The artefacts in the museum are not brought into the accounts at cost or valuation because the trustees consider that they have no value other than as part of the collection.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Note**

**2 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2024 nor for the year ended 31st March 2023.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2024 nor for the year ended 31st March 2023.

**3 Staff costs**

	2024	2023
The average number of employees during the year was as follows:	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.		

**4 Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
Grants receivable	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**5 Creditors**

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	1,183	1,939
Social security and other taxes	3,696	5,255
Accrued expenses	740	715
Other creditors	717	354
Grants received in advance	52,444	47,083
	<u>58,780</u>	<u>55,346</u>

**DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024**

**Note**

6	MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	As at 1.4.2023 £	Net movement in funds £	As at 31.3.2024 £
	Unrestricted funds	73,406	17,674	91,080
	Restricted funds	74,322	33,909	108,231
	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>147,728</u></u>	<u><u>51,583</u></u>	<u><u>199,311</u></u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains & losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds	56,987	(39,313)	-	17,674
Restricted funds	268,048	(234,139)	-	33,909
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>325,035</u></u>	<u><u>(273,452)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>51,583</u></u>