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DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1198841

DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their report for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Disability Information Service Huntingdonshire (DISH) is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is a Registered Charity, number 1198841.

Registered Office

6 Oak Drive, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. PE29 7HN

Trustees (as of 31st March 2025)

Mr G Williams	(Chair)
Ms A Bosse	(Vice Chair)
Ms M Chanakira	(Treasurer)
Mr D L Bowers	
Mr M Griffin	(resigned 31.01.25)
Mr W V Templeton	
Mr N C Wells	
Ms G Wark	
Ms A Lyons	(resigned 17.09.24)
Mr C Harding	
Mrs H Bayles	(appointed 17.09.24)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

DISH's aims are to:

- relieve people with disabilities and disadvantaged people living in Huntingdonshire and the neighbourhood thereof 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 and practical support to people of all ages with any disability in the Huntingdonshire district, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire.

- 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), Attendance Allowance (AA) (elderly) and Capability for Work (UC50). We also support clients with additional issues which may cause financial difficulty.
- Our clients often have multiple needs, and we work with other organisations through referral and signposting to support the needs where DISH cannot.
- 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, AA 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.

DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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.
- Reducing demands on local services: we help people in local areas identified as pockets of deprivation, eg Huntingdon North and St Neots, to avoid becoming reliant on charities and local authorities for crisis help and discretionary funding.
- 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, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire. We provide continuity of service, having clients who return over the years. Much work is gained by word of mouth.
- 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 many stakeholders to support our clients. These include NHS practices, health professionals and other community-based organisations. 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 2024 to March 2025) with 13 part-time staff, we dealt with 768 new referrals for core support and 120 referrals for our additional support (benefit check, tribunal support, telephone buddy, enhanced support) for over 700 individuals. In financial terms, we obtained over £2.2m (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 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial review

Annual Budgets are set which form the basis of our expenditure pattern and an account of actual income and expenditure is reported to the Trustees' Board at each 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.

Income

The total income received during the year was £208,713.

Of this, £169,744 was grant income, with funds from donations from clients, friends and fund-raising activities amounting to £28,693.

Expenditure

During the 2024-25 financial year total expenditure was £271,173.

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.

We are, as always, incredibly grateful and express our thanks to all the organisations who have supported us, including:

- *The Rank Foundation*
- *National Lottery*
- *Lloyds Bank Foundation*
- *Pierrepont Trust*
- *Huntingdon Freeman's Trust*
- *Huntingdon District Council*
- *PEM Charitable Trust*
- *Cambridge City Council*
- *The Evelyn Trust*
- *National Lottery*
- *South Cambs District Council*
- *The Langley Trust*

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

Ongoing funding

With our budgeted costs expected to be £299,895 for the year ending 31 March 2026 and, albeit we continue to receive generous levels of donations, we will continue to seek to apply for additional grants wherever possible in order to ensure our reserves policy is comfortably maintained.

DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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:

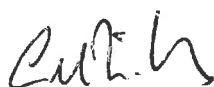
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material 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 Constitution. 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 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
G Williams - Chair of Trustees

3/8/2025

.....
Dated

**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 2025 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:

20/08/25

DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Donations & legacies				
Grants	39,083	130,661	169,744	299,703
Donations	28,693	-	28,693	17,629
Other income	963	4,800	5,763	3,019
	68,739	135,461	204,201	320,351
Investment income				
Interest received	4,512	-	4,512	4,684
	4,512	-	4,512	4,684
Total incoming resources	73,252	135,461	208,713	325,035
Raising donations & legacies				
Staff salaries & NI costs	87,626	143,232	230,859	225,770
Support costs				
Rent, rates & service charge	7,670	2,500	10,170	9,197
Staff & volunteer travel	1,378	1,466	2,843	2,942
Postage & stationery	663	602	1,265	1,919
Telephone	901	521	1,422	1,561
Insurance	982	1,000	1,982	1,247
Conference & training	1,391	2,472	3,863	5,540
Advertising & promotion	1,000	2,051	3,051	-
Subscriptions	1,144		1,144	3,037
Repairs & computer costs	5,856	1,179	7,035	11,354
Accountancy	925	-	925	740
Professional fees	4,321	1,288	5,610	7,202
Miscellaneous expenses	431	513	943	2,873
Finance				
Bank charges	31	30	61	70
Total resources expended	114,321	156,853	271,173	273,452
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(41,069)	(21,391)	(62,460)	51,583
Accumulated funds brought forward	91,080	108,231	199,311	147,728
Accumulated funds carried forward	50,011	86,840	136,851	199,311

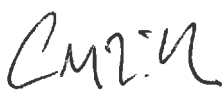
DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE
BALANCE SHEET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Current assets					
Debtors	4	-	-	-	-
Current account		9,308	-	9,308	31,618
Deposit accounts		46,158	103,842	150,000	226,473
Cash in hand		-	-	-	-
		55,466	103,842	159,308	258,091
Less Current liabilities					
Creditors & accruals	5	(5,455)	(17,002)	(22,457)	(58,780)
		(5,455)	(17,002)	(22,457)	199,311
Net assets		50,011	86,840	136,851	199,311

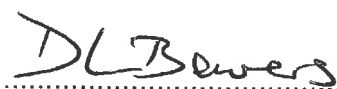
FUNDS

Unrestricted funds	6	50,011	-	50,011	91,080
Restricted Funds	6	-	86,840	86,840	108,231
		50,011	86,840	136,851	199,311

These accounts were approved on behalf on the Managing Committee by



G Williams - Chair of Trustees



D Bowers - Trustee

Dated: 8/8/2025

DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The Trustees consider that the financial statements can be prepared on a going concern basis as the level of reserves and income are sufficient to ensure the Trustees can meet their financial obligations for the next 12 to 18 months and the Charity is a going concern.

Income

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.

Donations and grants are treated as income when any conditions imposed by the donor have been met.

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.

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 2025

Note

2 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2025 nor for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2025 nor for the year ended 31st March 2024.

3 Staff costs

	2025	2024
The average number of employees during the year was as follows:	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>
No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.		

4 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Grants receivable	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

5 Creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	535	1,183
Social security and other taxes	3,312	3,696
Accrued expenses	925	740
Other creditors	684	717
Grants received in advance	17,002	52,444
	<u>22,457</u>	<u>58,780</u>

DISABILITY INFORMATION SERVICE HUNTINGDONSHIRE
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Note

6	MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	As at 1.4.2024 £	Net movement in funds £	As at 31.3.2025 £
	Unrestricted funds	91,080	(41,069)	50,011
	Restricted funds	108,231	(21,391)	86,840
	TOTAL FUNDS	<u>199,311</u>	<u>(62,460)</u>	<u>136,851</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains & losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds	73,252	(114,321)	-	(41,069)
Restricted funds	135,461	(156,853)	-	(21,391)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>208,713</u>	<u>(271,173)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(62,460)</u>