

# DASH - DISCOVERING AUTISTIC SPECTRUM HAPPINESS

England & Wales · Charity number 1202345

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2023-03-16

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Swindon Advice & Support Centre  
Sanford House  
Sanford Street  
Swindon  
Sn1 1he  
SN1 1HE

**Phone** 07554665715

**Email** [contact@dashswindon.com](mailto:contact@dashswindon.com)

**Website** [www.dashswindon.com](http://www.dashswindon.com)

## Activities

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**Objects:** (1) TO PROMOTE THE MENTAL HEALTH OF AUTISTIC ADULTS LIVING IN THE BOROUGH OF SWINDON THROUGH THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION, ADVICE, ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT.(2) TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING AUTISTIC ADULTS FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AS A RESULT OF HAVING AUTISM, MEETING THEIR NEEDS AND HELPING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY BY:(A) PROVIDING EDUCATION AND INFORMATION TO SUPPORT AND ENABLE THOSE WITH AUTISM TO MAXIMISE THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.(B) PROVIDING WORKSHOPS, FORUMS, ADVOCACY AND GENERAL SUPPORT.(C) PROVIDING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUTISTIC ADULTS.(D) INCREASING, OR CO-ORDINATING, OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUTISTIC ADULTS TO ENGAGE WITH SERVICE PROVIDERS, RAISING AWARENESS OF AUTISM AND ENABLING THOSE PROVIDERS TO ADAPT SERVICES TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF THAT COMMUNITY.

**Activities:** Dash supports and empowers autistic adults in Swindon to live happy, independent and productive lives. We do this through various courses that help people understand autistic characteristics and strategies to cope with them. We offer support with tribunals, enable reasonable adjustments at work. We prevent stigma by raising awareness and encouraging social interaction.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups

## Geography

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- Swindon

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£7,753	£17,955	-	-
2024-03-31	£0	£0	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
David Michael Ahern	Chair	2023-03-01
Martin Styles		2023-03-13
Oliver Selfe		2025-04-01
Vusumuzi Nsingo		2023-11-21

**DASH - DISCOVERING AUTISTIC SPECTRUM HAPPINESS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1202345

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# Accounts

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DASH  
**Discovering Autistic Spectrum Happiness**  
Registered charity no: 1202345  
Registered office: Sanford House, Sanford Street, Swindon SN1 1HE  
[www.dashswindon.com](http://www.dashswindon.com)  
Contact@dashswindon.com



## **Annual Report**

### **For the period of 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

This report is for DASH CIO charity number 1202345 which was first set up with the Charity Commission on 16 March 2023. There was no activity in the period 16 March 2023 to 31 March 2024, as reported in a previous Trustees Annual Report.

For the first six months of this period, up to 30 September 2024, there was no activity of any sort. On 1 October 2024 all activities, assets and liabilities were transferred from DASH charity number 1116852. A vesting document is in place to this effect. The financial reporting period remains 1 April to 31 March. As permitted by the Charity Commission we continue to report on a receipts and payments basis.

The asset and depreciation policy has been updated.

The charity will ensure that all grant funding agreements and restrictions will be adhered to. Key stakeholders have been contacted and notified of these changes.

There was a seamless transfer from Charity 1116852 to the new charity 1202345 and operations continued with no disruption.

The old charity will be dissolved at the earliest possible stage.

The charity's purpose remains to improve the quality of life of people affected by autism by raising professional, public and political awareness.

**Our Vision** is that 'Autistic Adults Lead Happier and Healthier Lives'  
Autistic adults in our communities to have access to services and social groups that promote understanding, resilience, confidence, and social inclusion.

## **Our Services**

DASH supports autistic adults in Swindon with information and advice. This varies hugely, with some people needing support with welfare rights or employment tribunals. Others benefit from help with employment, including assistance remaining in work with reasonable adjustments, finding work, volunteer opportunities and building employability skills. We try to ensure autistic people understand their finances, including budgeting and managing their money. With the strong correlation between autism and poor mental health, we work with Swindon Borough Council Public Health team to reduce stress, think about blood pressure, improve access to exercise and maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle.

DASH has several social and activity groups where autistic adults can feel they are amongst people that understand their condition. This gives an opportunity to improve confidence, gain new skills and friends and work towards mainstream activities and groups.

We work closely with other agencies including the police, social care, health, education and employers to help them understand the needs of autistic people.

### **Our primary aims are to:**

1. To promote the mental health of Autistic adults living in the Borough of Swindon through the provision of information, advice, advocacy and support.
2. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing Autistic adults from becoming socially excluded and meeting their needs by helping them to integrate into society.

### **Risk**

Risks are reviewed regularly at trustee meetings and our risk register is updated accordingly. Trustees are responsible for oversight and ensuring appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

### **Key activities in the year**

All staff were TUPE'd to the CIO on 1 October 2024, thus preserving all rights previously acquired in the unincorporated charity 1116852. Outstanding grants, contracts and liabilities were similarly transferred.

The organisation built on strategy days previously held before incorporation. We encourage ever-stronger collaboration and co-operation with autistic adults in Swindon, and it was good to see a much greater take up of this opportunity. The charity is especially grateful to those who helped the staff and trustees to develop a series of actions that help us to achieve our aims and objectives.

Groups continued to build and grow, particularly the group that meets during the evening. We now have a significant waiting list and hope to start a new group in the coming year. The club members have taken up various activities including pool, table tennis, hikes, running and bowls. Several members have

successfully found employment, and one has gone on to university. Whilst sad to see her go, this is an amazing achievement and we're glad to have been part of that journey.

We saw the reintroduction of our annual community day at St Johns Church. An excellent turnout saw people doing a broad range of activities including face painting, henna hands, tombola and crafts. As another opportunity for service users to co-produce an event, we were grateful for the considerable number of people who were able to showcase their crafts and activities.

We were able to assist several people in their appeals to the Department of Work and Pensions, again achieving 100% success.

We began a new service, to provide wellbeing calls to a small number of people who are otherwise completely socially isolated. Although very much in the initial stages, this looks to be something that we can offer particularly for those who are house-bound.

After a lengthy search, we were delighted to welcome two new trustees to the team.

### **Plans for the future**

There was widespread agreement that the name DASH Discovering Autistic Spectrum Happiness did not reflect the true purpose of the charity, and a competition will be run over the coming period to seek a new name and embed a stronger identity within the community.

A previous service funded by the Big Lottery, the After Diagnosis Journey, was unanimously requested as the most important requirement for the future. Funding will need to be sought to enable this to happen, but it was viewed as an essential programme for those who are newly diagnosed.

A regular information source for people is also being developed. This will enable DASH to have a deeper understanding of its service users as contributors as well as providing them with relevant information.

Working alongside Swindon Borough Council's Public Health team. We are aiming to reduce ill health by considering stress, information provision, exercise and diet.

Our current site may be closed for a considerable period for refurbishment so plans are underway to ensure we can transition to a new venue to continue providing services.

# DASH – Discovering Autistic Spectrum Happiness

Registered Charity Number 1202345

Summarised Financial Statement

Year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

	£
<b>Restricted and Designated Income:</b>	
<i>Wiltshire Community Foundation</i>	5,000
<i>Cash Subs – Groups</i>	1,182
	<u>6,182</u>
<b>Unrestricted Income:</b>	
<i>Donations &amp; Fundraising</i>	1,571
	<u>1,571</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,753</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
<i>Salaries</i>	15,910
<i>Pension Costs</i>	76
<i>Room Hire</i>	765
<i>Stationery/Office Costs</i>	134
<i>Telephones</i>	410
<i>Training</i>	30
<i>IT Costs</i>	259
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses</i>	371
	<u>17,955</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>17,955</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for period</b>	<b>(10,202)</b>
<b>Cash and Reserves at start of period:</b>	
Totals transferred from DASH registered charity 1116852 At 30 September 2024:	
<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	27,020
<i>Restricted and Designated Funds</i>	33,407
<i>Cash in Hand</i>	-
	<u>60,427</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,427</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for period</b>	<b>(10,202)</b>
	<u>50,225</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,225</b>

**Cash and Reserves at period end:**

<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	27,558
<i>Restricted and Designated Funds</i>	22,667
<i>Cash in Hand</i>	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,225</b>

**Plant, Machinery, Fixtures and Fittings**

Opening Balance – Transferred from DASH registered charity 1116852	1,134
<i>Additions this year</i>	-
<i>Depreciation</i>	(142)
<i>Write offs</i>	(992)
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>0</b>

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees:

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Print Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Dythan</i>	DM AHERN	15/01/26

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# Accounts

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DASH  
**Discovering Autistic Spectrum Happiness**

Registered charity no: 1202345

Registered office: Sanford House, Sanford Street, Swindon SN1 1HE

[www.dashswindon.com](http://www.dashswindon.com)

Contact@dashswindon.com



## **Annual Report**

**For the period of 16 March 2023 to 31 March 2024**

DASH has been registered with the Charity Commission as an unincorporated charity, number 1118652 since 2006. After considerable consultation, it was decided that this was no longer a suitable vehicle for the people that DASH supports and on 16 March 2023, the organisation was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Our purpose remains to improve the quality of life of people affected by autism by raising professional, public and political awareness. Once the new CIO has the necessary resources to trade, the old unincorporated DASH charity will be closed.

**Our Vision** is that 'Autistic Adults Lead Happier and Healthier Lives' Autistic adults in our communities to have access to services and social groups that promote understanding, resilience, confidence, and social inclusion.

### **Our Services**

We will provide information and advice services to autistic adults, including information about housing, welfare rights, employment, health, and finance.

We have a number of social and activity groups that we organise and manage, so that autistic people can feel comfortable and safe.

We work closely with other agencies including the police, social care, health, education and employers to help them understand the needs of autistic people.

### **Our primary aims are to:**

- Raise awareness and understanding of autism

- Provide information and support to high functioning autistic adults
- Promote and enhance access to assessment & diagnosis, welfare, housing, education and employment
- Research, promote and help to deliver a local model of support and services

### **Overview**

In this first period the charity was setting up the mechanisms for trading including giving staff the appropriate notice around transferring their rights, setting up banking facilities, ensuring that contracts were able to be transferred from the existing unincorporated charity to the CIO.

### **Risk**

Risks are reviewed regularly at trustee meetings and our risk register is updated accordingly. Trustees are responsible for oversight and ensuring appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

### **Plans for the future**

Once all contracts have been transferred to the new CIO it is intended that all future trading will take place in the CIO and the old unincorporated charity will be formally closed down.

# DASH

Registered Charity Number 1202345

## Summarised Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

<b>Income and Expenditure 2023-24</b>	<b>£</b>
Restricted and Designated Income:	0
Unrestricted Income:	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
<i>Salaries</i>	0
<i>Pension Costs</i>	0
<i>Room Hire</i>	0
<i>Stationery/Office Costs</i>	0
<i>Telephones</i>	0
<i>Training</i>	0
<i>Insurance</i>	0
<i>IT Costs</i>	0
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses</i>	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>
Surplus (deficit) of Income over Expenditure	<b>0</b>

### Cash and Reserves at start of year:

<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	0
<i>Restricted and Designated Funds</i>	0
<i>Cash in Hand</i>	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

**Cash and Reserves at year end:**

<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	0
<i>Restricted and Designated Funds</i>	0
<i>Cash in Hand</i>	0
Total	<u>0</u>

**Plant, Machinery, Fixtures and Fittings**


<i>Opening Balance</i>	0
<i>Additions this year</i>	0
<i>Depreciation</i>	0
Closing Balance	<u>0</u>

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees:

*Signature*

*Print Name*

*Date*

	D M AHERN	10/1/25