

DASH

Annual Report

April 20 – March 21

Trustees during this period:

Jane Fowden – Chair
Karen Wood – Treasurer
John Atherton – Secretary
Marianne Matusz
Shabeer Nazir
Julie Park
Allison Porter
Andrew Tomlinson



Veritasy

Introduction from Trustees

What a year, what a challenge!

I'd like, on behalf of all trustees, to thank our exceptional, dedicated and generous staff and volunteers for their expertise, enthusiasm, experience and advocacy.

Thanks, also, to all who have supported us with generous donations to enable us to continue and increase our services.

DASH is led by the needs of our clients, and their voices are at the heart of our small charity. Whilst there is war, violence and persecution, there will be people seeking protection. We stand together to provide compassionate solutions.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to our funders, supporters and partners:

Tudor Trust * Lloyds Foundation * National Lottery * Blue Thread * Allen Lane * Sir James Reckitt Charity * One Community * Respond & Adapt * Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charity Foundation * Comic Relief * One 17 Design * St Patrick's Church * Huddersfield Parish Church * British Red Cross * St Vincent de Paul * NACCOM * Refugee Action * Refugees At Home * KCALC * Huddersfield Quakers * Kirklees Welcomes * Sanctuary Kirklees * Sanctuary Clothing * Welcome Centre * Third Sector Leaders * Solace * Asylum Matters * Huddersfield Town Foundation * HTSA * Mikron Theatre and the people of Kirklees for their kind donations.

Please help me I am asylum seeker. I need help. Please

18:38

Rapid response...

If those of us with ready access to public health messaging felt unnerved by the first Covid lockdown, what must it have been like to be unable to get information in a language you could understand or to unwittingly risk your safety, and breaking government rules, because of a lack of knowledge of them?

Drop-ins for advice and hot meals closed. Remote services were only accessible to those with wifi or credit. How could you know that you needed to buy a mask and sanitizer? If you did know, on £5.60 a day, how could you afford them? How could you socially distance in a House of Multiple Occupancy with 6 others, all of whom speak different languages? What if you were one of the 'invisibly homeless' sofa-surfers, given shelter by friends, now told to leave because of the virus and lockdown rules? What would you do? Where would you go?

With an initial Core Team of 3 staff and 3 volunteers, we:

- Opened a full-time phone line
- Set up an SMS service to contact all clients to tell them we were open
- Sent translated Covid information
- Handled nearly 1000 interactions in the first 6 weeks (phone, texts, Whatsapp, email, Zoom)
- Began topping up phones
- Established a telephone triage and appointments system

Pre-lockdown, many drop-in visitors came just for the social. Now, 100% of callers reported needs. At the beginning of the lockdown, **10** volunteers gave 80% of the hours that 32 had given previously. **3** volunteers conducted **117** welfare calls. By the end of the reporting year, **37** volunteers had given **3389** hours including **64** training attendances.



15:57

Thank you for your kindness

16:07

No problem

16:10 ✓✓



As services remained closed, we bucked national trends, seeing more not fewer clients than before. We received thanks from the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire for 'outstanding service to the community' and were nominated for a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Our reach

By summer, we'd moved into our first ever office and reorganised into **3** core projects . Across our service for the year, we supported **341** asylum claimants and their families (that's approx **75%** of initial claimants reported to be in Kirklees), of whom **215** were new, from **53** countries with **35** languages, by conducting **2971** appointments and an eye-watering **10,153** remote communications.

Asylum Casework Project

We increased the number of Level 1 Advisors and raised our registration with the Office of Immigration Services Commission to Level 2. As well as finding people solicitors, the Asylum Casework project:

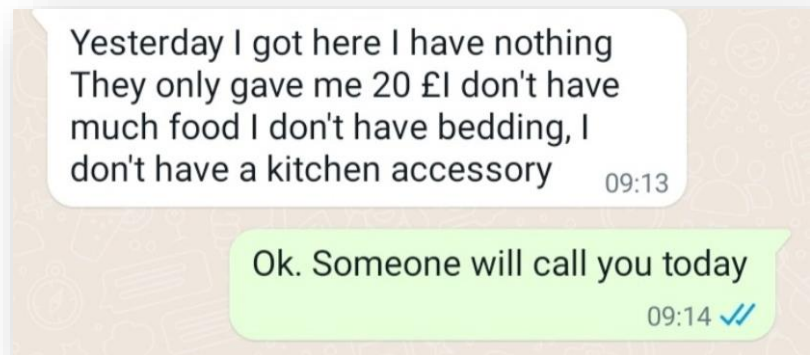
- Made emergency Section 4 applications that saw homeless clients temporarily housed in hotels
- Worked on 7 Fresh Claims
- Undertook successful Exceptional Case Funding applications
- Successfully challenged Work Permissions
- Successfully applied to lift No Recourse to Public Funds conditions
- Made family reunion applications (via Sheffield Hallam University)
- Assisted clients to claim asylum directly through DASH
- Undertook asylum support applications and appeals
- Identified case merits for a Judicial Review and found a pro bono lawyer to stay a client's deportation order and secure him Leave To Remain

Our clientele is made up of people seeking asylum at initial stage and those who have been refused. The latter often have more complex cases for whom LTR is harder to obtain. One of our core purposes is to support those who have had trouble navigating the legal system and consequently fallen outside of it. We're delighted that **39** clients were granted Leave To Remain.

Welfare Support

We expanded this service for advocacy & referrals (including food), delivered **334** ESOL sessions and **48** referrals to **This Way For English**. We

created an internal system for disseminating swathes of new information, *InfoMap*, to help us help clients. By winter, volunteer hours were back up to pre-lockdown levels and we appointed a Welfare Support Coordinator.



Destitution support – we became referral partners to the **Red Cross** Hardship Fund to access their destitution support. A significant development was our partnership with **Kirklees Welcomes**, with whom we'd worked closely throughout the pandemic. DASH was commissioned to administer the Essential Needs Fund for migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds.



Clothing – with drop-ins suspended, clients could no longer access free clothing, so we were glad when **Sanctuary Clothing** launched. In partnership, we piloted a Free Shop event for **45** clients and their families, on the back of which DASH funded a Sanctuary Clothing Project Lead, to build their capacity. In an innovative fundraiser, match-funded by **One Community**, we also raised over **£4000** to buy Kirkwood vouchers for clients to buy clothes.

Health – from translated Covid messaging to mental wellbeing, health emerged as a key support need. We registered clients with GPs and applied for access to free prescriptions. Working with the Migrant Health Subgroup enabled a joined-up approach. **16** staff and volunteers received mental health training from **Solace** with whom we developed a new referral pathway to combat the worst effects of prolonged social isolation. Clients also took part in research on maternity outcomes for asylum seeking women.

Asylum Guides

This legal literacy project, a partnership with **Refugee Action** and delivered by volunteers, has gone from strength to strength! Perfectly bridging our Asylum Casework and Welfare Support projects, our part-time coordinator oversaw the recruitment and training of **28** Asylum

Guides, of whom **1/3** were experts by their own experience of the asylum system, who delivered legal information to **43** clients in **12** languages. Sessions were delivered remotely or, where necessary, dynamically – including a hotel car-park. As well as delivering a Toolkit of asylum information, the Guides became a vital conduit between DASH and isolated clients, often picking up needs for referrals into our other projects. This new **Outreach** would go on to become a major development in the next reporting year.

Campaigning

Working with **Asylum Matters** and a Kirklees multi-agency subgroup, we increased involvement with the *Lift the Ban* campaign. 2 former DASH clients met Jason McCartney MP to share their experiences of years of enforced destitution while they awaited their Home Office decisions.



DASH Treasurer's Report – Financial Year 2019-2020

Author: K Wood – Treasurer

Date: November 2021

This report covers the financial accounting period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. The financial year began a week after the first Covid lockdown began, with ensuing activities highly affected by the pandemic. We were fortunate to be offered additional financial support by our funders to help us continue delivering services throughout.

Some areas of previous spending decreased as a result of Covid (drop-in costs, travel costs, volunteer expenses) while other needs increased, most notably in adapting to a remote working model, and addressing digital exclusion and clothing poverty. Whilst homelessness and destitution remained the most urgent need, DASH was able to access external provision for direct client payments or accommodation, via new partnerships and changed Home Office provision (emergency Section 4s). Capacity-building to enable these changes was made possible by using emergency Covid funding to extend some staff hours.

Some of our projects extend beyond one year – the rise in cash reserves to **£116,976** reflect that these funds will be used over a longer term. Our total income during the year was **£167,570**, the majority of which came from grants.

- The Tudor Trust: The second year of a 3 year grant of £96,000, with **£32,000** in this financial year, to fund the salaries of 2 staff members. Tudor also offered a further £15,000 towards salaries and £3,000 to support the welfare of staff and volunteers.
- Lloyds Bank Foundation: **£9,115** to build capability, capacity and resilience. This provided PPE + digital equipment for project delivery.
- Refugee Action: **£17,263** to support the Asylum Guides project.
- Respond and Adapt: **£10,000** to extend Level 2 Asylum Casework hours.
- National Lottery: **£9,838** to extend caseworker hours + running costs.
- Kirklees Council: **£25,000** Essential Needs Fund grant to directly support clients with NRPF or facing additional hardship. This is a project which DASH is administering to other organisations, to provide funds to individuals and families seeking asylum in Kirklees (as well as other migrants with NRPF) and will run for a couple of years.

We continue to be supported through donations from both individuals and organisations. Nearly half of public donations are made regularly and we are especially grateful for these.

Due to Covid restrictions, fund-raising activities were more limited than in previous years but two online DASH appeals meant that we could address some urgent priority needs like translation services and clothing. Our Winter Clothing appeal was match-funded by One Community to raise a total of **£4170**

Our total outgoings for the year were **£93,074**. Of this total, DASH spent £10,501 on direct financial support to clients in the form of client destitution payments (£5,323), the payment of client legal expenses (£500) and digital connectivity phone/data (£4,154). We spent £4,158 on client accommodation and hosting fees.

Staff costs were our most significant outgoing (£66,387), some of which funded the new partnership role of the Sanctuary Clothing project lead, with a further £8,619 spent on hiring office space in the Quaker Meeting House in Paddock and other general expenses including the setting up of an SMS service for client mass messaging, professional interpreter services plus stationary, printing and general admin costs.

We began the financial year with funds of £42,481 and these increased significantly over the year so that we ended it with a cash balance of £116,976. Unrestricted funds, which can be spent on any charitable purpose, comprised £42,657 of this total, whilst the majority, £74,319 was restricted to specific purposes (like salaries, rent, insurance and specific projects or services for clients). Finding sufficient unrestricted funding is difficult for an organisation like DASH and generating more unrestricted income through donations and our own fund-raising activities continue to be a priority in the new financial year.

DASH ended the 2020-2021 financial year in a good financial position, allowing the organisation to expand operations by supporting clients with more services. Funding for Asylum Guides and the Essential Needs Fund is scheduled to continue for 2 more years, which provides further stability to our organisation.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

DASH (DESTITUTE ASYLUM SEEKERS HUDS)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

1 APRIL 2020

To

31 MARCH 2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	23,600	117,082	-	140,682	53,840
Donations	9,736	4,270	-	14,006	11,967
GiftAid	1,185	-	-	1,185	831
Fundraising	-	2,607	-	2,607	4,532
Client Support payments	-	322	-	322	7,100
Billable income	8,756	-	-	8,756	-
Other Income	12	-	-	12	529
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	43,289	124,281	-	167,570	78,799
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	43,289	124,281	-	167,570	78,799
A3 Payments					
Client travel costs	38	486	-	524	4,273
Destitution support	2,892	2,431	-	5,323	4,420
Client telecommunications and data	200	3,954	-	4,154	-
Client legal costs	-	500	-	500	2,253
Volunteer expenses	195	81	-	276	3,458
Kitchen supplies and equipment	-	-	-	-	2,033
Client support payments	-	-	-	-	683
Client accommodation costs	4,158	-	-	4,158	7,586
Staff employment costs	336	66,051	-	66,387	32,590
Office Rent costs	-	2,150	-	2,150	2,650
Computer equipment	78	3,055	-	3,133	-
COVID protection expenses	-	859	-	859	-
Insurance	1,897	-	-	1,897	-
Admin and other costs	1,171	2,542	-	3,713	4,860
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	10,965	82,109	-	93,074	64,806
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	10,965	82,109	-	93,074	64,806
Net of receipts/(payments)	32,324	42,172	-	74,496	13,993
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,333	32,147	-	42,480	28,487
Cash funds this year end	42,657	74,319	-	116,976	42,480

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Accounts	16,995	-	-
	Savings Accounts	24,054	74,319	-
	Cash and Prepayment cards	1,608	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	42,657	74,319	-

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

K Wood
J Fowden

KAREN WOOD
JANE FOWDEN

11/10/21



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Entity Name
DASH (Destitute Asylum Seekers Huddersfield)

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1181825

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(number to include the page number of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021

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

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Zohair

Date:

03/09/2021

Name:

Zohair Hassan

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

Certificate in Accounting and Finance (ICAP member)

(If any):

Address:

8 Gloscop Street
Leeds
LS6 2LE

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.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

DASH (Destitute Asylum Seekers Huddersfield)

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1181825

Set out on pages

1 and 2

(remember to include the page number of additional sheets)

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examiner's statement

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- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
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* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Zohair

Date:

03/09/2021

Name:

Zohair Hassan

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

Certificate in Accounting and Finance (ICAF award)