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The Dash Charity has supported women, men and children in East Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire for over 45 years experiencing domestic abuse.

Could you join our Board of Trustees and make a difference to survivors of domestic abuse?

Trustee Information Pack

Dear Potential Trustees

Thank you for your interest in becoming one of our Trustees. The Dash Charity has been supporting the women, men and children in South Bucks and East Berkshire experiencing domestic abuse for 45 years. A small charity with a strong reputation for quality and impact, we are very proud of what we do. Dash is a member of Women's Aid Federation, and we share its mission to end violence against women and girls.

This is an exciting time to join Dash as we have recruited a new CEO who will join us later in Summer 2022, when our current CEO retires. We now need to recruit new trustees to join our Board, who share our passion to end domestic abuse. You will be supported by an extraordinary and passionate team, doing all they can to achieve an incredible outcome for their clients. The past two years have seen challenging times for both the staff and clients of Dash as we navigated our way through various lockdowns and restrictions, we now look forward to developing services and moving beneficiary experience to an even higher level.

We are looking in particular for Trustees with the following skills to complement our existing board:

- Fundraising
- Treasurer
- HR (pay, benefits, legislation, employee engagement)
- Learning & Development (change, talent management, recruitment, succession planning)
- Technology Strategy, Digital Expertise, particularly in charities

If you feel excited by the opportunity to have a significant impact on our organisation, we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Palasz-Sennik
Chair of Trustees - The Dash Charity

The Dash Charity (Dash)

We provide a range of confidential services to women, men and children experiencing domestic abuse, no matter what their age, ethnicity, religion or background. The Charity's aim is not just to provide crisis support, but to enable victims to tap into the range of support available and empower them to break the cycle of abuse for good. We educate children and young people, helping them identify abuse in relationships, understand their own experiences and build up their own resilience, so they can put the abuse behind them where it belongs and focus on their future. We ensure we speak up for victims when they are not able to, by attending meetings with them and we educate professionals across local statutory and voluntary services to hold them accountable and ensure they provide the best response to those needing their help.

To the year ending March 2022, we had over 1,000 calls to our helpline. 947 new referrals were received, with 502 clients being provided with short-term safety and support. In addition, 416 Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM) clients received support via our Advocacy and Outreach services and 29 South Bucks and out of area clients were supported (so a total of 445 clients). We also accommodated and supported 22 women and 23 children in our 3 safehouses. The women and their children arrived from across the country fleeing their abusers to access safe accommodation.

19 women also completed our in-house Freedom Programme with 106 clients registered.

601 children completed Healthy Relationship workshops in schools

124 Children in RBWM and 3 in South Bucks were referred to Independent Domestic Violence Advocate support. IDVAs provide emotional and practical advice, guidance and support to help individuals and their family to become and remain safe.

Over the last year, domestic abuse cases have become more severe and prevalent in our community. Dash has experienced a significant increase in adult cases, and our children's cases have tripled. Being locked in a home with an abuser is a terrifying, dangerous and unfortunately common reality for many.

87% of women supported in refuge saw an overall increase in feelings of safety, confidence and optimism.

97% of IDVA and Outreach clients reported improved quality of life post support.

100% children supported reported improved coping strategies.

More information about us is on our website www.thedashcharity.org.uk

Join us in our mission to STOP Domestic Abuse

What Dash Survivors say:

"My journey to hell and back began 42 years ago"

"I have been married for 40 years. My generation believe that once you are married you should stay together no matter what. I thought I might leave once the children left home but by then it seemed too difficult, and I resigned myself to life at home. It was 'only' emotional abuse after all, I was not in danger"

"My GP suggested I speak to Dash – they really understood and did not put pressure on me to make decisions. Just knowing I had Debbie to listen to helped me feel stronger. I know I have options now and have started to confide in my children. I am feeling less depressed and starting to think about my future. It is never too late!"

"I love my husband, but I wanted to think for myself"

From the beginning of my marriage, my husband hit me. I was treated like a slave. He was controlling and jealous, would spend our money on alcohol and force me to give him all my wages. He would make any excuse to hit me. Divorce was not an option for me as this would have brought shame on my family. One day I thought he would kill me. I ran out of the door with no idea where to go. I ran to the police station, and they put me in touch with Dash.

Journey to peace and safety

Thank you, Dash, for all your support and helping me realise that it was not my fault and there is hope for a new life waiting for everyone. We are all one tribe and there is always someone around to call and when you get that window of opportunity, take it. The sooner you get away the better, the younger your children are the better. There is no doubt that Dash is amazing and a magic wand!"

Young Mum of two

"I cannot describe how much I appreciate support Dash gave me. From the very first minute I felt I am not alone. They made me believe in myself again and build up my confidence back, while supporting me through this horrible, difficult and life changing period of time."

Read on to find out more about who we are looking for to join our Board and the responsibilities and commitment we expect

Trustees

The Trustees have joint responsibility to ensure that the Dash Charity:

- operates in an effective, responsible and accountable way
- complies with the rules in its own Memorandum and Articles of Association, as well as charity law, and company law
- prepares reports on its work and submits Annual Returns and accounts.
- complies with all other relevant legislation in its role as employer and provider of services, such as employment law, health and safety regulations, safeguarding and so on
- is and will remain solvent and financially stable
- uses its funds properly and wisely, and only to further the purposes and interests of the charity

Jointly the Trustees have a responsibility to:

- safeguard and promote the values and mission
- determine the strategy and structure
- appoint and supervise the Chief Executive and monitor her performance

To fulfil these responsibilities properly, Trustees must keep up to date with the charity's activities and the financial position.

The Dash Charity aims to ensure that its board is diverse, and that between them the Trustees bring a range of skills, perspectives and experience. Ideally, the make-up of the Board of Trustees reflects the demographic of the local community.

All Trustees are expected to give enough time and energy to making sure that the above responsibilities are met. Board meetings are held bi-monthly online and there are also sub-committees e.g., finance and tender preparation. Also desirable is a willingness to support the Charity in its activities and events, time permitting.

Trustees will join us in our passion for ending domestic abuse and be an advocate of our cause.

How to Apply

Please email a CV of no more than three pages and a covering letter, explaining why you would like to become a Trustee of Dash and what skills you can bring, to admin@thedashcharity.org.uk by Monday 25 July 2022.

One of our team will arrange an informal conversation with you if shortlisted. There will be an opportunity for interested parties to speak with our chair and observe a Board Meeting.

The Dash Charity is committed to equality and valuing diversity. Applications are welcome from all.