



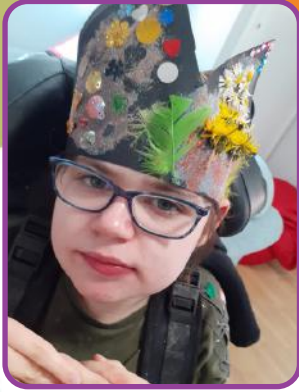
Dorset's Disability Charity

Providing extraordinary lives for extraordinary people



01202 718266
diverseabilities.org.uk





Introduction

Welcome to Diverse Abilities.

A world where no two days are the same, there's no telling what could be around the corner, and where we are certain that there will be smiles and laughter no matter what along the way.

As the only charity in the county supporting children and adults with disabilities, we have a big job to do.

I can rely on our dedicated teams to provide the high standards of care and support these children and adults need each and every day.

Delivering all this isn't easy, we are thankful to our local authority partners for providing some funding towards what we do, but we still rely on you, our local community, to help us deliver excellent services to those who really need it.

We really appreciate your support.



Mark Powell
CEO





Why we are here

There are hundreds of children and adults across Dorset living with profound and complex disabilities. For them and their families, life can be very difficult.

Thankfully, Diverse Abilities understands the pressure that caring for a child or adult with a disability can bring to the whole family. We provide dedicated care and support for people with disabilities and the rest of the family.

Without our support, mums, dads, brothers, and sisters would struggle to cope. We are a lifeline, helping them manage the challenges they face and give them somewhere to turn to when times are tough.

As a team, we work together and support extraordinary people to achieve extraordinary things.



Our history

Diverse Abilities was founded in 1955 by a courageous young mum, Phyllis Edwards, whose daughter was born with cerebral palsy. Phyllis formed a group with other parents and together their aim was to provide better opportunities for children with physical and learning disabilities.

The charity has now grown to support hundreds of children and adults, and their families, by providing a whole range of services for those in Dorset.

"I still can't thank Phyllis Edwards enough for just not giving up all those years ago." Andrea, mum to Victoria who is supported by Diverse Abilities.



Phyllis Edwards,
our founder



Victoria with
her parents

Our future

It is our mission to continue providing life-changing support for these vulnerable people within our communities.

We are always seeking ways to improve the services we provide while delivering high standards of care. More than ever, children and adults with disabilities are living longer, and we are here to help them for as long as we are required.

What we do

Imagine your child was born with a serious disability and there was no cure. No one can tell you what life is going to be like, only that your child will need constant care throughout their whole life.

We are here to support children, adults, and their families in Dorset. We provide a range of assistance, support, and educational services from birth throughout every stage of their lives, as long as that may be. This is delivered through:

- **Langside School**, a specialist school for children from aged two to 19
- **Children's Team**, providing respite, activities, youth clubs, and more
- **Adult Services**, a day activity and therapy centre and 24/7 supported living
- **Advice Team**, assisting with benefits, wills, lasting power of attorneys and more

Every year we...

Support more than 1,400 children and adults with disabilities.



Assist more than 650 people with their disability benefit cases



**Provide almost 300,000
hours of care**



**Provide more than 300,000
hours of care**



**And are successful in more
than 90% of benefit appeals**



Children's Team

We support children from birth until they are 25 years old and our amazing staff ensure they feel cherished beyond their own home.

We provide the following services:

- **Langside School**, a specialist school with nursing and therapy teams on site
- **Lily's Place & Lawford Lodge**, day and overnight breaks at our respite home, open seven days a week
- **Coping with CHAOS & Project**, holiday, weekend, and after school activities
- **Shapes**, practical support in the home and out in the local community
- **Transitions**, support for young people transitioning to an adult
- **STARs**, a support group for SEN siblings

These services enable children and young people to have an enjoyable childhood and support families to cope with the pressures they face caring for a child with a lifelong disability.

Opportunities are also given to siblings to attend play sessions with their brother or sister while parents can benefit from information and support services.

“The charity makes children's lives fun while helping them to achieve their potential.”



Advice Team

Our Advice Team seeks to assist people with limiting health conditions and disabilities of all ages, and their families, with certain issues underpinned by law. The team provide guidance and representation on medical and legal needs and can help with the following services:

- **Disability benefits**
- **Lasting power of attorney**
- **Will writing**
- **Deputyships**
- **Advance decision**

The team of advisors are friendly and use plain English rather than legal jargon to help you understand information simply. They are also happy to accompany you to any hearings or appeals if required.

“Happy with the service, the advisor was pleasant, efficient and understanding.”

“Knew exactly what we wanted and how to deal with it, professional and efficient.”



Adult Services

If it was not for our Adult Services, many of the people supported would not have independence.

We provide vital support to anyone over the age of 19 with a disability ensuring they have a fulfilled life and an encouraging future. We are passionate about changing the lives of people with disabilities and provide the following services:

- **Supported Living Service**, 24/7 care in the home and out and about in the community
- **The Beehive Centre**, a centre of excellence where people can experience a range of activities

Without us, adults with disabilities would not be able to live in their own home. We enable them to enjoy many fun activities, including cooking, dancing, swimming, shopping, or going to the pub or a festival.

“Diverse Abilities has given my son the independence to live his life as a young man and given us some independence to do the things we need to do with his brothers and our families.”

Your support changes lives

The work we do is only possible because of you. By supporting Diverse Abilities, you make a difference to children and adults with disabilities, and their families too.

We cannot change people's disabilities, but you can help us make their lives fun and fulfilled.

- It costs in excess of £19,000 per day to provide all our services
- We receive some government funding, but we must fundraise around £600,000 each year
- 88p of every £1 spent goes directly into our services
- We raise £3 for every £1 spent on fundraising

Without your help, our services would not exist and the people we support would not receive the care they deserve. We cannot let Dorset's children and adults with disabilities down.

Every penny makes a difference

- **£5 allows a child with additional needs to attend an activity session**
- **£22 can fund an hour of physiotherapy for an adult**
- **£63 could fund a day's medical supplies for Langside School**
- **£90 could provide a 1:1 day for a teenager at Lily's Place**
- **£150 can provide a special dinner for 40 adults at The Beehive**
- **£452 is the average cost of running a play session for 16 families**

Meet Bobby

When Bobby was born, he was very floppy and wouldn't feed. Bobby and his mum had to spend the first six weeks of his life in the paediatric intensive care unit while the hospital ran tests.



Eventually his family learned that little Bobby has Gastro Oesophageal Reflux Disorder and Chromosome 14q Deletion Syndrome, and incredibly rare condition believed to affect fewer than 20 other children.

Bobby needs a great deal of specialist care and support as he is fed via a pump connected straight to his bowel, which is running 24 hours a day, as well as requiring suctioning throughout the day and night as he vomits and gags up to 20 times a day.

Although Bobby's parents don't know what the future might hold for little Bobby, he is already growing and developing more than they could have ever wished for, thanks largely to our specialist school, Langside.

Bobby benefits from regular hydrotherapy in the school's pool and daily support from the physiotherapists and occupational therapists. He has his own individually tailored sensory curriculum personalised to his learning needs and also attends the school's Caterpillar Club for young children with disabilities, which his mum and younger sister can also attend.

**"He is so happy when he is at Langside - full of smiles.
We want to say a massive thank you to Diverse Abilities."**

Meet Carole

Carole is one determined lady who has made some remarkable achievements.

Moving out of her family home in 1999, Carole lived at the charity's old residential home, Edward House, before moving into a supported living property in 2005, also run by Diverse Abilities.



Over the years Carole has enjoyed living with her friend Lindsay and being supported by the charity. She cooks, cleans, does her washing, goes food shopping, and enjoys gardening.

Carole loves getting out and about and every week she enjoys a range of activities, which include playing snooker, getting her nails painted, going to the gym, and popping into the office to help out.

Now in her 50s, Carole has become an extremely independent and determined lady who gets the bus every Saturday on her own. She takes a weekly trip to Poole town centre, has a coffee and looks around the shops - one of her favourite things to do.

Her independence has grown since she lost two and a half stone by following a healthy eating regime, and also growing her own vegetables.

“Carole is very pleased with her achievements and has been recognised at the charity’s annual awards ceremony for her progress. She received an award for ‘achieving something remarkable’ and she was delighted.”

Get involved and help make a difference

Volunteer for us

Whether you have five minutes, 12 hours, or a spare day every week, it all helps make a difference. There are a wide range of opportunities available including bucket collections, gardening, helping at community events, painting, or baking.

Challenge yourself

Want to climb Mount Kilimanjaro? Dreamt of skydiving? Run a marathon? The options are endless, and all are fantastic fundraising opportunities.

Play the BH Coastal Lottery

From just £1 a week you have the chance to win a £25,000 jackpot - you'll be helping raise funds for us and projects in your local community at the same time.

Work with us

Join our team and help children and adults living with disabilities in Dorset. We provide full training, therefore whether you have experience and qualifications or not, we are looking for enthusiastic people to join us and make a difference.

Leave a gift in your will

Everyone can leave a gift to charity in their will, not matter how wealthy. After taking care of family and friends, even a small donation can make a very real difference.

Be a partner

Whether you are a company, a community group, or a school, you can become a partner. Choose us as your charity partner of choice and you will be transforming lives.

Fundraise for us

We rely on donations from both individuals and businesses to support what we do. Why not organise your own event or take part in one of ours? Funds you raise could buy vital equipment and run activities for the people we support.

Donate

Whether it's a one off or a regular donation, visit our [website](#) or speak to our fundraising team today. Run a business? Consider setting up a Payroll Giving scheme to automate the process for everyone.





Dorset's Disability Charity

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Registered charity no. 282197



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We'd love to have you as part of **#TeamDA**, and there are so many ways in which you can get involved. Please tick any of the options below that you'd like to find out more about:

- Please sign me up to your monthly general charity newsletter
- I'd love to know more about the events you've got coming up
- I want to volunteer with you
- I'd like to know more about career opportunities

A bit about you

Rest assured your data is never sold on to third parties and will only be used for the purpose(s) you request.

Full name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

