



Warrington
Disability
Partnership

Annual
Report
2025/26



Giving Disabled People
Hope & Opportunity



Introduction

Chair and Chief Executive's Report

Welcome to our latest annual report.

Throughout the past year, we listened, learned and respond to thousands of enquiries we received from disabled and older people, carers and families. Our team used their skills and expertise to find solutions to everyday challenges, and when we couldn't, we ensured a smooth handover to one of our trusted partners who could. We continued to share insights gained from disabled peoples lived experiences with policy makers and service providers.

"Hot" is the word that best describes our 34th annual Disability Awareness Day. Sixteen partners provided the financial support, enabling us to run a week of events that, along with our main show, attracted over 20,000 visitors and involved over 1,200 volunteers.

Our inclusive Santa's Grotto and Winter Wonderland in Walton Gardens attracted over 3,000 children and nearly 10,000 family members. With financial support from local businesses and individuals we distributed over 500 free tickets to disadvantaged children, and our annual Santa Dash attracted nearly 200 participants.

We used our status as a Disability Confident Leader to deliver a range of Disability Awareness and Reasonable Adjustment training sessions that were attended by over 600 people.

With funding we secured from Warrington Borough Council's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, we offered free access and facilities audits to businesses and community organisations. The 80 disability access audit reports and recommendations we completed, together with over 200 free portable ramps, induction loop systems, handrails and signage, have enhanced accessibility for thousands of local disabled residents.

Our social enterprise, the Disability Trading Company continues to grow in popularity, attracting interest from new suppliers, and being invited to influence the design of several independent living products. Being recognised nationally as a Large Motability Dealer was one of the many highlights for our team. In response to feedback from disabled people about the damaging effects of the cost-of-living crisis we increased availability of refurbished equipment under the banner of Loved B4 Mobility through our store in Warrington Town Centre.

As we look ahead, we know that funding will be tougher than ever before. With Warrington Borough Council and local NHS commissioning teams planning huge multi-million-pound cuts, both internally and externally. The results will no doubt see contracts and grants to several of our core services withdrawn and this will inevitably leave vulnerable people at risk. Whilst appreciating that the year ahead will be

difficult, we aim to focus on maintaining our core purpose of improving the lives of people affected by disability and long-term health conditions.

One glimmer of light will be the launching of our new wide-beam canal boat, the Wizard II – John B which has been designed and built with accessibility in mind. Funding was made possible from a bequest from a lady who contacted our services to discuss her dream of buying an accessible narrowboat in honour of her late husband. This underlines the importance of one of our key values, that of listening and responding to feedback.

During the past year, we sadly lost three members of our WDP family. Our thoughts go out to the families and friends of Mark Stevenson, Terry Wadsworth and Pat Maclaren. May they all rest in peace.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who shares and supports the WDP dream, especially our volunteers, our trustees, our staff, our supporters, our clients/customers and our partners.

John Gartside OBE DL JP
Chair of Trustees

Dave Thompson MBE DL MBA
Chief Executive



Warrington Disability Partnership
'Supporting Independence throughout Life and Work'

Centre for Independent Living
Beaufort Street, Warrington WA5 1BA
01925 240064

www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk
www.disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk
www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk
info@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

disability
trading
company

2025 Highlights

The year in pictures



The WDP Galleries Community Cafe received a 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating.



Congratulations to Parker, winner of the writing competition hosted by the WDP 'All Seasons Creative Writing Group' at DAD 2025.



AKW Charity Golf Day raised over £9,500 to support WDP services.



Six successful DAD Week events held in the lead up to Disability Awareness Day including the fantastic 'Bjorn to Be' Abba tribute night.



Successful Grotto Appeal supported by local individuals and businesses, enabled WDP to distribute over 500 tickets to disadvantaged children to visit Santa.

Who we are and what we do

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) is an internationally acclaimed user-led charity. With over 30 years of experience in developing and delivering mobility and independent living services, we aim to support disabled people and those living with long-term health conditions. We are proud of our wide-ranging services, which include:

Promoting Independent Living

Visit our **Centre for Independent Living (CIL)** - located on Beaufort Street; the **Disabled Living Centre** at the Lifehouse on Brunswick Dock; and the **Mobility and Independent Living Store (MILs)** in Birchwood Shopping Centre. We offer showrooms full of the latest equipment from baths, showers and kitchens to beds, wheelchairs and stair lifts. Advice is available from our team of trained staff and volunteers, and a short-term hires service for various equipment.

The **Energy Service Support Service** provides help and support to households falling into fuel poverty. The fully qualified advisors will give 1-2-1 advice along with home visits and referrals to wider services. We also have a fully accessible **“Energy Efficient Smart Flat”** demonstrating the latest assistive technology solutions, based at the CIL. Our popular **Disability Helpline (01925 240064)** offers advice and support about local support groups and services, accessibility, transport, and more.

Our two **Shopmobility Schemes** in Legh Street Car Park and Birchwood Shopping Centre offer scooters and wheelchairs for use while shopping. They are available for hire to both members and day visitors, Monday to Saturday (9 am to 5 pm). A six-month membership costs just £10. The **Scoota Safe** campaign helps promote safe use of personal equipment, advice on maintenance and raises awareness of road safety.

The **OWCH Pain Management and Beyond the Scars support group** helps and supports local disabled people with self-management of Chronic Pain.

Our **Long Covid Support Group** meets every other Friday and online. The group supports all those who are dealing with the symptoms of Long Covid.

Our **Independent Living Team** provides a support service for Warrington residents who use the Direct Payments scheme from Warrington Borough Council, assisting with all aspects of employing a Personal Assistant including assistance and advice regarding recruitment, DBS checks, pension schemes and contracts, with support from our in-house payroll team.

Our Care and Support Advisor promotes **Personal Health Budgets (PHBs)** for individuals with complex health needs throughout Warrington and Halton. PHBs aim to allow greater choice, flexibility and control over how and when NHS-funded care is delivered. The Advisor works with the clients to produce individual Care and Support Plans, liaising with the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside concerning individual budget allocations.

The Disability Trading Company Limited

WDP's trading arm – Disability Trading Company (DTC), offers high-quality, independent living products at competitive prices. Running as a Social Enterprise, all profits are donated to WDP to support many of our unfunded services. For further details of services, please see page 6.

Employment & Training

Our **Employment Team** specialises in supporting local disabled people, people living with long-term health conditions (including mental health), ESA claimants and

those in receipt of incapacity-related benefits. The team support individuals through all stages of the employment process, job searching, CVs, application forms, preparing for interviews and when gaining employment. We also support people who are in work, as well as employers, by giving information about reasonable adjustments in the workplace including Access to Work Fund, the Disability Confident Scheme and the Mindful Employer.

Learning and Development

Visit the **Marjorie Griffiths Learning Centre** on Beaufort Street and take advantage of a whole host of courses designed to educate and inspire. Many courses are held in the Discover IT Suite and include ‘Computers for the Terrified’, vocational OCR qualifications and pre-employment IT. In addition, several other courses are available, which include flower arranging and creative writing.

We work closely with numerous local charities and voluntary organisations to provide a place for groups to meet and offer support to their members. Our well-equipped meeting and training rooms are also available to hire at a reasonable cost.

WDP delivers a variety of training, including **Equality & Diversity, Disability Confident and Disability, and Sex Matters**. Half-day training sessions are available to service providers, voluntary organisations and individuals to build knowledge and insight on these issues.

Accessible Holidays & Days Out

Our fully accessible holiday home in North Wales and our adapted, accessible narrowboat **The Wizard** are available for hire at competitive rates. With a range of options, they allow a bargain break or a day out on the water!

Opportunities to Socialise

We run two **Luncheon Clubs** for individuals looking for friendship, activities, fun and lunch! Our **over 55's club** meet every Wednesday from 10am to 2pm. As well as enjoying a two-course lunch and drinks, attendees also enjoy playing bingo, games, quizzes, chair-based exercises, and guest speakers. Our **Monday Club** caters to under 55's with a variety of social activities, including crafts, bingo and films. There is a £7.50 charge for the sessions and individuals are required to attend using their own transport.

Our **Galleries Community Café** offers a wide range of hot and cold meals, snacks and drinks in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The Café is open to members of the public and visitors to the Centre and Support Groups.

Listening and Advocacy

Get your voice heard locally by attending our monthly **‘Staying Connected’** meetings via Zoom, which provides a forum to exchange ideas and information about local services. Sessions are open to all who have been affected by long-term health conditions or disabilities, carers and representatives of support groups/organisations and statutory services.

We organise the **Warrington's Appreciation of Efforts Awards**, which provide an opportunity for disabled people and carers to nominate local employers, businesses, service providers or individuals who deserve recognition for promoting independence, delivering accessible or inclusive services or maintaining exemplary employment practices for disabled people and carers.

For further information on any of these services, including how you can be involved as a WDP Volunteer, please contact the team on 01925 240064

2025 Highlights

The year in pictures



Disability Trading Company launched their first TV advert, in collaboration with Pride.





The Going the Extra Mile Scuba Challenge, supported by Cheshire Scuba Academy saw divers take on a 64-length (mile) Scuba Challenge. A number of beginners also took on a try-dive challenge.



Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Mo Hussain chose WDP as one of his Charities for his Mayoral Year. As well as supporting our events, he has also arranged a number of fundraising events.



Accessible 6-Berth
Holiday Home
Pensarn, North Wales

Funded by:  Funded by UK Government  WARRINGTON Borough Council

Our brand-new fully accessible caravan welcomed its first visitors.



The Today Team took on the Fire Walk challenge alongside WDP volunteers, raising over £2,000.

Development of Warrington Disability Partnership's Social Enterprise – The Disability Trading Company

In April 2011, Warrington Disability Partnership launched a social enterprise 'The Disability Trading Company'. Their first retail service was launched from the Warrington Centre for Independent Living, and in October 2011 they opened the Mobility & Independent Living Store (MILS) in the Golden Square Shopping Mall, followed by MILS Liverpool in early 2012.

In early 2013 DTC opened a large Mobility Workshop & Service Centre which provides servicing and repairs for individual customers, and businesses including Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, nursing homes and local Shopmobility Schemes. In late 2013 DTC launched a service aimed at recycling mobility equipment, scooters, wheelchairs and power-chairs.

Second-hand products are refurbished and recycled to be sold at a low cost to local people from our Golden Square shop. In partnership with other organisations, such as Care UK, products that are unable to be sold are donated to help disabled people in other countries. To-date, over £1 million worth of equipment has been donated to support disabled people across the world; including in Thailand, Egypt, Cameroon, Syria, Ukraine and Greece.

In 2017 DTC joined the British Health Trades Association, underlining their belief in the BHTA "Buy with Confidence" scheme that is accredited to Trading Standards. Receiving "approved dealer" accreditation to the national Motability Scheme was also achieved, which allows disabled people to use the enhanced mobility component of DLA or PIP to lease a powerchair or mobility scooter.

In 2018 DTC opened a new service, the Smart Flat is an assistive technology showroom located at the Warrington Centre for Independent living.

In 2019 in partnership with the Golden Square Shopping Centre, DTC moved their Mobility & Independent Living Store (MILS) from inside the Centre to a larger brighter store in Sankey Street.

In 2020 in partnership with Birchwood Shopping Centre, DTC opened a Mobility and Independent Living Store (MILS) in the Centre, it also includes Birchwood Shopmobility Service.

In 2022, DTC launched a new online shop designed so customers across the UK can purchase high-quality mobility & independent living products from the comfort of their homes. All our products can help increase your ability to live independently. We pride ourselves on a fast delivery service, and promise to pick up and send you your order before the end of the next working day. If you are unsure what products best fit your needs or have any questions, visit our website's contact us page.

For more products to make life easier, visit our website: <https://disabilitytradingcompany.co.uk/collections/all>.

What makes DTC unique?

- DTC has no private shareholders, 100% of its profits go to support WDP's charitable services which include subsidised Lunch Clubs for disabled people, an accessible narrowboat offering daytrips on the Bridgewater Canal and an accessible caravan in North Wales,
- DTC staff do not receive any incentive bonuses, which results in us providing advice versus high pressure selling,
- Free impartial home and work assessments based on the philosophy of information, advice and guidance, not just sales,
- DTC is a user-led social enterprise; many staff and all volunteers have used their experience of living with a disability or long-term health condition to develop the services and ensure they sell the right products
- Nearly £2.5million has been saved by disabled people who have purchased mobility and independent living products from WDP's Mobility and Independent Living Stores (MILS) rather than from commercially driven businesses

Services, Locations and Contact Details

Centre for Independent Living
Beaufort Street
Warrington
WA5 1BA

Mobility & Independent Living Showrooms
Email: [ShowRoom@disabilitypartnership.org.uk](mailto>ShowRoom@disabilitypartnership.org.uk)

Workshop and Service Centre
Email: Workshop@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Galleries Cafe

Payroll Services

Tel: 01925 240064

Loved B4 Mobility
Golden Square Shopping Centre
30 Sankey Street
Warrington
WA1 1TD

Tel: 01925 416624

Mobility & Independent Living Showrooms
Lifeshouse
Summers Road
Liverpool
L3 4BL

Tel: 0151 709 0121

Email: Liverpoolmils@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Mobility & Independent Living Store - Birchwood
Unit 6
Birchwood Shopping Centre
Dewhurst Road
Birchwood
WA3 7PG

Tel: 01925 251079

Email: birchwoodmils@disabilitypartnership.org.uk

Mobility & Independent Living Store - Warrington
Golden Square Shopping Centre
30 Sankey Street
Warrington
WA1 1TD

Tel: 01925 416624

Email: Mils@disabilitypartnership.org.uk



owned and operated by



Our Impact in 2025

WDP Purpose

'To enhance the lives of disabled people and their families by enabling independent living'

The business directory describes social impact as being the effect of an activity on the social fabric of the community and well-being of the individuals and families. Whilst many people are aware of the wide range and scope of the services that Warrington Disability Partnership provide, the direct effect that they have on a person's life, is not necessarily always apparent. This supplementary report has been produced by us to show the impact that our services have on local disabled people, their families, friends and carers throughout 2025.

Over **45,000** people visited the Centre for Independent Living in 2025

100%

of WDP Team members feel proud to be a part of the team- WDP Team Values Survey 2025

“If it wasn't for the disability scooter hire, I would not be able to visit Golden Square. I have my own scooter but if I am alone, I can't get out of the car. This is an amazing service! Lovely people who run it, they are so helpful”

Shopmobility User

Our Showrooms



“Very welcoming, informative and friendly staff, very good range of products with good advice. Very pleased”

DTC Customer

Ed Spiers - Volunteer Case Study

When did you start volunteering at WDP?

I started volunteering for WDP in 2014 as a steward for Disability Awareness Day. I had attended the event by helping my mum on a council stall since I was a kid and I always saw the stewards having fun so I wanted to have a go.

Why do you like volunteering?

I like volunteering because it gives me the opportunity to explore my potential and develop new skills in a supportive, inclusive environment.

About Ed:

My name is Ed, I am 32 years old and when I am not volunteering, I enjoy talking to my friends on the internet about our shared interests like VLDL and like doing all sorts of arts and crafts. I studied arts and design in college and I like to use those skills.

What has volunteering done for you?

Volunteering has really helped me come out of my shell. I am autistic and struggle with self-esteem, when I first started I would barely speak but over the years with the support and encouragement of the friendly people here, I have begun to find my own voice.



Our Impact



Over

£320,000

is spent annually by Shopmobility members and visitors in Warrington Town Centre
WDP Shopmobility Service 2025

Mark Pattie - Volunteer Case Study

When did you start volunteering at WDP?

I started volunteering at WDP in November 2024 in the finance office.

How did you start volunteering at WDP?

I had applied for a job in October 2024 but was unsuccessful so I started volunteering for the organisation.

Why do you like volunteering?

- I like the social aspect and supportive atmosphere.
- It has given me more confidence with job prospects and helps me with social skills and finance skills.
- I can give something back to the community and have attended DAD for a number of years.

About Mark:

I currently live at home with my parents. I also enjoy swimming, rowing (I am a member of the Runcorn Rowing Club Adaptive Rowing Squad) and I enjoy going to pub quizzes and I occasionally help setting quizzes. I also play the keyboard and am good at finance (I have both AAT Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications).

What has WDP done for you?

It has given me a routine and increased my social skills and general confidence.



Wellbeing Group Achievements

Formed in November 2022, the Wellbeing Group is led by members of staff and is supported by the Senior Management Team and trustees. Its purpose is to implement a Wellbeing strategy for the benefit of all who work and volunteer at WDP. There have been many achievements over the last three years, but the highlights of 2025 have been:

- A Wellbeing focus in our annual Team survey
- Occupational and Mental Health support
- Neuro-divergency peer support and staff training programme (now used externally)
- Responding to matters raised by team members such as building safety measures, heating and lone worker working procedures
- Safeguarding policies and procedures
- Quiet space provision

Whilst continuing to build on our achievements to-date, our new focus for 2026 will be to:

- Increase the number of Mental Health first-aiders
- Provide a bi-annual Wellness Day
- Produce a Wellbeing Events Calendar
- Acquire a corporate wholesale warehouse card to enable individual membership
- Facilitate social/information events



WDP Energy Team at their annual Winter Fuel Advice and Wellbeing Event

“I received totally exceptional service and attention that was far beyond my expectations. I did not realise that this wonderful service was so close to hand and will staying touch with team do any future help I need.”

Energy Support Service User

ct in 2025

Main reasons to use the WDP Shopmobility Service

- 1 Shopping in the Town Centre
- 2 Going for a meal or drink in the Town Centre (socialising with friends)
- 3 Attending NHS and Council appointments

Shopmobility Survey 2025

402

Registered members at our Shopmobility Service, with over 85% using the service weekly



“Extremely good professional service, they do a brilliant job and are friendly and helpful too would recommend you, Thank You all!”

DTC Customer

“After my Paralympic career ended, I found it very difficult finding employment. I struggled transitioning to civilian life and despite attending the Job Centre, Remploy and Shaw Trust on a regular basis, it felt like no one really understood my needs as someone with long-term conditions and disability. I doubt I would have been so successful in gaining and sustaining employment without consistent support from the WDP Employment Team. During a low point in life, to my confidence and skills blossoming, I've gone from strength to strength.”

WDP Employment Team client

Louise James - Case Study

I started working at WDP in October 2025, I had lost my job in June 2024 due to menopause symptoms, and I thought no-one would want to hire me.

I started seeing Lorraine with the employment team at WDP not long after, and boy did she have her work cut out for her!! I used to sit at her desk feeling so sorry for myself and mainly crying, she was amazingly patient with me and helped to build my confidence back up, she (very kindly) made me appointments when all I wanted to do was stay in bed. After some time she called me to say I have the perfect job for you and did I want to apply, I did! And she was right, this is perfect! Lorraine was my angel in all of this!

My role at WDP is to help people find a personal assistant for people living with disabilities, I get to go out into the community and meet people with all kinds of disabilities, some visible some not, and help them with the paperwork to help to enable them to stay in their own homes. I finally feel happy and content and the best thing is the people we help. The second-best thing is the people here at Warrington Disability Partnership, they are lovely to work alongside with.

I also got involved with the Grotto at Christmas, pure joy!! I worked as an elf with Santa and just seeing the children's faces, it sounds corny but it really was the highlight of my year.

Even though I came here to see Lorraine I did not know about all WDP does, I did two flower arranging courses here and loved it! There is always something going on, the first time I saw the smart flat I was blown away!! If you haven't seen it yet you need too!!

My home life is a little chaotic at the moment as I have an eight-month-old Jack Russell pup called, wait for it, Russell! I'm doing a lot of walking with him whatever the weather and in my downtime, I love to read, and I read anything! My prized possession is my kindle; it goes everywhere with me just in case I get a moment.



Our Impact in 2025



600+

Local disabled people supported to complete forms for assistance

Personal Development - Ellen Houghton

Ellen started volunteering at WDP when she was 12 years old within the main office. She would help with administration, answering phone calls and help with fundraising events on the weekend. At the age of 15 Ellen was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and was hospitalised for 2 years, throughout her time in hospital she kept contact with team members and would visit occasionally, WDP donated to Ellen's cause to fund her dream trip to America.

After receiving all clear, she continued voluntary work with the charity and even becoming a co-opted young trustee and after college became an apprentice studying Level 3 Business Administration while also promoting covid vaccines as a community champion. After working in a junior administrator's role, she completed her apprenticeship successfully and became a full-time staff member working within the energy team as administrator completing and passing her exams. Whilst being fully qualified she then moved up took the place of advisor within the team whilst still completing the team's administration. Due to gaps within the office from members leaving, she stepped up and took on more responsibility and gaining new skills learning leadership coordinating our in house HAF programme alongside Caroline. Ellen also found herself looking after more duties within the team and eventually becoming Energy Efficiency Team Leader.

Thanks to WDP they gave me a good start in life enabling me to gain the skills, confidence and qualifications needed to be the person i am today.



“Excellent customer service and patience explaining how to maneuver the scooter and gave us recommendations on scooters according to our needs.”

DTC Customer

387

Employers supported by the Payroll team to employ over 700 local people

“Without WDP services, I would be isolated and a lot more dependant on others, which would result in a deterioration of my mental health.”

WDP Shopmobility Member

“Your support has made a big difference to our autistic son to get out of the house and try new activities”

Local Carer

Mr and Mrs J - Customer Testimonial

Mr and Mrs J were a retired couple struggling to live off their pensions, they had worked all their lives with Mr J working within the army. During their working lives they had acquired long term health conditions and multiple disabilities. Mrs J reached out to Warrington Disability Partnership in the hope of seeking advice and help.

They had a lot of additional costs for daily living aids, which were helping them to be more independent within their home. Their advisor visited their home and after a short conversation it was apparent they could both claim Attendance Allowance.

After completing the forms with the couple and waiting for a result, we had the successful news that they had both been awarded Attendance allowance at full rate for Mrs J and low rate for Mr J and were very emotional. They now feel less anxious and can live a lot more comfortably with heat in their home and food on the table, with the increased income. Mrs J said “Thank you so much to WDP, you have changed our lives forever”.

Disability Awareness Day 2025 (DAD34)

In complete contrast to the showers in 2024, One word best described Disability Awareness Day 2025 “HOT”. Over 20,000 people visited the 34th Annual event at Walton Hall & Gardens.

The aim of our flagship event, widely known as the world's largest voluntary led pan disability exhibition was to promote independent living through the theme “It's what disabled people can do that matters” and was the culmination of a week-long of activities raising awareness about disability.

Local disability education specialists Expanse Learning Group and the north west's water supplier United Utilities, led the list of sponsors for DAD 2025. The event highlighted solutions supporting independent living and mobility, with equipment, products, transport, employment, education, training, health and social care, leisure activities, alongside over 100 charities/support groups. During the day we were also honored by the presence of three local dignities, the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, the High Sheriff of Cheshire and the Mayor of Warrington.

Most of this year's Disability Awareness Day exhibitors were housed in a huge, tented village of marquees, supported by; an extended Sports Zone, a Main Arena, a huge Performing Arts Marquee, three further Arts Marquees for art and crafts

(including regular workshops), a Silent Disco, a children's fun fair and play areas.

With over 200 exhibitors, visitors could gain an insight into the help and support that is available locally, regionally and nationally from statutory organisations, businesses and voluntary sector groups, as well as trying new and adaptive activities including Tennis, Snooker, Rugby League, Martial Arts, Tai Chi, Football, Scuba Diving in the on-site pool and Warrington Youth Zone's giant sports inflatables.

For those looking for a more relaxed day a fantastic line-up of talent could be found in the Arts Marquee with performances from some of the UK's leading disabled artists including Ella Performance Group, Creating Adventures, Wargrave Community Choir, Carly Ryan and Groovy Movers. BSL interpreters supported all acts.

Alternatively, the Main Arena hosted a variety of lively acts including the Guide Dog display team, Reach Sled Dogs Display Team, Batida Rio Samba Band, Royal Marines Corps of Drums and sports demonstrations.

Support services at DAD 2025 included a free accessible Park and Ride service, free accessible buses from Warrington Town Centre courtesy of Warrington's Own Buses, a free mobility scooter and wheelchair loan service (subject to availability), British Sign Language interpreters, additional unisex wheelchair accessible toilets and over 60 trained stewards and helper's eager to make it a day to remember for everyone

The DAD site team were joined during the week by over seventy volunteers from EE, nine from Terry Lifts, six from Handelsbanken and 10 from Thorn Cross prison who all helped to set up the site in preparation for the event.

The DAD Management Team would like to thank all of our sponsors, supporters and volunteers, without their continued support the event would not be possible. Our next DAD event will be held on Sunday 12th July 2026. For more details, please visit the DAD website www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk



DAD Week Events 2025

- Carers' Wellbeing Festival
- Creating Adventures “Don't stop us now! - Tribute to We will rock you”
- Warrington In Mind
- Ella's “Summertime Special”, a showcase of talented entertainers.
- “Party in the Park” for disabled children, young disabled people and young carers.
- “Bjorn to be Abba”, the UK's leading Abba tribute band.
- Today Team “Charity Fire Walk”

New for DAD 2025

- The new “Access All Areas” Arts Project, a collaboration between Warrington Disability Partnership and Culture Warrington, included a gallery showcasing the work of local disabled artists.
- A new programme of “have a go” workshops was hosted in the in the Arts Zone, offering visitors the opportunity to take part in new activities including dance and creative writing.

Christmas 2025 at WDP

Once again, our fully accessible and inclusive Santa's Grotto was held in The Old Riding Stables at Walton Gardens, Warrington. Our team of staff and volunteers worked tirelessly with the support of several local businesses including EE, Handelsbanken, Thorn Cross and ABB to ensure that our magical Grotto and Winter Wonderland were ready for the official opening by the Mayor of Warrington, Councillor Mo Hussain, on Saturday 29th November.

As well as the Winter Wonderland and Grotto experience, the area featured a wide array of wonderful festive activities to take part in, including craft activities, gingerbread decorating, and Christmas Market stalls. Entertainment from local groups and artists Wargrave Community Choir, Warrington Signing Choir, Wired for Sound and Zuzana Tomasikova brought a real community feel to the festivities.

On Sunday 7th December, over 140 Santa's also took part in our annual Santa Dash, a 3km walk/dash/push around a wintery Walton Gardens.

All this in addition to providing visitors with information, advice and guidance to support local, disabled people and those affected by disability.

Santa's Grotto Appeal 2025

Following the success of our 2024 appeal raising funds to provide local disadvantaged children with complimentary tickets to Santa's Grotto, the team were committed to support those who would otherwise not be able to

Thanks to the support of local individuals, businesses and organisations and that of our partners at social services, education and local charities we were able to give over **500** tickets away free to families in need. These tickets included a visit to the Winter Wonderland and Santa, a gift, photo memory, selection box and gingerbread decorating.

It was a fantastic way to start our 2025 grotto. The gratitude that our visitors showed was humbling and hearing the stories from some of the families underlined why this was so important.



What makes our Grotto unique?

- Not only is the grotto fully wheelchair accessible, so too is the undercover winter wonderland scenery that is held in the indoor riding school at Walton Hall and Gardens, Warrington. Warrington Disability Partnership have over 20 years' experience of running a fully inclusive Santa's Grotto, which can be visited by all.
- WDP's Santa and some of our elves can communicate with deaf children and parents through British Sign Language.
- After listening to parents, WDP have included Quiet Hours, where the individual needs of children, parents and grandparents can be met, including Autism, Dementia and Alzheimer's.
- The Quiet Hour also caters for people who have sight loss, with trained sighted guides offering guided tours and interactive experience including touching, feeling and smelling a Christmas tree and other display items, within the sensory area.



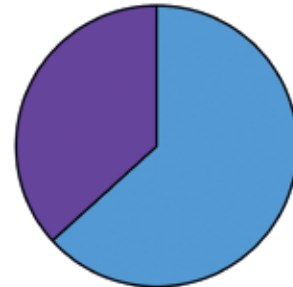
WDP Financial Position 2024-25

Income £2,758,846

Expenditure £2,556,868



- Other Trading Activities (£1.62m)
- Charitable Activities (£1.11m)
- Donations and Legacies (£13.12k)
- Investment (£341)



- Charitable Activities (£1.61m)
- Other (£939.19k)

The above information has been taken from the audited, consolidated, Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) Accounts for the financial period 1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025, as reported to the Charities Commission. These accounts include the Disability Trading Company (DTC) accounts.

WDP Board of Trustees & DTC Directors



JOHN GARTSIDE OBE JP DL
Chair



PAT FFRENCH
Vice-Chair &
DTC Board Member



EILEEN MACDONALD
Treasurer & DTC Board Member



JAN PRITCHARD
Secretary



PAM THOMPSON
Honorary President



GARY SKENTELBERY
WDP Patron



SUE McMILLAN



DAVE KELSALL



ADAM HAINES



ANITA CAWLEY



DEREK JONES



TONY BROWN



JANET HENSHAW



ELLEN HOUGHTON
WDP Young Trustee



CLLR MO HUSSAIN



NICOLA KETTLEY



DAVID JONES
DTC Chair



SHAUN RYAN
DTC Non-executive director



BILL BRADLEY
DTC Non-executive director





JAMIE BOYD
DTC Non-executive director



DIANE SANDWELL

**In Memory of our
Honorary Vice-President, Terry Wadsworth
and WDP Trustee Pat McLaren,
who we sadly lost during 2025**

**Their support and dedication for many years
helped to shape and develop WDP to the
organisation it is today. May they rest in peace.**

2025 Highlights

The year in pictures



The Team completed 80 disability access audit reports for local Warrington businesses, providing over 200 free portable ramps, induction loop systems, handrails and signage.



Throughout 2025, Team WDP attended over 100 different community events; including displaying our Invacare alongside NW Classic Cars



WDP hosts a wide variety of fundraising activities throughout the year, including our popular Christmas, Easter & Halloween Bingo nights.



After successfully receiving new funding our Energy Support Service has continued to organise drop-in sessions, large events and have complete individual and personalised home assessments around saving energy.



WDP Annual Charity Dinner, sponsored by Today Team was held at the Village Hotel with amazing performances from JK Productions.

Working in Partnership

A Big Thank You

Warrington Disability Partnership would like to thank everyone that has supported, donated and worked alongside us during the past 12 months - including:

- United Utilities
- BAS (NW) Ltd
- AKW Ltd
- Warrington Borough Council
- Torus
- Expanse Learning
- NHS Cheshire & Merseyside
- Merseycare NHS Foundation Trust
- Energy Redress Scheme
- Disability Positive
- Cadent Gas Network
- Protive Security & Surveillance
- Terry Lifts
- Porters Care
- Digicare
- Cheshire Community Foundation
- Catalyst Choices
- Warrington's Own Buses
- David Lewis
- UPS Building & Maintenance
- Ella Performance Group
- Warrington Worldwide
- Golden Square Shopping Centre
- F11 Photography
- Walton Hall and Gardens
- Mark Bates Insurance
- Birchwood Shopping Centre
- Today Team
- Warrington Business Exchange
- IEG Group
- SIA UK
- Right at Home
- Watsons' Solicitors
- G-Force Communications
- Birchwood Lions Club
- Pro-Despatch Ltd
- Ingevity
- Zeno & Engage
- Fast Move Properties
- Cllr Stuart Mann
- Driven Asset Finance
- Fun Leisure
- Accolade Social Care CIC
- Crossed Heart Crochet
- Warrington Voluntary Action
- Handelsbanken
- ABB
- Cheshire Scuba Academy
- Thorn Marine
- Aaron & Partners
- Warrington Youth Zone
- Sue Bentley MBE
- The Heritage Café Walton Gardens
- Creating Adventures
- WBC - Highways Assets Team
- Cheshire Mix 56 Radio
- Radio General - Hospital Radio
- HCC Printers
- EE
- Cheshire Times
- Speedy Hire
- Acts Sound & Lighting
- St John Ambulance
- Warrington Sea Cadets TS Obdurate
- Warrington Rotary Club
- Warrington Carers Hub
- John, Brun & Ethel Munslow
- Thorn Cross HMP
- Relay Technical Transport
- Bruntwood
- NSL Parking
- Bill & Anne Bradley
- The Donnell-Jones Family
- The Rouse Family
- Mayden Support
- Octopus Energy
- Amazon
- Jackie & John Emson
- Camilleri Appointments
- Walton Lea Partnership
- Westgrove Group
- Bell, Lamb & Joynson Solicitors
- Sarah Hall MP
- North West Classic Cars
- Olsen Engineering
- Mr & Mrs Linford
- The Gentlemen Book Society
- Lodge of Lights
- Dave Kelsall
- Mrs Hession
- Cilla Shields
- Tobias Robinson
- Chris & Alfie Skinkis
- Jack Taylor
- Club 2020
- Rob Swallow
- Dave Thompson
- Audrey Dobson
- Derek Partington
- Debbie Smith
- Mrs Ryder
- All Seasons Writing Group
- C Watson
- Jan Pritchard
- Farm Truck Designs
- JK Productions

Donations in memory of:

Pat McLaren
Terry Wadsworth
Matthew Morley
Frank Woods
Phillippa Cannon

Bequest

Catherine Davies

Legacy Donation – Wizard II - John B

After 18 years which saw a total refurbishment and numerous major repairs, Warrington Disability Partnership's Wizard accessible narrowboat was finally retired due to it being unfit to continue in service.

During those 18 years over 20,000 passengers, many were wheelchair users, had a wonderful, relaxing day trip on the scenic Bridgewater Canal, thanks to our amazing team of volunteers.

However, after an amazing donation from a wonderful lady, who wanted to leave a charitable legacy, specifically for an accessible boat in memory of her husband, the "Wizard II - John B" will be launched in time for 2026 season.

"Wizard II - John B" is currently under construction and has been designed to be fully accessible, not retrofitted like our original Wizard. It won't simply be accessible, this can be driven by wheelchair users, the accessible toilet will be full size and the lift is a proper wheelchair lift, built specifically for this boat.

"Wizard II - John B" will be bigger, 10ft 6ins wide and 50ft long compared to 6ft 6ins wide and 37ft long. She will have full central heating, independent lighting, a quiet engine, a galley kitchen and detachable windows to allow passengers to get

closer to the water and breathe in the fresh air.



I WANT IT ALL



QUEEN
with FREDDIE MERCURY

Walton Hall & Gardens
Friday 10th July

Mayor's Charity Dinner
The Village Hotel
Friday 8th May

AKW Golf Day
Houghwood Golf Course
Shotgun Start
Tuesday 16th June

FREE Admission

Disability Awareness Day

Sunday 12th July 2026 • 10am to 4.30pm
Walton Gardens • Warrington • WA4 6SN

Promoting Independence Throughout Life & Work

- 100% of Support Groups & Services
- Equipment & Vehicle Suppliers
- Performing & Visual Arts
- Main Arena
- Sports Zone
- Family Entertainment



Principal Sponsors: United Utilities, EXPANSE, Warrington Golf Club

Organised by: Warrington Disability Partnership

01925 240064 www.disabilitywarringtonday.org.uk

#DAD2026

WARRINGTON DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP'S

CHARITY DINNER

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2026
7pm for 7:30pm until late

THE VILLAGE HOTEL
110 Centre Park Square
Warrington WA1 1QA

£45 PER PERSON
Maximum tables of ten

Black tie dress code -
3 Course meal -
live entertainment -
Auction - Raffle



01925 240064 www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk

WDP'S

SANTA'S GROTTTO 2026

Warrington Disability Partnership

In Partnership with: WARRINGTON METRO COUNCIL, WARRINGTON AND DISTRICT FIRE

Walton Gardens
Old Riding School
Warrington - WA4 6SN

Quiet Hour & Schools - Via Appointment Only

3K SANTA DASH/WALK

Sunday 6th December 2026

10.00am Start
Walton Hall,
Walton Gardens
WA4 6SN

In aid of:
Warrington Disability Partnership

Registered charity no: 1113397

Entry fee £12
includes 5 piece Santa Suit

Book Online or call Ellie Thompson
on 01925 240064



How you can help WDP



Tell people about our Services



Take on a Sponsored Fundraising Challenge



Volunteer with WDP



Support our Events and Join our Mailing List

For our full event calendar please visit our website
01925 240064
www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk