 **29 March 2022**

**DASH RECEIVES FREE CONNECTIVITY FROM VODAFONE**

**TO HELP TACKLE DIGITAL EXCLUSION IN THE DISABILITY ARTS COMMUNITY**

Disability Arts in Shropshire (DASH) today announced it will be using free connectivity, via Vodafone’s charities.connected initiative, to tackle digital exclusion in the Disability Arts Community. DASH will use the connectivity to support Disabled Artists across the Midlands and beyond, to develop their artistic practice as well as increase connectivity with employment, skills development and networking opportunities. The connectivity is set to benefit 100 people across the Disability Arts Community.

Vodafone’s charities.connected initiative is open to any registered charity that would benefit from free connectivity, either to improve its digital capability, extend its services or help the individuals and families it supports get online. Registered charities across the Midlands can apply for the free connectivity, in the form of SIM cards with 20GB data a month, plus free calls and texts, for six months.

Charity quote: Paula Dower, Operations Director at DASH said “Whilst we’ve faced challenges during the pandemic, we’ve also realised the huge benefits that digital technology and connectivity can bring, enabling us to reach more people and provide them with much-needed support. This free connectivity via Vodafone’s charities.connected initiative will help us continue this work and will also support our other projects which aim to tackle digital exclusion such as our BEAST Training programme for d/Deaf and Disabled artists and our work with Young Disabled Artists.”

Emma Reynolds, Head of Communications, Sustainability and Regulatory Affairs at Vodafone UK said:

“We are committed to tackling digital exclusion. We hope that by providing free connectivity to DASH and the other amazing charities across the UK who have such an enormous impact on their local communities, we can help create a more inclusive digital society. We urge any organisation who thinks they can benefit to apply online and look forward to hearing how this connectivity has helped.”

Vodafone’s charities.connected initiative is part of its commitment to tackle digital exclusion and [connect one million people by the end of 2022](https://newscentre.vodafone.co.uk/press-release/commits-to-connecting-one-million-people-in-digital-poverty/).

-Ends-

**Notes to editors**

Vodafone’s charities connected initiative was launched in August 2021.

# **About DASH:**

DASH is a Disabled-led visual arts charity. It creates opportunities for Disabled artists to develop their creative practice. These opportunities take many forms, from high quality commissions to community-based workshops, the work it creates is centred around its vision and mission.

DASH works with artists, audiences, communities and organisations to challenge inequality and implement change.

With a history of work including visual arts, dance, theatre, live arts and festivals in Shropshire since the mid-1990s, DASH became a limited company and registered charity in 2001 and in 2004 secured revenue funding from Arts Council England. In 2009 DASH took the decision to specialise its work in visual arts, while expanding its geographical boundaries.

During the last ten years DASH has undertaken truly ground-breaking work – projects that have challenged perceptions, fostered and mentored new Deaf and Disabled artists, encouraged professional development and helped to engineer change in the sector.

DASH partners and funders include Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Garfield Weston, Shropshire Council and ArtFund. As well as support from HM Government in partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund.   
   
DASH is a member of the Plus Tate Network, and we are pleased to be working with Visability Film Festival and the artists collective ArtStudio01.

[www.dasharts.org](http://www.dasharts.org/)

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