



Our Annual Report 2024-25

This report is about the things we did
between April 2024 and March 2025.



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CASBA Ambassadors



CASBA Ambassadors are experts by experience. We all have learning disabilities.



We represent people with learning disabilities in South Birmingham.



We meet every 2 weeks. We make plans and decide what we need to do.



We meet the **trustees** and get involved with planning CASBA's work.

Trustees are a group of people who help to make important decisions about how we do everything at CASBA.

Things the Ambassadors have done this year:



CASBA's Board of Trustees

We doubled the number of people with lived experience on our Board.



Jolly January

This is a community event run by Northfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme.



Many people find January difficult, but we cheered people up.



We knocked on people's doors.
We gave them leaflets about community services.



Better care in hospital

We went to a meeting at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital.



We talked about what it is like to be in hospital when you have a learning disability.



We told them about how people should treat us.



Raising money

We helped to raise money for Easy Read Training.



We spoke at the Northfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme Steering Group.



They gave us £5,000 for the training and helped CASBA to set up the business.



Wheel and Walk

We took part in Wheel and Walk with 10 other charities this year.



We raised money for CASBA and had a fun day out.



Christmas Market

We invited the LINK group to go to the Birmingham Christmas Market with us.

LINK Advocacy Group



We meet every week. We want to stop **inequality**.



Inequality is when some people do not get the same chances as other people.

This might be because they are disabled or unwell. It is not ok.



We speak up and get our voices heard where it matters.

We had another very busy year:



We went to Nottingham and Birmingham University. We talked to student nurses about supporting people with learning disabilities.



We worked with Transport for West Midlands. We helped them to plan some changes to the bus service.



We helped to make some workshops about getting a job and working.



We helped out at Northfield Beach. This is a community event that happens every year.



It is organised by Northfield Community Partnership.

Referral



This year in numbers

We had 300 **referrals**.



A **referral** is when someone comes to us for help.



This is **50** more referrals than last year.



The number of hours that our advocates work has gone up.



Our staff team is much more **diverse**.

Diverse means people come from different backgrounds and have different experiences of life.

People's stories about CASBA

Anna's Story

Anna has learning disabilities and autism. She finds it hard to understand information and fill in forms.



Anna was pregnant. She was anxious about going to pregnancy appointments on her own.



A CASBA advocate spoke to NHS staff about the support Anna needed.



They found classes for pregnant people. Anna could go to the classes before her baby was born.





The baby arrived and our advocate is still by Anna's side.



They listen to how she feels.



They also help her to organise her money. This means she can support her growing family.

KD's Story

KD has a learning disability. She was involved in a **child protection case**.

A **child protection case** is when social services think a child might have a chance of being harmed.



KD did not understand what was happening. Our advocate helped KD to make sure her views were heard.



KD hopes to join our LINK Group once her case is finished.



She wants to help other moms, in the same way that CASBA has helped her.



Jean's Story

Jean is a mom with a learning disability. She has 2 children. One of them has autism and does not speak. Jean felt overwhelmed.



CASBA's Pregnancy to Parenthood programme helped Jean make new friends. They introduced her to people who understand.



Jean joined the Mellow Parenting group.



It gave her a safe place to talk about what she was going through.



Jean feels more confident and supported. She wants to give something back by becoming a volunteer with CASBA.

Pregnancy to Parenthood

We help families to stay together.



We give them support and training.



Their children get a better start in life.



We support parents to:

- Understand what is happening to them.
- Speak up to health and social care professionals.





- Get help with benefits and forms.



- Find other places to get help and support.



Mellow Parenting Course

We help parents to have better relationships with their children.



We helped 30 new people this year.



Freedom Training

This training helps people to understand **domestic abuse**. Abuse happens a lot in our area.



Domestic abuse is when someone you live with hurts you or makes you feel bad.



We present our training in ways that people can understand.



We went to Leeds University to share information about the project.

More projects



Carers with learning disabilities

We helped carers with learning disabilities to:

- Understand their caring role.
- Learn new skills.
- Get the support they need.



Making the most of your money

This year, we helped 86 people to learn about the money they can get from the Government.

Other things CASBA has done this year:



- Worked with the NHS on some services they run.



- Helped universities with research about driverless cars and health checks.



- Talked to staff at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.



We told them about things that might need to be changed to help people with learning disabilities in the hospital.

2 new services



Easy Read

We set up an Easy Read translation service. 8 people with learning disabilities learnt to check Easy Read documents.



Training for social workers

CASBA made and tested new training for social workers.



The Guardian newspaper wrote about the work we did.



The money we get from these 2 things will go towards CASBA's projects.

Chief Executive Officer's report



Ginny is our **Chief Executive Officer**. She is in charge of CASBA.



Ginny says we are being heard in the places that matter. We are making real progress.



Thank you to Northfield NNS for helping us to set up our Easy Read business. More people can get Easy Read information now.



More people with learning disabilities are working for us. There were 3 last year in the charity. And there were 4 in the business.



Things like food and bills are getting much more expensive.



This affects CASBA citizens. We need to help them with benefits, debts and finding jobs.



We ended the year feeling strong!
We have the money we need, we are helping more people, with more staff hours and we have 2 new businesses.



We have supported our citizens to:

- Talk about their views.



- Make choices.



- Make sure they get their rights.



- Be seen as important people who are part of the community.

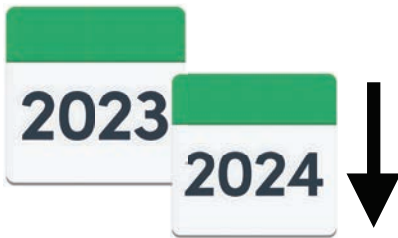
Our money



Our income is: £293,412

This is 2 hundred and 93 thousand, 4 hundred and 12 pounds.

Income means the money that other people and organisations gave to CASBA.



This is less than last year.



Money we spent: £387,641

This is 3 hundred and 87 thousand, 6 hundred and 41 pounds.



To make sure we had enough money we spent less on some things.



We also used some of our **reserves**.
Reserves are bit like savings.

Our reserves are: £138,000

This is 1 hundred and 38 thousand pounds.

We have enough in our reserves to run CASBA for 4 months.



We think we will get more income next year.



We have lots of new things planned.



Thank you

Trustees would like to thank everyone at CASBA for the great work they have done this year.



We hope you enjoyed reading this report.



Our donors

Lots of organisations give us money, so we can help people and run our projects.



We want to say a big thank you to everyone who supports us.