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Media Release

Introducing ASBAH's new Vice President – Danny Mills

Peterborough-based national charity ASBAH (Association of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus) is proud to announce its new Vice President – Manchester City footballer Danny Mills.

The former England player has been connected with the organisation since 2003, when ASBAH opened a national helpline, based on Park Road, Peterborough. Danny helped with the launch of ASBAH's Helpline Appeal on GMTV, which led to a surge in fundraising support.

Danny became involved with ASBAH after he and his wife Lisa experienced first-hand the need for a dedicated information service after suffering the loss of their third child, Archie. A routine scan 20 weeks into Lisa's pregnancy revealed that Archie had spina bifida and hydrocephalus so severely that he would not survive. Danny said, "When we found out about Archie we didn't know what to do or who to turn to for support and advice. "We didn't know about ASBAH or its team of experienced advisers who could give us all the information we needed."

Danny wanted to make it easier for other families in the same difficult situation to contact ASBAH and offered his support to kick start the helpline fundraising appeal. Thanks to his fundraising efforts the appeal funds got off to a flying start. Since then Danny has continued to work for ASBAH by raising money, supporting awareness campaigns and making personal appearances at events.

Danny will now work even more closely with ASBAH after agreeing to become the Peterborough-based national charity's Vice President. Danny said "I felt very proud and honoured to be asked to be Vice President for ASBAH and I was delighted to accept the role."

Colin Roberts, ASBAH's Director of Fundraising said, "For a number of years Danny has given a great deal of support to ASBAH. We really appreciate all of the time and support that Danny gives to us, we are thrilled that he has now become ASBAH's Vice President."

Danny's wide-ranging support has included making a dream come true for young fan Michael Jones, who has hydrocephalus. Michael desperately wanted a replica football shirt but due to his hydrocephalus the 'off the peg' versions wouldn't fit over his head. Danny came to the rescue getting a shirt specially made for the delighted youngster.

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Notes to editors:

Danny Mills will be visiting **ASBAH's head office** on **42 Park Road, Peterborough** on **Tuesday 3 March** at **11.30am**. You are invited to send a photographer and reporter along to the event.

The Peterborough-based national charity provides spina bifida and hydrocephalus information and advice to individuals, families and carers. The charity's head office, located on Park Road, Peterborough, also houses the eastern regional ASBAH office and the national helpline, 0845 450 7755.

Spina bifida occurs early in pregnancy and causes damage to the spinal cord and nerves which may result in paralysis below the level of the fault. Many people with spina bifida also have hydrocephalus, caused by a build up of fluid in the ventricles of the brain. As well as occurring in association with spina bifida, hydrocephalus can also occur in premature babies or at any time in life after meningitis, a head injury, or a stroke.

Registered charity number 249338

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