



(A company limited by guarantee)

## **Report and Financial Statements**

**Year Ended: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

Charity no: 1100722  
Company no: 04632497

# Autism Bedfordshire

# Autism Bedfordshire

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### **Status**

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2003, and registered as a charity on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Under those Articles, the members of the Management Committee are elected at the A.G.M. to serve a period of 3-years, subject to ratification at each A.G.M. At each A.G.M. members may stand again.

### **Management Committee 2023/2024**

The Members of the Management Committee are Trustees of the Charitable Company and Directors for the purposes of Company Law.

### **The following Trustees held office during the year:**

- Jeff Bulled, Finance Director
- Philip Delafield
- Pat Guy
- Lauraine Montgomery, Chair
- Peter Scott, Secretary
- Pamela Wrest
- Paula Parr
- Natalie Batchelor, Roles

### **Charity Information**

#### **Registered Office and Operation Address:**

Suite B1, 1 Hammond Road, Elms Farm Industrial Estate, Bedford, MK41 0UD

**Telephone:** Tel: 01234 350704 (helpline) / Tel: 01234 214871 (general enquiries)

**Email:** enquiries@autismbeds.org

**Website:** www.autismbedfordshire.net

**Company Registration Number:** 04632497

**Charity Registration Number:** 1100722

#### **Senior Statutory Auditor**

David A. Cox BA F.C.C.A F.C.A of Cox & Co (Accountancy) Limited, The Granary, High Street, Turvey, Bedfordshire MK43 8DB

#### **Bankers**

CAF Bank Ltd, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4QJ. Barclays Bank UK plc, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP

## **REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024**

**The Management Committee presents its Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.**

Autism Bedfordshire is an independent charity providing support in Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire in a variety of ways, including offering information, advice and emotional and practical support to autistic individuals, their parents/carers, families, support networks and associated professionals. The charity was founded in 1991 by a small group of parents of autistic children, to share information and support each other. Over the last 33 years the charity has expanded and developed its services, earning a widespread reputation for being an excellent provider of quality specialist support, including several Ofsted gradings of Outstanding.

Autism Bedfordshire provides support, information and guidance via a telephone helpline, information packs, e-newsletters, online and social media, and training courses and events. We work with five local authorities across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire to represent our members' views and to influence local policymaking and provision. Practical support and short breaks are provided through weekend family activity groups, evening youth groups, children's summer activity schemes, adult social groups, adult skills courses, benefits advice and employment support. These services are co-ordinated by our team and run by specialist trained staff and volunteers. We have two charity shops in Dunstable and Bedford that provide volunteering and employment opportunities. Our Keyworker team support children, young people, and adults to help avoid unnecessary admissions to mental health hospitals/support those currently in inpatient settings. Our Campaigns and Projects team run voice groups and develop videos to support people to access health and social care appointments. Our newly formed Oliver McGowan training team and Experts by Experience deliver training to multi-disciplinary practitioners. Additionally, Autism Bedfordshire's Training and Consultancy team provide a suite of autism training courses for parents/carers and practitioners. We safely manage the VCS Luton Consortium, delivering short breaks for disabled children.

### **Finance**

The net incoming resources for the year were £2,346,800 (2023: £2,105,121) Of this £2,126,147 (2023: £1,816,621) was restricted to projects and £220,653 (2023: £288,500) was not restricted. The Trustee Board have officially designated £120,000 as necessary to our Supported Living Project, with the remaining £119,457 undesignated income adding to our reserves. The total undesignated reserves for year ending 31st March 2024 is £424,722 (restricted £201,065 and unrestricted £223,657), an increase of £305,265 from 2022-23 (restricted £98,574 and unrestricted £206,691).

### **Office and Service Staff**

We are exceptionally grateful for our teams at Autism Bedfordshire, Autism Hertfordshire and Autism Milton Keynes, (delivered by Autism Bedfordshire), who have been creative in their relentless work to support the autistic community over the last 12 months. During the year we had 54 office staff and six shop staff.

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## **Volunteers**

Across the charity, volunteers contributed over 25,000 hours of support and leadership across all services, shops, and the Board of Trustees. This equates to nearly 13 full time equivalent staff and would have cost the charity more than £325,000 annually.

We are perpetually grateful to Autism Bedfordshire's Board of Trustees who volunteer their time to set the vision and high standards for the charity and ensure its safe management and solvency through times of crisis and opportunity. We are immensely grateful and proud of all our volunteers and appreciate every contribution each one makes.

## **Paid Staff at Services**

We are favoured to have such committed and steadfast staff working at our groups and we are enormously thankful to them for their level of conscientiousness, attention, and vivacity in providing a safe, inspiring and personalised experience for the autistic children, young people and adults who attend our services. During the year we had 206 staff both part-time and full time.

## **Membership**

Autism Bedfordshire assisted with the needs of our 3,627 household memberships during the year, and supported many more through our online information and guidance on our website and social media. We welcomed 299 new household memberships in the year.

## **Information**

Our e-newsletters are sent to users of our services and other interested parties: 'Grapevine' focusses on our Children's Services with 2,940 subscribers, whilst 'The Orchard' is specifically for users of our Adults' Services with 1,223 subscribers, and finally, 'Autism Herts Post' is our e-newsletter dedicated to Adults Services in Hertfordshire, with 258 subscribers. During the year over 40,000 people accessed our e-newsletters. We also keep our members and staff informed through social media. We had 2,914 page likes on our Facebook page, 1,175 Instagram followers and 625 followers on LinkedIn.

## **Bedfordshire Helpline**

Our Helpline service has continued to help support adults, parents/carers, and children across Bedfordshire, and this year we have seen an increase in helpline calls and emails from professionals seeking advice with a total of 1,981 helpline calls being taken. Our telephone helpline is open from 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday for information, advice, and guidance on all aspects of autism. We provide advice and support to autistic individuals, parents, carers, partners, and professionals.

## Autism Bedfordshire

We have provided resources and information on the following:

- Autism
- Diet
- Behaviour and communication
- Sleep
- Learning and development
- Adult Services initial assessment
- Training and support
- Employment
- Social opportunities
- Diagnosis support
- Benefits and welfare
- Housing
- Physical and Mental Health
- Relationships

### **Children's Services**

#### **L.O.A.F. (Loads of Autistic Fun)**

L.O.A.F. is a Saturday morning social activity and family support group for autistic children up to age 12 and their siblings and parents/carers. We deliver across the county in Bedford, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard and Luton. At L.O.A.F. the children can enjoy a wide range of social, educational, physical and play activities, with the support of our trained staff and volunteers, while their parents can have a short break and meet other parents/carers.

In 2023/2024 we delivered a total of 148 L.O.A.F. sessions which supported 121 autistic children and 51 siblings.

#### **Wanted Fun and Girls Group**

Our Wanted Fun and our Girls Group, evening youth groups provide social opportunities for young people aged 10-17 years with low support needs with the opportunity to meet fortnightly during term time. These sessions took place at seven locations across the county, in Bedford, Dunstable, Kempston, Flitwick, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard and Luton.

During 2023/2024, we delivered a total of 127 Wanted Fun sessions, supporting 107 autistic young people and the families.

#### **Summer Activities**

It was a privilege to deliver 6 separate specialist schemes for autistic children and young people in Bedfordshire. Between 24th July and 4th August 2023, three schemes operated in Bedford and three in Luton. All our schemes are specially designed to cater for the different needs, interests, ages, and abilities of each child and we take a person-centred approach.

In total, Autism Bedfordshire delivered 40 days of scheme, offering a wide range of activities for autistic children and young people, whilst offering a short break for their families. We supported 125 autistic children and young people.

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Ofsted inspected our Luton Junior Activity Scheme on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 where we were graded as 'Outstanding'. We are immensely proud of our team for this achievement.

### **Farm Project**

Our bespoke farm activity days offered experiences to autistic young people aged 10-17 years, who are finding mainstream education unmanageable. We delivered private sessions at Animal Edge Farm where young people could interact with animals, spend time in nature and try activities tailored to their interests to increase their comfort and security, and sense of belonging. These activities included feeding animals, walking goats, grooming ponies and horses, horse agility, collecting chicken eggs, cleaning animal pens, playing board games, arts and crafts, and painting. Our Farm Project creates positive experiences within a safe, nurturing environment and allows the whole family to enjoy the experience together.

In 2023/2024 we supported a total of 39 children and young people and hosted a 'Santa's Grotto' at the farm in December 2023, welcoming 40 families for an autism friendly experience.

### **Additional Services**

Additional Services with children and young people were in high demand this year. Activities included sports, entertainment, social and creative activities countywide.

The 18 additional activities ranged from one day to six weeks, and a total of 305 autistic children and young people, along with 134 siblings, accessed 112 hours of activities.

## **Keyworker Function**

Autism Bedfordshire delivers the Keyworker Function Pilot Project across Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes, as part of a national initiative in response to the NHS long-term plan for children and young people (CYP) with autism, learning disabilities or both, who are inpatients in, or at risk of being admitted to, a mental health hospital. This service supports these children and young people, and their families and carers to make sure families are fully involved in the formulation of care plans, and that they feel listened to and informed. Keyworkers ensure that the child and young person's voice is a central part of their care planning, and that the team of professionals supporting them are using a person-centred approach. The Keyworker team make sure that local systems are responsive to fully meeting the young person's needs and that support is given at the right time, in a coordinated way, where necessary, Keyworkers challenge these systems if they are failing to provide appropriate and timely support.

## Autism Bedfordshire

Key outcomes for children, young people, and families within the service:

- To feel safe and happy
- To feel listened to and informed
- To feel involved in their plans, care, and support
- To experience a reduction in stress/uncertainty and an increase in stability

Autism Bedfordshire's Keyworker Function has proven to be successful and has been recognized regionally. From April 23 to March 24 a total of 92 children, young people, and adults had an allocated Keyworker to support them and their families. The results of the team's input has been highly praised, as it included 125 de-escalations, 22 escalations and 49 cases in which a hospital admission was avoided. A total of 16 of young people/adults up to the age of 25 were successfully discharged from a Tier 4 unit.

### **Personal Health Budgets**

By working closely with young people to identify what kind of support would benefit their health and wellbeing, Keyworkers were able to facilitate some small Personal Health Budgets. As a result of providing small amounts of funding to purchase certain equipment or support, young people and their families have seen a real improvement in their daily lives and their ability to cope better. We provided £17,235.94 in total allocated budget in this period, for 31 children, young people and adults.

## **Adults' Services BLMK**

### **Social Activity Groups**

Social Groups are designed to provide community involvement for autistic adults that are looking to build connections and friendships in a supportive and structured environment. Within these groups, individuals develop social skills and boost their self-esteem, whilst developing an independent social life which is separate from their family unit/support network. Group members are encouraged and supported to decide, plan, and organise social activities with the assistance of our experienced team.

Our evening social groups often utilise local community facilities, with members visiting restaurants, cinemas, and engaging in other local leisure activities. Sessions are typically supported by two staff members and are held across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

Daytime groups included bi-weekly social groups in Bedford and Luton, and monthly social groups in Biggleswade, Marston Moretaine, Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes. Evening Social groups were delivered during the year in Ampthill, Bedford, Biggleswade, Luton, Leighton Buzzard, Milton Keynes and Dunstable.

During the year we provided 7194 hours of support and delivered 268 social group sessions.

### **Adult Skills Development Courses and Workshops**

Our Adult Services continue to provide a range of skills development courses and workshops, both online and in-person. Having the flexibility to offer both virtual and face-to-face courses enables us to remain accessible and flexible to meet our members' needs. Our skills courses usually run for four to six weeks, which provides attendees with opportunities to develop relationships as well as skills. Our workshops remain as one-off sessions online, which allows members to focus on a specific skill and to 'drop in' from anywhere. This year we joined up with NHS Talking Therapies who provided a workshop for our members on Low Mood, which has become an extremely popular session. We also launched a brand new 'dating safely' course which explores strategies to support meeting new people, developing communication and how to keep safe when dating.

Across BLMK we provided 2286 hours of support through our courses and 412 hours of support with our workshops.

### **Employment Support**

Our service is dedicated to autistic adults who are seeking employment, volunteering opportunities, or wanting to enter into education or training. Our person-centered service is designed to fit around the individual's strengths, needs, and aspirations. We aim to ensure every person who enters employment support leaves the service closer to accessing the job market more independently and feeling more confident. Alongside being able to offer one-to-one support, the team will regularly deliver webinars and skills courses to support those who are taking their first steps into the world of work, helping them to understand what it means to be 'work ready'.

This year our Employment Service team supported 11 autistic people who moved into sustainable paid employment, six into volunteering roles and two were successfully accepted onto further education or training.

### **'My Future' Transitions Support**

Adult Services have continued to run 'My Future', which is a transition support service that is designed to support young autistic adults (ages 18-25) and their families to navigate the confusing world of adulthood.

The service was split into three key areas, following feedback from our parents/carers and autistic individuals. These three key areas were: parent support workshops, one-to-one support for autistic adults, and holiday sessions to support young autistic adults who were transitioning into college or university.

During the past 12 months our Transitions programme has held 10 parent support sessions, provided one-to-one support for 18-25-year-olds, and run some member led, interest sessions. This totalled 437.5 hours of support.

### **Support Groups**

During the year we provided 68 online support groups for our members, these groups included: female voice group, wellbeing group, parent support group and a LGBTQ+ group.

#### **Female Voice**

Female Voice is an online group held monthly, which provides a safe space to share experiences, and explore relevant topics and resources. We have explored a variety of topics this year within the female voice group including: 'How to be Kind to Yourself', 'Understanding Masking', 'Managing Stress', and 'Know Your Rights in Healthcare'.

#### **Parent Support**

Our parent support group provides a space for autistic parents to share mutual experiences of parenting whilst providing support and resources.

#### **Wellbeing Support**

Our Wellbeing Support Group was created in response to the number of autistic individuals requesting wellbeing support. Many of these members wanted a safe space to share how their week/month had been and discuss the emotions they were experiencing. We have continued to run an online monthly Wellbeing group, which provides a space to explore aspects of wellbeing and learn strategies to support with mental health and wellbeing.

#### **Hear me, See me**

Hear Me, See Me is a campaign in partnership with the NHS, exploring inequalities autistic adults face when accessing healthcare services. Over the year we have built on the success of the previous two years and encouraged more people to have their voices heard. We held six Voice Group Meetings online, and had 400+ Health and Social Care professionals attend our webinars. We focused the professionals' webinars around the National Autism Strategy and held sessions on: 'Introduction to the National Autism Strategy', 'Diagnosis Pathway', 'Transitions to Adult Services', and 'Reasonable Adjustments'.

With help from the Voice Group members, the team have been able to create a self-advocacy booklet to help autistic adults across the East of England to advocate for themselves.

#### **Breaking Barriers**

In co-production with autistic adults, adults with a learning disability, the BLMK ICB and healthcare clinicians the Project Team created new videos to help autistic people know what to expect when going to an appointment. On the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, we hosted the Breaking Barriers Showcase event which was opened by Felicity Cox, Chief Executive of BLMK ICB, with the chance to see the newly created videos. The

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subjects of the films covered topics like Type 2 Diabetes (including Retinal screening and Diabetes Annual Health Checks), screening appointments, blood tests and Tier 3 Weight Management.

Attendees reported excellent feedback on hearing about how the co-production model worked from a clinical and commissioning perspective. The team and the work was nominated for a Parliamentary award.

### **Benefits Support**

Our Benefits Support department continues to be in demand, and in the last 12 months, the department has supported 67 autistic adults across Bedfordshire with over 316 hours of support. The Benefits Team offers information, advice and guidance with PIP and universal credit.

### **Pre-Diagnostic Support BLMK**

In April 2023 we launched a new department within Adult Services: the Pre-Diagnostic Support department. This department offers workshops and open days in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes for individuals seeking an autism diagnosis, providing information, support, and guidance about the diagnostic pathway. The four workshops held were: 'How Do I Get an Autism Diagnosis as an Adult', 'The Assessment Process', 'Managing Your Emotions Whilst Waiting for an Autism Assessment or Diagnosis', and 'The Expectations of Receiving an Autism Diagnosis or Not'. We held 26 sessions and supported 93 adults on their journey.

## **Adults' Services Hertfordshire**

In 2021 Autism Bedfordshire were successful in their bid to provide life changing opportunities for autistic people aged 16+ across Hertfordshire. Known locally as 'Autism Hertfordshire', the service was launched under the Autism Bedfordshire umbrella in November 2021. The team provide a multitude of support services including a helpline service, skills development courses and workshops, one-to-one post-diagnostic support, transitions support (ages 16-25), carers support, pre-diagnostic support, social groups, and support groups.

### **Helplines**

Our telephone helpline is open from 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday for information, advice, and guidance on all aspects of Autistic Spectrum Conditions and associated problems. We provide advice and support to autistic individuals, parents, carers, partners, and professionals. Over the year we have taken 881 helpline calls, which has amounted to 453 hours of support given.

## **Pre-Diagnostic Support**

In the middle of 2023, we created our Pre-Diagnostic workshops which are aimed at supporting those who may be thinking of seeking a diagnosis or are currently on the waiting list for an autism diagnosis in Hertfordshire. We cover four different topics in our online workshops that run fortnightly, which include: 'Am I Autistic?', 'The Assessment Process', 'Managing Emotions', and 'Managing the Expectations of an Outcome'. Since launch we have provided 12 members with support over 12 sessions.

## **Post-Diagnostic Support**

There are various types of support someone might want to explore once they have received a diagnosis. Adults may need to approach and/or be supported to approach professionals and local services for this support. Those who accessed this service were offered up to eight one-to-one sessions, either online or in-person with a member of staff from Autism Hertfordshire. The sessions are tailored to each individual and their specific problems or concerns. Over the year we have supported 50 members, giving over 215 hours of support. We also run an online peer support group for those who have been newly diagnosed. We have been able to run 10 of these sessions so far.

## **Transitions Support**

Our Transitions support service is designed to support young autistic adults, over the age of 16, as they take their first steps into the adult world, whilst also offering their parents or carers monthly workshops that helps them understand how to navigate the adult world of education, health and social care.

A total of 86 members accessed the specialist skills development courses during school holidays and term time, along with a fortnightly social group. Both activities are focused on giving the young person the opportunity to learn and develop the skills to help them to thrive in the adult world.

## **Skills Development Courses and Workshops**

The aim of our skills and development courses and workshops is to empower autistic adults. Autism Hertfordshire offers a range of engaging adult skills development programs, specially designed to support autistic individuals aged 18 and above. Whether our members are newly diagnosed, or have been diagnosed for some time, our courses are tailored to meet their needs. Our top priority is to create a safe and inclusive environment where individuals can comfortably share their personal experiences without judgment. We take pride in our person-centered approach, and we value feedback from our members. The feedback we have received from our members, from over 1150 hours of attendance, helps us to facilitate new courses and workshops, specifically tailored to support autistic adults in a neurotypical world.

## **Social Groups**

In April 2023, Autism Hertfordshire were able to launch several regular daytime and evening social groups. Our daytime gatherings are for members seeking to socialise

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but who are unable to make it to our night events or prefer a more structured schedule. These community-based sessions include walks and meals at local hotspots and are supported by two friendly staff members. These sessions are on Fridays, alternating between St. Albans and Stevenage. Our monthly evening social groups, which are exclusively for those 18 and above, cover Stevenage and St Albans. Some of our trips have included mini-golf madness, cinema nights and other exciting leisure activities. Our members are the heart of these groups, and we always value their feedback.

Over the year we had 60 daytime social group attendees over 43 sessions, and overall we provided 933 hours of social groups. Over the 47 evening sessions we provided to 80 members, we provided 1140 hours of social group sessions.

During the summer of 2023 we were also able to launch three 'Summer Social' trips for Hertfordshire members. The places we went to included Paradise Wildlife Park, Southend-on-Sea, London Science Museum, Cassiobury Park and Ninja Warrior.

### **Carers Support**

In December 2021, Autism Hertfordshire launched a monthly parent/carers support group. These groups have provided a lifeline to all of those that attend, and are member led. Carers are able to attend groups as and when it is convenient for them, and they are welcome to drop in as often or as little as they like. We understand that the caring role can, at times, be unpredictable and demanding. There is no cost to attend our groups. We delivered 10 sessions.

## **Autism Training**

### **Core Training**

Our training courses cover a diverse range of face-to-face and virtual training to practitioners, health and social care services, schools, employers and community groups, to develop a deeper understanding of autism across Bedfordshire, neighbouring counties, and beyond. Where possible our training is delivered in partnership with autistic guest speakers. Our courses included: 'Autism & Behaviour', 'Autism & Demand Avoidance', 'Autism & Sensory Processing', 'Autism, Women & Girls', '5 Week Parent Carer Training Workshop', 'Autism & Mental Health', 'The First Steps to Supporting an Autistic Individual', and 'Autism and Eating Disorders'.

During the year we delivered 26 training workshops for 319 parents/carers, either face-to-face or virtually.

We also offered 173 hours of training to practitioners from schools, businesses and community groups, including commissioned bespoke training. Over the year we provided 46 courses to 394 practitioners. Both face-to-face and online training was made available; online delivery continued to prove popular with delegates and

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attracted attendees who found it difficult to reach a physical training venue. 93% of delegates said that they would recommend the courses to others.

We also encourage our staff to attend training courses and workshops, this year we provided 62 courses to over 100 members of staff and volunteers.

### **Oliver McGowan Training**

We successfully bid for the delivery of Oliver McGowan training in the closing months of the year. We have begun the process of recruiting, training and planning the delivery of Tier 1 and Tier 2 training sessions to a large cohort of health colleagues, funded by the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board.

## **Parent Support, Conferences and Events**

### **Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) 2023**

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023, we held our AGM, which was presented in-person and via zoom, to make the meeting accessible to all. This was attended by members, professionals, Autism Bedfordshire staff and trustees. Our guest speaker was Robyn Steward who presented "*My Journey and Personal Experiences*".

### **Parent Training: Workshops**

Over the year we offered several online workshops. We delivered 26 training workshops for parents/carers, our courses included: 'Autism & Behaviour', 'Autism & Demand Avoidance', 'Autism & Sensory Processing', 'Autism, Women & Girls', '5 Week Parent Carer Training Workshop', 'Autism & Mental Health', 'The First Steps to Supporting an Autistic Individual', and 'Autism and Eating'. During the year we delivered 26 training workshops for 319 parents/carers, either face-to-face or virtually. All parents said they had gained a greater understanding of autism and that they had learnt new skills/strategies.

### **Conference**

Annually we collate feedback about what themes and topics participants found to be most useful, and what parents/carers would like to learn more about. A member-led approach ensures that as a charity we are listening and responding to the needs of our members and their families.

Across January 2024, we delivered our fourth virtual conference, and this involved delivering talks and workshops over five days, where parents/ carers could choose to join these sessions, they felt were relevant to them and their family.

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Topics included:

- Monotropism and new perspectives of autism
- PDA
- Sensory Processing
- Autism and Puberty
- Autism and Behaviour
- Communication in School
- Autism & Demand Avoidance
- Autism and Anxiety
- ASC Assessments
- Mindfulness & Wellbeing

In total, 290 parents and carers attended the conference (72 from Bedford Borough, 95 from Central Bedfordshire, 46 from Luton Borough, 47 from Milton Keynes, 10 from Hertfordshire, and 20 from other areas).

### **Luton VCS Short Breaks Consortium**

Autism Bedfordshire has remained the Lead Body for the Consortium of Voluntary and Community Service short break providers for children and young people in Luton, for the last 13 years. An Operations Manager oversees the management and administration of the six Consortium members. The Consortium is funded by Luton's Community Investment Fund, which is managed by Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation (BLCF), as part of the Luton Airport Limited (LLAL) Community Investment Fund (now known as Luton Rising).

2023/24 was a successful year for the Consortium, with its members helping over 375 children and young people from Luton. 297 were children and young people (aged 0-25) with disabilities, and 78 were siblings. Consortium members organised over 728 short break sessions, which provided parents and carers in Luton with over 31,749 short break hours.

The 54 different clubs and activities provided included after-school clubs, evening youth clubs, weekend clubs, holiday playschemes, and outings. During the year there were six members of the Consortium:

- Autism Bedfordshire
- Centre for Youth and Community Development (CYCD)
- CHUMS
- Families United Network (FUN)
- Friends of Bright Eyes (FOBE)
- Special Needs Out of School Club (SNOOSC)

### **Charity Shops**

The shops continue to increase our visibility in the community and generate income for charity. They provide excellent volunteering and employment support for autistic adults, and we are grateful to all our volunteers and staff for their hard work. Unfortunately, the Bedford shop suffered a fire in mid-February and has been closed since for the remedial works to be completed.

### **Supported Living Accommodation**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, Autism Bedfordshire successfully completed the purchase of two properties, increasing the portfolio to three. The properties have full planning in place to extend and create seven bedrooms to total.

### **Grants, Donations and Fundraising**

#### **Grants**

Autism Bedfordshire would like to acknowledge and thank the below Trusts and Foundations for their generous grant awards received in 2023/2024:

Henry Smith Charity	60,000
Panacea Charitable Trust	10,000
Masonic Charitable Foundation	20,000
The National Lottery Community Fund	92,124
The National Lottery Community Fund - Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund	60,457

#### **Donations**

We have gratefully received donations over the year, totaling £25,301.

### **Future Plans and Strategy**

Our key plans for the coming year are largely shaped around enhancing our offer, furthering our reach geographically and across our community, and improving the quality and efficiency of our offer. We have plans to expand and open up new opportunities and keep pace with new innovations, ensuring that we meet our commitment to maximise people's independence and supporting them to live a rewarding and fulfilling life.

## Key Plans 2024/2025:

1. **Support at Home and Supported Living:** Having completed the purchases of two further properties, bringing our portfolio to three, we aim to launch our accommodation in 2025 for up to 7 adults.
2. **Training:** Through our Oliver McGowan Training offer, we hope to increase the number of Experts by Experience securing employment, along with expanding our online offer and consultancy for parents and practitioners.
3. **Milton Keynes:** Pilot a suite of services in Milton Keynes for children, young people and their families and support networks.
4. **Funding and Finance:** Increase income across a mixed funding model, and maximise the return on cash held in accounts, by reviewing the best available interest rates. This will allow us to support more people and increase the quality of existing services.
5. **Local authority and Health partnerships:** Secure all services to keep pace with the need and increase our visibility with partners.
6. **Quality and reach:** Develop our quality standard, expertise, and reach geographically and across the community.
7. **Staff and Volunteers:** Increase retention, performance, and satisfaction.
8. **Opportunities:** Remain agile to respond to new need and opportunities.
9. **Voice:** Ensure members are consulted and participate in reviewing existing services and developing new ones.

Autism Bedfordshire's senior management team is highly motivated, caring, hardworking, knowledgeable and passionate about delivering services that make a positive difference to people's lives. Autism Bedfordshire's growth will be managed in a sustainable way, so that we can meet the needs of our autistic community, now and in the future. We are certain that our key plans, as they are highlighted here, will require detailed financial planning. The development of these business/care plans will require careful risk management, to mitigate risks to our existing services.

Charity wide, we are extremely fortunate to have a significant volume of skills, experience, and proficiency to safely manage and advance Autism Bedfordshire. With the statistics, knowledge, and drive to efficaciously manage the changes set out in our plans. The board of Trustees are insistent on leading regular and rigorous reporting structures in place monthly, and regular reviews of the specialised areas of finance, funding and operations quarterly, where they provide leadership, scrutiny, and support.

## Reserves Policy

The reserves policy of the Management Committee of Autism Bedfordshire is to have available unrestricted reserves of 20% of the annual expenditure. This year's expenditure of £2,107,343. We hold approximately £424,000 in reserves; therefore, the Board of Trustees is confident that Autism Bedfordshire has sufficient funds available to meet foreseeable demands.

## **Risk Management**

The Board of Trustees and the Senior Management Team recognise the charity's duties regarding the management of risk, and this is highlighted, reported on, and discussed at monthly board meetings. Additionally, we have a financial risk audit committee who assess, identify, and reduce the major risks to which the charity is vulnerable. We are committed to updating our business continuity plans and strategic Risk Management Matrix (risk probability, area, and impact) that we use to monitor and evaluate how we establish protocols to mollify and govern them, including the following areas:

- Mission/objectives
- Law and regulation
- Governance and management
- External, environmental, and operational factors
- Human resources
- Technological
- Financial
- Funds and fundraising
- Fraud

## **Responsibilities of the Management Committee**

Our processes are driven by the commitment to our constitution as a member-led charity, whereby members elect the charity's Trustees (also referred to as 'the Board of Directors' in company law) for up to twelve members. The Charity Commission guidance and our Constitution and Articles of Memorandum note that 50% of trustees should be directly affected by the condition of which the charity supports. Trustees who hold office for three years may also stand for re-election at Autism Bedfordshire's Annual General Meeting. Throughout the year the Board of Trustees may recruit for vacancies, using the Trustee Recruitment Toolkit, and appoint them. However, Trustees appointed through that process may only hold office until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) through which they will be eligible for re-election. Alternatively they can be appointed at a General Meeting of the Company. The Board of Trustees must assign the roles of Chair, Finance Director, and Company Secretary.

Company law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company at the balance sheet date, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year.

In preparation for those financial statements, the Management Committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

## Autism Bedfordshire

- prepare the financial statements on an ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Management Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act. The Management Committee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company, and hence, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Members of the Management Committee

Members of the Management Committee (who are directors for the purpose of company law and Trustees for the purpose of charity law), who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page one. Only those that have passed their probationary period of six months, have a suitable DBS disclosure and two satisfactory references are listed. Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees, as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, was seven.

### Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

### Senior Statutory Auditor

David. A. Cox BA F.C.C.A F.C.A of Cox & Co (Accountancy) Limited, The Granary High Street Turvey, Beds MK43 8DB

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by:

**Lauraine Montgomery**

**Chair, Autism Bedfordshire: Lauraine Montgomery**



**Date:**

29/10/2024.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AUTISM BEDFORDSHIRE**

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Autism Bedfordshire (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its result, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

## Autism Bedfordshire

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting information to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations on audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website:

[www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Autism Bedfordshire

Signed by David A. Cox  Date: 30/10/2024.

**David A. Cox BA F.C.C.A F.C.A**

Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of Cox & Co. (Accountancy) Limited

Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The Granary, High Street, Turvey, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK43 8DB

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(including Income and Expenditure account) - for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

		2024			2023		
	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>							
Donations and legacies							
Donations (including Gift Aid)		25,301	-	25,301	21,566	-	21,566
Membership Subscriptions		4,495	-	4,495	5,023	-	5,023
		29,796	-	29,796	26,589	-	26,589
Other trading activities							
Fundraising and Autism Training		409	-	409	50,741	-	50,741
Charity Shop	2	111,808	39,498	151,306	118,321	92,921	211,242
		112,217	39,498	151,715	169,062	92,921	261,983
Income from investments		24,881	-	24,881	6,788	-	6,788
Income from charitable activities							
Grants	3	5,000	2,068,150	2,073,150	32,617	1,723,700	1,756,317
Fees from Children, Young People & Family Service		39,123	-	39,123	42,716	-	42,716
Fees from Adult Services		9,207	-	9,207	9,313	-	9,313
Fees from Parent Training		429	18,499	18,928	1,415	-	1,415
		53,759	2,086,649	2,140,408	86,061	1,723,700	1,809,761
Total income		220,653	2,126,147	2,346,800	288,500	1,816,621	2,105,121
<b>Resources expended</b>							
Expenditure on raising funds							
Autism Training		-	18,292	18,292	-	43,742	43,742
Fundraising		-	20,338	20,338	-	10,417	10,417
Charity Shop	2	83,893	39,498	123,391	30,062	92,921	122,983
		83,893	78,128	162,021	30,062	147,080	177,142
Expenditure on charitable activities							
Children, Young People & Family Service		-	353,187	353,187	-	419,415	419,415
Adult Services		-	356,906	356,906	-	251,657	251,657
Parent Training		-	8,955	8,955	-	6,960	6,960
Supported Living		-	407,626	407,626	-	96,953	96,953
Key Worker Project		-	529,900	529,900	-	371,319	371,319
New Projects		-	0	0	-	166,493	166,493
Support Activities		-	38,566	38,566	-	33,853	33,853
Hertfordshire Services		-	218,205	218,205	-	193,555	193,555
Management and Administration		-	31,977	31,977	2,524	32,340	34,864
		-	1,945,322	1,945,322	2,524	1,572,545	1,575,069
Total expenditure	4	83,893	2,023,450	2,107,343	32,586	1,719,625	1,752,211
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement							
in funds in the year		136,760	102,697	239,457	255,914	96,996	352,910
Transfers between funds		206	(206)	-	456	(456)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		136,966	102,491	239,457	256,370	96,540	352,910
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward		641,061	98,574	739,635	384,691	2,034	386,725
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		778,027	201,065	979,092	641,061	98,574	739,635

# Autism Bedfordshire

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Notes	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>	942,508	395,557
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	927,859	165,081
Cash at bank	587,149	1,288,577
	<u>1,515,008</u>	<u>1,453,658</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Deferred income	1,136,293	801,549
Bank Loan	9,000	9,000
Other creditors and accruals	120,481	75,531
	<u>1,265,774</u>	<u>886,080</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	249,234	567,578
<b>Creditors: Due after more than one year</b>		
Bank Loan	(212,650)	(223,500)
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>979,092</u>	<u>739,635</u>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Unrestricted funds	223,657	206,691
Designated Funds - Supported Living	554,370	434,370
Restricted funds	201,065	98,574
<b>Total funds</b>	14 <u>979,092</u>	<u>739,635</u>

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for:

- Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with Financial Reporting Standards FRS 102 (effective January 2015).

Approved by the Trustees on 29/10/2024 and signed on behalf by:

Lauraine Montgomery  
Chair, Autism Bedfordshire

Lauraine Montgomery

# Autism Bedfordshire

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(136,725)</u>	<u>440,146</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(553,853)	(380,090)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities:</b>	<u>(553,853)</u>	<u>(380,090)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Bank Loan	<u>(10,850)</u>	<u>232,500</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	(701,428)	292,556
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>	1,288,577	996,021
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<u>587,149</u>	<u>1,288,577</u>

### Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

For the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Net income for the year</b>	239,457	352,910
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	6,902	6,857
Decrease (Increase) in debtors	(762,778)	(75,048)
Increase in creditors	379,694	155,427
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>(136,725)</u>	<u>440,146</u>

### Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

As at 31st March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>587,149</u>	<u>1,288,577</u>

## Accounting policies

### a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006..

### b) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Management Committee have reviewed the forecasts for Autism Bedfordshire for the remainder of the 2023-24 financial year, and are content that the charitable company will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. Accordingly, these accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

### c) Voluntary income

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts is included in full in the statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

### d) Grants

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year which they are receivable.

### e) Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT, which cannot be recovered.

### f) Allocation of support costs

Costs are allocated to the particular activity where the cost directly relates to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration on each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs on the central function, is apportioned according to the percentage of staff time and resources estimated to have been spent/attributed to each activity.

### g) Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which in all cases is estimated at 5 years. Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

### h) Unrestricted and Restricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds. Restricted Funds are to be used for the specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

### i) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their amortised cost using the effective interest method. However, all the financial instruments are payable or receivable within one year and are therefore measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash expected to be paid or received.

### j) Donations

The Charity benefits greatly from the involvement and dedicated support of its many volunteers, details of which are given in the annual report. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

**NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (cont.)**2 - Charity Shop Activity**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Income generated through shop sales	103,163	115,606
Donations	585	948
Gift Aid	-	293
Grants	39,498	92,921
Other	8,060	1,475
Total Income	151,306	211,243
Expenditure		
Salaries and Overheads	123,391	122,983
Total Expenditure	123,391	122,983
Surplus / (Deficit)	27,915	88,260

**3 - Grants and Contracts**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Central Government/Local Authority Grants	5,000	442,362	447,362	430,646
Grant Making Trusts and Foundations	-	1,665,286	1,665,286	1,418,592
	5,000	2,107,648	2,112,648	1,849,238
Included in the Statement of Financial Activities:				
Charity Shop Grants	-	39,498	39,498	92,921
Other Grants	5,000	2,068,150	2,073,150	1,756,317
	5,000	2,107,648	2,112,648	1,849,238

**4 – Resources Expended**

	Staff costs	Direct costs	Indirect costs	Depreciation	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising, Consultation and Autism Awareness	-	20	20,318	-	20,338
Charity Shop	60,359	2,819	59,821	392	123,391
Children, Young People & Family Service	199,181	99,827	53,008	1,171	353,187
Adult Services	282,757	11,273	60,608	2,268	356,906
Supported Living	-	348,704	58,922	-	407,626
Autism and Parent Training	21,382	4,101	1,665	99	27,247
Key Worker Project	460,244	35,343	32,389	1,924	529,900
Support Services	29,785	-	8,641	140	38,566
Hertfordshire Services	192,781	11,295	13,337	792	218,205
Management and Administration	29,907	-	1,954	116	31,977
	1,276,396	513,382	310,663	6,902	2,107,343

Staff costs for the year include £1,246,489 (2023: £1,092,215) incurred as direct costs of providing services in line with the charity's objects. Management and Administration costs include £29,907 (2023: £24,655) for managing the Luton VCS Consortium of Short Break Providers

# Autism Bedfordshire

## 5 – Summary analysis of expenditure and related income for charitable activities

	Children Young People & Family Services £	Adult Services & Supported Living £	Autism & Parent Training £	Hertfordshire Services £	Keyworker Project £	Support Activities & New Projects £	Total £
Costs	(353,187)	(644,524)	(27,247)	(218,205)	(529,900)	(158,574)	(1,931,637)
Grants received (restricted)	320,502	680,550	9,057	220,430	637,611	195,000	2,063,150
Net cost funded from other income	(32,685)	36,026	(18,190)	2,225	107,711	36,426	131,513

## 6 – Net incoming resources for the year

	2024	2023
This is stated after charging:	£	£
Audit Fee	7,200	6,000
Depreciation	6,902	6,857

## 7 – Trustee remuneration and the cost of key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Charity are the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Adults' Services Director, Children's Services Manager and Keyworker Operational Lead. Their employee benefits total £324,797 (2023: £329,344)

## 8 – Staff Numbers

The average monthly headcount was 108 combined office and field staff (2023: 99 Staff)

## 9 – Taxation

The Charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities

# Autism Bedfordshire

## 10 – Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property £	Equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
As at 1st April 2023	377,324	77,286	454,610
Additions	553,853		553,853
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st March 2024	931,177	77,286	1,008,463
<b>Depreciation</b>			
As at 1st April 2023	-	59,053	59,053
Additions	-	6,902	6,902
Disposals	-	-	-
As at 31st March 2024	-	65,955	65,955
<b>Net book Value</b>			
As at 31st March 2024	931,177	11,331	942,508
As at 1st April 2023	377,324	18,233	395,557

## 11 – Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Accrued income receivable	37,156	1,354
Other debtors and prepayments	890,703	163,727
	927,859	165,081

## 12 – Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred Income	1,136,293	801,549
Other creditors and accruals	120,481	75,531
Bank Loan	9,000	9,000
	1,265,774	886,080

The deferred income amount of £1,136,293 includes the following:  
£479,419: 7 grants awarded for periods that overlap 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years and the remaining service delivery is scheduled for April 2024 - March 2025  
£3,541: Prepayments for Autism Awareness Training courses where either the delivery date has either been postponed to after the 31st March 2024 or that the payment has been made prior to delivery date 01/04/24 - 31/03/25 to secure their place.  
£47,975: represents session fees for LOAF and Wanted Fun spring and summer terms and deposits and payments for the July and August 2024 Summer Activity Schemes  
£281,273: NHS / CCG Grants awarded for periods that overlap the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years and the remaining service delivery is scheduled from April 2024 - March 2025

## Autism Bedfordshire

£324,086: Represents grants restricted for supported living delayed project expenditure until 2024-25

The deferred income included in the balance sheet as at 31.03.23 was £801,549. Of this £742,945 has been included in the Charity's income for the year ending 31.03.24. The remaining income of £58,604 has been deferred for a further year and will be included in the Charity's income for the year ending 31.03.25.

### 13 – Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank Loan	212,650	223,500
	<u>212,650</u>	<u>223,500</u>

### 14 – Analysis of net assets held by funds

	Fixed Assets	Cash	Other net assets	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Summer Activities	-	7,975	(7,975)	-
LOAF	-	22,727	(22,602)	125
Wanted Fun	-	1,178	-	1,178
Personalised Support	-	40,616	(40,616)	-
Key Worker Project	-	5,175	194,522	199,697
Adult Skills Project	-	-	-	-
Adult Social Groups	-	1,197	(1,197)	-
My Futures Project	-	8,333	(8,333)	-
Campaigns Project	-	224	(224)	-
Adult Employment Support	-	65	-	65
Beds Adult NHS Post Diagnostic	-	-	-	-
Hertfordshire Services	-	140,571	(140,571)	-
Adults Supported Living	-	284,912	(284,912)	-
Autism Awareness Training	-	626	(626)	-
Charity Shop	-	-	-	-
Keyworker Capital	-	-	-	-
Diabetes Awareness	-	20,380	(20,380)	-
Oliver McGowen Training	-	714	(714)	-
LLAL Consortium	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>534,693</u>	<u>(333,628)</u>	<u>201,065</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	11,331	52,456	159,870	223,657
Designated Supported Living	931,177		(376,807)	554,370
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<u>942,508</u>	<u>52,456</u>	<u>(216,937)</u>	<u>778,027</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>942,508</u>	<u>587,149</u>	<u>(550,565)</u>	<u>979,092</u>

## Autism Bedfordshire

### 15 – Movements in funds

	Balance at 01-Apr-23 £	Movement in period			Balance at 31-Mar-24 £
		Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Adult and Child Helplines	-	39,003	(39,003)	-	-
Summer Activities	-	136,068	(136,068)	-	-
LOAF	285	69,723	(69,723)	(160)	125
Wanted Fun	1227	100,668	(100,671)	(46)	1,178
Skills 4 Success Project	-	5,574	(5,574)	-	-
Extended Services and Trips	-	9,719	(9,719)	-	-
Personalised Support	-	35,089	(35,089)	-	-
Key Worker Project	96,997	638,612	(535,912)	-	199,697
Adult Skills Project	-	56,002	(56,002)	-	-
Adult Social Groups	-	37,855	(37,855)	-	-
My Futures Project	-	17,197	(17,197)	-	-
Campaigns Project	-	57,385	(57,385)	-	-
Benefits Officer	-	36,904	(36,904)	-	-
Adult Employment Support	65	7,822	(7,822)	-	65
Beds Adult NHS Post Diagnostic	-	26,420	(26,420)	-	-
Hertfordshire Services	-	220,680	(220,680)	-	-
Adults Supported Living	-	407,626	(407,626)	-	-
Parent Training	-	9,057	(9,057)	-	-
Autism Awareness Training	-	18,499	(18,499)	-	-
Charity Shop	-	39,498	(39,498)	-	-
Diabetes Awareness	-	54,870	(54,870)	-	-
Capital and Training	-	69,536	(69,536)	-	-
LLAL Consortium	-	32,340	(32,340)	-	-
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<b>98,574</b>	<b>2,126,147</b>	<b>(2,023,450)</b>	<b>(206)</b>	<b>201,065</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	206,691	220,653	(83,893)	(119,794)	223,657
Designated Supported Living	434,370	-	-	120,000	554,370
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>641,061</b>	<b>220,653</b>	<b>(83,893)</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>778,027</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>739,635</b>	<b>2,346,800</b>	<b>(2,107,343)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>979,092</b>

### 16 – Financial instruments

The financial instruments held by the charity are as follows

	2024 £	2023 £
Debtors, other than prepayments	863,819	134,793
Cash at bank	587,149	1,288,577
Creditors and amounts due within one year	1,265,774	886,080

