

# Sensory Support UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1103917

## Details

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Other names	NORTH REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SENSORY SUPPORT, NRASS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2004-05-25
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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**Address** 15 Imex Business Centre  
Birtley  
Chester Le Street  
County Durham  
DH3 1QT

**Phone** 07789967927

**Email** [office@nrass.org](mailto:office@nrass.org)

**Website** [www.nrass.org](http://www.nrass.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO RELIEVE BENEFICIARIES BY CO-ORDINATING WITH OTHER VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES AND STATUTORY BODIES IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT AND IN SUCH OTHER WAYS AS ARE CHARITABLE IN LAW.

**Activities:** NRASS promote the everyday welfare and wellbeing of people with a sensory loss condition. The Charity provides Advocacy and Welfare Rights advice thereby promoting independence, respect, empowerment, equal access, anti-discriminatory practice & confidentiality.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CHESHIRE, CLEVELAND, CUMBRIA, DURHAM, HUMBERSIDE, LANCASHIRE, NORTHUMBERLAND, NORTH YORKSHIRE, GREATER MANCHESTER, MERSEYSIDE, TYNE AND WEAR, SOUTH YORKSHIRE & WEST YORKSHIRE.
- Gateshead
- Hartlepool

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£57,770	£78,184	-	-
2024-03-31	£123,515	£90,685	-	-
2023-03-31	£72,756	£80,547	-	-
2022-03-31	£72,310	£59,271	-	-
2021-03-31	£66,143	£62,217	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MR CLLR MCNESTRY	Chair	
John Adams		2024-12-06
ROSALIND COPELAND		2011-10-20

**Sensory Support UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1103917

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# Accounts

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**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

**Trustees Report and Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**Charity Registration no 1103917**

Trustees Report and Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025  
North Regional Association for Sensory Support  
1103917

## **Legal and Administrative Information**

**Name:** North Regional Association for Sensory Support

**Reg'd Charity No:** 1103917

**Trustees:** Councillor John Adams (Chair)  
Rosalind Copeland  
Emma Jones

**Address:** The Pinetree Centre  
Durham Road  
Birtley  
Co Durham  
DH3 2TD

**Independent  
Examiner:**

Mark Thompson MAAT  
VODA  
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing  
2nd Floor, Wallsend Community Hub & Library  
16 The Forum  
Wallsend  
NE28 8JR

## Financial Review and Reserves as of the 31st March 2025

### Introduction

This year has continued to bring financial challenges, but our dedication to the sensory loss community remains steadfast. We have taken courageous steps to update our charity, enhance our strategic direction, and provide services that address unmet needs across the North East. Our efforts have reached hundreds of individuals, showing both the scope and depth of our influence.

### Governance and Leadership

We are pleased to welcome Cllr John Adams, Cabinet Member at Gateshead Council, as our new Chairman. His leadership provides strategic insight and enhances our alignment with local authority priorities. We also welcome Emma Jones to our Board of Trustees, a Deaf individual whose lived experience and community knowledge will be invaluable in shaping inclusive, responsive services.

The Committee continues to meet regularly to oversee governance, financial planning, and strategic development. We remain compliant with Charity Commission guidance and are committed to transparency, inclusion, and continuous improvement.

### Financial Overview

The charity has operated under constrained financial conditions throughout the year. The loss of the Hartlepool IAG contract, although small in income, reflects the broader funding pressures facing the sector. Nonetheless, we remain committed to securing sustainable income streams and have successfully negotiated a new agreement with Hartlepool Council to provide advocacy support to the local sensory loss community. This service will be promoted in

### Strategic Rebrand and Promotional Strategy

We are pleased to announce our rebranding from *North Regional Association for Sensory Support (NRASS)* to *Sensory Support UK*. This new identity showcases our updated profile, national vision, and dedication to inclusive, rights-based services.

To support this transformation, we have launched an **improved, accessible website** and created **new promotional materials**. These tools lay the foundation of a refreshed communications strategy aimed at boosting visibility, attracting new referrals, and positioning our services in a more financially sustainable and viable way.

### Alignment with Local Authority Objectives

Our new strategic plans directly support these pledges:-

- . **People:** We focus on individuals and families, supporting their wellbeing and transitions throughout different life
- . **Fairness:** We tackle inequalities by reaching marginalised groups and promoting access to services, employment,
- . **Communities:** We empower communities through co-production, mentoring, and inclusive service design.
- . **Prosperous:** We support economic inclusion through workshops, employment pathways, and digital skills.
- . **Future:** We collaborate with partners to build sustainable, innovative services that reflect lived experience and

### Capacity Building and Community Empowerment

As part of our renewed mission, Sensory Support UK will deliver a series of accessible workshops to empower individuals and bolster community resilience. These will include:-

- . Advocacy and Rights Awareness
- . Accessibility and Inclusive Practice
- . Access to Work and Employment Pathways
- . Sensory Loss Awareness
- . Healthy Relationships and Boundaries
- . Digital Inclusion and Confidence

These workshops will be developed collaboratively with community members and delivered in formats accessible to participants with sensory impairments.

## **Workforce Development and Professional Standards**

We are proud to announce that all staff are now **fully qualified advocates**, with specialist training in **British Sign Language (BSL)** and **Deafblind communication and guidance**. This has greatly improved the quality, accessibility, and cultural awareness of our service.

Our manager has gained accreditation as an **Independent Civil Mediator** and is currently completing the final year of her **Master of Laws (LLM)**. This advanced legal training enhances our ability to provide rights-based advocacy, mediation, and statutory interpretation, especially in complex cases involving mental capacity, safeguarding, and

## **Annual Impact and Service Reach**

Our KPI data for 2024–2025 reflects a year of high engagement and meaningful support:-

- . **272 individuals and organisations** engaged with our services
- . **76 clients** accessed our targeted digital awareness projects
- . **105 open cases** at year-end, with **zero terminations**, indicating strong retention and continuity
- . **780 contacts** made with other services on behalf of service users
- . **5,005 classifications of work** undertaken, demonstrating the breadth and responsiveness of our support
- . Most in-demand classification: **Communication Support** (supporting English Modification of language), followed by **Advocacy and Access to Services**

Demographics:-

- . Majority of service users identified as **Profoundly Deaf**
- . Highest referral age groups: **51–70 years**
- . Employment: **469 unemployed, 187 employed, 84 retired, remainder unspecified**
- . Gender: **there is an equal split between male and female service users.**
- . Ethnicity: **predominantly white British**

These figures show the trust placed in the service by the community and the increasing demand for specialist sensory loss services that are inclusive, rights-based, and locally responsive. It also highlights areas where engagement with wider marginalised minority groups in the area can be improved.

## **Short Impact Study: Communication Support**

One of the most sought-after areas of our work this year was **Communication Support**. This category includes translation or modifying written English, providing accessible information, and helping clients navigate complex

A **profoundly Deaf** service user was supported to attend a court hearing with customised communication guidance, advocacy, and mediation. The outcome was positive, and the client reported increased confidence, reduced anxiety, and better access to future services.

This case exemplifies the convergence of our advocacy, communication, and legal expertise, highlighting the real-world impact of our qualified staff and inclusive approach.

## **Service Innovation and Sector Distinction**

focus is on addressing unmet needs, including transitions from childhood to adult services, mediation, mentoring, and rights-based advocacy. Co-production remains at the heart of our approach, ensuring that lived experience influences every aspect of our work.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Report to the Trustees of

Conclusion and Outlook

Despite financial pressures, Sensory Support UK is moving into a new phase of growth and innovation. Our rebrand, leadership expertise, expanded service offer, and promotional strategy position us to make a lasting impact on the sensory loss community. We will continue to seek funding to sustain and develop our work, ensuring that the charity remains a vital and responsive resource for years to come.

Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to Financial Statements

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993.

Signed I Adams Chair, on behalf of Trustees

Date 17 Oct 2025

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to financial statements

Date: 17 October 2025

Trustee Name

Trustee Name

Trustee Name

Trustee Name

Trustee Name

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**Report to the trustees of**

**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

**On accounts for the year ended**

**31 March 2025**

**Charity no 1103917**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**



**Date: 6th October 2025**

**Name:  
Address:**

Mark Thompson MAAT  
VODA  
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing  
2nd Floor, Wallsend Community Hub & Library  
16 The Forum  
Wallsend  
NE28 8JR

# North Regional Association for Sensory Support

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
				£
<b>Receipts</b>				
Grants	3450		3450	68220
Contracts	52795		52795	52795
Donations			0	350
Training	1525		1525	2150
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>57770</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57770</b>	<b>123515</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Staff Costs & Related Expenses	2 64453		64453	61451
Training		874	874	1869
Subscriptions, Affiliations and Licences		501	501	78
Printing, Postage and Stationery		367	367	1469
Small Equipment		0	0	556
Telephone & Broadband		3812	3812	3619
Consultant Fees		145	145	0
Computer & IT Costs		1001	1001	3217
Office Rent & Rates		2649	2649	3444
Insurance		1054	1054	1032
Meeting & Committee Exp		327	327	0
Accountancy & Payroll fees		1832	1832	1399
Fundraising		0	0	2120
Miscellaneous		349	349	872
Advertisement		134	134	0
Project Expenses		686	686	9559
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>78184</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78184</b>	<b>90685</b>
Surplus / deficit for the year	-20414	0	-20414	32830
Funds as at 1 April 2024	42809	0	42809	9979
<b>Funds at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>22395</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22395</b>	<b>42809</b>

# North Regional Association for Sensory Support

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank & in Hand	4	22395	42809
<b>Total Cash Balances</b>		<u>22395</u>	<u>42809</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
		0	0
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2025</b>		<u>22395</u>	<u>42809</u>

### Represented By:

Restricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds

0

22395

22395

0

42809

42809

Signed Alan Brown .....

Position MANAGER .

Signed Alan Brown .....

Position TREASURER .

Date 17/10/25 .

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

### Notes to the accounts, 2025

#### 1. Basis of accounts

The financial 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 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

NRASS meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

#### 2. Trustees and Staff

Total Staff Costs for the year:

Salaries & Related Costs **64453**

#### 3. Costs of financial services

The cost for the Independent Examination for the financial period will be £370.

#### 4. Opening Balance Adjustment

Note that the opening balance from the previous year now includes the Petty Cash balance and has been increased by £5.

Signature:

  
Alan Brown (Oct 20, 2025 18:31:04 GMT+1)

Email: brownysv8cyl@hotmail.co.uk

# NRASS Accounts 2024 to 2025

Final Audit Report

2025-10-20

Created:	2025-10-20
By:	Jacqueline Wanless (jwanless@sky.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAcF0oHZfPdRVxCu4usvGmeaUW6U2_NRYH

## "NRASS Accounts 2024 to 2025" History

-  Document created by Jacqueline Wanless (jwanless@sky.com)  
2025-10-20 - 1:02:58 PM GMT- IP address: 90.211.42.191
-  Document emailed to Alan Brown (brownysv8cyl@hotmail.co.uk) for signature  
2025-10-20 - 1:03:13 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Alan Brown (brownysv8cyl@hotmail.co.uk)  
2025-10-20 - 5:28:29 PM GMT- IP address: 86.159.165.150
-  Document e-signed by Alan Brown (brownysv8cyl@hotmail.co.uk)  
Signature Date: 2025-10-20 - 5:31:04 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 86.159.165.150
-  Agreement completed.  
2025-10-20 - 5:31:04 PM GMT

**Sensory Support UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1103917

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# Accounts

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**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

Trustees Report and Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 March 2024

Charity Registration no 1103917

## Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

Reg'd Charity No: 1103917

Trustees: Councillor Michael McNestry (Chair)  
Rosalind Copeland  
Lynne Caffrey

Address: The Pinetree Centre  
Durham Road  
Birtley  
Co Durham  
DH3 2TD

Independent  
Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT  
VODA  
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing  
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre  
16 The Forum  
Wallsend  
NE28 8JR

## Trustees' Annual Report 2023-24

To be updated

### Achievements

NRASS has supported sensory loss people in Gateshead and Hartlepool by confidently advocating and advising on their well-being, welfare queries and issues. The charity has personally delivered its services via drop-in sessions and online video appointments. These activities support our charitable objectives and have positively impacted the lives of the service users who are D/deaf, Deafened, Deafblind or have hearing loss.

With the help and support of our Trustees, Committee Members and the dedication of its small team of staff, NRASS has continued to develop its strategic plans to ensure that the charity provides public benefit and achieves its aims as set out in its governing document. All of the NRASS staff are proud of the quality of the service we have provided and ensuring the needs of the service users are met. Outcomes are right for each service user to ensure standards are high.

At the time of writing, our activities have been successful. However, we are under no illusions that this current cost of living crisis is far from over, as we see service users put under pressure from food, consumer goods and utility price increases. We will remain focused on the increased demand and complexity of incoming referrals as they grow significantly in volume and complexity for this new financial year and beyond. The Service Manager and staff will continue to balance our priorities between what service users need now and the longer-term security of the services on offer for some time to come. NRASS does not know the long-term economic outlook. Still, we will carry on what is a much-needed support service to the sensory loss community.

We will focus on the well-being of our community, considering how we can continue to support them and improve ways of networking with our fellow professionals to improve Deaf Awareness, accessibility, and communication is optimal. We will continue our work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to ensure that the voices of the people are represented and heard.

The charity is constantly reviewing its income streams, and we often have to operate under what is a realistic worst-case scenario budget and cashflow model. Having carefully analysed our finances, we are confident that with appropriate efforts and targeted applications for contract funding, grants and donations, we will be able to continue our services throughout the next financial period. With reasonable expectation, we will endeavour to source new and adequate resources to continue operational existence.

### Performance

NRASS has managed 369 referrals from April 2022 to March 2023, with 804 activities for all service users.

The number of new service users who have approached NRASS for support totals 16. We continue to handle 92 ongoing active cases. The age range of our service users ranges from 18-100+. The most significant number of service users were in the 51-60 age band (228 service users in this group). The vast majority of the service users are 'Profoundly Deaf'. The gender figures attending the service are evenly split between males and females.

Moving forward, it would be helpful for local services to continue coordinating and working together to support the sensory loss community. Helping and encouraging service users to become digitally aware will enable them to engage with support groups, their peers and advice agencies so that they are not disadvantaged by social isolation.

**Financial Review and Reserves as of the 31st March 2023**

I will start by summarising NRASS finances for the year ended 31st March 2024.

It is pleasing to report a surplus on finances in that year of £33k. This follows receipt of a grant of £68k from the National Lottery Community Award Scheme. In addition NRASS continued to receive contract income of £52k from Gateshead Council. Total receipted amounted to £123.5K.

Expenses in that year totalled £90k which included a £10k spend on various projects and investment in NRASS systems.

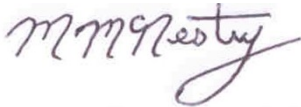
The balance sheet for NRASS at 31st March 2024 had £43k in unrestricted funds represented entirely in cash.

In the 8 months from April 2024 to November 2024 NRASS income was £41k and expenses £51k. It follows therefore a deficit of £10k was incurred and the closing bank balance at 30th November was £34k.

In conclusion the finances remain in sound condition and will be reviewed fully at the end of this financial year in March 2025.

**Trustees’ Responsibilities in relation to Financial Statements**

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993.



Signed: .....Chair, on behalf of Trustees

Date: 6th December 2024

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of

**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

On accounts for the year ended

**31 March 2024**

**Charity no 1103917**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
  - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and
  - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**



**Date: 18th September 2024**

**Name:**

Mark Thompson MAAT

**Address:**

VODA  
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing  
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre  
16 The Forum  
Wallsend  
NE28 8JR

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2024	2024	2024	2023
					£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Grants	2		68220	68220	5500
Contracts		52795		52795	52796
Donations		350		350	1200
Training		2150		2150	
Other				0	13260
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>55295</b>	<b>68220</b>	<b>123515</b>	<b>72756</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Staff Costs & Related Expenses	3	12218	49233	61451	65560
Training		483	1386	1869	175
Subscriptions, Affiliations and Licences		78		78	64
Printing, Postage and Stationery		349	1120	1469	873
Small Equipment		556		556	46
Telephone & Broadband		1370	2249	3619	2161
Consultant Fees		0		0	4965
Computer & IT Costs		501	2716	3217	541
Office Rent & Rates		1944	1500	3444	5212
Insurance		857	175	1032	949
Accountancy & Payroll fees		1399		1399	0
Fundraising		731	1389	2120	0
Miscellaneous		872		872	0
Project Expenses		1107	8452	9559	0
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>22465</b>	<b>68220</b>	<b>90685</b>	<b>80547</b>
Surplus / deficit for the year		32830	0	32830	-7791
Funds as at 1 April 2023		9974	0	9974	17765
<b>Funds at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>42804</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42804</b>	<b>9974</b>

# North Regional Association for Sensory Support

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
	Notes	
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank & in Hand	42804	9974
<b>Total Cash Balances</b>	<u>42804</u>	<u>9974</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2024</b>	<u><b>42804</b></u>	<u><b>9974</b></u>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
Restricted Funds	5      0	0
Unrestricted Funds	42804	9974
	<u><b>42804</b></u>	<u><b>9974</b></u>

Signed ..... Position .....

Signed ..... Position .....

Date .....

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

### Notes to the accounts, 2024

#### 1. Basis of accounts

The financial 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 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

NRASS meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

<b>2. Grants Received:</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
Community Foundation - The National Lottery	68220		68220
	<b>68220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68220</b>

#### 3. Trustees and Staff

Total Staff Costs for the year:

Salaries & Related Costs **61451**

#### 4. Costs of financial services

The cost for the Independent Examination for the financial period will be £350.

#### 5 Restricted Funds balance at 31 March 2024

	<b>Balance at April 2023</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expend</b>	<b>Balance at March 2024</b>
Community Foundation - The National Lottery		68220	68220	0
<b>Restricted Funds c/fwd to 2023-24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68220</b>	<b>68220</b>	<b>0</b>

**Sensory Support UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1103917

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# Accounts

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**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

Trustees Report and Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 March 2023

Charity Registration no 1103917

## Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

Reg'd Charity No: 1103917

Trustees: Councillor Michael McNestry (Chair)  
Rosalind Copeland  
Lynne Caffrey

Address: The Pinetree Centre  
Durham Road  
Birtley  
Co Durham  
DH3 2TD

Independent  
Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT  
VODA  
Spirit of North Tyneside Wing  
2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre  
16 The Forum  
Wallsend  
NE28 8JR

## **Trustees' Annual Report 2022-23**

### **Achievements**

NRASS has supported sensory loss people in Gateshead and Hartlepool by confidently advocating and advising on their well-being, welfare queries and issues. The charity has personally delivered its services via drop-in sessions and online video appointments. These activities support our charitable objectives and have positively impacted the lives of the service users who are D/deaf, Deafened, Deafblind or have hearing loss.

With the help and support of our Trustees, Committee Members and the dedication of its small team of staff, NRASS has continued to develop its strategic plans to ensure that the charity provides public benefit and achieves its aims as set out in its governing document. All of the NRASS staff are proud of the quality of the service we have provided and ensuring the needs of the service users are met. Outcomes are right for each service user to ensure standards are high.

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The charity is constantly reviewing its income streams, and we often have to operate under what is a realistic worst-case scenario budget and cashflow model. Having carefully analysed our finances, we are confident that with appropriate efforts and targeted applications for contract funding, grants and donations, we will be able to continue our services throughout the next financial period. With reasonable expectation, we will endeavour to source new and adequate resources to continue operational existence.

### **Performance**

NRASS has managed 369 referrals from April 2022 to March 2023, with 804 activities for all service users.

The number of new service users who have approached NRASS for support totals 16. We continue to handle 92 ongoing active cases. The age range of our service users ranges from 18-100+. The most significant number of service users were in the 51-60 age band (228 service users in this group). The vast majority of the service users are 'Profoundly Deaf'. The gender figures attending the service are evenly split between males and females.

Moving forward, it would be helpful for local services to continue coordinating and working together to support the sensory loss community. Helping and encouraging service users to become digitally aware will enable them to engage with support groups, their peers and advice agencies so that they are not disadvantaged by social isolation.

## **Financial Review and Reserves as of the 31st March 2023**

In the financial year ended 31st March 2023, NRASS generated £72,756.00 and spent £80,547.00. At the start of that financial year, the bank balance was £17,765.00 and, by the end, had reduced to £9,974.00. It follows; therefore, a deficit of £7,791.00 was incurred. The balance sheet reserves, therefore, total £9,974.00, represented by the above end-of-year cash balance.

During the covid period, NRASS built up its cash reserves from one-off grants and donations. The finances still depend on income sources apart from contracted income. Last year, without sufficient non-contracted income, NRASS used part of its cash reserves to maintain service levels. This cyclical trend typifies how NRASS finances swing between surplus and deficit over time. Clearly, the focus, as always, is on exploring new sources of finance and maintaining existing contracted income.


### **Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to Financial Statements**

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993.

Signed: .....Chair, on behalf of Trustees

Date

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

<b>Report to the trustees of</b>	<b>North Regional Association for Sensory Support</b>		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	<b>31 March 2023</b>	<b>Charity no</b>	<b>1103917</b>
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act),</li><li>• follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act), and</li><li>• state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</li></ul>		
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.		
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and</li><li>• accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or</li></ul></li><li>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</li></ol>		
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	<b>21st June 2023</b>
<b>Name:</b>	Mark Thompson MAAT		
<b>Address:</b>	VODA Spirit of North Tyneside Wing 2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre 16 The Forum Wallsend NE28 8JR		

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2023	2023	2023	2022
<b>Receipts</b>					£
Grants	2		5500	5500	5500
Contracts		52796		52796	65760
Donations		1200		1200	50
Other (Access To Work)		13260		13260	1000
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>67256</b>	<b>5500</b>	<b>72756</b>	<b>72310</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Staff Costs & Related Expenses	3	60360	5200	65560	51378
Training		175		175	0
Subscriptions, Affiliations and Licences		64		64	792
Printing, Postage and Stationery		873		873	608
Small Equipment		46		46	97
Telephone & Broadband		2161		2161	2992
Consultant Fees		4965		4965	156
Computer & IT Costs		541		541	0
Office Rent & Rates		4912	300	5212	264
Insurance		949		949	889
Maintenance & Refurbishment				0	203
Coronavirus & PPE Costs				0	37
Archive Storage Costs				0	1389
Accountancy & Payroll fees				0	250
Fundraising				0	216
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>75047</b>	<b>5500</b>	<b>80547</b>	<b>59271</b>
Surplus / deficit for the year		-7791	0	-7791	13039
Funds as at 1 April 2022		17765	0	17765	4726
<b>Funds at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>9974</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9974</b>	<b>17765</b>

**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Notes		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank & in Hand	9974	18015
<b>Total Cash Balances</b>	<u>9974</u>	<u>18015</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-250</b>
<b>For the year ended 31 March 2022</b>	<u>9974</u>	<u>17765</u>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
Restricted Funds	5      0	
Unrestricted Funds	9974	17765
	<u>9974</u>	<u>17765</u>

Signed ..... Position .....

Signed ..... Position .....

Date .....

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

### Notes to the accounts, 2023

#### 1. Basis of accounts

The financial 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 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

NRASS meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

<b>2. Grants Received:</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestrict</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hartlepool Borough Council	5000		5000
Local Giving	500		500
	<b>5500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5500</b>

#### 3. Trustees and Staff

Total Staff Costs for the year:  
Salaries & Related Costs

**65560**

#### 4. Costs of financial services

The cost for the Independent Examination for the financial period will be £350.

#### 5 Restricted Funds balance at 31 March 2023

	<b>Balance at April 2022</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expend</b>	<b>Balance at March 2023</b>
Hartlepool Borough Council		5000	5000	0
Local Giving		500	500	0
<b>Restricted Funds c/fwd to 2022-23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5500</b>	<b>5500</b>	<b>0</b>

**Sensory Support UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1103917

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# Accounts

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**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

**Charity Registration no 1103917**

**Financial Statements and Reports**

**For the year ended**

**31 March 2022**

The Pinetree Centre  
Durham Road  
Birtley  
Co Durham  
DH3 2TD

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**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**  
**Reference and Administrative Information**

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**Name:** North Regional Association for Sensory Support

**Charity No:** 1103917

**Trustees/Directors:** Councillor Michael McNestry (Chair)  
Rosalind Copeland (Vice Chair)

**Honorary Treasurer:** Alan Brown

**Registered Address:** The Pinetree Centre  
Durham Road  
Birtley  
Co Durham  
DH3 2TD

**Bankers:** Barclays bank plc  
51 Moseley Street  
Manchester  
M60 2AU

**Independent Examiner:** Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB  
20 Ennerdale Crescent  
Winlaton  
Blaydon on Tyne  
NE21 6PS

## **Structure and Governance**

As laid down in the organisation's constitution, the governance arrangements remain the same. The management committee and its elected members undertake the general management responsibilities of the association's function. These members are put forward by individual local authorities as active cabinet/council committee members. A general council meets twice yearly at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and at a half yearly meeting. Both events are open meetings as well as conducting essential business relating to the election and selection of officers, ie Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorary Treasurer. These positions have a duration of three years unless any position is vacant or opposed by general committee members. In the event of such a situation, an Extraordinary General Meeting needs to be called.

In addition, the association also has an Executive Committee and an Advocacy/Welfare Rights service sub-committee. Their meetings are Chaired by Executive members elected from within the association's membership. Meetings of the Executive are held four times a year with other committees and sub committees synchronised throughout the year.

### **Trustee's Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

#### History, Objectives and Activities/Background

The North Regional Association for Sensory Support (NRASS) was formed in September 2004 because of a merger of the North Regional Deaf Association (NRDA) and the North Regional Association for the Blind (NRAB). NRASS, as it is known, is a registered Disability Confident Charity in its own right.

#### Service Contracts

Currently NRASS provide Advocacy & Welfare Rights Services in the following Local Authority areas within the North East of England:-

- Gateshead
- Hartlepool

#### Aims & Objectives

The aims and objectives of NRASS are embodied in the Charity Commission Scheme. The aims being by improving services we intend to, wherever possible, eliminate discrimination and prejudice by providing an Advocacy/Welfare Rights service to people with a Sensory Impairment. In addition, the organisation, if needed, will support Local Authority members to fulfil their obligation under the Disability Discrimination Act.

The objectives being to promote independence, further education opportunities, social integration and a general well-being of all Sensory Loss people in the North regions. Furthermore, the association seeks to improve services wherever possible, to use our influence

## **North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

to provide a better quality and equality of life for people who are Deaf, Deafened, Deafblind, Dual Sensory Loss and Hearing Impaired.

### Public Benefit Statement

The Association focus their attention to the needs of people with a sensory loss at the same time as examining new legislation, innovation, developments and standard setting for agencies that provide services. They have been instrumental in influencing necessary changes in benefits or regulations that help improve the quality of life for people and providing essential equipment wherever necessary. This in turn benefits the local economy and adds to improvements in the quality of life for all as set out in our Aims and Objectives.

### Management and Governance Arrangements

As laid down in the organisations constitution the governance arrangements remain the same. The Management Committee and its elected members undertake the general management responsibilities of the association function. These members are people put forward by individual Local Authorities as active Cabinet/Council Committee Members. A general council meets twice each year, at the Annual General Meeting and at the half-yearly meeting. Both events are open meetings as well as conducting essential business relating to election and selection of Officers, i.e. Chairperson, Vice Chair and Honorary Treasurer. These positions have duration of three years, unless any position is vacant or opposed by General Committee Members. In the event of such a situation, an Extra Ordinary Meeting needs to be called.

In addition, the Association also has the General Council, an Executive Committee and an Advocacy/Welfare Rights Service Sub-Committee. Executive Members elected from within the Associations membership chair these meetings. Meetings of the Executive are held four times a year with other Committees and Sub-Committees synchronised throughout the year.

### Staffing

At the end of the financial year the association engaged one full time freelance Service Manager and two part time Advocate/Welfare Rights Officers.

The staff group operate in the areas of Gateshead and Hartlepool, these being the Local Authorities funding the service.

Vacant positions are advertised to the public in the local/national press, social media and local Job Centre Plus Offices inviting applications from all individuals within the local/national community. Representatives from the nominated committee members and the Service Manager undertake interviews.

### Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association and its financial activities for that year. In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

## **North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

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- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statement.
- Prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Association and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2016. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The financial policies and procedures set up by the management committee are designed to provide a consistent accounting/financial framework and internal control by encapsulating best practices within the organisation.

The trustees approve the policies and procedures and are those, which are best, suited to present a true and fair view of the organisations financial affairs and to maintain robust internal controls. They are also intended to ensure that the organisation can meet external requirements of corporate governance.

The overriding principle of the organisations financial reporting and financial control is one of prudence. As such, where areas of judgement are required, they should always err on the side of caution. A fundamental financial responsibility is the management and the minimisation of risk.

The financial statements are required to be drawn up in accordance with UK legislation. It is incumbent upon senior personnel to be conversant with these requirements and with developments to standards and any legislative changes to ensure that these are applied as appropriate.

Full and open disclosure of financial information by the divisions within the organisation is a fundamental prerequisite. Therefore, full co-operation should be afforded to visits from internal audit or any other financial review.

### Financial Review and Reserves as of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

In the last financial year NRASS generated £72310 and spent £59271. It follows therefore a surplus of £13039 was the financial outcome we are reporting.

The Bank Balance started the year on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at £4726 and finished on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at £17765.

The income line in addition to contracted income also benefitted from a number of one off grants from Virgin Media and Hartlepool Council and other smaller donations.

The expense line was broadly in line with previous years.

Over the last two years NRASS finances have progressed into a more comfortable operating window.

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

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Our Organiser has worked tirelessly to this end researching a variety of grants and potential donators for which she deserves the thanks of the Committee.

### Achievements

During 2021-22, NRASS has been able to source grant income to help aid financial recovery plans. NRASS can now begin to focus on a new strategy for the next financial year.

NRASS has continued to deliver its services, offering Advocacy, Information and Advice to a high standard and, as such, have had an impact on the lives of the service users who are D/deaf, Deafened, Deafblind or have hearing loss. All of the NRASS staff are proud of the quality of the service we have provided over the past year and especially so given the continued enormous strain caused by the Covid pandemic. The charity is indebted to the staff who have continued to deliver in the face of personal and professional stress and uncertainty.

NRASS have continued to provide advocacy, advice and information to our catchment group across the Gateshead and Hartlepool regions. Our staff have delivered the service through a range of remote services to ensure it could continue to deliver and meet demand during the pandemic. Like many charities, NRASS has been affected by the Covid pandemic and has been required to manage immediate risks and to ensure long-term sustainability.

The management of the service has focused on the primary areas of the health, safety and welfare of our staff and the people we support in our support services. At the time of writing, our actions have been successful although we are under no illusions that this crisis is over and this will remain a focus for the Trustees and the Executive Committee for some time to come.

As a result of a slightly stronger financial position, NRASS has been far more resilient to external events than we would otherwise have been. We do not know the long-term economic outlook but, having utilised financial support, managed costs and sought to sustain income, we believe that we are well placed to carry on a viable support service.

We were delighted to receive a number of generous donations from, Service Users, Charitable Trusts and Foundations including:-

Hartlepool Borough Council Discretionary Grant	£ 6,000.00
Virgin Media/O2 Bringing Communities Back Together Grant	£ 1,000.00
Hartlepool Borough Council Discretionary Grant	£ 3,965.00
Service User Donation	£ 50.00
Hartlepool Borough Council Discretionary Grant	£ 3,000.00
Gateshead Borough Council Digital Maturity Grant	£ 4,500.00

### Performance

NRASS has managed 370 referrals over the period April 2020 to March 2021, with 863 contacts on behalf of service users. The number of new service users who have approached NRASS for support totals 9. Over the whole period with additional enquiries from 7 potential clients from outside of our funding contract areas. We continue to handle 88 on-going active cases.

The age range of our service user ranges from 18-100+. The largest number of service users were in the 71 to 100+ age band with an overall total of 220 service users utilising the service. These figures are down 14 people on last year's figures, which can be accounted for when looking at the service users who do not access technology to engage with the service over the Covid lockdowns. The vast majority of the service users being 'Profoundly Deaf'.

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

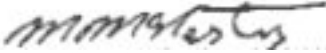
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The gender figures attending the service being as follows:-

Male: 101                      Female: 118                      Deaf Groups: 1

Moving forwards, it would be useful for local services to co-ordinate and work together to support our sensory loss community. Thereby helping and encouraging them to utilise whatever technology is available for them to engage with support groups, their peers and advice agencies so that they are not disadvantaged any further. NRASS aim to ensure that it is able to continue to deliver essential support by effectively managing the risk of infection by implementing appropriate contingency arrangements should an outbreak impact our face to face services further and to ensure that we can maintain sufficient staffing levels to operate safely.

Looking to the future NRASS will be liaising closely with both representatives from Gateshead Council and Hartlepool Council to balance risks to control infection within communal areas and implement safety procedures for the delivery of direct services as soon as it is possible.



.....  
(Chairman – Councillor M McNestry)  
Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Dated: 31st March 2022

## Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees of North Regional Association for Sensory Support on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 12 to 17.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income does not exceed £250,000.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE

Date 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Signed



aat

Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

**Statement of Financial Activities**

(incorporating the income and expenditure account)

**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2020-21 Funds £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and Legacies	2	50	0	50	50
Charitable Activities	2	72,260	0	72,260	66,078
Other Trading Activities	2	0	0	0	15
Investment Income	2	0		0	0
Other	2			0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>72,310</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72,310</b>	<b>66,143</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising Funds	2	216	0	216	312
Charitable Activities	2	59,055	0	59,055	61,905
Other	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>59,271</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59,271</b>	<b>62,217</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>13,039</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,039</b>	<b>3,926</b>
Transfers				0	
Total Funds brought forward		4,726	0	4,726	800
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>17,765</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,765</b>	<b>4,726</b>

The notes on pages 12-17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

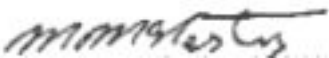
**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

**Balance Sheet**

as at 31 March 2022

	Note	21-22 Funds £	20-21 Funds £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<i>Prepayments</i>	4	0	0
<i>Cash at Bank and In Hand</i>		18,015	4,976
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		18,015	4,976
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<i>Creditors Amounts falling due within one year</i>	5	(250)	(250)
<i>Creditors Amounts falling due after one year</i>		0	0
		(250)	(250)
<b>Total Assests</b>		<b>17,765</b>	<b>4,726</b>
The Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted income funds		17,765	4,726
Restricted income funds		0	0
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<b>17,765</b>	<b>4,726</b>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:



.....  
 (Chairman – Councillor M McNestry)  
 Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the period ending 31 March 2022**

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**1 Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Preparation**

These 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 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

North Regional Association for Sensory Support meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

**Incoming Resources**

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate

**Resources Expended and Liabilities**

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of all fixed assets, over their expected useful lives. It is calculated at the following rate:

Computer Equipment	25% straight line
Other Office Equipment	15% reducing balance

# North Regional Association for Sensory Support

## 2 Funds

The Charity has one fund, an unrestricted general fund comprising accumulated surpluses and deficits which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity that have not been designated for other purposes.

### Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2021-22

Income and Endowments from:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021-22 £	Total 2020-21 £
<b>Donations and Legacies</b>				
Donations	50		50	50
Precepts	0		0	0
	50	0	50	50
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Advocacy Service Contracts	65,760		65,760	52,578
Grants	5,500		5,500	13,500
Other	1,000		1,000	0
Amounts receivable for equipment purchases	0		0	0
	72,260	0	72,260	66,078
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,310</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72,310</b>	<b>66,143</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
<b>Charitable Activities - Advocacy Service</b>				
Advertising and Promotion	0		0	0
Staff Costs and Related Expenses	15,734		15,734	16,433
Consultants Fees/Travel Expenses			0	0
Training			0	4,191
Coronavirus/PPE Costs	37		37	62
Subscriptions/Affiliations/Licences	433		433	409
Management and Committee Expenses	0		0	0
Insurance	0		0	0
Interpreters' fees			0	0
Miscellaneous			0	43
Printing, stationery and postage	493		493	505
Office Rent/Rates			0	275
Small Equipment	97		97	0
Computer/IT Costs			0	200
Telephone/Broadband	2,792		2,792	2,955
	19,586	0	19,586	25,073
<b>Raising Funds</b>	216		216	312

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Accountancy/IE Fees	250	250	0
Advertising and Promotion		0	0
Computer Costs		0	0
Equipment		0	0
Meeting expenses		0	0
Printing, stationery and postage	115	115	357
Staff Costs and Related Expenses	35,645	35,645	32,494
Coronavirus Costs		0	46
Consultants Fees/Travel Expenses	156	156	0
Maintenance/Refurb	203	203	0
Telephone/Broadband/Webhosting	200	200	0
Interpreters' fees		0	0
Insurance	889	889	882
Office Rent/Rates	264	264	207
Office Utilities		0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
Archive Storage Costs	1,389	1,389	1,344
Independent Examiner's Fee		0	0
Subscriptions/Affiliations/Licences	359	359	258
IT Security and IT Costs		0	1,244
Depreciation of office equipment		0	0
	39,469	0	36,832
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,271</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62,217</b>

### 3 Fixed Assets

There are no fixed assets of material worth at this time

### 4 Debtors and Prepayments

There are no debtors or prepayments at this time.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021-22 Total £	2020-21 Total £
Prepayments				2,025
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,025</b>

### 5 Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021-22 Total £	2020-21 Total £
Creditors and accruals		250		250
	<b>250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>

**6 Employed Staff**

	2021-22	2020-21
	£	£
Gross Salaries and benefits in kind	51,378	48,927
Pension Costs		
Total Staff Costs	<u>51,378</u>	<u>48,927</u>

3 part time staff were employed during this period no-one received remuneration of £60,000 or more.

**7 Cash at Bank and in Hand**

Business Current	17,907
Petty Cash	<u>108</u>
	<u>18,015</u>

**8 Trustees Expenses**

The Trustees were paid no remuneration (2021-22:£nil) nor travel expenses (2020-21:£nil) during the year.

**Sensory Support UK**

England & Wales - Charity number 1103917

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# Accounts

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**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

**Charity Registration no 1103917**

**Financial Statements and Reports**

**For the year ended**

**31 March 2021**

The Pinetree Centre  
Durham Road  
Birtley  
Co Durham  
DH3 2TD

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**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**  
**Reference and Administrative Information**

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**Name:** North Regional Association for Sensory Support

**Charity No:** 1103917

**Trustees/Directors:** Councillor Michael McNestry (Chair)  
Rosalind Copeland (Vice Chair)

**Honorary Treasurer:** Alan Brown

**Registered Address:** The Pinetree Centre  
Durham Road  
Birtley  
Co Durham  
DH3 2TD

**Bankers:** Barclays bank plc  
51 Moseley Street  
Manchester  
M60 2AU

**Independent Examiner:** Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB  
20 Ennerdale Crescent  
Winlaton  
Blaydon on Tyne  
NE21 6PS

## **Structure and Governance**

As laid down in the organisation's constitution, the governance arrangements remain the same. The management committee and its elected members undertake the general management responsibilities of the association's function. These members are put forward by individual local authorities as active cabinet/council committee members. A general council meets twice yearly at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and at a half yearly meeting. Both events are open meetings as well as conducting essential business relating to the election and selection of officers, ie Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorary Treasurer. These positions have a duration of three years unless any position is vacant or opposed by general committee members. In the event of such a situation, an Extraordinary General Meeting needs to be called.

In addition, the association also has an Executive Committee and an Advocacy/Welfare Rights service sub-committee. Their meetings are Chaired by Executive members elected from within the association's membership. Meetings of the Executive are held four times a year with other committees and sub committees synchronised throughout the year.

### **Trustee's Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

#### History, Objectives and Activities/Background

The North Regional Association for Sensory Support (NRASS) was formed in September 2004 because of a merger of the North Regional Deaf Association (NRDA) and the North Regional Association for the Blind (NRAB). NRASS, as it is known, is a registered Disability Confident Charity in its own right.

#### Service Contracts

Currently NRASS provide Advocacy & Welfare Rights Services in the following Local Authority areas within the North East of England:-

- Gateshead
- Hartlepool

#### Aims & Objectives

The aims and objectives of NRASS are embodied in the Charity Commission Scheme. The aims being by improving services we intend to, wherever possible, eliminate discrimination and prejudice by providing an Advocacy/Welfare Rights service to people with a Sensory Impairment. In addition, the organisation, if needed, will support Local Authority members to fulfil their obligation under the Disability Discrimination Act.

## **North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

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The objectives being to promote independence, further education opportunities, social integration and a general well-being of all Sensory Loss people in the North regions. Furthermore, the association seeks to improve services wherever possible, to use our influence to provide a better quality and equality of life for people who are Deaf, Deafened, Deafblind, Dual Sensory Loss and Hearing Impaired.

### **Public Benefit Statement**

The Association focus their attention to the needs of people with a sensory loss at the same time as examining new legislation, innovation, developments and standard setting for agencies that provide services. They have been instrumental in influencing necessary changes in benefits or regulations that help improve the quality of life for people and providing essential equipment wherever necessary. This in turn benefits the local economy and adds to improvements in the quality of life for all as set out in our Aims and Objectives.

### **Management and Governance Arrangements**

As laid down in the organisations constitution the governance arrangements remain the same. The Management Committee and its elected members undertake the general management responsibilities of the association function. These members are people put forward by individual Local Authorities as active Cabinet/Council Committee Members. A general council meets twice each year, at the Annual General Meeting and at the half-yearly meeting. Both events are open meetings as well as conducting essential business relating to election and selection of Officers, i.e. Chairperson, Vice Chair and Honorary Treasurer. These positions have duration of three years, unless any position is vacant or opposed by General Committee Members. In the event of such a situation, an Extra Ordinary Meeting needs to be called.

In addition, the Association also has the General Council, an Executive Committee and an Advocacy/Welfare Rights Service Sub-Committee. Executive Members elected from within the Associations membership chair these meetings. Meetings of the Executive are held four times a year with other Committees and Sub-Committees synchronised throughout the year.

### **Staffing**

At the end of the financial year the association engaged one full time freelance Service Manager and two part time Advocate/Welfare Rights Officers.

The staff group operate in the areas of Gateshead and Hartlepool, these being the Local Authorities funding the service.

## **North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

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Vacant positions are advertised to the public in the local/national press, social media and local Job Centre Plus Offices inviting applications from all individuals within the local/national community. Representatives from the nominated committee members and the Service Manager undertake interviews.

### **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities**

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association and its financial activities for that year. In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- 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 Statement.
- Prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Association and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The financial policies and procedures set up by the management committee are designed to provide a consistent accounting/financial framework and internal control by encapsulating best practices within the organisation.

The trustees approve the policies and procedures and are those, which are best, suited to present a true and fair view of the organisations financial affairs and to maintain robust internal controls. They are also intended to ensure that the organisation can meet external requirements of corporate governance.

The overriding principle of the organisations financial reporting and financial control is one of prudence. As such, where areas of judgement are required, they should always err on the side of caution. A fundamental financial responsibility is the management and the minimisation of risk.

The financial statements are required to be drawn up in accordance with UK legislation. It is incumbent upon senior personnel to be conversant with these requirements and with developments to standards and any legislative changes to ensure that these are applied as appropriate.

Full and open disclosure of financial information by the divisions within the organisation is a fundamental prerequisite. Therefore, full co-operation should be afforded to visits from internal audit or any other financial review.

### Financial Review and Reserves as of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

In the financial year ended 31st March 2021 NRASS generated income of £66,100 and expenditure totalled £62,200. It follows there was a surplus of £3,900.

New funding in the year accounted for almost £13,000 from donations highlighted elsewhere in the Report.

At the year end the bank balance had risen to £4,900 ahead of the starting point on 1st April 2020 by £4,000.

After some difficult years this outcome has helped to provide a cash cushion to ensure the services NRASS provides may be maintained at all times.

### Achievements

In previous years, we have reported on a number of financial challenges requiring focus and action. During 2020-21, NRASS has been able to source grant income to help aid financial recovery plans. NRASS can now begin to focus on a new strategy for the next financial year.

NRASS has continued to deliver its services, offering Advocacy, Information and Advice to a high standard and, as such, have had an impact on the lives of the service users who are D/deaf, Deafened, Deafblind or have hearing loss. All of the NRASS staff are proud of the quality of the service we have provided over the past year and especially so given the enormous strain caused by COVID-19. The charity is indebted to the staff who have continued to deliver in the face of personal and professional stress and uncertainty.

NRASS have continued to provide advocacy, advice and information to our catchment group across the Gateshead and Hartlepool regions. Our staff have delivered the service through a range of remote services to ensure it could continue to deliver and meet demand during the pandemic. Like many charities, NRASS has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and has been required to manage immediate risks and to ensure long-term sustainability.

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

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The management of the service has focused on the primary areas of the health, safety and welfare of our staff and the people we support in our support services. At the time of writing, our actions have been successful although we are under no illusions that this crisis is over and this will remain a focus for the Trustees and the Executive Committee for some time to come.

As a result of a slightly stronger financial position, NRASS has been far more resilient to external events than we would otherwise have been but COVID-19 has presented further challenge and uncertainty. We do not know the long-term economic outlook but, having utilised financial support, managed costs and sought to sustain income, we believe that we are well placed to weather this storm.

We were delighted to receive a number of generous donations from Charitable Trusts and Foundations including:-

The Community Foundation	£ 4,450.00
CAF	£ 5,400.00
Neighbourly Community Fund	£ 400.00
REEDS Grassroots	£ 2,000.00

### Performance

NRASS has managed 401 referrals over the period April 2020 to March 2021, with 929 contacts on behalf of service users. The number of new service users who have approached NRASS for support totals 15. Over the whole period with additional enquiries from 16 potential clients from outside of our funding contract areas. We continue to handle 91 on-going active cases.

The age range of our service user ranges from 18-100+. The largest number of service users were in the 51 to 60 age band with an overall total of 234 service users utilising the service (up 27 on last year's figures). The vast majority of the service users being 'Profoundly Deaf'.

The gender figures attending the service being as follows:-

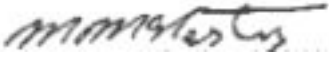
Male: 91                      Female: 142                      Deaf Groups: 1

Moving forwards, it would be useful for local services to co-ordinate and work together to support our sensory loss community. Thereby helping and encouraging them to utilise whatever technology is available for them to engage with support groups, their peers and advice agencies so that they are not disadvantaged any further. NRASS aim to ensure that it is able to continue to deliver essential support by effectively managing the risk of infection by implementing appropriate contingency arrangements should an outbreak impact our services further and to ensure that we can maintain sufficient staffing levels to operate safely.

## **North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

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Looking to the future NRASS will be liaising closely with both representatives from Gateshead Council and Hartlepool Council to balance risks to control infection within communal areas and implement safety procedures for the delivery of direct services as soon as it is possible.



.....  
(Chairman – Councillor M McNestry)  
Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Dated: 31st March 2021

## Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees of North Regional Association for Sensory Support on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 12 to 17.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income does not exceed £250,000.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE

Date

Signed



Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

**North Regional Association for Sensory Support**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

(incorporating the income and expenditure account)

**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2019-20 Funds £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>				
Donations and Legacies	50	0	50	150
Charitable Activities	66,078	0	66,078	53,581
Other Trading Activities	15	0	15	235
Investment Income	0		0	8
Other			0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,143</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66,143</b>	<b>53,974</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Raising Funds	312	0	312	216
Charitable Activities	61,905	0	61,905	59,929
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,217</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62,217</b>	<b>60,145</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>3,926</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,926</b>	<b>(6,170)</b>
Transfers			0	
Total Funds brought forward	800	0	800	6,970
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>800</b>

The notes on pages 12-17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

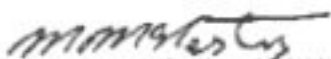
# North Regional Association for Sensory Support

## Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2020

	Note	20-21 Funds £	19-20 Funds £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<i>Prepayments</i>	4	0	0
<i>Cash at Bank and In Hand</i>		4,976	1,050
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		4,976	1,050
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<i>Creditors Amounts falling due within one year</i>	5	(250)	(250)
<i>Creditors Amounts falling due after one year</i>		0	0
		(250)	(250)
<b>Total Assests</b>		<b>4,726</b>	<b>800</b>
The Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted income funds		4,726	800
Restricted income funds		0	0
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<b>4,726</b>	<b>800</b>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:



.....  
 (Chairman – Councillor M McNestry)  
 Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Dated:

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the period ending 31 March 2021**

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**1 Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Preparation**

These 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 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

North Regional Association for Sensory Support meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

**Incoming Resources**

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate

**Resources Expended and Liabilities**

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of all fixed assets, over their expected useful lives. It is calculated at the following rate:

Computer Equipment	25% straight line
Other Office Equipment	15% reducing balance

## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

### 2 Funds

The Charity has one fund, an unrestricted general fund comprising accumulated surpluses and deficits which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity that have not been designated for other purposes.

#### Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2020-21

Income and Endowments from:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020-21 £	Total 2019-20 £
<b>Donations and Legacies</b>				
Donations	50		50	50
Precepts	0		0	0
	50	0	50	50
<b>Charitable Activities</b>				
Advocacy Service Contracts	52,578		52,578	52,578
Grants	13,500		13,500	13,500
Other	0		0	0
Amounts receivable for equipment purchases	0		0	0
	66,078	0	66,078	66,078
<b>Other Trading Income</b>				
Fundraising	15		15	12
	15	0	15	12
<b>Investment Income</b>				
Bank Interest Earned	0		0	
	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,143</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66,143</b>	<b>66,140</b>

#### Expenditure on:

##### **Charitable Activities - Advocacy Service**

Advertising and Promotion			0	0
Staff Costs and Related Expenses	16,433		16,433	16,433
Consultants Fees/Travel Expenses			0	0
Training	4,191		4,191	0
Coronavirus/PPE Costs	62		62	0
Subscriptions/Affiliations/Licences	409		409	0
Management and Committee Expenses			0	4,191
Insurance			0	0
Interpreters' fees			0	0
Miscellaneous	43		43	22
Printing, stationery and postage	505		505	505
Office Rent/Rates	275		275	275
Small Equipment			0	0
Computer/IT Costs	200		200	200
Telephone/Broadband	2,955		2,955	2,955
	25,073	0	25,073	24,581

##### **Raising Funds**

	312		312	312
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## North Regional Association for Sensory Support

### Charitable Activities - Head Office

Accountancy/IE Fees	0	0	0
Advertising and Promotion	0	0	0
Computer Costs	0	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0
Meeting expenses	0	0	0
Printing, stationery and postage	357	357	299
Staff Costs and Related Expenses	32,494	32,494	33,364
Coronavirus Costs	46	46	0
Consultants Fees/Travel Expenses	0	0	0
Maintenance/Refurb	0	0	0
Telephone/Broadband	0	0	0
Interpreters' fees	0	0	0
Insurance	882	882	882
Office Rent/Rates	207	207	187
Office Utilities	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
Archive Storage Costs	1,344	1,344	1,344
Independent Examiner's Fee	0	0	0
Subscriptions/Affiliations/Licences	258	258	0
IT Security and IT Costs	1,244	1,244	1,244
Depreciation of office equipment	0	0	0
	36,832	0	37,321
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,217</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62,217</b>

### 3 Fixed Assets

There are no fixed assets of material worth at this time

### 4 Debtors and Prepayments

There are no debtors or prepayments at this time.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019-20 Total £	2018-19 Total £
Prepayments	0	0	0	2,025
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,025</b>

### 5 Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019-20 Total £	2018-19 Total £
Creditors and accruals	250	0	250	250
	<b>250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>

**6 Employed Staff**

	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salaries and benefits in kind	48,927	48,927
Pension Costs		
Total Staff Costs	<u>48,927</u>	<u>48,927</u>

3 part time staff were employed during this period no-one received remuneration of £60,000 or more.

**7 Cash at Bank and in Hand**

Business Savings	0
Business Current	4,937
Petty Cash	39
	<u>4,976</u>

**8 Trustees Expenses**

The Trustees were paid no remuneration (2020-21:£nil) nor travel expenses (2019-0:£nil) during the year.