

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.

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

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

Report to the trustees of	North Regional Association for Sensory Support		
On accounts for the year ended	31 March 2023	Charity no	1103917
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>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.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<p>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.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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">• 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; or2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.		
Signed:			
Name:	Mark Thompson MAAT		
Address:	VODA Spirit of North Tyneside Wing 2nd Floor, Wallsend Customer First Centre 16 The Forum Wallsend NE28 8JR		
	Date: 21st June 2023		

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
Receipts		2023	2023	2023	2022
					£
Grants	2		5500	5500	5500
Contracts		52796		52796	65760
Donations		1200		1200	50
Other (Access To Work)		13260		13260	1000
Total Receipts		67256	5500	72756	72310
Payments					
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
Total Payments		75047	5500	80547	59271
Surplus / deficit for the year		-7791	0	-7791	13039
Funds as at 1 April 2022		17765	0	17765	4726
Funds at 31 March 2023		9974	0	9974	17765

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

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

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).

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

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

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