

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.

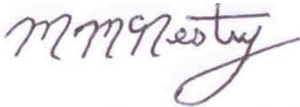
The balance sheet for NRASS at 31st March 2024 had £43k in unrestricted funds represented entirely in cash.

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
Receipts		2024	2024	2024	2023
					£
Grants	2		68220	68220	5500
Contracts		52795		52795	52796
Donations		350		350	1200
Training		2150		2150	
Other				0	13260
Total Receipts		55295	68220	123515	72756
Payments					
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
Total Payments		22465	68220	90685	80547
Surplus / deficit for the year		32830	0	32830	-7791
Funds as at 1 April 2023		9974	0	9974	17765
Funds at 31 March 2024		42804	0	42804	9974

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

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

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

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

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