

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

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

Charity Registration no 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

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
Receipts				£
Grants	3450		3450	68220
Contracts	52795		52795	52795
Donations			0	350
Training	1525		1525	2150
Total Receipts	57770	0	57770	123515
Payments				
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
Total Payments	78184	0	78184	90685
Surplus / deficit for the year	-20414	0	-20414	32830
Funds as at 1 April 2024	42809	0	42809	9979
Funds at 31 March 2025	22395	0	22395	42809

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

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

Represented By:

Restricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds

0

22395

22395

0

42809

42809

Signed Alan

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

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