

Autistica funds research, shapes  
policy and works with autistic people  
to make more of a difference

Annual Report and Accounts  
for the year ending  
31 March 2021







## Contents

- 03 Honorary roles and charity management
- 04 Chair’s Statement
- 06 Chief Executive’s Statement
- 08 Objectives and activities
- 10 Year at a glance
- 11 2020–2021 Research spend
- 12 A year like no other
- 13 Review of the year
- 14 Funding and support
- 15 Driving public policy
- 16 World class research
- 18 Communications
- 20 Looking ahead
- 21 Public benefit and impact
- 22 Structure, governance and management
- 24 Statement of trustees’ responsibilities
- 26 Independent auditor’s report to the members
- 28 Statement of Financial Activities
- 29 Balance Sheet
- 30 Statement of Cash Flows
- 31 Notes to the financial statements
- 41 Board of Trustees: Advisory Committees
- 42 Thanks

## Honorary roles and charity management

Our trustees, honorary supporters and leaders help make our vision a reality by overseeing and managing all of the charity’s life-saving and life-changing work.

### Honorary roles

- Patron**  
Professor Sir Michael Rutter
- President**  
Dame Stephanie Shirley CH
- Vice Presidents**  
Jane Asher  
Sir Christopher Ball  
Lady Christine Bett  
Hugh Merrill MVO
- Chair**  
Gill Ackers
- Honorary Treasurer**  
Matthew Harris  
  
Stephen Boyle (joined March 2021)  
Dr Sarah Caddick PhD (retired July 2020)  
John Carey  
Matt Davis  
Professor Jonathan Green  
Professor Dr Hilde Geurts  
Fraser Hardie (retired April 2021)  
Katie Hudson (joined March 2021)  
Heather Kleeman

### Trustees

### Charity management

- Chief Executive**  
Dr James Cusack
- Director of Fundraising**  
Jennie Chambers

### Auditors

Azets Audit Services  
Greytown House  
221–227 High Street  
Orpington  
Kent BR6 0NZ

### Bankers

Metro Bank  
One Southampton Row  
London WC1B 5HA

### Registered office

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7–12 Great Dover Street  
London SE1 4YR  
  
020 3857 4340  
info@autistica.org.uk  
autistica.org.uk

- Charity registration no.**  
1107350
- Company registration no.**  
05184164



The events of the past year have made Autistica's vital work assume even greater importance and urgency. Many charitable organisations have experienced significant falls in donations, as people understandably turned their attention and support towards Covid-related causes. In response, we are sharpening our focus on the critical issues for autistic people.

There has been a welcome spotlight on mental health issues as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, but mental health was already the single biggest challenge faced by autistic people. There is a real risk that – post pandemic – they will be left even more disadvantaged.



“Autistica's work has never been more important than it is right now and the commitment of our loyal donors has never been more appreciated. They have my heartfelt thanks for their ongoing support.”

Gill Ackers

Autistic people tend to find changes in routine difficult and need certainty around what will happen in order to cope with day-to-day activities. The onset of the pandemic and associated restrictions on activities and behaviours created enormous uncertainty and exacerbated many of the existing problems.

The pandemic has also accelerated some changes that were already underway, such as the increased use of teleservices for the delivery of healthcare. This has been welcomed by many, but there has been no research into whether it is appropriate for autistic people. Similarly, with mental health services already under pressure from growing demand, the needs of the 'newly-impacted' are stretching them even more.

The initial lockdown in March 2020 prompted an urgent refocus on the immediate support our community needed. This involved practical issues of dealing with increased anxiety – and the difficulties faced by parents of home-schooling autistic children, whilst working from home themselves. Paradoxically, many autistic people were comfortable with the lockdown restrictions that we all had to adapt to. Many anxieties arise from simple acts such as getting on a train, working in an open-plan office or eating in a school canteen. With these everyday hurdles removed during the lockdowns, it is a return to normal that will present a huge challenge.

This is particularly true of the world of work. Autistic people hold a disproportionate number of lower-paid and less secure jobs, the very roles most threatened by the pandemic. It's therefore more important than ever that – as employers address their changing needs for physical workspaces and flexible working – they consider how to do that in a more inclusive way.

The impact of Covid-19 on charities has been mixed. Many charities found their day-to-day work, particularly those focused on service delivery in the community, came to an abrupt halt. Ours didn't, but we did reduce our level of research funding, as many clinical researchers refocused on Covid-19-related activities. Lockdown also meant that some research methodologies were simply not practicable; for example, when face-to-face meetings were necessary. We only fund research when we have the cash available to do so. Hence, in such a challenging funding environment, we adopted a conservative

approach when committing to new projects.

In response to the financial pressures our team took a voluntary pay cut and reduced their hours. Inevitably this placed huge pressure on them, since there was no corresponding decrease in workload. Given our flexible approach to working prior to the pandemic, we were reasonably well set up to work from home, but dealing with incoming post and the increased reliance upon technology created new challenges. I am enormously proud of how well the entire staff transitioned to the new working environment and the financial sacrifices they made. Many of our staff found the changes extremely difficult, particularly those home-schooling children. We are so grateful for their continued hard work.

During this difficult time, several of our very committed, significant donors stepped up to support us. Without their loyalty and generosity, we would not have been able to provide the critical services that we did and I'm immensely grateful to them. Their support meant we were able to quickly provide vital resources for those struggling to cope. These included valuable support to parents, carers and autistic people through webinars, website materials, expert insights and access to specialists.

The smooth transition to a new CEO was unquestionably a highlight of 2020. Dr James Cusack steered us skilfully through the most challenging months of the pandemic. Thanks to him, Autistica ended the year with real clarity on the strategy, priorities and resourcing needs for the years ahead.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Dr Sarah Caddick in July 2020 and to Fraser Hardie just after the year end in April 2021. I'm grateful to them both for their wise counsel and support. Just before the year end, we were delighted to welcome Katie Hudson and Stephen Boyle as trustees. They both bring valuable new complementary skills and knowledge to Autistica's board.

We are committed to creating the breakthroughs that will change autistic people's lives for the better. Our priority for the coming year is to sharpen our focus on the critical issues that most impact their health, longevity and happiness.

**Gill Ackers**  
Chair





This year has been incredibly difficult for the autistic people we serve. A cross-charity report, which we were proud to support, comprehensively showed that far too many autistic people and families have been left stranded, with little support in place to allow them to thrive.

That's why I am so proud of how our team responded when Covid-19 hit. We provided information relevant to the pandemic in a matter of days: a huge first for us as an organisation. We are now providing regular webinars and our communications on anxiety have reached tens of thousands of people.



**“As society recovers from the pandemic, Autistica must keep delivering research that addresses the appalling inequalities autistic people face. It is essential we have an ambitious vision and strategy to continue to deliver real change for autistic people.”**

Dr James Cusack

The year brought huge and unprecedented challenges for the team. Like many others, we had to adapt to remote working. I am so impressed and inspired by how they adapted and continued working tirelessly to ensure that we have the funds in place to make a real difference.

The charity sector experienced huge declines in income and we decided not to renew the lease on our office when it expired at the end of 2020, seeing it as an unnecessary expense. It's only thanks to the incredible generosity of our loyal supporters that we entered 2021 with a real vision for how we can transform the lives of autistic people.

In the current environment, it is more pressing than ever that we ensure we are delivering research that addresses the appalling inequalities autistic people face. This year brought home the seriousness of the employment gap for autistic people. The Office for National Statistics produced data (for the first time) showing that only 21.7% of autistic people are in employment. This compares to over half of disabled people (52.1%) and around eight in ten (81.3%) of non-disabled people. In the wake of these shocking statistics, research we funded this year has found ways to bridge this gap, showing employers how they can more effectively recruit autistic people, allow them to disclose their diagnosis, and make reasonable adjustments for them.

Our expertise and knowledge is also helping to place research at the centre of the development of a national autism strategy, setting out the strategic objectives to ensure that work to improve NHS services for autistic people is evidence-based – and that research and clinical communities are more collaborative.

Aligned with that, we launched a three-year partnership with the National Institute of Health

Research (NIHR). This will fund research on how to provide safe and effective social care that enables autistic adults to live happy, healthy and long lives. Social care is a huge challenge facing the country generally, but an even bigger crisis for autistic people, where there are no clear definitions of what 'good' looks like.

In addition, we are working to build environments that are accessible for autistic people, test health checks that address health inequalities, and stop early deaths.

As we hopefully exit and recover from the pandemic, it's essential that we ensure we have an ambitious vision and strategy that delivers real change for autistic people over the next decade. That's why we're focusing on developing some ambitious goals and plans in partnership with autistic people, families, researchers, and other stakeholders. These will give us greater clarity than ever, but to deliver on them means we will need to raise more money than ever and this will be a key priority for us in the year ahead.

Finally, I want to thank all our amazing autistic people and family members, generous donors, collaborative partners, brilliant researchers, supportive trustees and tireless and committed staff at Autistica. The past year has been incredibly challenging, but thanks to this unique community of committed individuals, we have made life-changing breakthroughs that will enable autistic people to live happier, healthier, longer lives. I'm confident that together we can help ensure that the next decade delivers real change for autistic people and their families.

**Dr James Cusack**  
Chief Executive Officer



We know that research has the potential to transform the everyday lives of autistic people by making sure that treatments, support and services are based on the latest evidence. We also know that too many autistic people and their families face a lifelong struggle to access those appropriate support and services. If we want to overcome these inequalities and deliver real change, it requires a coordinated and focused effort.

Autistica works in partnership to achieve both a step change in the amount of resource focused on autism research and to ensure that research funding is directed to areas of greatest need. We act as the bridge between autistic people, the research community and other funders of autism science.

This is an exciting time in autism research and significant advances have been made in the last decade, including a deeper understanding of autistic strengths, greater awareness of the tragic gap in life


expectancy and a marked increase in the amount of autism science globally. Our part in those advances stems from our ability to deliver the evidence that creates real hope through science.

Working with autistic people not just as volunteers but as researchers, authors and decision makers in the research community, our unique approach can and will make more of a difference in the short- and the long-term future for autistic people.




**Our vision**

is a world where every autistic person lives a happy, healthy, long life.



**Our mission**


is to create the breakthroughs that enable autistic people to live happier, healthier, longer lives.



**Our values**

We believe in:

- Involving autistic people and their families
- Reflecting the diversity of autism
- Supporting the best science and evidence
- Focusing on change and how it happens
- Using our voice to influence and convene others
- Being agile and responsive



**How we work**

We make breakthroughs by:

- Shaping and growing research across the UK
- Funding new and innovative research solutions
- Campaigning for better services and shaping national policy
- Sharing evidence-based tools, resources, and information





Despite a challenging and uncertain year we've had a number of successes in each of the four areas of our work.



### Funding new and innovative research solutions

With telehealth becoming much more widely used, we are leading on a pilot study to understand how this switch might affect autistic people and how to ensure healthcare is accessible to all autistic people. This project is in collaboration with NHS England and the Peter Sowerby Foundation.

Our 'citizen science' project on sensory processing with the Alan Turing Institute involves autistic people not just as volunteers, but as researchers, authors and decision makers. The team are developing a digital platform that will allow any autistic person to share their sensory experiences so that we can design a more accessible world.

We worked with companies in the finance, tech and games industries as part of our DARE project with University College London. They supported us to gather data from employees that is helping us to advise them and develop best practice guidance.



### Campaigning for better services and shaping national policy

We drafted the first NHS Autism Research Strategy for NHSE. This will help us jointly support transformational science and equip services to support neurodiverse communities.

We worked with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to ensure the new Autism Strategy, which was launched in July 2021, included a focus on building policy and services based on solid evidence.



### Shaping and growing research across the UK

We invited applications for seed funding to help develop future adult social care research projects that include autistic people. The intention is to secure further funding from NIHR for larger-scale projects. Social care provided to autistic adults remains almost entirely unevidenced – these grants aim to change that.

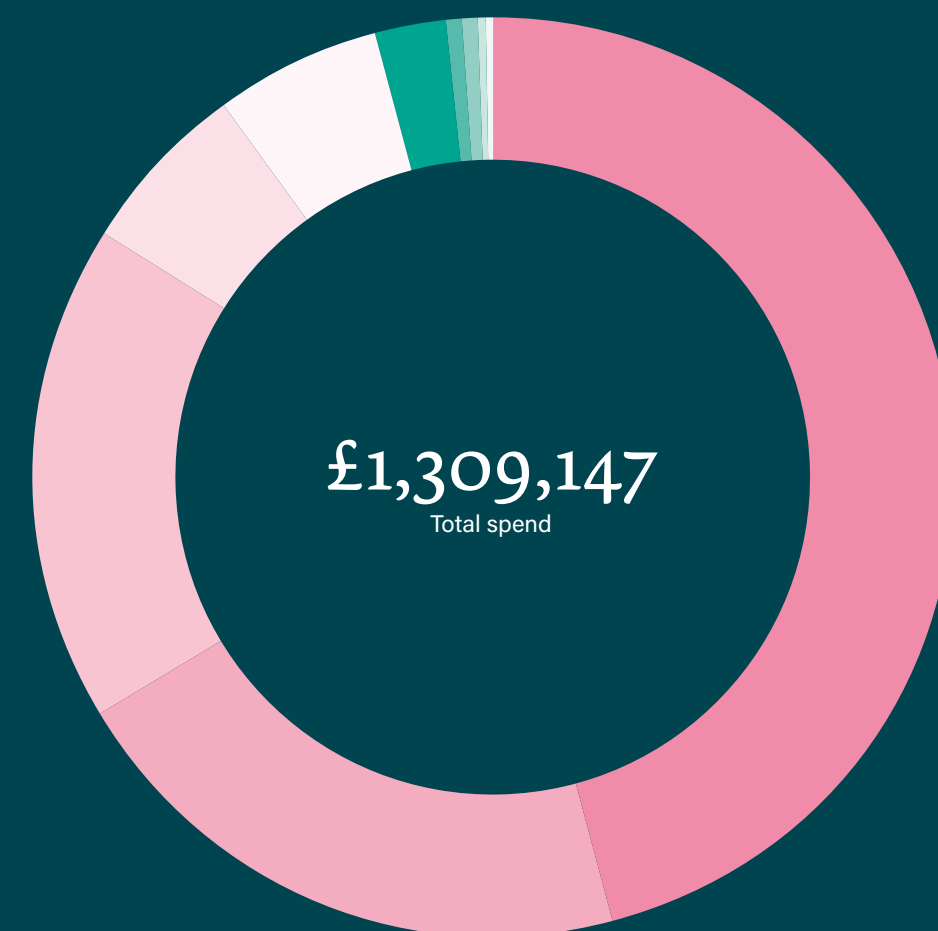
We continued to support researchers recruiting for studies across the UK, using the Autistica Network. We helped to recruit for 43 studies, all answering questions that are a community priority. We also helped 19 researchers and other organisations to get insights on their studies or services using the Autistica Insight Group.



### Sharing evidence-based tools, resources, and information

A rapid response to Covid-19, delivering online support, tools and events to help the autistic community navigate the pandemic.

Together with a research team at University College London, we launched our Research Toolkit. This makes best practice guidance about conducting accessible and high-impact autism research, including template documents, freely available to the research community.



£602,902

Scientific staff and research governance

£266,823

Communicating research

£229,447

Ambitious about Autism

£80,939

Grant Administration costs

£77,294

Molehill Mountain

£30,000

Epilepsy Dossier

£7,356

Discover national research network

£7,263

Adolescent Psychoeducation

£3,874

Covid-19 resources

£3,043

Embracing Complexity

£113

DARE

£93

National Lottery community fund

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic meant that our community needed us more than ever this year. Autistic people already faced unacceptable inequalities before the pandemic and data suggests that they have been hit particularly hard by the virus. This year we focused on learning from this data and with a number of research and policy initiatives we have been ensuring that those inequalities do not widen further.

‘Some autistic people report that they will continue to isolate themselves because they cannot face the world as it is.’



**Our community**  
Research conducted during the pandemic shows that autistic people and their families were disproportionately impacted by the lockdown. Covid-19 compounded an already poor quality of life, shortened life expectancy and left many people acutely disadvantaged and isolated.

Despite autistic adults experiencing a greater increase in symptoms of anxiety and depression than neurotypical adults, many were not able to access the support they need, with autism and mental health services cut or non-existent in many areas.

Data from our insight group revealed the autistic community is concerned about what happens next. There are serious fears around the sensory issues of wearing masks and returning to chaotic, sensory-challenging environments. There is also anxiety based on the lack of clarity around social distancing rules and a lack of access to much-needed mental health services.

Some autistic people report that they will continue to isolate themselves because they cannot face the world as it is. They are also deeply concerned about employment after the pandemic. Only 22% of autistic people are in work and the worry from this group is that the employment gap will widen.

**Our organisation**  
Autistica faced multiple hurdles last year: the global pandemic, the most significant economic downturn in 300 years, a sustained pause in clinical research and a profoundly challenging fundraising climate.

Careful and innovative use of our resources and a strong performance from the fundraising team meant that we ended the year in good financial health, but the after-effects of the pandemic will be long-lasting.

**Learning from lockdown**  
It's possible to learn from the pandemic and use the experience to develop new ways of delivering services. We gathered the data and created a briefing document with recommendations for policymakers and services. Written in partnership with the National Centre For Mental Health, it included evidence of the pandemic's impact, areas for further research and recommendations for policymakers, including:

- NHS Trusts should ensure that existing crisis services are accessible to people with diverse communication needs
- NHS England should develop plans for preventing and treating mental health conditions in neurodivergent people and ensure services are sufficiently funded
- The DHSC and other government departments should consider how to keep social distancing guidance clear for those who struggle with uncertainty and ambiguity
- Schools, employers and local authorities should assess whether temporary changes have benefited some neurodivergent people and plan how to retain parts of those changes

Already at risk of poor mental health and high rates of suicide, research from Ghent University shows autistic people have reported a greater increase in mental health problems than the rest of the population. They are also concerned the post-pandemic world could force autistic people further into the margins of society.

Embracing Complexity was recognised as the Best Equality & Inclusion Cause Campaign at the 2020 Purpose Awards

In July we launched a new campaign – ‘Know More’ – calling on government, businesses and the public to commit to funding research into improving the lives of autistic people and their families. Led by Charlotte Valeur, then-Chair of the Institute of Directors, Know More calls for investment in research to increase understanding, improve outcomes, cut waiting lists for autism diagnosis and increase access to vital evidence-based services.

**Embracing Complexity**  
‘Embracing Complexity’ is a coalition of leading UK charities aimed at improving outcomes for people with neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs).

The coalition also responded rapidly to the pandemic. Within the first month of lockdown, it collated members’ guidance and resources on social media and produced a briefing on challenges facing the charity sector ahead of a House of Lords debate.

The coalition also made joint submissions to four Parliamentary Select Committee inquiries, highlighting the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on people with NDCs. These prompted the DHSC and NHS England to commission further analysis and direct millions of pounds of investment towards bolstering services for autistic people.

An autumn survey showed that the summer easing of lockdown made very little difference to many of these people. The subsequent #CovidComplexity briefing and campaign highlighted the need for personalisation and choice in a post-pandemic world.

The coalition also raised concerns with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and NHS England about the misuse of ‘Do not resuscitate’ orders and the Clinical Frailty Scale in Covid-19 triage, which could have denied life-saving healthcare to some individuals.

“There will be longer term implications for those with learning difficulties who have developed new anxieties during lockdown or who have missed out on the support they require.”

Frances, William's mum  
William before lockdown →



Thanks to the continued support of our donors, trusts and foundations and partners we’re in a strong position and remain resolutely focused on improving the lives of all autistic people and their families through world-class research, information and campaigning.

£534,191  
Corporate

£386,566  
Trusts and foundations

£598,397  
Major donors

£127,308  
Individuals and community

£197,998  
Gifts in kind

£2,083  
One-off events

£159,279  
Other

£5,755  
Investments

Trusts and foundations

Our Trusts & Foundations team delivered above-target income in what was a very challenging year. Notable successes including securing a new partnership with Caretech Foundation, who are supporting Autistica with £185,000 to fund up to five pieces of social care research.

We were delighted to continue our successful partnerships with the Waterloo Foundation and secured further support from Peter Sowerby Foundation to deliver a pilot looking at the move to telehealth services for autistic people during the coronavirus pandemic. Grants from the Maudsley Charity also supported us with funding to design and launch our Molehill Mountain app.

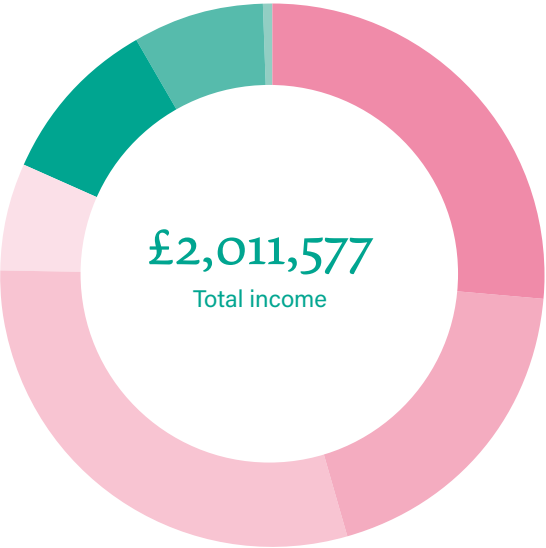
Individual donors

Throughout the year we benefitted from the generosity and energy of supporters who took part in their own innovative Covid-safe fundraising events, virtual events organized by Autistica and charity sector-wide events. Despite event cancellations, we still had six friends take part in the virtual London Marathon raising £7,000. We also ran our own virtual art event – ‘Creative Differences’ – featuring artwork from autistic artists and supporters of the charity, combined with a webinar about the value of autistic creativity. The artwork was sold in an online auction to raise funds for Autistica. We're so grateful to the regular givers who continued to donate every month. This year our number of donors increased and our overall target for individual giving was surpassed despite a difficult economic climate.

Corporate and major donors

The Corporate & Games Partnerships team completed the second year of our two-year Charity of the Year partnership with Fujitsu and welcomed them again as the official sponsor of our Autistica Research Festival and the first official sponsor of our World Autism Awareness Campaign, ‘Anxiety Breakthroughs’. We continued to secure more DARE (Discover Autism Research in Employment) partnerships with a number of companies, using data and insights to underpin neurodiversity strategies that maximise both business and employee needs. We also launched our first games partnership with DPS Games, established a calendar of online games streaming events and benefited from the continued support of GamesAid.

We continued to benefit from the loyal support of our Major Donors who help us deliver on our unique commitment to tackling the challenges that matter most to autistic people and their families. Their significant gifts throughout a period of profound uncertainty have ensured we can continue investing in ground-breaking areas of research and lay the foundations for a radical step-change over the next decade.



With our wide networks and expertise in evidence building, Autistica has become the thinktank driving autism policy. Throughout 2020, we worked hand-in-hand with the NHS to help them deliver their Long Term Plan commitments to autistic people and are increasingly supporting other public bodies to make more of a difference.

‘Autistica and NHS England are now formal partners on studies to ask what post-diagnostic support should look like, identify how digitally-delivered healthcare can be made more accessible and test health checks for autistic people.’

Partnering with the NHS

As part of their secondments with NHS England, our Heads of Policy and Research drafted a ground-breaking NHS Autism Research Strategy and guided the largest ever single investment in NHS services for autistic people. We briefed NHS eating disorder and crisis services on the latest evidence about supporting autistic people and our longstanding recommendation that the deaths of autistic people should be investigated has been reflected in changes to the LeDeR (Learning Disability Mortality Review) programme.

Autistica and NHS England are now formal partners on studies to ask what post-diagnostic support should look like for young autistic people, to identify how digitally-delivered healthcare can be made more accessible and to test health checks for autistic people. We successfully leveraged over three quarters of a million pounds of investment to expand our study of health checks – co-designed with autistic people – by Newcastle University into a full trial.

During the year we also helped the NHS Autism Team to begin using data to guide improvements in NHS services for autistic people.

Influencing the political narrative

Autistica's vision can now be seen across the NHS Long Term Plan and the Government's new Autism Strategy. As a result of our work, the new strategy – which was eventually published in July 2021 – focuses on autistic people's priorities and commits to developing the (long neglected) research and data infrastructure needed to drive lasting changes.

Beyond that, the Government's official proposals for reforming the Mental Health Act used content from Autistica's policy briefings to articulate how the law should balance safeguarding autistic people's mental health and freedom. A new briefing from the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, which we helped prepare, now ensures MPs are better informed about key issues facing autistic people and families.





Our research is conducted in conjunction with autistic people to ensure we deliver real and authentic change. During the year – and despite the pandemic – we continued to drive progress in key areas.

“Being a part of the Citizen Science Project...has truly captured my attention and given me a purpose to see through the pandemic.”  
*Autistic adult working on our project with the Alan Turing Institute*

**Partnerships**  
Our role in research partnerships is wide-ranging. For example, we support researchers to recruit participants and involve the community throughout their research. We also place members of the Autistica Insight Group on governance and oversight boards. In some instances, we work with research teams to communicate their findings to those responsible for policy decision making, to ensure their work achieves tangible change.

Over the last year we entered 21 new research partnerships. These leveraged a total of £3.4 million to fund projects focused on a range of critical issues. Our research partnerships have focused on, for example, improving autism diagnosis, understanding skills and training needs of the clinical workforce to support autistic people, developing Covid-19 informational resources, suicide prevention and the impact of the classroom environment quality on educational outcomes.

To coincide with the launch of our three-year partnership with the NIHR we invited applications for seed funding. The funding must be used to help develop applications for the forthcoming NIHR Research for Social Care competition and relate to a research project about social care for autistic adults. Our Grant Development Awards and NIHR Research for Social Care partnership is made possible by the generous support of CareTech Foundation.

Autistica continue to work closely with the National Autism Team at NHS England and NHS Improvement to embed evidence in the work they are doing to improve health provision for autistic people. This year we have supported two research teams to use evidence to inform future health policy. The first of these focuses on

the use of remote telehealth methods to provide healthcare to autistic people beyond the Covid-19 pandemic. The second focuses on designing a package of support for autistic adolescents after they receive their autism diagnosis.

After many years of successful partnership, this year marked the end of Autistica’s financial support to the national autism database (ASD-UK) and Database of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder Living in the North East (Daslne), led by Professor Jeremy Parr and hosted by Newcastle University. The research databases supported recruitment of participants to many high-quality studies across the UK, developing an influential model of including community members in governance decisions about access to support and was ahead of its time in coordinating participant recruitment.

DARE is our unique collaboration with the Centre for Research in Autism Education at University College London. Its cutting-edge research helps companies recruit and retain neurodiverse talent through evidence-based insights on best practice. In February we published a report featuring research-based insights for companies wishing to attract and support autistic and neurodivergent staff.

The report lists possible adjustments to job roles and management processes, the physical environment and social and cultural practices.

In August we launched a project to develop practical advice and tools to increase the amount of research focused on autistic people with complex needs. The project will create an online resource for researchers – Complex Needs Research and Development Hub (Comrad) – on how to include autistic individuals with complex needs in their work.

Four in ten autistic people have a learning disability and three in ten speak few or no words. Finding ways to identify anxiety and depression and ensuring timely and effective support will ensure better care and wellbeing for this group. Our ongoing project with Aston University is helping to design a practical way of diagnosing these conditions in autistic people with learning disabilities.

**Autistica Network**  
The Autistica Network brings together autistic people, families, professionals and researchers to do bigger and better research.

- Network aims:
- 1. Improving the quality and efficiency of autism research
  - 2. Giving autism research stakeholders a voice throughout the autism research cycle
  - 3. Driving the translation of autism research into real-world change

In the year to 31 March 2021, we sent 61 emails to members of the Autistica Network, including 43 emails sharing opportunities for members of our community to take part in high-quality research projects that focus on answering questions that are a community priority.

During the year we offered 19 external insight group opportunities and 15 internal insight group opportunities to members of the Autistica Network. Over 130 individual members of the Insight Group took part in at least one involvement activity. These included our series of Covid-19 surveys, which supported the science and comms teams in reacting to the changes from March 2020 onwards and creating content that reflected our community’s needs. Later in the year, Insight Group members fed into the crisis resource that the science and policy teams created for the NHS, sharing their experiences for case studies and reviewing the content and recommendations within the resource.

Externally, many involvement opportunities were initial consultation workshops in which researchers shared their ideas and plans with Insight Group members. The group’s valuable feedback allowed them to tailor their research to closely align with community priorities and be accessible to the community they wish to recruit.

“Thank you for doing this research and recognising how difficult it is for us; most people don’t get it, they don’t understand. So thank you – this is every bit as important as what the doctors, nurses and scientists on the front line are doing.”  
*Insight Group member*

“Thanks to Autistica’s support we’ve been able to make new discoveries about the mental health experiences of autistic women and share those discoveries with hundreds of NHS professionals to help improve services.”  
Professor Will Mandy, UCL





We look to go beyond simply communicating about the projects we fund. Through identifying, translating and applying research findings for different audiences, we help to ensure that evidence-based solutions are made available to everyone.

“This is a wonderful short film about #anxiety & #autism voiced by the amazing @FernBrady. This is a really useful short clip to share with schools.”

Teacher on Twitter responding to Anxiety Breakthroughs

“I’m struggling with transitioning back into the office due to Covid. I found this helpful to validate my feelings/struggles and give me ideas of ways to cope. Thank you.”

Webinar viewer

#### Support during the pandemic

We secured two grants for our coronavirus resources and the Autistica Podcast. These enabled us to allocate staff time to producing high quality information for our community and supporters throughout the pandemic. In all we produced some 26 separate resources, comprising web content, podcasts and events. There were over 15,000 visitors to the Covid-19 hub, more than 6,000 webinar viewers and almost 2,000 podcast listeners. We also gained an additional 7,800 email subscribers.

#### Highlighting anxiety

In April 2021 we ran ‘Anxiety Breakthroughs’, an information and fundraising campaign for World Autism Awareness Month (WAAM). Fully funded by a Charities Aid Foundation grant and sponsorship from Fujitsu, it included an explainer animation film, a hub of web-based resources, researcher videos, webinars and case studies. These combined to really drive engagement and fundraising, make this our most successful WAAM campaign. The film had 40,000 views and there were 60,000 visits our website during the month, most of these being new visitors. Up-and-coming comedian Fern Brady voiced the animation and shared her own experiences of anxiety.

#### Recognition in the media

Our ‘Know More’ campaign on neurodiversity led by business leader Charlotte Valeur was covered by the national media, including The Times, the Independent and Sky News. There was also considerable media attention on the appointment of James Cusack as our CEO, the first openly autistic charity chief executive. We were especially delighted that Radio 2 DJ Ken Bruce – whose son is autistic – was the voice of our Radio Four appeal, our most successful appeal to date.

#### Engaging our community

The Autistica Network is the UK’s national autism research network and our corporate partners Fujitsu have helped us develop the concept for its future. Through an immersive virtual workshop with staff, researchers and Autistica Insight Group members, they are helping us to identify technology that could help us better understand who our members are, track their interactions with us and provide a more personalised experience. We are also exploring the potential for a blog or community platform to transform the Network from a mailing list to a hub, enabling people to connect with others and become involved in our work.

The Autistica Research Festival is the UK’s leading autism research conference. It brings together autism researchers, autistic people, family members and professionals to discuss innovative research and barrier-pushing involvement and participation work. Our 2020 virtual research festival in July included a range of sessions showcasing the very latest research. Our wide range of content included Dr Sarah Cassidy, Dr Katie Maras and Professor Jacqui Rodgers as keynote speakers.

For the first time, we included a medical humanities session: ‘Taking an interdisciplinary approach to autism and neurodiversity’.

The Festival was attended by over 2,000 people, a quarter of whom were from the autistic community. Delegates were able to choose which sessions to attend, fitting them around their working week and personal interests. The majority of sessions were recorded and shared after the festival.

“I downloaded this app to use as something to track my daily anxiety, and to have a record to share during CBT therapy. It was immediately helpful and I started to see what anxiety triggers were for me, I loved the daily tips and am using them. They have been great help while recovering from depression and anxiety.”

Reviewer on the Apple App store



#### Molehill Mountain – the next step

Funded by the Maudsley Charity and the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, we launched the next phase of our evidence-based app ‘Molehill Mountain’ in April 2021. The app helps autistic people understand and self-manage their anxiety. With improved functionality and an extended course, it now takes around three months to complete with regular check-ins, although the diary, daily check-ins and tools can be used indefinitely.



We want to ensure that autistic people have a right to the appropriate support and care, sustainable employment, healthcare and mental health treatments – and to be accepted, understood and empowered.



‘The Autistica Network now has over 16,000 members and demand from researchers to recruit from the network is growing.’

The pandemic – and the knock-on effects for our income and fundraising pipeline – highlighted the need to urgently clarify our vision for the future. We have evaluated how we can best accomplish these aims with the resources we have – to ensure we make a tangible difference.

Our future efforts will be focused on tackling several key issues:

- Too many autistic people are offered zero effective support following their diagnosis
- Too many autistic people experience anxiety that places limits on their lives
- Too many autistic people are deprived of meaningful and sustained employment
- Too many autistic people die too young. The reasons for early death are often avoidable
- Too many public spaces are overwhelming for too many autistic people
- Too many people are aware of autism but don't understand autistic people

**Clear goals for major impact**

We are in the process of developing a set of ten-year goals. These goals will dictate the research that we support, the policy change that we push for and the communications campaigns that we run. The goals will be supported by an ambitious fundraising and partnerships strategy because we know that we cannot achieve major change alone. We'll be announcing these goals in autumn 2021, with the aim of engaging existing supporters and bringing in new audiences.

**A team to make more of a difference**

Recruitment went on hold during the pandemic and as a result our headcount decreased. However, as we recover and set some ambitious long-term goals, we need a team that can develop and execute these new strategies and help us to grow. We are recruiting in all areas of the charity – and expect to increase our headcount from 15 to 24 over the next six months. We are also looking at ways to

support, empower and develop our existing staff, who have shown themselves to be hard working, resilient and loyal during this difficult time.

**New ways of working for a new world**

We moved out of our office at the end of our lease, which fell during the pandemic, and the team went fully remote. This suited many colleagues, although some are keen to get back to meeting in person. We are continuing to consult with the team to understand their preferences for future working. Most of our staff would prefer to work more days at home than in the office and feel that meeting room space is key for any future workspace. We are working with our Trustees to identify potential office solutions that meet our needs as a growing charity, aiming to create an accessible and inclusive working environment for our increasingly neurodiverse workforce.

**A diversity that reflects our community**

This year we worked hard to increase the diversity on our trustee board and within our team. We also continued to look at ways to broaden the diversity of voices that feed into our work. We have plans to involve more young people in our work through a youth arm of the Autistica Insight Group.

**A valued and engaged community**

The Autistica Network now has over 16,000 members and demand from researchers to recruit from the network is growing. We feel it is time to build on this success and create a better experience for members who currently receive emails from us.

We are investigating the potential of developing a community hub, which will allow us to engage with members in a more personalised way and enable researchers and community members to tailor their involvement and interactions with us. This will help us to track impact and update and thank participants who become involved. Hopefully this will lead to greater engagement and encourage members to support the charity by taking part in studies, fundraising or simply through spreading the word.

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit in relation to the charity’s aims and objectives. The trustees consider it important to demonstrate to supporters and others interested in our work that the research we have funded will support breakthroughs, tangible progress and enhance understanding.



Autistic people and their families are at the heart of our research strategy, our national research network and embedded within our wider governance processes. Our overarching aim by doing so is to improve outcomes, giving happier, healthier and longer lives to all autistic people.

Autistic people and family members play an active role on our Scientific Review Panel and the many other advisory structures which oversee our work. Our Annual Health Checks programme has received further funding from NHS England and, alongside our many of our interventions studies, is supported by NIHR’s clinical research network. Through the Autistica Network we provide mechanisms to involve autistic people and families in research as participants, advisers, co-designers and researchers.

We know how important it is that scarce resources are deployed on research that is not just important to families, but is also of the highest

quality, internationally competitive and does not inappropriately duplicate investment made elsewhere. As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities, we are committed to the highest possible standards of research governance and independent peer review underscores all the research that we fund.

In addition to the Scientific Review Panel which scores and deliberates on all research proposals, we are fortunate to benefit from independent strategic advice from world-leading experts in neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism.

Autistica is regulated by the Fundraising Regulator and a proud member of the Fundraising Standards Board. We are committed to best practice in fundraising and customer service. Through our privacy policies, we promise to keep our supporters informed about our work and to treat their information with respect.





“I’d heard really good things about Autistica and how they involve autistic people, and I wanted future research and information to reflect autistic women’s experiences.”

How we are governed

Autistica was registered as a charity in December 2004 and its governing document is its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were adopted on 20 July 2004. Autistica is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 as a company limited by guarantee having no share capital. For the purposes of this Act, the chair and other trustees (none of whom receives any remuneration) are the directors of the company. A full list of trustees, together with other legal and administrative information, can be found at the front of this report.

The board of trustees meets formally four times a year and additionally relies on a number of board sub-committees to provide further oversight of the work of the charity (see page 41), which are each chaired by a trustee. All key decisions, including the allocation of funds for research, are taken at full meetings of the trustee board.

On 31 March 2021 there were 10 members of our trustee board. Trustees may serve for up to two terms of three years and are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The board approved the appointment of Katherine Hudson and Stephen Boyle in March 2021. Dr Sarah Caddick stepped down in July 2020 and Fraser Hardie stepped down in April 2021.

The following issues are addressed by the trustees during the year:

- developing and reviewing the organisational strategy
- reviewing progress against our business plan and research strategy
- agreeing and monitoring an annual business and financial plan
- the award of all grants for research
- the risks the charity is facing in delivering its plans
- the impact of the charity's work

Each year the skills and expertise required within the trustee board are reviewed to help the charity deliver its objectives. If gaps are identified or a vacancy occurs, new trustees with the appropriate skills and experience are identified. All trustees are offered a full induction when they join and trustee training is available to keep trustees up to date with the environment in which the charity operates.

How we are managed

The chief executive is responsible to the Board of Trustees for the management of the charity. The director of fundraising, head of communications, head of policy and head of research report to the chief executive. Remuneration for senior staff is set at market rates and reviewed annually by the board.

The offices of the charity are registered in Southwark.

Risk management

The trustees formally consider the major risks faced by the charity as part of a risk management strategy that comprises:

- an annual review of the risks faced by the charity in delivering its plans
- the establishment of systems and procedures to manage those risks identified in the review
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential negative impact on the charity should those risks materialise

The charity has identified a number of key risks this year, including the short term and long-term impact of Covid-19 on research, fundraising, policy influencing, communications and staff; the medium-term impact of a potential recession on our income, and; the medium-term effect of Brexit on income, income diversification and improving national and international collaborations in autism research. Our loyal donor base and strong external relationships put us in a strong position to maintain income and influence and continue supporting UK autism research. We continue to actively seek new partnerships within and beyond autism science and build pro bono support to increase capacity.

Reserves

The trustees review the reserve policy annually and consider the charity should hold free reserves of approximately £800,000 (2019-20: £550,000) to cover six months’ operating costs with a contingency of £50,000 in the event of a significant reduction in planned income. At 31 March 2021 the charity had free reserves excluding designated funds of £1,379,794 (2019-20: £732,807). Our designated funds were £82,000 (2019-20: £82,000). We would traditionally designate the surplus above the free reserve threshold towards future research spend but in light of the coronavirus pandemic we agreed to keep the excess in the free reserve until the economic and research impacts were clearer.

At 31 March 2021 the charity had restricted reserves of £323,007 (2019-20: 472,272).



When the rescheduled London marathon was cancelled a group of fundraising friends decided not to put their training to waste and ran solo marathons instead.

Investments

Free reserves and other surplus cash are held in interest-bearing deposit accounts with authorised UK deposit takers or in regulated money market funds, with a maximum of four to six months’ operating costs (c.£400,000–£550,000) held in the current account.

Cash outside of the current account should be held in individual interest-bearing deposit accounts with authorised UK deposit takers which benefit from the government FSCS guarantee scheme (currently up to £85,000), using the Insignis cash management platform. The maximum amount per deposit account should not exceed £100,000. These can be a mix of instant or close to instant access and longer-term access accounts.

A maximum of 50% of total cash or £1,100,000, whichever is lower, can be held in regulated money market funds with an AAA rating from Fitch and/or Standard & Poor’s, provided that the funds offer instant, or close to instant, access. A maximum of 25% of total cash or £750,000, whichever is the lower, can be held in equities or funds in line with the asset investment policy. These should be managed by a regulated asset manager. Investments are reviewed by the finance committee, which meets four times a year, and trustees are advised of any recommended changes at full meetings of the trustee board.

Statement on Covid-19

The trustees judge that the coronavirus pandemic was an event that occurred during the financial year ending 31 March 2021. As such, the financial statements reflect the impact of the pandemic as at 31 March 2021. The trustees are aware that they must continue to monitor events and evaluate their impact on Autistica.

The charity is predicting its 2021–22 income to be 20–25% lower than pre-pandemic levels with donations from challenge events, community fundraising, corporate fundraising, and major donors likely to be affected.

A number of donors who have given restricted gifts have signalled their willingness to be flexible in how these gifts are subsequently deployed by the charity, potentially resulting in transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds.

All grants that the charity commits to are supported by reserves held in cash. Therefore, we remain able to complete all previously committed grants in full, subject to the recipient(s) meeting the defined criteria for their studies.

Going concern statement

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, but the trustees recognise that the economic impact of coronavirus in the medium term remains unclear. The trustees have carefully considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from the approval of these financial statements. The trustees have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Approval

The report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: ‘Accounting and Reporting by Charities’ and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to smaller entities. The Trustees’ Report and Financial Statements were approved by the board of trustees on 5 October 2021.

On behalf of the Board

*Matthew Harris*

Matthew Harris  
Honorary Treasurer  
5 October 2021



Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Statement of disclosure to auditors

On 7 September 2020, Wilkins Kennedy (trading as Wilkins Kennedy Audit Services) changed its name to Azets Audit Services Limited. The name they practice under is Azets Audit Services and accordingly have signed their report in their new name.

The trustees (who are also directors of Autistica for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report (including the strategic report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Insofar as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.



Gill Ackers  
Chair of Trustees  
5 October 2021



“I support Autistica because their research is improving life for my autistic family members and friends.”



Alison and her daughter Naomi were involved in the development of Molehill Mountain (see page 19).



Independent Auditor’s Report to the Members

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autistica (the ‘charitable company’) for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company’s affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees’ annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees’ report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors’ report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the trustees’ report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the trustees’ report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in

agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of directors’ remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit ; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies’ regime and take advantage of the small companies’ exemptions in preparing the directors’ report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees’ responsibilities statement set out on page 24, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material

- effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

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

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the [FRC’s website](#). This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company’s members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company’s members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company’s members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michelle Wilkes FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services  
Statutory Auditor, Chartered Accountants

223–227 High Street  
Orpington  
Kent BR6 0NZ  
6 October 2021

Azets Audit Services Limited





Statement of Financial Activities,  
including Income and Expenditure  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

				Year ending 31 March 2021	Year ending 31 March 2020
Income from	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Donations	2	1,371,494	634,328	2,005,822	1,713,075
Investments		5,755	-	5,755	12,144
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,377,249</b>	<b>634,328</b>	<b>2,011,577</b>	<b>1,725,219</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>					
<b>Costs of raising funds</b>					
Costs of generating donations	3	249,221	28,853	278,074	401,445
Cost of events	3	3,898	-	3,898	12,988
		<b>253,119</b>	<b>28,853</b>	<b>281,972</b>	<b>414,433</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>					
Grants for medical research	4	530,487	210,386	740,873	1,050,167
Medical research dissemination	4	291,519	276,755	568,274	529,604
		822,006	487,141	1,309,147	1,579,771
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,075,125</b>	<b>515,994</b>	<b>1,591,119</b>	<b>1,994,204</b>
<b>Net income (expenditure) before gains and losses on investments and transfers</b>		302,124	118,334	420,458	(268,985)
Net gains on investments		77,264	-	77,264	15,599
Transfer between funds	14	267,599	(267,599)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>646,987</b>	<b>(149,265)</b>	<b>497,722</b>	<b>(253,386)</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		814,807	472,272	1,287,079	1,540,465
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,461,794</b>	<b>323,007</b>	<b>1,784,801</b>	<b>1,287,079</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure is derived from continuing operations.

Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8		-		161
Investments	9		459,657		382,393
			<b>459,657</b>		<b>382,554</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors - amounts falling due within one year	10	236,517		432,318	
Cash at bank		1,920,084		1,326,534	
		<b>2,156,601</b>		<b>1,758,852</b>	
<b>Creditors</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(662,446)		(649,786)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b>1,494,155</b>		<b>1,109,066</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			1,953,812		1,491,620
<b>Creditors</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	12		(169,011)		(204,541)
<b>Net assets</b>			<b>1,784,801</b>		<b>1,287,079</b>
<b>Reserves</b>					
Unrestricted funds - general	13		1,379,794		732,807
Designated funds	13		82,000		82,000
Restricted funds	14		323,007		472,272
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>1,784,801</b>		<b>1,287,079</b>

Approved by the board of trustees on on 5 October 2021 and signed on behalf of the board



Matthew Harris  
Honorary Treasurer  
Company Registration Number: 05184164

Statement of Cash Flows  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	16	587,795	(1,159,494)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Bank interest		5,755	12,144
Purchase of fixed asset investment		-	(212)
Proceed from disposal of fixed asset investment		-	206,946
Net cash from investing activities		5,755	218,878
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		593,550	(940,616)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,326,535	2,267,151
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		1,920,085	1,326,535

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

Autistica is a company limited by guarantee in the United Kingdom. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 3 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out on page 8.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2017, the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 31 March 2018.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

b. Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations and grants receivable are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Investment income is accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on investment income is accounted for on a receivable basis.

Other income is included in full in the SoFA when receivable.

Gifts in kind and donated services are included at the open market value of the goods or services provided .

c. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

It is categorised under the following headings:

- Raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes expenditure associated with grants for medical research and medical research dissemination. Grants payable are accounted for at the point that either conditions for receipt have been satisfied or the post being funded is filled

d. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The designated fund balance has been represented to ensure that fund balance stated accurately reflects the designation policy adopted by the trustees.

e. Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing over £5,000 are capitalised. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows.

- |                                |     |               |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| • Computer equipment           | 33% | straight line |
| • Other equipment and fittings | 25% | straight line |

f. Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

g. Leasing commitments

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.



Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

h. Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, but the trustees recognise that the economic impact of coronavirus still remains unclear. The trustees have carefully considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from the approval of these financial statements. The trustees have concluded that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves appropriate for the charity, in the current circumstances, to be able to continue as a going concern.

i. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological

advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 8 for the carrying amount of the tangible fixed assets, and note 1(e) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

Bad debts

Debtors are regularly reviewed for recoverability. Any debts which in the opinion of trustees are not recoverable are provided for as a specific bad debt.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

j. Fixed asset investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

2. INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations	1,338,908	670,679
Gifts in kind	-	57,395
Challenge events	32,586	49,747
Unrestricted income	1,371,494	777,821
Restricted donations	436,330	870,892
Restricted gifts in kind	197,998	64,362
Restricted income	634,328	935,254
Total income	2,005,822	1,713,075

	2021	2020
	£	£
Gifts in kind		
Costs of activities for generating funds, challenge events	-	1,500
Charitable activities, disseminating information on autism and autism research - unrestricted	-	55,895
Charitable activities, disseminating information on autism and autism research - restricted	197,998	64,362
	197,998	121,757

The above activities were organised by the charity. Income from activities organised by individuals and donated to the charity are included in voluntary income.

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

3. COST OF RAISING FUNDS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Costs of generating donations		
Website, database, literature and PR costs	8,245	8,909
Other fundraising expenses	14,202	66,596
Allocation of administrative support costs (note 6)	34,517	46,911
Staff costs (note 7)	221,110	279,029
	278,074	401,445

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cost of Events		
Challenge events costs	967	3,715
Other event costs	550	6,038
Allocation of administrative support costs (note 6)	2,381	3,235
	3,898	12,988

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Grants for medical research				
"The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience Mental Health - Anxiety Toolkit"	-	77,294	77,294	258
The Autism Spectrum Database - UK	-	-	-	(513)
Discover Network	-	7,356	7,356	141,531
Ambitious about Autism	229,447	-	229,447	-
Research Databases	-	-	-	(106,824)
SHAPE, The Sowerby Health intervention for Autistic People	-	-	-	259,469
Adolescent Psychoeducation	-	7,263	7,263	-
Epilepsy Dossier	-	30,000	30,000	-
Research Passport	-	-	-	28,654
DARE	-	113	113	91,246
Autistic-Led Grants - Kabie Brook	-	-	-	1,797
Autistic-Led Grants - Royal Holloway, University of London	-	-	-	1,797
Autistic-Led Grants - Sara King	-	-	-	1,797
Autistic-Led Grants - Joseph Scanlon	-	-	-	1,797
Embracing Complexity	-	3,043	3,043	66,320
City University – Comrad	-	-	-	125,743
(Complex Needs Research and Development hub)				
University College – ARFID – Eating disorders & autism	-	-	-	6,000
Covid 19	-	3,874	3,874	-
National Lottery	-	93	93	-
Governance costs (note 5)	15,174	-	15,174	15,307
Grant Administration costs (note 6)	80,939	-	80,939	109,998
Staff costs (note 7)	204,927	81,350	286,277	305,790
Total grant expenditure	530,487	210,386	740,873	1,050,167
Research dissemination	71,418	195,405	266,823	208,507
Governance costs (note 5)	15,174	-	15,174	15,307
Staff costs (note 7)	204,927	81,350	286,277	305,790
	822,006	487,141	1,309,147	1,579,771

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
External audit	9,460	9,280
Trustees' liability insurance	3,337	3,259
Consultancy & recruitment costs	6,132	-
Other governance costs	1,565	6,440
Allocation of administrative support costs (note 6)	1,190	1,618
Staff costs (note 7)	8,664	10,017
	30,348	30,614

No trustees were paid during this period. No trustees received reimbursements for expenses (2020: £947).  
Governance costs were allocated equally against Grants and Dissemination expenditure in Charitable Activities.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COSTS

The following administrative support costs are allocated between other categories of resources expended as detailed below.  
Costs are attributed directly where possible and the balance is allocated based on time spent by trustees, staff and consultants.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Telephone	5,444	6,852
IT	16,740	21,733
Stationery, copying, postage and other office expenses	10,529	6,531
Staff recruitment and professional development	27,933	35,698
Rent and rates	15,156	43,517
Depreciation	161	781
Other	14,699	13,107
Staff costs (note 7)	28,365	33,543
Total support costs	119,027	161,762

These are divided:

Generating donations 29% (note 3)	34,517	46,911
Events 2% (note 3)	2,381	3,235
Charitable activities 68% (note 4)	80,939	109,998
Corporate governance 1% (note 5)	1,190	1,618
	119,027	161,762

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

7. STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries	734,376	824,638
Social security costs	75,397	86,482
Pension costs	20,920	23,049
	830,693	934,169

<b>These are allocated:</b>		
Generating donations (note 3)	221,110	279,029
Charitable activities £162,700 is restricted expenditure (2020 £145,888) (note 4))	572,554	611,580
Corporate governance (note 5)	8,664	10,017
Administration - support costs (note 6)	28,365	33,543
	830,693	934,169

The charity employed 18 full-time and 8 part-time staff members during the year to 31 March 2021 (2020: 20 full-time and 6 part-time). Staff costs are allocated between the various activities according to time spent.

	2021	2020
The amounts disclosed above include the following number of highly paid employees:	no.	no.
£60,000-£70,000	-	1
£70,000-£80,000	2	2
£90,000-£100,000	-	1

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £286,479 (2019 – £269,304). The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise those individuals listed on page 3.

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment	Other equipment and fittings	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 April 2020	2,760	1,285	4,045
As at 31 March 2021	2,760	1,285	4,045
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2020	2,760	1,124	3,884
Depreciation on disposals	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	161	161
As at 31 March 2021	2,760	1,285	4,045
Net book value at 31 March 2021	-	-	-
Net book value at 31 March 2020	-	161	161



Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

9. INVESTMENTS

	2021	2020
Market Value	£	£
As at 1 April 2020	382,393	573,527
Additions	-	580,765
Disposals	-	(787,498)
Unrealised gains/loss	77,264	15,599
As at 31 March 2021	459,657	382,393
Historical cost	386,995	386,995
Investments at fair value comprise		
Fixed income		
Equities	62,604	87,038
Alternatives	299,152	218,672
Cash	66,842	54,902
	31,059	21,781
	459,657	382,393

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange. Holdings in common investment funds, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies are at the bid price. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value, using the bid price. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

	2021	2020
Investments individually representing greater than 5% of the portfolio held are:	£	£
Waverton Global Strategic Bond Fund 'A'	24,853	-
UK Treasury 2% 22/07/2020	-	23,858
Waverton Sterling Bond Fund 'A' Inc	-	29,852
GBP Capital Account	28,103	-

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	178,511	370,895
Prepayments and accrued income	58,006	61,423
	236,517	432,318
Other debtors includes £32,314 receivable within more than one year		

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	54,589	24,342
Other creditors	314	1,441
Grant commitments (note 12)	369,300	581,754
Accruals and deferred income	238,243	42,249
	662,446	649,786

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020	
	£	£	
Grant commitments (see table below)	169,011	204,541	
	Less than 1 yr	More than 1 yr	Total
	£	£	£
At 1 April 2020	581,754	204,540	786,294
Transfers	131,683	(131,683)	-
Grant commitments	163,294	96,154	259,448
Paid in year	(507,431)	-	(507,431)
As at 31 March 2021	369,300	169,011	538,311

13. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS 2021

	Balances	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds - general	732,807	1,377,249	(1,075,125)	344,863	1,379,794
Designated funds	82,000	-	-	-	82,000
	814,807	1,377,249	(1,075,125)	344,863	1,461,794

Designated funds
£82,000 2020 Future Leader Awards in Epilepsy

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS 2020

	Balances	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds - general	534,120	789,965	(1,327,181)	735,903	732,807
Designated funds	497,000	-	-	(415,000)	82,000
	1,031,120	789,965	(1,327,181)	320,903	814,807

Designated funds
£82,000 2020 Future Leader Awards in Epilepsy

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS 2021

	Balances b/f	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances c/f
University of Newcastle	£	£	£	£	£
ASD-UK Research Database	-	-	-	-	-
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience					
Mental Health - Anxiety Toolkit	270,106	2,593	(115,428)	(11,924)	145,347
Discover Network	74,949	-	(89,667)	14,718	-
Local Engagement	8,027	-	(36,067)	28,040	-
Epilepsy	18,000	2,500	-	(20,500)	-
Intolerance of Uncertainty	-	4,200	-	(4,200)	-
Anxiety and Depression in Minimally Verbal Individuals	-	22,000	-	(22,000)	-
University College					
Anorexia Nervosa in Autistic Women	-	13,000	-	(13,000)	-
SHAPE, the Sowerby Health intervention for Autistic People	(34,312)	57,653	(700)	(10,375)	12,266
Autistic-led Grants	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Alan Turing Institute					
Turing citizen science fellow	-	195,405	(195,405)	-	-
Residential Care	-	-	-	-	-
DARE	(2,068)	42,065	(4,203)	(35,794)	-
Home Based PECs	-	23,000	-	(23,000)	-
Podcast	896	-	(1,095)	199	-
Embracing Complexity	38,824	40,000	(32,199)	(2,000)	44,625
AI Summit	2,000	-	-	(2,000)	-
City University - Comrad					
(Complex Needs Research and Development hub)	-	-	-	-	-
MQ Fellow	-	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
Future Leaders Award – Jane Waite	-	29,960	-	(29,960)	-
Social Care Scoping	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
University College					
ARFID – Eating disorders & autism	850	-	-	(850)	-
Ambitious about Autism – Education to employment	20,000	53,500	-	(50,000)	23,500
CareTech – Social Care Fund	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Sowerby – Digital Breakthrough	-	10,000	-	(10,000)	-
Adolescent Psychoeducation	-	9,975	(7,263)	-	2,712
National Lottery	-	10,000	(93)	-	9,907
Covid-19	-	50,393	(3,874)	(26,869)	19,650
NHS England	-	57,084	-	(57,084)	-
Epilepsy Dossier	-	-	(30,000)	10,000	(20,000)
Total restricted funds	472,272	634,328	(515,994)	(267,599)	323,007

Restricted funds are funds where the donor has specified the funds must be spent on a particular project as listed above. All of these grants represent either programme grants for autism research at a particular institution, specific Autistica-led projects or where specified fellowships are awarded for the purposes of supporting individuals engaged in autism research. Restricted funds were received in the subsequent financial year.

Transfers out of restricted funds were restricted donations received after funding was committed to specific projects. Transfers into restricted funds were donations received as unrestricted and subsequently restricted by request of the donor. Negative balances against specific projects reflect in-year spend which exceeds restricted funds received, but where further restricted funds were received in the subsequent financial year.

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ending 31 March 2021

14. RESTRICTED FUNDS 2020

	Balances b/f	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances c/f
University of Newcastle	£	£	£	£	£
ASD-UK Research Database	-	12,713	-	(12,713)	-
The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience					
Mental Health - Anxiety Toolkit	-	270,365	(259)	-	270,106
Autism Clinical Research Network	307,905	-	(204,303)	(28,653)	74,949
Local Engagement	14,553	30,000	(36,526)	-	8,027
Epilepsy	-	23,000	-	(5,000)	18,000
Intolerance of Uncertainty	-	3,000	-	(3,000)	-
Anxiety and Depression in Minimally Verbal Individuals	-	8,500	-	(8,500)	-
University College					
Anorexia Nervosa in Autistic Women	-	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
SHAPE, the Sowerby Health intervention for Autistic People	147,628	104,200	(283,740)	(2,400)	(34,312)
Autistic-led Grants	15,807	100,000	(7,186)	(58,621)	50,000
Alan Turing Institute					
Turing citizen science fellow	-	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
Residential Care	-	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
DARE	3,452	61,550	(20,052)	(47,018)	(2,068)
Home Based PECs	-	63,214	-	(63,214)	-
Podcast	10,000	-	(9,104)	-	896
Embracing Complexity	10,000	114,087	(85,263)	-	38,824
AI Summit	-	36,625	(15,440)	(19,185)	2,000
City University - Comrad					
(Complex Needs Research and Development hub)	-	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
MQ Fellow	-	-	-	-	-
Future Leaders Award – Jane Waite	-	-	-	-	-
Social Care Scoping	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
University College - ARFID					
Eating disorders & autism	-	6,000	(5,150)	-	850
Ambitious about Autism – Education to employment	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
CareTech – Social Care Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Sowerby – Digital Breakthrough	-	-	-	-	-
Adolescent Psychoeducation	-	-	-	-	-
National Lottery	-	-	-	-	-
Covid-19	-	-	-	-	-
NHS England	-	-	-	-	-
Epilepsy Dossier	-	-	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	509,345	935,254	(667,023)	(305,304)	472,272



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

**15. ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS 2021**

	General £	Restricted £	Total £
Fixed assets	-	-	-
Investments	459,657	-	459,657
Debtors	58,006	178,511	236,517
Cash and cash equivalents	1,237,277	682,807	1,920,084
Liabilities	(293,146)	(538,311)	(831,457)
	1,461,794	323,007	1,784,801

**ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS 2020**

	General £	Restricted £	Total £
Fixed assets	161	-	161
Investments	382,393	-	382,393
Debtors	61,423	370,895	432,318
Cash and cash equivalents	637,549	802,749	1,440,298
Liabilities	(68,032)	(786,295)	(854,327)
	1,013,494	387,349	1,400,843

**16. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2021 £	2020 £
Net movement in funds	497,722	(253,386)
Bank interest	(5,755)	(12,144)
Net gains on investments (see note 9)	(77,264)	(15,599)
Depreciation charges	161	781
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	195,801	(186,464)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(22,870)	(692,682)
Net cash flow from operating activities	587,795	(1,159,494)

**17. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Related party transactions during the period to 31 March 2021 – £0 (2020: £947.06).

**18. GUARANTEE**

Autistica is a company limited by guarantee. Its Memorandum of Association prohibits any income or property of the company being paid or transferred to the members. Members of the company undertake to contribute a maximum of £1 to cover its liabilities.

**19. LEASE COMMITMENTS**

	2021 £	2020 £
<b>The charity had the following commitments under operating leases at the year end</b>		
Due within one year	-	31,050
	-	31,050

**20. POST BALANCE SHEET REVIEW AND COVID-19**

Subject to the financial impact of Covid-19 that has arisen in March 2020, the trustees have assessed the operational and financial impact on the charity in the Trustees’ Report on pages 12, 14, 22 and in the going concern statement at note 1h.

**Board of Trustees**  
**Committees and Advisory Committees**

**Board Committees**

**Finance Committee**

Chair: Matthew Harris

Gill Ackers

Matt Davis (joined March 2020)

Jeff Saul (retired August 2019, co-opted as non-Trustee member August 2019)

Vinny Smith (retired March 2020)

**Nominations Committee**

Chair: Gill Ackers

John Carey

Matthew Harris

Heather Kleeman

**Advisory Committees**

**Scientific Review Panel**

Chair: Professor Terry Brugha MD (NUI), FRCPsych

Vice Chair: Professor Christopher Oliver  
BSc, MPhil, PhD, CPsychol.

Professor Dermot Bowler, PhD

Leneh Buckle

Professor Mark Brosnan, PhD, CPsychol

Professor Lucy Henry, DPhil, DClinPsych

Dr Catherine Jones, PhD

Claudia Klaver

Professor Jonathan Mill, PhD

Professor Courtenay Norbury, PhD

Dr Richard Rowe, MSc, PhD



## Thanks

We were very grateful for significant support in 2020–21 from the following:

### Trusts & Foundations

#### (over £5,000 and selected under £5,000)

National Lottery Community Fund  
Highway One Trust  
CareTech Foundation  
The Alison Hillman Charitable Trust  
The Eveson Charitable Trust  
City Bridge Trust  
Masonic Charitable Foundation  
Maudsley Charity  
The Waterloo Foundation  
Peter Sowerby Foundation  
Edith Murphy Foundation  
The Gerald Palmer Eling Trust  
The Stanley Grundy Foundation  
The Swire Charitable Trust  
The Stevenson Family's Charitable Trust  
The Pixel Fund  
The Hugh Fraser Foundation  
Basil Samuel Charitable Trust

### Major donors

#### (gifts over £5,000)

Adrian and Lisa Binks  
Charles Sharland  
Dame Stephanie Shirley  
John and Margaret Skerritt  
Alex Wilson

### Corporate

Argus Media  
Brunswick Group LLP  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
Fujitsu  
Next plc  
The employees of Wellington Management Company

### Games

Autistica Play Ambassadors  
DPS Games  
GamesAid  
UKIE

### Individual Giving / Events

Students, staff and parents at Stanley House, Wellington College

### Advisors

#### Network Steering Committee

Prof Dame Sue Bailey (Chair)  
Freddie Adu  
Dr Carole Buckley  
Dr Laura Crane  
Bec Hanley  
Prof Francesca Happé  
Sine Littlewood  
Keren MacLennan  
Dr Karen Matthews  
Mark Minnot  
Prof Jeremy Parr  
Jenny Shorthouse  
Lisa Wood

#### Scientific Review Panel

Professor Dermot Bowler, PhD  
Professor Mark Brosnan, PhD, CPsychol  
Leneh Buckle  
Professor Lucy Henry, DPhil, DClinPsych  
Dr Catherine Jones, PhD  
Professor Jonathan Mill PhD  
Claudia Klaver  
Dr Richard Rowe BSc, MSc, PhD

Authored by: Lizzie Wilkinson

Thank you to the autism community and all the supporters who make our work possible.



# Making more of a difference

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Charity No. 1107350

**autistica**

