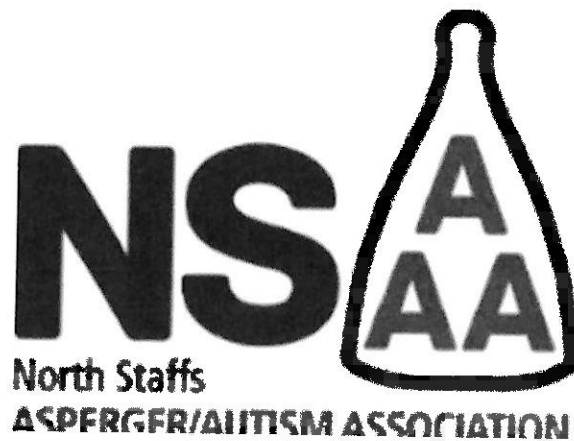


NORTH STAFFS ASPERGERS AND AUTISM ASSOCIATION

**NSAAA**



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT for the AGM – 2022

By Lisa Snape- Chair

## Chairperson's report

Our 19th year has been a fun but challenging year for NSAAA. The pandemic has caused some uncertainty and difficulties along the way and we have had to be very adaptable and reactive in our response to the changing situation we find ourselves in. By introducing safety measures and new ideas, we have been able to continue to support members by meeting outside, having some innovative groups online and continue with face to face groups when possible. We are proud to have continued to provide services throughout the pandemic when members needed us most.

### Committee/ Trustees and Staff

- ☐ I have been chairperson since March 2019 (? To stand again?)
- ☐ Jill Broad has been the vice chair since March 2019.
- ☐ Jane Titley has been the secretary for a great number of years, and is a great asset to the committee. She is also happy to stand as our secretary again for the forthcoming year.
- ☐ Pauline Hanrahan is our Treasurer. She continues to liaise with Wendy Knobbs, our current Finance Manager. Wendy continues to produce monthly accounts and makes sure the money accounts are accurate for auditing purposes. Her report will be reported later in the meeting. Pauline is also happy to stand as the treasurer for the next 12 months.
- ☐ As we come to the AGM the trustees comprise Lisa Snape (chair) Jill Broad (vice chair), Pauline Hanrahan, (treasurer) Jane Titley, (secretary), with Julie Calvert, Tracey Ellis and Dee Clarke as general committee members. I want to thank them all for their hard work, great ideas and commitment to driving the organisation forward over the last twelve months. It's been yet another good year.
- ☐ The staff members include, Fiona Caddy, Rob Hood, Wendy Knobbs and our newest member of staff is Laura Richards. Currently Jill Broad is an employee she has stepped down from being a trustee and is working for us as interim measure. She has made a great start. We have been pleased to employ staff with such a diverse range of skills. We are very sad that Sara Littlejohn left us last year; we thank her for all her hard work. Laura replaces her. Marina Christodoulaki, no longer work for the NSAAA but she will always be part of the NSAAA family and will be missed. Many of our younger members will remember Marina especially; she worked for us for seven years doing a couple of hours a week. We are extremely grateful to all our members of staff past and present, and volunteers and thank them for their continued support and passion in helping our members.

Our current membership is at 232, which is a substantial increase on last year. We are hoping as we come out of the pandemic that the numbers will continue to grow as we move forward into 2022.

## Working Practices

We have a wide range of services on offer.

- ☐ We have the help line open 4 days a week.
- ☐ There is a lending library in the office with books on Autism and Asperger's.
- ☐ There are several face to face social groups for children and teenagers that have continued to meet periodically throughout the year when the government guidelines allowed. Our face to face groups usually meet at King street studios in Newcastle and our volunteers Jeremy and Rose regularly support these groups; we thank them for their continued support.
- ☐ This year we have continued with many groups online using zoom and we are grateful that this new method of meeting has proved to be very popular with our members. We have been very impressed by all the ideas that have been brought to the table both by our members of staff and by our volunteers for our online groups. These have included a variety of quizzes, picture, gaming online, scavenger hunts, among us, countdown, and blankety blank just to name a few!
- ☐ Activities update:
  1. Monthly Jumbo sessions for the children and their siblings has been enjoyed by many.
  2. A monthly craft group hosted by Fiona and Rose has continued online using zoom and face to face when guidelines permitted, and we have had some wonderful creations as a result!
  3. Regular school holiday activities still took place this year and the summer programme largely included many outside activities, including train trips, monkey forest, tubing, Trentham Gardens and many country walks where we thought it was easier to keep everyone safe due to the pandemic. More recently we have introduced a music production group which was great fun and certainly got the creative juices flowing!
  4. The monthly swimming club has been running when allowed and is growing in popularity.
  5. The Lego group is hosted by Rob and Jeremy has continued in more recent months and has a loyal following.
  6. The 16-25 young adults group has continued to grow from strength to strength and our aim to promote independence is evident in our young people. This group have continued to meet at King Street and have also enjoyed a monthly outing.
  7. This year we have introduced an under 16s party night and we have enjoyed lots of fun with our younger members. We have enjoyed different themes including Disney, Minecraft, and Valentine's and our little ones really seem to enjoy these parties nights where a variety of activities are on offer.
  8. Our adult group is thriving, they are such an amazing group and they enjoy meeting at King Street once a month, and they also enjoy

meeting during the monthly outing. Activities have included many meals out, bowling, and mini golf.

9. We have also enjoyed several fantastic theatre trips including Grease, We Will Rock You and the Christmas panto, just to name a few. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to come along and enjoy a fabulous afternoon of entertainment. Thank you Jill for organising these trips for us.

- ☐ The Adult members continue to meet several times a month, and Liam has been an outstanding group leader in 2021 and we thank him for all his effort. Thank you Liam for all the great ideas and suggestions you have put forward to create much needed fun!
- ☐ We host a Parents' Support Group that has continued to meet online and face to face when permitted. This group provides a much needed opportunity for a cup of tea and a supportive chat with, Fiona or our trustees Jill, Dee, Tracey or Julie who often attend in addition to the wealth of knowledge our members have.

#### Fundraising and awareness raising

- ☐ We continue to raise some much needed funds for the charity moving forward into 2021. This year we have not been able to raise as much as normal due to the pandemic but we will endeavour to step this up again once we are able reinstate some of our fundraising activities safely.
- ☐ Our largest and most successful fundraising event of the year has become the charity ball which sadly had to be cancelled in 2021 due to covid but we do have a ball booked for May 2022 which we are hoping you can all support.

The total raising in fundraising this year includes totals £1977 for the year with donations at £4060, which I think is wonderful considering.

#### Grants and Money

- ☐ A lot of work has been done in this area which is an ongoing commitment. Pauline has detailed these in her report. Some funding has been secured from children in need and additional funding has also been secured from awards for all which will be detailed in Pauline's report. The effort from the committee and the

members ensures that we now have a healthy bank balance going into the next financial year.

### The Future

The NSAAA will continue with our key features identified such as the help line, support work, group work and holiday activities, and some face to face support. We will continue to grow and develop as an organisation and we are always open to new ideas. We aim to increase membership and to increase the activities and services we offer to our members. We are thrilled at how popular our online groups have been and will continue to host these in the future. Face to face to groups are growing in popularity again and its great to be able to get together once again. It has genuinely been a pleasure to work with such dedicated people over the last twelve months and I thank you all.

# **North Staffs Asperger/Autism Association**

## **Accounts**

**For the Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Registered Charity Number 1109817**

**Pauline Hanrahan**

**Treasurer**

## **North Staffs Asperger/Autism Association 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### **Charity Information**

#### **Trustees**

Delia Clarke

Tracey Ellis

Julie Calvert

#### **Honorary Officers**

Lisa Snape (Chair)

Jill Broad (Vice Chair)

Pauline Hanrahan (Treasurer)

Jane Titley (Secretary)

#### **Office Address**

PO Box 3615

Stoke -on -Trent

Staffs

ST4 9LY

#### **Bankers**

Unity Trust Bank

Four Brindleyplace

Birmingham

B1 2JB

Natwest Bank

75 High Street

Newcastle-U-Lyme

Staffs.

ST5 1PN

**North Staffs Asperger / Autism Association****Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 30th September 2021**

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Year Ended
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Sep-20
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Balance B/fwd 01.10.20</u></b>	15,955.48	10,138.54	26,094.02	22,902.96
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Grants / Funding	21,740.00		21,740.00	28,402.11
Donations		4,060.50	4,060.50	1,299.85
Memberships		1,317.50	1,317.50	1,647.50
Fundraising		1,977.40	1,977.40	4,709.56
Income from activities		1,012.16	1,012.16	1,984.74
Reimbursements/refunds			0.00	363.92
Gift Aid Claim		353.00	353.00	410.00
<b><u>Total Receipts</u></b>	21,740.00	8,720.56	30,460.56	38,817.68
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Postage / Stat / Print / Advert	297.30	352.50	649.80	550.21
Telephone / Internet/ Website	1,916.07		1,916.07	1,036.16
Salaries / NIC / Income Tax	18,696.47		18,696.47	18,148.74
PPE Covid 19 Equipment	202.59		202.59	339.50
Volunteer Costs	455.18	65.00	520.18	245.60
Repairs and Maintenance		8.30	8.30	0.00
Renewals/Memberships			0.00	28.78
Meetings & Room Hire	3,598.98		3,598.98	4,495.00
Office / Computer Equipmt.			0.00	0.00
Events / Workshops	3,035.07		3,035.07	8,881.25
Insurance / Prof. Fees	1,085.91	367.02	1,452.93	1,901.38
<b><u>Total Payments</u></b>	29,287.57	792.82	30,080.39	35,626.62
<b><u>Balance C/fwd 30.09.21</u></b>	8,407.91	18,066.28	26,474.19	26,094.02



**North Staffs Asperger / Autism Association**  
**Statement Of Assets & Liabilities**  
**For the Year Ended 30th September 2021**

		Year Ended Sep-20
<b><u>Cash Assets</u></b>		
Cash at bank & in hand	26,474.19	26,904.02
<b><u>Represented By :</u></b>		
Restricted Funds	8,407.91	15,955.48
Unrestricted Funds	18,066.28	10,138.54
	26,474.19	26,094.02

These accounts were approved by the trustees on  
and signed on their behalf by :

Lisa Snape - Chair ..... 

Pauline Hanrahan - Treasurer ..... 

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
North Staffs Asperger/Autism Association  
for the year ended 30 September 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").


I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 15/02/2022  
**Daryl Denson ACMA**  
**Employee of VAST**

## **North Staffs Asperger/Autism Association 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### **Trustees report**

#### **Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 19/04/2005 as amended on 23/02/2006 as amended on 08/03/2008 as amended on 29/03/2012

#### **Charitable objects**

1. to promote the relief/understanding of people with autistic spectrum conditions for their families and carers.
2. to advance the education of the public in all manners concerning autistic spectrum disorders.

#### **The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

There is an open and welcoming outlook towards potential new trustees and every effort is made to keep numbers at a steady level. New Trustees are nominated and appointed at the AGM usually, but may be co-opted during the year as part of the monthly Trustees meeting.

#### **Public benefit**

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity.

#### **Summary of the main achievements during the period**

As a recipient of The Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2015, and hosts of an afternoon tea reception for HRH Sophie Countess of Wessex in 2017, we have continued to gain recognition and great encouragement for what we are achieving in our work. We have continued to successfully adjust our vital work to meet Covid 19 restrictions and have secured grants from Children in Need, Awards for All, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Mallam Fund, The Barracks Trust and Arnold Clarke. The number and diversity of events that we can offer to our members has increased. Our activities, events, and support and information services are being driven forward at an impressive level by our staff team and proactive committee.

#### **The charity's policy on reserves**

Reserves will be built up in order to adequately cover the running costs of the organisation for a maximum period of six months to assist future cash flow should funding be delayed. The policy is reviewed annually by the Trustees.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed .....  ..... Dated ..... 29-10-21 .....

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**Daryl Denson ACMA**  
**Employee of VAST**