

NORTH STAFFS ASPERGERS AND AUTISM ASSOCIATION

**NSAAA**



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT for the AGM – 2024

By Megan Russan- Chair

We are well into our 3<sup>rd</sup> decade as a local charity. This year has been a very successful year for the charity with continued strong growth in membership and increases in activities we are able to provide members. We are proud to continue serving members and always look to improve what we do.

#### Committee/ Trustees and Staff

- As we come to the AGM the trustees comprise myself, Megan Russan (chair), Pauline Hanrahan, (treasurer) Jane Titley, (secretary), with Charlene Gessey 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.
- I have been chairperson since March 2023 and this will be my last meeting as a trustee.
- Jane Titley has been the secretary for a great number of years and is a great asset to the committee; her expertise is around policy and processes.
- 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.
- The staff members are Jill Broad, Rachel Linforth-Jones and Wendy Knobbs. We are pleased to employ staff with such a diverse range of skills. We are very sad that Heather has left us last year; we thank her for her hard work and continued support of the charity as a volunteer, we thank all of our staff, volunteers and trustees for their continued support and passion in helping and supporting our members. We are in the throes of appointing a new employee to cover some of our weekly face to face groups.

- Our current membership is at 416; this is an incredible achievement for the second year running. Previously our membership had not been much more than 250. This shows that the need for our charity is greater than ever. The long waiting lists for CAMHS and the long waits for EHCPs etc. add to the need for services like ours that offer some support and help in those first days especially.

## Working Practices

We have a wide range of services on offer.

- We have the help line open 4 days a week for a few hours. Members and potential members can phone and ask for advice and guidance.
- There is a small lending library in the office with books on Autism.
- There are several face-to-face social groups for children and teenagers that have continued to meet on a monthly rota. We have a much larger rota this last year or two for online groups as well. Our face-to-face groups usually meet at King Street studios in Newcastle and our growing band of volunteers regularly support these groups; we thank them for their continued support.
- We have recently introduced a new group for a members aged over 35.
- Activities update:

1. Monthly Jumbo sessions for the children and their siblings has been enjoyed by many. This group has really taken off and we regularly have 20 children playing on a 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday. We have started to do an annual Halloween Night too for all members. This has proved popular these last two Halloweens.
2. Our monthly craft groups continue online using zoom and face to face, they prove popular with a range of members of all ages.
3. Regular school holiday activities continue to take place. There are always two extra activities a week in the holidays. They have included bowling, train trips, mini golf, tubing, Trentham Gardens and many country walks to name a few. The annual trip to Blackpool happened too. We have also had one-off events such as music making sessions. These prove popular.
4. The monthly swimming club has been running and we have had some changes of times for the weekend sessions as we are now using Stone Swimming Pool. The venue is great when we can meet and attracts strong numbers of attendees.
5. The Lego group still meets and has recently changed to a Friday; it 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. They love a meal out or a trip to the bowling alley or cinema.
7. This year we have enjoyed our under 16s party night and we have had lots of fun with our younger members. This has evolved from themed nights to a relaxed evening with our younger members. It has a fantastic, chilled end of the week vibe.

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 the Panto, and plays at both The Regent and The New Vic. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to come along and enjoy a fabulous afternoon of entertainment.
- The Adult members continue to meet several times a month. Thanks should go to our fabulous staff members for all the great ideas and suggestions you have put forward to create much needed fun! This is how our over 35s group started!
  - We host a Parents' Support Group that has continued to meet at King Street. This group provides a much-needed opportunity for a cup of tea and a supportive chat with Dee, who really offers our members such a warm welcome and friendly advice.

## Fundraising and awareness raising

- We continue to raise some much-needed funds for the charity moving forward into 2024. Our largest and most successful fundraising event of the year has become the charity ball which took place in April 2023. Our accounts tell us it raised over £8,000. We have our next Ball in May this year which we are

hoping you can all support. It is not too late. You might just get a ticket in the next week.

- This year we have fundraised £9795; this is an amazing amount and comprises a huge amount of our expenditure. We have also been given £2707 in donations. Again, this is an amazing amount from friends, families and local organisations and businesses.

## 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 and the Alex Ferry Foundation, 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. It has 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 2023**

**Registered Charity Number 1109817**

**Pauline Hanrahan**

**Treasurer**



## **North Staffs Asperger/Autism Association 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

### **Charity Information**

#### **Trustees**

Delia Clarke

Charlene Gessey

#### **Honorary Officers**

Megan Russan (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

Dated 2/12/23

**Bank Signatories North Staffs Asperger Autism Association**

**For Year Ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Pauline Hanrahan – Treasurer

Megan Russan – Chair

Jane Titley – Secretary

Wendy Knobbs -Finance Officer

Any two of four to sign for both accounts

**North Staffs Asperger / Autism Association****Receipts and Payments for the Year Ended 30th September 2023**

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Year Ended
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Sept. 22
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Balance B/fwd 01.10.22</u></b>	7,178.48	22,583.63	29,762.11	26,474.19
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>				
Grants / Funding	20,446.00		20,446.00	24,998.00
Donations		2,706.80	2,706.80	3,808.22
Memberships		2,775.00	2,775.00	2,467.50
Fundraising		9,794.82	9,794.82	9,635.85
Income from activities		6,538.36	6,538.36	3,669.19
Reimbursements/refunds			0.00	0.00
Gift Aid Claim		356.35	356.35	323.33
<b><u>Total Receipts</u></b>	20,446.00	22,171.33	42,617.33	44,902.09
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
Postage / Stat / Print / Advert	23.38	498.42	521.80	149.68
Telephone / Internet/ Website	832.79	753.09	1,585.88	1,257.69
Salaries / NIC / Income Tax	9,905.61	14,160.89	24,066.50	22,058.54
PPE Covid 19 Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.95
Volunteer Costs	0.00	174.30	174.30	0.00
Repairs and Maintenance	0.00	18.99	18.99	62.00
Meetings & Room Hire	1,275.00	3,947.00	5,222.00	4,740.00
Office / Computer Equipmt.	210.00	0.00	210.00	465.94
Events / Workshops	5,334.40	8,507.14	13,841.54	11,231.95
Insurance / Prof. Fees	44.30	1,467.12	1,511.42	1,638.42
<b><u>Total Payments</u></b>	17,625.48	29,526.95	47,152.43	41,614.17
<b><u>Balance C/fwd 30.09.23</u></b>	9,999.00	15,228.01	25,227.01	29,762.11

**North Staffs Asperger / Autism Association**  
**Statement Of Assets & Liabilities**  
**For the Year Ended 30th September 2023**

		Year Ended Sep-22
<b><u>Cash Assets</u></b>		
Cash at bank & in hand	25,227.01	29,762.11
<b><u>Represented By :</u></b>		
Restricted Funds	9,999.00	7,178.48
Unrestricted Funds	15,228.01	22,583.63
	25,227.01	29,762.11

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

Megan Russan - Chair ..... 

Pauline Hanrahan - Treasurer ..... 

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
North Staffs Asperger/Autism Association  
for the year ended 30 September 2023**

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 2023.

**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").

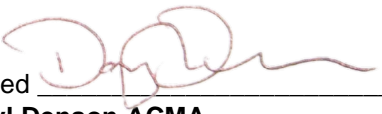
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**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 08/02/2024  
**Daryl Denson ACMA**  
**Employee of VAST**