



# WECAN

WE ENABLE CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

**WECAN** (A company limited by guarantee)

Charity number 1125037

Company number: 06384156

# Annual Report

For the Year Ended 31 October 2020

WECAN Registered Office and operational address are: Unit 7, Hexham Enterprise Hub, Burn Lane, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3HN

## CHAIR OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Welcome to the 2020 Annual Report, a year to remember and I've no doubt it will be read about in the history books.

Being a Chair of Trustees is about governance and guidance and making sure the management team of Hayley Armstrong (Manager) and Kirsty Jackson (Dept. Manager) continue to deliver the best service we can to accommodate the ever changing climate we live in. Their leadership is backed up with a small army of Support Workers including some volunteers, which now total over forty. Logistically we have to train each and every support worker to a level that meets the need of our ever-increasing user list.

Being Chair is finding a balance, being approachable and making sure the Trustees do their job in the best interests of the Charity.

During the year we have had a change of officials where Bob Parker has taken on the mantle of Treasurer from Gill Brown, Liam Watters has stepped down after many years with Wecan initially as a Support Worker and latterly a Trustee. He will be sadly missed as his contribution to the Charity was always well founded and sincere.

In the summer of 2020, we welcomed Rhonda Quigley as a new Trustee, Rhonda has vast experience and is a huge asset to Wecan. We are lucky to add her skills to the mixture we already have.

In times where budgets are continued to be squeezed, Wecan had many new ideas on how to raise their profile, we have started a monthly lottery which is steadily growing in members, new ideas are always on the agenda on how to raise our profile and exist financially in an ever-changing world.

Wecan have not had any of our normal fund raising events because of the Covid 19 virus that struck in January 2020. Our business closed in March 2020 and we had no choice but furlough the staff. With that closure our cash flow disappeared and we had to rely on back up funds.

The Trustees quickly stepped in to keep the wheels turning, Gill Brown set herself the task to look for funding that would help us through the financial crisis we were in.

We found that because Wecan was unique in the market, the normal lines of funding were not open to us, but after perseverance we did secure several grants that helped us to keep financially sound.

Thanks go out to The National Lottery, Hadrian Trust, Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund, St.. Marys Parish Church Ponteland and Three Guineas Trust. Without their support Wecan would have been in a totally different financial position.

Treasurer Bob Parker set himself the task to sort how to furlough the staff, it was a logistical nightmare but with perseverance and dedication Bob did a magnificent job.

No sooner had we closed things down we had to plan to open things up again. The Management team did a staggered return and by July things were back in full swing organising a scheme to see us through the summer holidays.

New working practices had to be introduced involving Bubbles of 6, Social Distancing, PPE all of which were taken on board by all the staff.

Saturday Club started again at the beginning of September, everything in the world was uncertain and we expected to go back to a lockdown at any time, but with a great spirit and team work Wecan continued until the inevitable closure happened again.

Throughout the lockdowns we have kept in touch with all our service users by delivering activity packs to their doors and having weekly video sessions to keep in touch. Something we intend to continue with in the future.

Moving forward we have successfully been accepted on to the Northumberland County Council Framework for new referrals and we are currently working towards seeking CQC registration.

We continue to grow our relationship with The Family Support Team at Northumberland County Council, as they provide funding for many of our users.

Having survived this year the future is very bright and I am looking forward to another successful year.

Alan Nelson Chair Wecan Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES	SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM
Mr Alan Nelson - Chair	Mrs Hayley Armstrong, Service Manager
Mrs Gill Brown - Treasurer	Miss Kirsty Jackson, Deputy Manager
Mrs Rhonda Quigley	
Mr Dominic Slowie	
Mr Bob Parker	
Mrs Amanda Frankish	
Mr Liam Watters	

## CHARITY PURPOSE & AIMS

Our charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's Memorandum of Association are:

*"to promote the relief of children, youths and adults with learning disabilities aged between 6 and 30 and living in Tynedale and South West Northumberland, in particular by providing short break facility by the provision of but not exclusively, leisure activities".*

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This annual report looks at what we have achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous twelve months. The document reports on the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to families and the children, young people and adults we aim to help.

The report also helps us ensure our aim, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's General Guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees and management staff consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

## THE FOCUS OF OUR WORK

Our main objectives for the year 2018/19 continued to be in line with the objects contained in our Memorandum of Association as quoted above. This year also saw the launch of our long awaited Adult Service provision for 19 to 30 year olds – similarly, a provision for providing, but not exclusively, leisure activities for this target group.

The strategies we used to meet our objectives included:

- Providing a range of activity sessions during both term times and school holidays
- Providing a robust and reliable enabling service to appropriate families
- Working in partnership with other agencies to ensure provision which best meets the needs of our children and young people

These objectives were delivered throughout the local community and wider areas of Newcastle, Tyneside and Cumbria during our term time Saturday Clubs and school holiday sessions.

## THE WECAN TEAM

We would like to extend our thanks to our enthusiastic and loyal team of staff and volunteers, who have shown outstanding commitment to supporting the children and young people of WECAN, our thanks goes out to:

*Progression from Volunteers to Support Workers-* Eleanor Brunton

*Support Workers* –Annemarie Brown, Amy Beattie, Amy Marshall, Becky Hives, Carly Atkinson, Carl Huscroft-Bell, Charli Heslop, Charlotte Kerr, Connor Thompson, Caitlin McCleary, Cody Pattison, Del Jones, Emily Monelly, Erin Armstrong, Ellie Willoughby, Elle Lee, Ellie Duncan, Freya Murphy, Freddie Carruthers, Gillian Bell, Georgina Reed, Glenda Peadon, Hannah Bartlett, Holly Waugh, Heather Vickers, Hannah Iley-Homan, Hafsa Mannan, Heather Parry, Harry Watson, Imogen Killen, Imogen Charlton, Ishbel Speirs, Jack Abson, Jessica Nichol, Jay Pattison, James Bell, Josh Squires, James Watson, Jessica De-Vallans Toor, Katherine Birkenshaw, Kristina Hollier, Katie Carruthers, Lauren Burrows, Lois Libretto, Lindsay Davidson, Mabel Kippax Jones, Mandy Ferrol, Molly McCleary, Maddie Robson, Niamh Armstrong, Rosie Charlton, Sophia Vincentelli, Shannon Bell, Sharon Sagar, Troy Wilkinson, Willoughby Seago.

## THE MAIN AREAS OF OUR WORK

During this report period we were faced with the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in closure of our activity sessions during the period of March to July 2020, however, during this time we were able to provide enabling services to some of our more vulnerable children and young people and of the activity sessions that did take place (outside of the pandemic restriction periods) the service accommodated up to 30 children and young people during each activity session from in excess of 40 children and young people registered for the service.

### February Half-term session

Our first half term session of 2020 but little did we know that this was to be our last activity session before the first lockdown of 2020! During this session some of our children and young people visited Seb and Olivia's Den in Cramlington which is part of a small leisure centre aimed directly at people with disabilities. The children and young people enjoyed time in the sensory room, soft play areas and main hall where they engaged in some low-key fitness activities.

Another group chose to visit Concordia Leisure Centre where they participated in various sports activities before going swimming, shopping or to the Cinema.



### Saturday Club – Children & Young People's Service

Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the Saturday Club provision was, of course, impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and so was only able to deliver leisure activity sessions between October 2019 and March 2020 and then again from September to November 2020. These sessions were for three hours on a Saturday during term time.



Whilst the number of our Saturday Clubs was diminished, they still provided the children and young people with support to access a range of local leisure activities and events both in Hexham and Prudhoe.

From 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 to mid-March 2020, we continued working in partnership with the Wentworth Leisure Centre, making use of their facilities every Saturday and accessing a wide range of leisure activities within the Centre including sports activities such as; bowling, dance, music, trampolining, boccia, swimming, soft play and football. We also continued our use of the Studio Room at the Leisure Centre where the children and young people participated in art therapy, candle making, cookery and yoga. The staff, volunteers, children and young people continue to appreciate the support offered by the Leisure Centre staff in delivery of the Saturday Club activities and are very appreciative of the welcoming and accommodating atmosphere afforded.

Unfortunately, during the period of September through to 31<sup>st</sup> October, the Covid pandemic closed the Leisure Centre facilities and we had to seek an alternative venue from which to host our activity sessions, this came with the added challenge of securing a venue which would support us in providing covid-safe facilities with rooms to accommodate group 'bubbles', space for social distancing and opportunities to host alternative indoor activities.

This venue came in the form of the Torch Centre Hexham, who opened their arms to welcome us to use their premises for our Saturday Club sessions and were also very helpful and supportive in assuring our practices met covid safety requirements.

One of the new features of our Saturday Club during this time was the weekly Greggs food donations which were very much welcomed by the children, young people and staff at Saturday Club! Everyone was able to choose from a variety of goodies during the sessions including, sandwiches, sausage rolls, pasties, cakes and biscuits!



Yoga at the Torch Centre



Trampolining



Crafts at the Torch Centre



Lego Modelling



Smile Through Sport Fun



IPOTS

## Saturday Club Christmas Celebrations

This year we celebrated Christmas with a visit to the Pantomime at the People's Theatre in Jesmond. Everyone travelled by coach together and on the journey home the children and young people were given chocolate bars with their names on as a gift from Santa. It was the first time we had decided to take the children and young people to see a Pantomime at Christmas instead of hosting a Christmas party and everyone said they thoroughly enjoyed it and would like to do it again next year!



## Easter Scheme

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our Easter Scheme sessions this year but instead we kept the children and young people entertained through our Facebook page with suggested tasks and activities, one of which was a competition for the best decorated egg for both the children and adults.

### Childrens Category:

1st Place- NHS inspired eggs by Daniel D

2nd Place- Harry Potter egg by Jamie

3rd Place- A family of eggs by Max B

### Adult Category:

1st Place- NHS rainbow egg by Hayley Armstrong





## Enabling & Sensory bags

During our time we were not able to run our Saturday Clubs, we joined our families in the community providing enabling. We spent time walking in our local communities, exploring woodland areas, feeding the ducks, having picnics at the beach, painting fairy doors to hide in our communities, and when we were able to playing in the park.



We were extremely lucky to receive funding from Knight Frank Newcastle, which we used to send each of our families a sensory bag.





## Annual Summer Scheme

Despite having to adhere to the ongoing restrictions imposed by the continued covid pandemic, we managed to open our doors once again and provide a fantastic (if somewhat different) summer scheme. Instead of the usual three days per week of sessions during the summer, we reduced our provision to two sessions per week for the first five weeks of the school summer holidays and made use of the facilities provided at Hexham Scout Hut and Prudhoe both of which were ideal for us to follow the government health and safety guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus.

Up to 30 children and young people participated in our Summer Scheme provision and everyone enjoyed a range of different activities every day –



Punch & Judy Show



Table Football at Dissington Hall



Angry Birds at MetroCentre



Horseriding at Tilery Equestrian



Smile Through Sport



Candle Making with Yvonne





Gladiator Duelling



Dance with Molly



Art Therapy



Magic with Marvin



Sensory Painting



South Shields



Forest School



At the Park



Bath Bomb Workshop with Yvonne



Pilates with Sara



Claire's Cool Creatures



Sand Art



## Adult Service

Our Adult Service has been running since March 2019 providing sessions for adults aged 19 to 30 years old. We are extremely pleased with how it is progressing so far and have received positive feedback from both the Adults who attend and their families.

Whilst the number of our Saturday Clubs was diminished, we ran sessions between November 2019 and March 2020, we were still able to provide sessions with new and old experiences. We continued with some links we have already in Children's service such as the Wentworth Leisure Centre, allowing us to go bowling and for a drink. We also enjoyed a delicious three course meal at The County Hotel in Hexham for our Christmas Party, made a variety of ceramics at Ipots, socialising at Weatherspoons, enjoying the theatre at The Queens Hall Hexham and bowling. New and exciting ventures we have embarked on have been trips on the public bus to Prudhoe to use Prudhoe Waterworld's Gym Facilities and also to Corbridge to join in with the churches Christmas Tree Festival. This embraces our vision within adult service to promote the independence and choice of everyone attending, by allowing us to utilise everyone's skills – each adult has an important part to play in the process, ranging from checking bus times to looking out for the next stop.

Staff who work within the Adult Service also work in our Children service, which allows for continuity of care and knowledge of our service users to be of a high standard. It has proved comforting to those parents who have just begun transitioning into Adult Service's as we know this is a very difficult time for a lot of our families.

We look forward to seeing all of our Adults once our sessions resume after Covid-19.



Christmas Party at The County Hotel Hexham





Corbridge Tree Festival



The Gym at Prudhoe Waterworld



Trips out the public bus



IPOTS



Alice In Wonderland at the Queens Hall Hexham



IPOTS

## FUNDRAISING AND AWARENESS RAISING EVENTS

Again, due to the covid-pandemic from March this year, we were unable to go ahead with any of our planned fundraising events such as our Annual Cycle at Kielder, Annual Golf Day and our Cake stall. Even this year's Great North Run was cancelled due to the pandemic so our nominated runners were unable to support our fundraising initiatives.

## OUR FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

We would like to thank all organizations and individuals who have supported us during 2019/2020:

National Lottery Awards For All	The Three Guineas Trust
Hadrian Trust Fund	Northumberland County Council
Northumberland Community Foundation	Tesco Bags for Help
Northumberland Mark Benevolent Fund	Christopher Rowbotham Trust
Ponteland Parochial Church	

## Financial Report

Whilst the pandemic had a devastating effect on our charitable operations and our ability to fundraise, I am pleased to report that we were able to show a net income for the year of £2,685. This was achieved by applying for all available funding, use of the Government's Furlough Scheme and control of expenditure.

The main sources being from the National Lottery Covid 19 Response, Three Guineas Trust, Community Foundation, Hadrian Trust, Northumberland Council and Tesco. National Lottery Funding for Saturday Club was also extended and continues into 2021. These funds and other charitable donations amounted to £42,589 with a further £14,588 secured through the Furlough Scheme. At the year end there remains £8,771 of restricted income of which £4,991 is for children without funding to attend Saturday Club.

All income for services delivered during 2019-20 have been accrued at the year end and at the time of writing there has been minimal operating income during the year 2020-21.

During 2020 the charities accounts were transferred to the accounting QuickBooks and this has given the charity greater financial visibility of its operations as well as providing greater visibility of its restricted income and expenditure. Work will continue during 2021 to further enhance and streamline our administration processes.

Robert Parker, Trustee

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

WECAN is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on and registered as a charity. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

### Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years, after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting. All

members of the Management Committee give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity.

## **Risk Management**

The Management has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated annually. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with health and safety of staff, volunteers, clients and visitors to the Charity.

## **Organisational Structure**

Wecan has a Management Committee of 8 members who meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. At present the Committee are from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity.

A scheme of delegation is in place and day to day responsibility for the provision of the services rests with the Service Manager who is responsible for ensuring that the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met. The Service Manager also has responsibility for the day to day operational management of the Project, individual supervision of the staff team and also ensuring that the team continue to develop their skills and working practices in line with good practice.

## **Responsibilities of the Management Committee**

Company law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the management committee should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Management Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The Management Committee is 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.

## **Members of the Management Committee**

Members of the Management Committee, who are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and;
- As the directors of the company we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

### **Auditors**

Stephen Holmes was re-appointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year and has expressed his willingness to continue in that capacity.

The Accounts report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (issued in March 2005) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small entities.





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

#### Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

We can - We enable children with additional needs

#### On accounts for the year ended

2020

Charity no  
(if any)

1125037

#### Set out on pages

1-3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/10/2018**.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA

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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.



**WECAN - We Enable Children with Additional Needs**  
**Financial Activities by Class**  
November 2019 - October 2020

	TOTAL	Unrestricted General Funds	Community Foundation Covid Fund	Covid Lottery Fund	Hadrian Trust Fund	HMRC	Lottery Funding Saturday Club	TGT Fund
Donations & Grants	£57,177	£14,002	£8,857	£9,231	£500	£14,586	£0	£10,000
Fundraising	£1,063	£1,063	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Sales	£46,595	£46,595	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£104,834</b>	<b>£61,660</b>	<b>£8,857</b>	<b>£9,231</b>	<b>£500</b>	<b>£14,586</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
Cost of Sales	£9,982	£3,550	£210	£430	£0	£0	£0	£5,791
Central Overhead Costs	£9,463	£7,191	£825	£871	£29	£0	£291	£278
Fundraising Costs	£696	£620	£4	£19	£4		£37	£12
Staffing Costs	£82,100	£47,216	£7,818	£4,203	£396	£14,586	£3,961	£3,919
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>£102,240</b>	<b>£58,578</b>	<b>£8,857</b>	<b>£5,522</b>	<b>£429</b>	<b>£14,586</b>	<b>£4,290</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>	<b>£2,595</b>	<b>£3,082</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£3,709</b>	<b>£71</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>-£4,290</b>	<b>£0</b>

**Wecan - We enable children with additional needs**  
**Financial Statements Year ended: 31st October 2020**  
**Registered Charity number: 1125037**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Cash in Bank	£54,880	£56,669	£62,323	£47,212
Petty Cash	£530	£533	£75	£0
Debtors	£3,944	£196	£0	£0
Creditors	£132	£261	£0	£0
<b>Nett Assets</b>	<b>£59,221</b>	<b>£57,137</b>	<b>£62,397</b>	<b>£47,212</b>

**Funds**

<b>Unrestricted General Funds</b>	<b>£50,451</b>	<b>£47,856</b>	<b>£54,347</b>	<b>£47,212</b>
Restricted Funds				
Covid Lottery Fund	£3,709			
Lottery Funding Saturday Club	£4,991	£9,281	£8,050	
Hadrian Trust Fund	£71			
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>£8,771</b>	<b>£9,281</b>	<b>£8,050</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£59,221</b>	<b>£57,137</b>	<b>£62,397</b>	<b>£47,212</b>

£0	£0	£0	£0
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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
Wecan - We enable children with additional needs

On accounts for the year  
ended

2020

Charity no  
(if any)

1125037

Set out on pages

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Independent  
examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of CIMA

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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: SP Holmes

Date: 21/2/2021

Name: Stephen Holmes ACMA

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants CIMA

<b>Address:</b>	11 South Crescent
	Houghton le Spring
	County Durham, DH4 6AG, United Kingdom

**Section B****Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**