

**Report of the Trustees and  
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023  
for  
ASPIE LIMITED**

The Richards Sandy Partnership  
Thorneloe House  
25 Barbourne Road  
Worcester  
Worcestershire  
WR1 1RU

**ASPIE LIMITED**

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Report of the Trustees</b>	<b>1 to 6</b>
<b>Independent Examiner's Report</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	<b>10 to 17</b>
<b>Detailed Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>18</b>

## ASPIE LIMITED

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

##### Objectives and aims

Founded by an Asperger adult, ASPIE was registered as a company limited by guarantee in June 2011 and achieved charity status in January 2012. ASPIE operates as a social, support and therapy group providing vital services and is a lifeline to adults who live with the complexities of Asperger's, now categorised as Level 1 autism. Despite no longer being a separate diagnosis, we continue to use the term Asperger's as it remains a more apt description of the traits and characteristics of the majority of individuals we support.

**The purpose** of the charity is to assist adults with Asperger's (known as Aspies) in the City of Worcester and surrounding areas to lead lives less disabled by the condition by providing an environment in which they are given the opportunity to:

- Gain confidence and improve communication skills.
- Build a network of support in the skills required for independent living.
- Access suitable education and training courses and develop employment application skills.

**The aims** are to reduce isolation, self-harm, suicide, sectioning and hospitalisation to improve our growing membership's quality of life and prospects by increasing their confidence and self-worth through varied activities, workshops and mentoring overseen by a small, dedicated team. In-house autism specific counselling, pre- and post-diagnosis and for a range of other debilitating issues help avert depression and crisis.

Our centre in Worcester is a safe haven where Asperger adults can drop the mask they wear in the outside world and find acceptance, friendship and support to reduce isolation, depression and self-harm and increase their self-worth and confidence to achieve the social inclusion, education and employment opportunities they long for.

We continued to provide vital but uncommissioned services in the form of continuous and stable support and therapy twice weekly, 52 weeks of the year, at our centre in Worcester. Adults think that when they receive a diagnosis it will lead to medication and access to services to lead the lives they chose but this is rarely the case. Worcestershire has an NHS adult autism assessment and diagnostic service but because of the huge backlog with 1,446 people on a 14-18 month waiting list **it is diagnosis only**, no pre- or post-diagnostic support. The commissioned support service is accessed by one's GP and restricted to 8 sessions post-diagnosis but no **in-depth autism specific therapy** is provided.

Long waiting lists exacerbate mental health and relationship issues, poor sleeping patterns, disordered eating, social isolation, and suicidal ideation increasing the burden on NHS costs. We work in close co-operation with both the above organisations, by assisting individuals access a diagnosis, providing psychological support and other services to those in limbo on that waiting list, and then post diagnosis support to help accept the diagnosis and adjust.

**Our focus during 2023** continued to be preserving the lives of Asperger adults, not able to make sense of the world in normal times, hit so much harder by the pandemic's damage to psychological health, the economy / education / employment / lack of care services, further exacerbated by the cost of living crisis and chaos caused by the NHS, civil service, education and transport strikes.

##### Immediate Support

We do not have a referral system or waiting list because when someone is highly distressed, they need urgent attention. The support we give, whether it's at ASPIE in person or online is immediate. With the number of pleas for help from members and families increasing, we worked harder in helping them survive these harrowing times, giving support, hope and motivation for a better future.

##### Achievement of public benefit

Since 2011 ASPIE has provided vital services and is a lifeline to adults who live with the complexities of Asperger's. They learn or improve social and communication skills, enabling them to move more comfortably through everyday life. Regular attendance preserves life, increases acceptance of their condition, and improves confidence and motivation towards remaining in or returning to education, training, employment and achieving individual and collective goals. The benefit to the individuals themselves, their families and society, from increased numbers in employment and reduced NHS costs because of the services we provided, is immeasurable.

The trustees confirm that the charity has complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance on public benefit when reviewing its aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

## ASPIE LIMITED

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

##### What is Asperger's

Asperger's is a high anxiety, lifelong condition. It is a neurological difference. People with Asperger's process information differently, think differently and learn differently frequently leading to being misunderstood, isolated and disadvantaged, missing out in education and employment opportunities because they are different. Additional difficulties are the co-occurring conditions, such as depression, dyspraxia, dyslexia, OCD etc., and the sensory issues which impede their daily functioning and quality of life.

'Aspie' is an affectionate name for a person with Asperger's or on the autistic spectrum.

Because Aspies are different (unable to communicate easily, sometimes seeming awkward, difficult and clumsy) they often encounter numerous problems and are usually bullied throughout childhood, teens and beyond. Many have never been able to 'fit in' - not always realising why they are different. The result is they become withdrawn and isolated - unable to cope with everyday living even though they are intelligent and long for acceptance, employment and independent living.

##### The Autism Act 2009

The Autism Act 2009 was the first ever disability-specific law recognising the needs of adults on the autistic spectrum and their families. The implementation of the act however by local authorities and health bodies in providing adequate and appropriate services is still slow, with little understanding of the complexities of Asperger's/autism, the co-occurring conditions that accompany it and the sensory issues which make life extremely difficult for those with the condition.

There is a disappointing lack of understanding of the effort and immense courage it takes adults with Asperger's to cope in what is, to them, an alien world, but who can, with appropriate support, make a valuable contribution to society.

Professor Simon Baron-Cohen Director of Cambridge University's Autism Research Centre "Adults with Asperger Syndrome often suffer secondary depression due to social isolation, loneliness, social exclusion, lack of community services, under-achievement and unemployment. Their depression and risk of suicide are preventable with the appropriate support. This study should be a wakeup call for the urgent need for high quality services to prevent the tragic waste of even a single life'.

[www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/adults-with-asperger-syndrome-at-greater-risk-of-suicidal-thoughts](http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/adults-with-asperger-syndrome-at-greater-risk-of-suicidal-thoughts)

In normal times research shows:

- One person in 45 thought to be on the autistic spectrum.
- 79% of people on the autistic spectrum feel socially isolated.
- **Many people with autism will not reach their 40th birthday.**
- People with autism without a learning disability are 9 times more likely to die by suicide than the general public.
- Autistic women are 13 times more likely to die by suicide.
- **Only 16% of people on the autistic spectrum are in full-time paid employment.**
- Graduates with a social/ASD condition are less likely to be in permanent employment.
- **At all levels, graduates with a social/ASD condition are most likely to be carrying out voluntary work.**

Recent studies show:

- 62% of individuals on the autistic spectrum had difficulty making GP appointments by telephone.
- 56% reported a fear of not being understood by their GP
- 53% found it hard to communicate with their doctor
- 150,000 and 500,000 people aged 20 to 49 years-old may be autistic but undiagnosed and between 250,000 and 600,000 people over 50 may be undiagnosed: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2023/jun/number-autistic-people-england-may-be-twice-high-previously-thought>
- **At the end of December 2023, 1446 adults on Worcestershire/Herefordshire's Asperger/autism waiting list of 440 days!**

#### ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

##### Membership

Facing an increased demand for our services from members and from individuals and families directed to us by the diagnostic service, the NHS Mental Health Teams, Crisis teams, Hospitals, Talking Therapies, GPs, social workers etc., we continued our two strands of operation - opening face-to-face twice weekly with an average of 60 members (not all the same ones) aged 18 to 77 from all over Worcestershire and the West Midlands attending.

Our second strand, Online ASPIE had 147 members in touch daily. Counselling and mentoring support continued online for those too vulnerable to leave their homes, not able to access other services because many are still not up and running, or unable to get to ASPIE for face-to-face consultations because of work or study commitments.

## **ASPIE LIMITED**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **How have we supported our members this year?**

We opened every Wednesday 1-9 and Saturday afternoons 1-5 for socialising, playing board games, card games, poker, etc., and eating together, all designed to encourage engagement and improve social and interacting skills. It is the reassurance that we will be here, same time, same place, same people and the laidback environment which banishes debilitating anxiety so allowing members to breathe and do things together with like-minded others.

We improved social and communication skills of Asperger adults by increasing their understanding of the neurotypical world, what comes naturally to neurotypicals and not aspies, what it's OK to say and do, realising the consequences of their actions, learning to allocate priorities and managing time, personal care and because of their vulnerability, avoiding exploitation etc., - all designed to help them cope better with relationships and everyday living.

We provided trauma intervention work via the use of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy following the Tony Attwood model, Emotional Freedom Techniques and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for members, parents, spouses, partners, with a focus on anxiety reduction and developing coping mechanisms as preventative measures against depression and worse and family breakdown.

We expanded Members' horizons by networking with Worcestershire County Council, Worcester City Council, The Family Psychologist, provider of the adult Asperger diagnostic service, Worcester Community Trust, The Princes Trust, UK Cyber Security Forum, Autism West Midlands, and enlightened local employers who collectively provide courses on volunteering, training, back-to-work skills and employment; Worcestershire Football Association and Disability Sport Worcester; Housing Associations for independent living skills

We met the increased demand from members and non-members for therapy and guidance through the aftermath of psychological damage caused by lockdown's cocktail of enforced isolation, delays in diagnosis, job losses, loss of homes, benefits holdups, medication mix-ups, family breakdowns, legal skirmishes, bereavements and other traumas. There's no quick fix, each individual needs ongoing counselling and mentoring tailored to their neurological difference plus step-by-step practical support to overcome each of these challenges.

We alleviated anxiety for many adults on Worcestershire's Adult Asperger waiting list - diagnosis is vital to those in crisis. It enables adults with the condition to understand why they are as they are and can be a passport to better health, social inclusion, improved employment prospects and supported living. To some the diagnosis is a relief, others can take longer to come to terms with it and some resent the diagnosis.

We supported an increasing number of adults who are being diagnosed in their forties, fifties and sixties only just discovering why they are as they are, coming to terms and making sense of what's gone before but so often dealing with the heartache of marriage/partnership breakups, loss of job, the family home and having to start again with little money coming in.

We acted as advocates for our members as a 'go between' or interpreter, providing one-to-one autism specific mentoring in accessing a diagnosis, training and employment opportunities, ironing out employment difficulties, benefits, debt, family breakdowns, sorting out housing, homelessness, tenancy conditions and other problems etc, so preventing and averting crisis. This is a critical service to ensure members are able to maintain their independence.

Our football Club, ASPIE AVENGERS, promoted healthy lifestyle and inclusion, giving Asperger adults the opportunity to play with others who understand them. There are now 24 players and we have two teams. They continue to play in the Three Counties Ability Counts League and the Sandwell Inclusion League. They have won many accolades and were again successful in winning the Three Counties Ability Counts League 2022/23. Friendlies for new players were arranged with Droitwich, Evesham and Kingswinford Pan Disability teams. Other members have joined Worcester Judo Club to improve co-ordination at the same time learning self-defence techniques.

We are still dealing with the effects of Covid-19 lockdowns where some members lost their jobs, had to give up their flats and return to live with parents or relatives, far from ideal for them losing their hard-won independence. Many Asperger college and university students already at breaking point struggling to cope with higher education following the disruption to their education from lockdowns, were then disrupted again, this time by staff strikes. We recognised these struggles and:

- Supported Asperger adults experiencing meltdowns, psychotic episodes, eating disorders and suicide attempts.
- Supported members after hospitalisation.
- Supported other adults, employed but off sick, suffering from burnout because of unfair practices by employers.
- Were there for members in need of specialized treatment but refused by providers who do not understand autism
- Provided emotional support and practical solutions at any time at the end of a phone, countrywide to Asperger adults and distressed parents/family members/carers, giving them much needed relief, which enables them to carry on coping.

## ASPIE LIMITED

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

#### ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

##### Our Results

The results of ASPIE's existence are heart-warming and adults who throughout life have never been able to 'fit in' continue, even in these difficult times to:

- Report acceptance of themselves and their condition, reduced meltdowns, reduced depression, anxiety and self-harm.
- Have a sense of belonging, something they have never experienced before.
- Take part in ASPIE's varied activities, form friendships and meet up together inside and outside the group.
- Have improved confidence and self-esteem resulting in increased motivation into volunteering, apprenticeships and employment, independent living and enjoying cultural pursuits in the community the rest of us take for granted.
- Learn strategies to overcome resorting to drugs and alcohol and/or becoming victims of crime.

In addition to the above:

- Approximately 60 members were helped to remain or enter into employment, education and volunteering
- Members continue to make friendships inside and outside the group.
- Members organised holidays to Majorca and Cornwall, a big step towards independence for those who have not been outside the UK or not previously had friends to holidays with
- We celebrated our 12th Birthday and then Halloween with decorations for both organised by members with bats and spider decorations for the latter plus buffets, fancy dress and raffles
- The festive period can be very difficult for aspies with the hype, pressure to attend family gatherings with loud and excitable relatives, food they don't fancy and a dislike of hugging by grannies and aunts, so our Christmas party was well attended and a great success - again with buffets, quizzes, pool tournaments etc.

##### Raising Awareness

It is important to us to raise awareness and understanding of Asperger's and the profile of ASPIE to enable us to reach out to the many more adults and parents in need of support:

- Julia Micklewright attended the Autism Partnership Group meetings at Worcestershire County Council to give Asperger specific input into implementation of statutory guidance under The Autism Act 2009.
- In April we were contacted by San Francisco journalist and featured in Guardian article 'They tried to wipe out Asperger's'  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/apr/16/they-tried-to-wipe-it-out-the-problem-with-talking-about-a>
- Twelve members contributed to Worcestershire County Council's Autism Strategy Survey - results collated by one of our counsellors
- Members contributed to Worcestershire Acute Hospital Trust's survey on how autistic patients are treated in hospital
- Members worked with Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICB's survey into improving access to medical care.
- On 5 April we were visited by Mayor of Worcester, Cllr. Adrian Gregson
- In May our football club ASPIE Avengers were supported by Tesco's Community Fund
- In July we were visited by High Sheriff of Worcestershire, Mrs Louise Hewitt.
- On 25 October we were visited by Mayor of Worcester, Cllr Louis Stephen.
- In December, our professional football coaches, facilitators, Dale and Sam received the High Sheriff's Award for their special contribution to ASPIE and attended her special Celebration Event at Henry Sandon Hall.
- We were pleased to be invited, for our experience and expertise, to take part in Sir Robert Buckland's, Autism Employment Survey and being acknowledged as a contributor.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-buckland-review-of-autism-employment-report-and-recommendations>

##### Summary

ASPIE, independent and maintained without statutory funding, has become a community. Our success is because we are different in that we were founded by the late Sarah Micklewright, diagnosed as an adult with Asperger's, who recognized, along with the complexities of the condition, the need to promote the intelligence, focus and decency along with the longing for acceptance, inclusion and employment of adults on the autistic spectrum, the necessity of a permanent base because of their need for constancy and routine and in-house psychological support to repair their shattered lives. Despite her own vulnerability Sarah was fiercely protective of members and encouraged them to aspire to whatever it is they want to achieve in life and not be inhibited by those who do not understand. The sense of belonging this engenders, which many of them have never experienced before, enables them, at their own pace, to get their lives back on track. As an organisation ASPIE 'is virtually if not entirely unique as may be observed from the heartfelt enquiries and pleas for assistance received not only from individuals and families in the Midlands but throughout the UK'.



## **ASPIE LIMITED**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial position**

Unrestricted incoming resources for the year decreased to £50,735 from £41,338. Unrestricted resources expended increased, to £49,393 from £31,655. The net unrestricted outgoing resources for the year after transfers between funds amounted to £3,662 (2022 - net unrestricted incoming resources of £14,248). The total unrestricted funds carried forward at the year end amounted to £135,983, compared to £132,32 in 2022.

Restricted incoming resources for the year increased to £40,366 from £18,617, and resources expended decreased to £32,283 from £42,057. Net restricted incoming resources for the year after transfers between funds amounted to £5,763 (2021 - net outgoing resources of £28,006). The total restricted fund balances increased to £22,390 from £16,627.

##### **Reserves policy**

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain unrestricted free reserves excluding fixed assets at a level sufficient to ensure the operation of the service for a minimum of 4 months.

Unrestricted free reserves (unrestricted funds less tangible fixed assets) at 31 December 2023 amounted to £130,631 (2022 - £127,062).

The trustees were cautious with regards to spending reserves during the Covid-19 pandemic, hence the increased level of reserves from previous years. However, the trustees have reviewed the policy in the year and:

- recognise the importance of the counselling service in particular to members, the trustees also aim to hold sufficient reserves to be able to offer counselling services to members for a period of 12 months. This in the unfortunate event of closure, would allow members to still have some access to support whilst transitioning to a life without ASPIE. Therefore, the Counselling designated fund recognises this cost of approximately £28,750 a year.
- recognise that a large level of administration and fundraising applications are completed on a voluntary basis by trustees and other helpers, the need for a fixed member of staff to take on this role in the future has been highlighted. This may open up further opportunities for ASPIE's members, such as increased fundraising opportunities allowing more activities to take place and full-time staffing may allow increased opening hours of ASPIE.

With this in mind, free reserves of the charity, excluding funds for a designated purpose, are considered to be £56,881.

#### **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

##### **Future Development**

- 1 Recruitment of a Deputy Chief Executive to help us keep pace with increased demand for our services, gradually taking over the management and planning to ensure sustainability
- 2 Expansion of our autism specific psychological/counselling/mentoring services to meet the needs of individuals and families directed to us by the NHS diagnostic service, Hospitals, Mental Health teams, Crisis Teams, GPs, social prescribers.
- 3 Opening up extra days to provide workshops in increasing social and interacting skills, CV and employment skills, accessing benefits (to which those on the spectrum are entitled but have little success in claiming) nutrition and self-care
- 4 Increased partnership working with other Worcestershire charities and voluntary organisations, often at a loss to understand those on the spectrum.
- 5 Rolling out our unique Asperger Awareness Training
- 6 ASPIE members, following cyber security training for the neurodiverse by Dr Emma Philpott will continue to be employed, having their working hours increased
- 7 Our football teams ASPIE AVENGERS Red and ASPIE AVENGERS Blue will continue to train 51 weeks of the year, taking part in the 3 Counties Ability Counts League and the Sandwell Inclusion League matches
- 8 We shall continue to seek new ideas and skills in fundraising and events to promote ASPIE and raise awareness and understanding of Asperger's in line with our ethos.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, its memorandum and articles of association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

## ASPIE LIMITED

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

##### Organisational structure

The charity is managed by its board of trustees, who are individuals with a direct interest in the provision of services for adults with Asperger's Syndrome, or who have the skills to assist them. They meet every three months.

##### Risk management

The trustees regularly undertake risk assessments and have identified the major risk areas for the charity within finances, staffing, premises, health and safety, legal issues, publicity, systems and standards. Procedures have been established to manage these risks and these are periodically reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

The charity carried public liability insurance.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

##### Registered Company number

07666773 (England and Wales)

##### Registered Charity number

1145351

##### Registered office

Vesta Tilley House  
Lowesmoor  
Worcestershire  
WR1 2RS

##### Trustees

Mrs J E Micklewright BEM  
Miss E Green  
Mr R Allsup  
Mr K R Norton

##### Company Secretary

Miss E Green

##### Independent Examiner

The Richards Sandy Partnership  
Thorneloe House  
25 Barbourne Road  
Worcester  
Worcestershire  
WR1 1RU

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on .....29/5/24..... and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs J E Micklewright BEM - Trustee



**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
ASPIE LIMITED**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of ASPIE LIMITED ('the Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



Melissa Jean Godwin ACCA

The Richards Sandy Partnership  
Thorneloe House  
25 Barbourne Road  
Worcester  
Worcestershire  
WR1 1RU

Date: 12.06.24.....

**ASPIE LIMITED**

**Statement of Financial Activities  
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		<b>26,170</b>	<b>28,399</b>	<b>54,569</b>	31,080
<b>Charitable activities</b>	4				
Charitable Activities		<b>15,297</b>	<b>10,717</b>	<b>26,014</b>	25,760
Other trading activities	2	<b>8,105</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>9,355</b>	2,690
Investment income	3	<b>1,163</b>	-	<b>1,163</b>	425
<b>Total</b>		<b>50,735</b>	<b>40,366</b>	<b>91,101</b>	59,955
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds		<b>612</b>	-	<b>612</b>	623
<b>Charitable activities</b>	5				
Charitable Activities		<b>48,781</b>	<b>32,283</b>	<b>81,064</b>	73,090
<b>Total</b>		<b>49,393</b>	<b>32,283</b>	<b>81,676</b>	73,713
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>1,342</b>	<b>8,083</b>	<b>9,425</b>	(13,758)
Transfers between funds	15	<b>2,320</b>	<b>(2,320)</b>	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>3,662</b>	<b>5,763</b>	<b>9,425</b>	(13,758)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<b>132,321</b>	<b>16,627</b>	<b>148,948</b>	162,706
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>135,983</b>	<b>22,390</b>	<b>158,373</b>	148,948

The notes form part of these financial statements

**ASPIE LIMITED**

**Balance Sheet  
31st December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	10	5,352	325	5,677	5,704
Investments	11	43,334	-	43,334	42,377
		<u>48,686</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>49,011</u>	<u>48,081</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	12	11,083	375	11,458	1,142
Cash at bank and in hand		78,716	21,690	100,406	104,012
		<u>89,799</u>	<u>22,065</u>	<u>111,864</u>	<u>105,154</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(2,502)	-	(2,502)	(4,287)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>87,297</u>	<u>22,065</u>	<u>109,362</u>	<u>100,867</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>135,983</u>	<u>22,390</u>	<u>158,373</u>	<u>148,948</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>135,983</u>	<u>22,390</u>	<u>158,373</u>	<u>148,948</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	15				
Unrestricted funds				135,983	132,321
Restricted funds				22,390	16,627
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>158,373</u>	<u>148,948</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 29/3/24 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
Mrs J E Micklewright BEM - Trustee

## **ASPIE LIMITED**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **BASIS OF PREPARING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

##### **INCOME**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Rental income is recognised in line with the periods to which such income relates, up to the extent that is probable that such income is recoverable. Where recoverability of rental income is in doubt, such income is instead recognised on a cash basis.

The Charities SORP states that where the conditions attached to a grant are within the charity's control and there is sufficient evidence those conditions may be met, then the incoming resources should be recognised as incoming resource. Where uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet conditions within its control, the grant should be deferred as a liability until certainty exists that the conditions imposed can be met.

##### **EXPENDITURE**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

##### **RAISING FUNDS**

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

##### **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

Charitable activities costs include all the costs of running the charity on a day to day basis including premises costs.

##### **TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Assets costing less than £100 are not capitalised.

##### **TAXATION**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

##### **FUND ACCOUNTING**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

## ASPIE LIMITED

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

##### DONATED SERVICES

Donated facilities and services when received, provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably, on the basis of the value that the charity would pay in the open market for an alternative item that would provide a benefit to the charity equivalent to the donated service. Where the value of the gift cannot be measured reliably, no provision is included within the accounts.

##### FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised when the charity becomes party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are offset, with the net amounts presented in the accounts where there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

##### Basic Financial Assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

##### Basic Financial Liabilities

Basic Financial liabilities, including trade and other payables, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of future receipts, discounted at a market rate of interest. Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of the operations from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction cost.

##### UNLISTED INVESTMENTS

Unlisted investments are recorded at cost less provisions for impairment.

##### OPERATING LEASES

Operating lease expenditure is recognised on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

#### 2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fundraising and sponsorship	1,275	130
Rent	7,506	2,271
Sale of goods	574	289
	<u>9,355</u>	<u>2,690</u>

#### 3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest on investment	<u>1,163</u>	<u>425</u>

**ASPIE LIMITED**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

**4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2023 Charitable Activities	2022 Total activities
	£	£
Membership fees	15,297	9,902
ASPIE AVENGERS football team	5,457	7,824
Counselling fees	5,260	8,034
	<u>26,014</u>	<u>25,760</u>

**5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	Direct Costs £
Charitable Activities	
	<u>81,064</u>

**6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation - owned assets	2,603	1,960
Independent examiner's fees	2,502	2,382
Other accountancy fees not in relation to independent examination	61	49
	<u></u>	<u></u>

**7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

No trustee has received any remuneration in connection with the duties of a trustee.

**TRUSTEES' EXPENSES**

One trustee has been reimbursed expenses of £60 during the year for computer software (2022: None).

**8. STAFF COSTS**

The charity had no employees in the year (2022 - Nil) and as a result there were no staff costs.

**9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	24,141	6,939	31,080
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Charitable Activities	14,082	11,678	25,760
Other trading activities	2,690	-	2,690
Investment income	425	-	425
<b>Total</b>	<u>41,338</u>	<u>18,617</u>	<u>59,955</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	623	-	623

**ASPIE LIMITED**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

**9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Charitable Activities			
	31,033	42,057	73,090
<b>Total</b>	<u>31,656</u>	<u>42,057</u>	<u>73,713</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	9,682	(23,440)	(13,758)
Transfers between funds	4,566	(4,566)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u>14,248</u>	<u>(28,006)</u>	<u>(13,758)</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	118,073	44,633	162,706
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>132,321</u>	<u>16,627</u>	<u>148,948</u>

**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1st January 2023	9,212	6,641	15,853
Additions	256	2,320	2,576
At 31st December 2023	<u>9,468</u>	<u>8,961</u>	<u>18,429</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1st January 2023	5,665	4,484	10,149
Charge for year	754	1,849	2,603
At 31st December 2023	<u>6,419</u>	<u>6,333</u>	<u>12,752</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31st December 2023	<u>3,049</u>	<u>2,628</u>	<u>5,677</u>
At 31st December 2022	<u>3,547</u>	<u>2,157</u>	<u>5,704</u>

**11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	Unlisted investment bonds £
<b>COST LESS IMPAIRMENT</b>	
At 1st January 2023	42,377
Additions	957
At 31st December 2023	<u>43,334</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31st December 2023	<u>43,334</u>
At 31st December 2022	<u>42,377</u>



**ASPIE LIMITED**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

**12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	340
Prepayments	702	627
Accrued income	10,756	175
	<u>11,458</u>	<u>1,142</u>

**13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposits held	-	1,625
Accrued expenses	2,502	2,662
	<u>2,502</u>	<u>4,287</u>

**14. LEASING AGREEMENTS**

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	<u>16,667</u>	<u>15,834</u>

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.1.23	Net	Transfers	At
	£	movement	between	31.12.23
		in funds	funds	£
		£	£	
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	74,821	1,342	(13,930)	62,233
Counselling Fund	27,500	-	1,250	28,750
Future Plans Fund	30,000	-	15,000	45,000
	<u>132,321</u>	<u>1,342</u>	<u>2,320</u>	<u>135,983</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Computer & Equipment	501	2,345	(2,320)	526
ASPIE AVENGERS	7,614	4,200	-	11,814
Refurbishment Fund	500	(500)	-	-
Awards For All	-	1,680	-	1,680
Worcester City Council	390	(65)	-	325
Counselling Fund	5,740	1,052	-	6,792
Community Event Fund	45	(45)	-	-
Sports Equipment Fund	1,253	-	-	1,253
Community Support Fund	584	(584)	-	-
	<u>16,627</u>	<u>8,083</u>	<u>(2,320)</u>	<u>22,390</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>148,948</u>	<u>9,425</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158,373</u>

**ASPIE LIMITED**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	50,735	(49,393)	1,342
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Computer & Equipment	2,400	(55)	2,345
ASPIE AVENGERS	13,206	(9,006)	4,200
Refurbishment Fund	-	(500)	(500)
Awards For All	10,000	(8,320)	1,680
Worcester City Council	-	(65)	(65)
Counselling Fund	14,760	(13,708)	1,052
Community Event Fund	-	(45)	(45)
Community Support Fund	-	(584)	(584)
	<u>40,366</u>	<u>(32,283)</u>	<u>8,083</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>91,101</u>	<u>(81,676)</u>	<u>9,425</u>

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.22 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	118,073	9,682	(52,934)	74,821
Counselling Fund	-	-	27,500	27,500
Future Plans Fund	-	-	30,000	30,000
	<u>118,073</u>	<u>9,682</u>	<u>4,566</u>	<u>132,321</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Computer & Equipment	672	328	(499)	501
ASPIE AVENGERS	8,004	(390)	-	7,614
Refurbishment Fund	880	(380)	-	500
Worcester City Council	455	(65)	-	390
Counselling Fund	30,122	(24,382)	-	5,740
CCTV Equipment Fund	2,500	-	(2,500)	-
Community Event Fund	2,000	(1,955)	-	45
Sports Equipment Fund	-	2,820	(1,567)	1,253
Community Support Fund	-	584	-	584
	<u>44,633</u>	<u>(23,440)</u>	<u>(4,566)</u>	<u>16,627</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>162,706</u>	<u>(13,758)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>148,948</u>

# ASPIE LIMITED

## Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

### 15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	41,338	(31,656)	9,682
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Computer & Equipment	499	(171)	328
ASPIE AVENGERS	7,824	(8,214)	(390)
Refurbishment Fund	500	(880)	(380)
Worcester City Council	-	(65)	(65)
Counselling Fund	5,974	(30,356)	(24,382)
Community Event Fund	-	(1,955)	(1,955)
Sports Equipment Fund	2,820	-	2,820
Community Support Fund	1,000	(416)	584
	<u>18,617</u>	<u>(42,057)</u>	<u>(23,440)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>59,955</u>	<u>(73,713)</u>	<u>(13,758)</u>

#### Designated Funds

The Counselling Fund was created to recognise the need for counselling services to be available for ASPIE members for a minimum period of 12 months in the unfortunate situation that ASPIE should ever close.

The Future Plans Fund represents the estimated cost of the individual hired post year-end. It is the aim of the trustees to secure the longevity of ASPIE by creating an employed role to deal with some of the day-to-day management of ASPIE.

#### Restricted Funds

The Computer and Equipment fund represents grants and donations specifically made for the purchase of computers equipment.

The ASPIE AVENGERS' fund represents grants & sponsorship received to help fund the cost of attending matches and the hiring of training facilities.

The Refurbishment Fund represents a grant received towards internal redecoration and the replacement of older computer equipment.

The Awards for All Fund represents a grant received from The National Lottery Community Fund towards the provision of counselling and running of the premises to provide these services.

The Worcester City Council Fund represents a grant received for new seating in the reception area.

The Counselling Fund represents grants received for the provision of counselling and increased support required following the impacts of the COVID pandemic, and grants received to operate a premises for the provision of these services.

The Community Event Fund represents a grant received from Worcester Lottery to provide a community event.

The Sports Equipment Fund represents grants received for purchase of recreational sports equipment.

The Community Support Fund represents a grant received from the National Grid to continue provision of services over the festive period.

#### **TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS**

During the year the charity purchased new computer equipment funded from the Computer Equipment Fund. On purchase, the value of the equipment was transferred from restricted funds to unrestricted funds, being £2,320.

**ASPIE LIMITED**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

**16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

During the year, income received from trustees totalled £1,815 (2022: £1,245). This included donations of £720 (2022: £600), Membership Fees of £1,075 (2022: £520) and Rent of £20 (2022: £125).

**ASPIE LIMITED**

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Grants and donations	49,288	30,719
Gift aid	481	361
Donated counselling services	4,800	-
	<u>54,569</u>	<u>31,080</u>
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Fundraising and sponsorship	1,275	130
Rent	7,506	2,271
Sale of goods	574	289
	<u>9,355</u>	<u>2,690</u>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Interest on investment	1,163	425
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Membership fees	15,297	9,902
ASPIE AVENGERS football team	5,457	7,824
Counselling fees	5,260	8,034
	<u>26,014</u>	<u>25,760</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u>91,101</u>	<u>59,955</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Grant application consultant	612	623
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Rent, rates & water	21,389	20,870
Insurance	438	491
Heat and light	5,784	6,860
Publicity costs	-	724
Sundries	314	132
Counselling costs	22,788	15,218
Computer and internet costs	1,378	1,273
Repairs and maintenance	2,576	3,339
Depreciation	2,603	1,961
TV licence	159	159
ASPIE Avengers football team	5,546	8,214
Independent examiner's fee	2,563	2,431
Office expenses	3,192	2,896
Event costs	1,046	1,095
Support workers	11,288	7,427
	<u>81,064</u>	<u>73,090</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>81,676</u>	<u>73,713</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u>9,425</u>	<u>(13,758)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements