



Empathy for special children Trustees' Annual Report

June 2023 – June 2024



Contact Information

Empathy for special children

Charity Number: 115472

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Chair of Trustees chair@empathyforspecialchildren.org

CEO – sam@empathyforspecialchildren.org

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EmpathyForSpecialChildren

@empathyforspecialchildren



Charity Trustees



1. Chair – Cherida Hughes

2. Amie Smout
3. Katie King
4. Kirsty Perkins

Ex officiate board members

Sam Goddard – CEO

Eric Williams - Accounts and Finance

Structure, governance and management

Empathy is a Charitable Incorporated Company governed by articles of association, which can be found [here](#)

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are recruited in line with our safer recruitment policy and appointed both at the AGM by member vote or at any point during the year by exercising the organisation's ability to co-opt trustees.

Other organisations are not able to appoint trustees to the board



Objectives and activities

Our charitable objectives can be viewed, in full, in our articles of association, but the aim put simply has always been to improve the lives of all those living with the impact of Autism, Neurodiversity or any Hidden Disability by providing supported social opportunities to make friends, have fun, try something new and find a supportive community with which to share the journey.

Everything we do is driven by our Vision and our Mission.

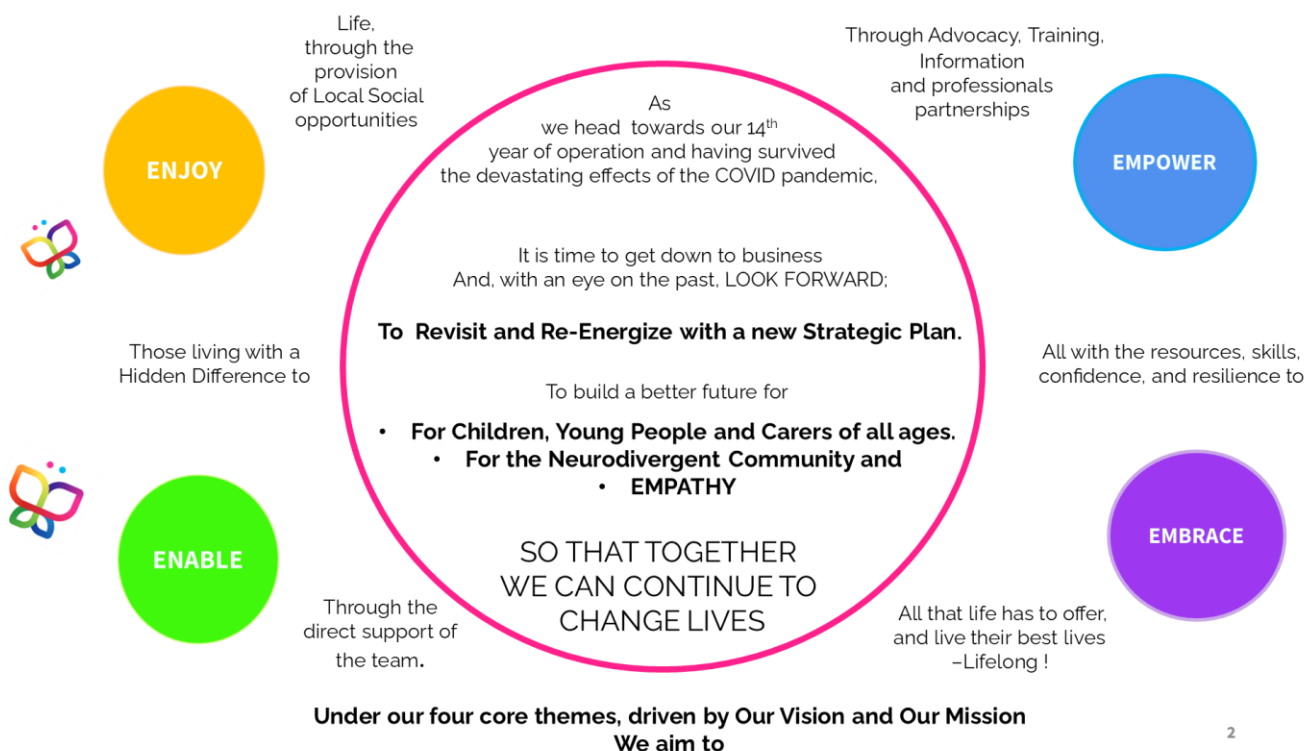
We know that success is always underpinned by the foundations from which to build and, as such, the board have chosen key areas of focus from our founding foundations to focus upon; to both inform the strategic plan and ensure we are always working from good, solid foundations towards that vision and mission.



To ensure that no-one ever feels alone on this journey and to ensure that living with, or caring for someone, with Autism or a Hidden Disability is not a barrier to every child having an equal opportunity at a fun and fulfilled childhood.

The Work

Driven by the Vision and Mission the board have revisited all we do and are now working to 4 core themes or outcomes for any project.



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Currently, the work remains predominantly under the themes of Enjoy and Enable with Connect, Out and About, Unleashed and Sibs being the key projects delivered. The Enable team have been able to deliver some 1:1 work in the community, bringing support and respite to those families most urgently in need, and Empower has done some amazing voluntary work supporting parents to navigate the system and statutory services.

Going forward, the new inclusion hub will give the board and team the space to launch Embrace, increasing our reach to a wider age range and supporting those who fall through the gaps in statutory service. It is hoped that the Empower work can be expanded into a traded service, not only providing a vital, sustainable income for the charity but also bringing consistency for those in need of support



What We Have Achieved

Despite another challenging year financially, leading to the loss of the sibs sessions and a reduction in overall provision however we have still supported 83 families and 127 individual children and young people with

32 CONNECT sessions

10 Out and About sessions, including a 3 day camp out

26 Coffee breaks with Empower

8 Social sessions, a highlight of which was the partnership with Rock Music School, giving young people access to professional music tuition and the opportunity to play socially as a band.

Thus, we have once again consistently met our key outcomes for all, bringing a community within a community together to provide mutual support, to try something new, to make friends and to have fun; all of which improve not only lives but physical and mental health in the long term.



Accounts

Please see the accounts for the year below without any new large project grants the majority of the income has relied upon the outreach work, which in turn has contributed to an increase in staff costs.

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Financial Year 2023-24

Expenditure 2023-24

	Actual 2023-24	Actual 20232-24
Employees		
Management/Playleader Costs	22,109.33	
Outreach Staff Costs	17,125.52	
Payroll Costs	1,106.40	
Health Plan	914.11	
		41,255.36
Administration Costs		
Administrative Costs	7,342.03	
Insurance	960.87	
Hire of halls	2,322.25	
Premises Cost	3,174.22	
		13,799.37
Activity Costs		
Family Group Activities	3,725.16	
		3,725.16
Miscellaneous		
Refunds of Income	413.46	
		413.46

Total Expenditure		59,193.35
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Funded by

Parents Contributions	5,795.72	
Outreach Charges	25,440.50	
Donations/Sponsorship	3,460.46	
Fund Raising	5,879.76	
Other Income	1,054.00	41,630.44

Total Income		41,630.44
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Capital Grant - Restricted Funding	27,738.00	
		27,738.00
		27,738.00

Balance Sheet as at the 1st July 2024

Bank Current Account	1,845.15	
Saving account	26,350.28	
Total Assets		28,195.43

Funded By

Balances B/Fwd	18,020.34	
Less Loss	17,562.91	
add Capital Grant	27,738.00	
Total Funding		28,195.43

I confirm that I have independently verified the income and expenditure financial records for the year 2023/24 and confirm the balances at the 1st July 2024 for the Accounts of the Charity Empathy for Special Children.

Please note that the Capital Grant of £27,738 is restricted for the Capital improvement work of the leased building.

There are concerns about the low general fund balance of £457.43

C E Williams

07/04/2024

The Future is True Inclusion !

Recognising the need for change and advancement, the board has worked hard over the last six months to create a new seven-year strategic plan to take Empathy to its 20th birthday as an organisation fit for purpose and one that can do more, for more, well, and with longevity.



7 year goals



And the hard work begins !

Inclusion Hub – Craven Arms – Opening Autumn 24 !



Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

Sam Goddard

Designation

CEO

Date

10/07/24