

ALAG/Autism Hub

Registered Charity No. 1160477

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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ALAG/Autism Hub

Registered Charity No.

1160477

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

TRUSTEES

Chair	John Harrison
Vice Chair	Jason Crabtree
Secretary	Nick Stone
Treasurer	Jennifer Barker
	Desmond Meldrum
	Ricki Rittstieg

REGISTERED OFFICE:

C/o VAL, 200A Pentonville Road
London
N1 9JP

BANKERS:

National Westminster Bank Plc
490 Holloway Road
London
N7 6HN

ACCOUNTANTS:

Charles Osei, BSc(Hons), MSc, ACIE, AFA, ATA, MCIPP
Practical Accounting Training Ltd
Equitable House, 2nd Floor
10 Woolwich New Road
London, SE18 6AB



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hub ...**

Trustees' Annual Report for ALAG/Autism Hub

From 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Charity name: ALAG (Asperger London Area Group)

Charity registration number: 1160477

The ALAG/Autism Hub Trustees for April 2020 to March 2021 are as follows:

Mr John Harrison - Chair

Dr Jason Crabtree - Vice Chair

Ms Jennifer Barker - Treasurer

Mr Nick Stone - Secretary

Mr Desmond Meldrum - Trustee

Ms Ricki Rittstieg - Trustee

Charity Registered Address:

ALAG/Autism Hub

C/o VAI, 200A Pentonville Road,

London N1 9JP

National Westminster Bank Plc

Branch sort code: 60-08-22

Account number: 60696257



The Trustees of ALAG (Asperger London Area Group) and its affiliate, the Autism Hub have taken regard of the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in operating this charity. ALAG/Autism Hub continues to be a user led organisation providing valuable social and emotional support to autistic adults (and their families) to build confidence, resilience, to help improve their sense of wellbeing and live more fulfilled lives. Over the last financial year ALAG/Autism Hub has managed to gain a stronger footing with local authority funding. These successful funding applications have resulted in our services now operating with paid members of staff working alongside our volunteers. We now are able to provide a wider range of support for our members and to offer these much-needed services to more autistic adults who do not have a learning disability. The board of trustees have, with the lead service coordinators, continued to put in place policies and procedures to ensure the quality of the services we provide meets our funders expectations.

The ALAG/Autism Hub trustees are pleased that local authorities recognise the value of our work, and we are grateful to everyone who has helped to make this funding breakthrough happen. As trustees, we are committed to being responsible custodians of public funds and are expected to deliver our services in line with the agreed purpose of the funding.

ALAG/Autism Hub Governance

ALAG/Autism Hub has a clearly defined management structure ensuring effective decisions are being made within the organisation. As a general rule we aim to have trustees' meetings approximately four times a year, however due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the board of trustees were only able to meet three times during this financial period. It was agreed (and approved by the Charity Commission) that these meetings could be held online rather than in person to ensure the safety of our trustees.

The ALAG/Autism Hub board is currently made up of six trustees with one vacancy:

John Harrison - Chair
Jason Crabtree - Vice Chair
Jennifer Barker - Treasurer
Nick Stone - Secretary
Desmond Meldrum - Trustee
Ricki Rittstieg - Trustee

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the programme of training for the trustees was restricted such that only the safeguarding training and some fundraising training was undertaken. A new programme of training for trustees is being developed in conjunction with our lead service coordinator and is expected to be proposed in April 2021.

ALAG/Autism Staff & Volunteers

ALAG/Autism Hub operations have expanded and been able to secure the expertise of several self-employed specialists to deliver grant funded services alongside the service coordinators and volunteer members.

Staff team:

Ethney Anderson – Joint Service & Operations Coordinator
Zainab Rahemtulla – Joint Service & Operations Coordinator
Nick Stone - ALAG/Autism Hub Peer Facilitator & Communications Officer
Jill Bradford – Volunteer & Projects Coordinator



Ella Celeste - Autism Hub Drop-in Facilitator

Volunteers:

JT – Technical Support

AN – Drop-in Support

HT - Admin

Big Alliance CoRe Volunteers (Jill B)

We now have fewer volunteers working than before the pandemic and this has had an adverse effect on the delivery of our in-person autism awareness training as none has taken place. Our administrative capacity has also decreased so there has been a delay in some of the communication we provide.

Counsellors:

ALAG/Autism Hub's counselling service consists of six counsellors – three of whom are fully trained autism specialist counsellors and three are trainee placement counsellors in their final year of training.

ALAG/Autism Hub Funding and Finance

ALAG/Autism Hub's financial position has improved since 2019/20 due to the increased grant funding from local authorities and trust funders. See table below for details. The new funding is mainly to pay part-time staff to coordinate the online services. Plans to develop a new fundraising strategy and ideas for joint funding bids with relevant partners under the guidance of Voluntary Action Islington have been delayed in order to concentrate on ensuring we deliver the new online services in a way that our service users find accessible and can engage and benefit from. ALAG/Autism Hub holds cash reserves as a means of ensuring that it is able to respond to emergencies in a timely way.

Income Source 2020/21	£		Comment
London Borough Islington VCS - £17,500	4,325		VCS grant of £17,500 per year over three years to cover our core costs.
Cripplegate - £5,000	5,000		Grant to go toward staff costs
LBI/LBC Commissioners funding	20,000		To coordinate the Covid Response project for Islington & Camden residents
LB Camden research project funding	5,000		To fund a Facilitator the Coresearcher Autism Group
London Catalyst fund	3,000		Funding for our Partners for Health project
Cloudesley Grant	10,000		Funding a part-time post to continue our Partners for Health project
Total	47,325		
Non-committed cash reserves		£10,325	



ALAG/Autism Hub Services

Throughout April 2020 – March 2021 ALAG/Autism Hub has continued to offer specialist counselling, peer support, advocacy, case work around housing issues, employment support, welfare benefits guidance and in addition supported ASC individuals to live healthier, more fulfilled lives. We have also supported individuals to understand and come to terms with their diagnosis as part of our Partners for Health collaboration with the C&I diagnostic service. Providing the social and emotional support essential to their well-being by enabling them to be socially active and connected to their communities.

Year of the pandemic

During the height of the pandemic, many autistic adults have reported increased levels of anxiety, isolation, bereavement, disruption to routines, difficulty accessing health and mental health services, housing issues, and employment issues. In response to the impact of the pandemic, ALAG/Autism Hub adapted all its services to be delivered virtually or by telephone – including the in-person peer drop-in service which is now a weekly online service.

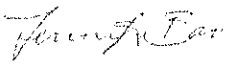
Throughout the pandemic year, ALAG/Autism Hub monthly support meetings, previously held in Islington Town Hall, were moved online and developed as a series of monthly webinars where we invited specialist speakers as well as engaged in group discussions. We also saw an increase in numbers of counselling sessions provided, advocacy support, telephone and email consultations, peer to peer support 'drop-in' sessions and employability themed workshops.

The ALAG/Autism Hub trustees are pleased with what has been achieved in the year April 2020 to March 2021. The expansion of services despite the drawback and disadvantages of the pandemic is a testament of the hard work, dedication and commitment of our staff team, counsellors and volunteers who have gone the extra mile in all areas to ensure this outstanding service continues to have a positive impact in the community as a whole. We believe we are well placed to continue delivering our services in the coming year - 2021/22.



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Signed on behalf of ALAG/Autism Hub trustees

Signature: 

Full name: Jennifer Barker

Position: Treasurer Trustee

Date: Friday 10 December 2021

Signed on behalf of ALAG/Autism Hub Trustees

Signature: 

Full name: Ethney Anderson

Position: Joint Service & Operations Coordinator

Date: Friday 10th December 2021

Trustees' Annual Report for ALAG/Autism Hub

From 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Charity name: ALAG (Asperger London Area Group)

Charity registration number: 1160477

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ALAG/AUTISM HUB**

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 8 - 12

This report is made solely to the Trustees of ALAG/Autism Hub, as a body, in accordance with regulations made under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and Charity SORP (frsse). My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Trustees matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and Charity's trustees for my independent examination work, for this report, or for the statement I have given below.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and independent examiner

As charity trustees, for the purposes of charity law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, the Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- b) follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- c) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity, and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the reports limited to those matters set out in the statement on the next page.

Registered Charity No. 1160477

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE TRUSTEES OF ALAG/AUTISM HUB (Cont'd)**

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Charles Osei, BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIE, AFA, ATA, MCIPP
Practical Accounting Training Ltd,
Equitable House, 2nd Floor
10 Woolwich New Road, London, SE18 5AB

Date 14/12/21

ALAG/Autism Hub

Registered Charity No. 1160477

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Fixed Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank and in hand		55,669	24,333
		55,669	24,333
Creditors: Amount due within One Year			
Net Assets/Liabilities		<u>55,669</u>	<u>24,333</u>
Reserves			
General Funds		10,884	9,404
Restricted Funds:		44,785	14,930
		<u>55,669</u>	<u>24,333</u>

Approved by the Management Committee on
and signed on their behalf by:

John Harrison
Chair

Jennifer Barker
Treasurer



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

			2020/21	2019/20
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
		£	£	£
Resources Arising				
Income from Charitable Activities		900		1,608
Grants			58,324	9,000
Other Income			600	4,670
Total Income		<u>900</u>	<u>58,924</u>	<u>59,824</u>
 Direct Charitable Expenditure	2	130	28,359	10,628
 Total Expenditure		<u>130</u>	<u>28,359</u>	<u>10,628</u>
Resources retained for further use		771	30,565	4,649
Transfer between Funds				
Net Movement in Funds				
Reconciliations of Funds				
Brought forward 01/04/2020		9,404	14,930	19,683
 Carried forward 31/03/2021		<u><u>10,175</u></u>	<u><u>45,495</u></u>	<u><u>55,669</u></u>
				<u><u>24,333</u></u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation.

These accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis and include income and expenditure as they are earned or incurred, rather than as cash received or paid. The recommendations of the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (frs) and Charities Act 2011 have been followed.

Fund Accounting.

The general funds consist of funds that the Trustees may use for ALAG/Autism's charitable purposes at their discretion.

The restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds, which are legally binding. Restricted funds held in reserve at the end of the year represent income received from donors to be spent within the following year. Details of these funds are set out on the separate schedule in Note 5.

Voluntary Income

All voluntary income and donations are recognised and included in the accounts as they are received.

Direct Charitable Expenditure.

Direct charitable expenditure comprises all costs incurred in running the Charity that are directly attributable to the Charity's projects.

Governance costs

Include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

Fund-raising Expenditure.

Fund-raising expenditure comprises costs incurred in inducing people or organisations to contribute financially to the Charity's work.

ALAG/Autism Hub

Registered Charity No. 1160477

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2 Resources Expended

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£	£
Zoom - Meetings	130	-	130	-
Ethney Anderson	-	3,386	3,386	1,200
Mobile Phone	-	179	179	185
Stationary	-	39	39	-
Insurance	-	445	445	449
Counselling	-	7,507	7,507	1,035
Uwe Web Management	-	120	120	-
Nick Stone	-	2,400	2,400	-
Rent	-	1,155	1,155	3,809
Research gift vouchers	-	360	360	-
Zainab Rahemtulla - The Hub	-	2,187	2,187	-
LB Camden	-	10,000	10,000	-
Ella Chijocke	-	518	518	-
DBS Islington	-	63	63	-
Christmas Meal	-	-	-	391
Laptop	-	-	-	233
Food	-	-	-	676
Conference	-	-	-	1,950
COVID	-	-	-	3
Volunteer's Lunch	-	-	-	72
Volunteer's expenses	-	-	-	432
Printing	-	-	-	192
Totals	130	28,359	28,488	10,628

ALAG/Autism Hub

Registered Charity No. 1160477

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2020/21</u> £	<u>2019/20</u> £
Fixed Assets		-	-
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank and in hand		55,669	24,333
		55,669	24,333
Creditors: Amount due within One Year			
Net Assets/Liabilities		<u>55,669</u>	<u>24,333</u>
Reserves			
General Funds		10,884	9,404
Restricted Funds:		44,785	14,930
		<u>55,669</u>	<u>24,333</u>

Approved by the Management Committee on
and signed on their behalf by:

John Harrison
Chair



Jennifer Barker
Treasurer

