

THE AUTISM GROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1166787

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-04-27

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Autism Group
5 High Street
Maidenhead
SL6 1JN

Phone 07423636339

Email info@theautismgroup.org.uk

Website www.theautismgroup.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH AUTISM AND THEIR PARENTS AND CARERS BY:-(1)OFFERING A VARIETY OF TRAINING TO PARENTS/CARERS, FAMILY SUPPORTERS AND THE COMMUNITY TO ENHANCE THE UNDERSTANDING OF AUTISM IN THE THAMES VALLEY; (2)OFFERING SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND LIFE SKILLS ACTIVITIES PRIMARILY AIMED AT CHILDREN (11+) AND ADULTS (UP TO THE AGE OF 25) ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM; AND (3)BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS WITHIN FAMILIES TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM LEAD FULFILLED LIVES.

Activities: 1. Autism training in the Thames Valley area.2. Special interest youth groups.3. Parent/carer support and information

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THAMES VALLEY
- Bracknell Forest
- Buckinghamshire
- Oxfordshire
- Reading
- Slough
- Windsor And Maidenhead
- Wokingham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£89,837	£100,325	-	-
2024-03-31	£117,859	£94,342	-	-
2023-03-31	£101,568	£98,862	-	-
2022-03-31	£74,986	£90,210	-	-
2021-03-31	£76,843	£60,447	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Esther Elaine Morley	Chair	2021-05-25
Bridget McLeod		2019-04-15
Gary Antony Admans		2022-09-19
Rachel Clare Lucas		2023-06-16

THE AUTISM GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1166787

Accounts



The Autism Group

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Charity Registration No: 1166787

Annual Report and Financial Statements for
the Year Ended 31st March 2025

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01 Legal and Administrative Information



CHARITY NUMBER	1166787
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1 st April 2024
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31 st March 2025
TRUSTEES AS OF 31st MARCH 2024	Esther Morley Bridget McLeod Gary Admans Rachel Lucas
LEGAL STATUS	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
REGISTERED ADDRESS	5 High Street Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 1JN
DATE OF REGISTRATION	27 th April 2016
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	CIO - Foundation Registered 27 th April 2016
PRIMARY BANKERS	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing ME19 4JQ
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Independent Examiners Ltd The Grain Store Hills Barns Appledram Lane South Chichester PO20 7EG

02 Introduction



What we do

The Autism Group is a Maidenhead based charity committed to supporting and enhancing the lives of young autistic people, their parents and carers.

We understand and embrace the unique characteristics and attributes of young autistic people. We offer a warm, well-informed response to their needs through our special interest clubs and parent support services, including workshops, one to one support sessions and opportunities for parents and carers to come together in informal coffee mornings.

We also offer training sessions to help those working in the wider community to enhance their practice.

In short, we aim to ensure autistic people feel seen, included, and valued.

We would not be able to offer these wonderful services without the dedication of the staff team and the support of our volunteers, to whom we owe great thanks.

You can see what we get up to through our Social Media; <https://www.facebook.com/theautismgroup>.

We have met so many amazing young people, parents, carers, families and friends since we hosted our first club in 2016. We are looking forward to celebrating **TAG at 10**, our tenth anniversary, next year.

02 Introduction



Charitable Objectives and Activities:

The purpose of the charity is to relieve the needs of people with autism and their parents and carers by:

(1) Offering a variety of training to parents/carers, family supporters and the community to enhance the understanding of autism in the Thames Valley.

(2) Offering social opportunities and life skill activities primarily aimed at children (9+) and adults on the autism spectrum (up to the age of 30).

(3) Building confidence and skills within families to support individuals on the autism spectrum to lead fulfilled lives.

Public Benefit

In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

How to find us

Address:

The Autism Group
5 High Street
MAIDENHEAD
SL6 1JN

Email:

info@theautismgroup.org.uk

Website:

www.theautismgroup.org.uk

03 Independent Examiner's Report



Report to the trustees of The Autism Group on the accounts for the year ended 31st of March 2025 set out on pages 23 to 33.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have 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.

Zita Derbak
Independent Examiners Ltd
The Grain Store
Hills Barns
Appledram Lane South
Chichester, West Sussex
PO20 7EG

Sign: *Zita Derbak*

Date: 19.12.2025

04 Trustees' Report



Our Highlights 2024/25

Support for parents and carers

271

parents and carers attended GEMS¹ workshops

82

home visits or support sessions

100+

parents and carers attended Tea with TAG

Support for children and young people

160

themed club sessions run for children and young people

125

children and young people attended more than 1 themed club

15

home-educated children and young people introduced

¹GEMS is the East Berkshire Autism and ADHD Service funded by the Frimley Integrated Care Board

04 Trustees' Report



Achievements and Performance 2024/25

Support for parents and carers

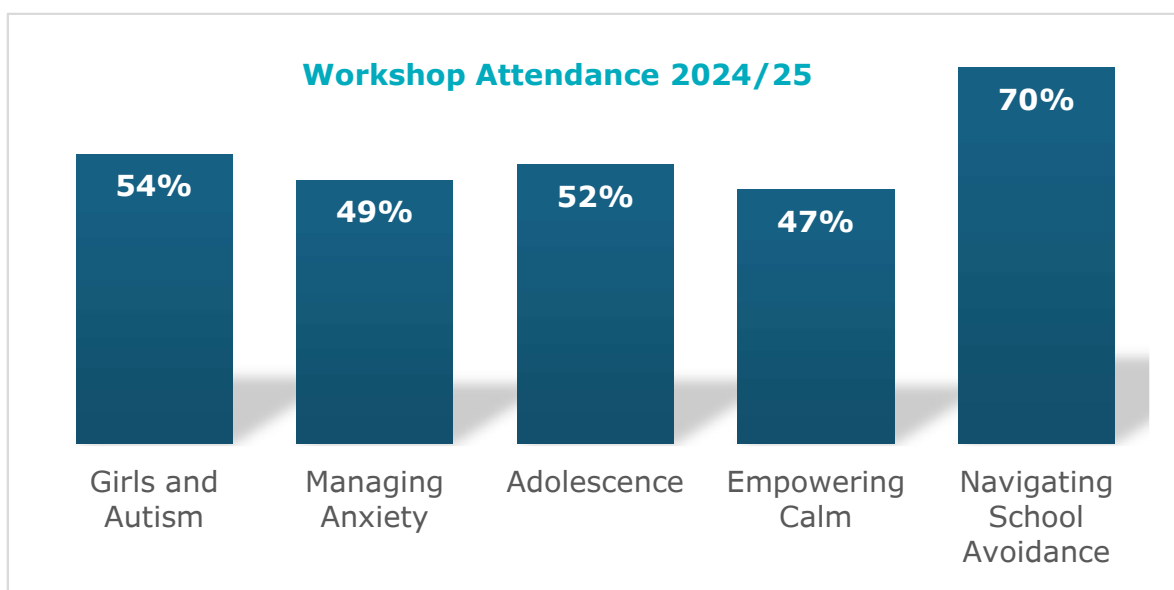
GEMS

271 parents/carers attended 15 workshops this year. These were on a variety of subjects and were commissioned by GEMS (the East Berkshire Autism and ADHD Service funded by the Frimley Integrated Care Board).

Workshops delivered:

- 4 x Girls and Autism
- 4 x Managing Anxiety
- 4 x Adolescence
- 2 x Empowering Calm
- 1 x Navigating School Avoidance

We strive to offer relevant topics and have regularly reviewed workshop themes to ensure we are focusing on the key areas parent/carers want and need. The most popular workshop this year was Navigating School Avoidance.



04 Trustees' Report



Workshops continue to be highly valued by families, with strong levels of engagement and positive feedback across all topics:

"I wish I'd had something like this at the start – empowering."

"This workshop helped me understand my son's behaviour."

"Great session reminding me we are not alone."

Home Visits

Parent Support Workers delivered 49 home visits between April 2024 – March 2025.

Parents are offered the first session in their own home with a follow up session by telephone or zoom session depending on parental preference. This activity is funded by GEMS.

Families consistently report positive and supportive experiences. Parents felt listened to, reassured, and better informed about available resources. Moving forward, we will continue gathering more detailed feedback to ensure ongoing improvements.

"It was really lovely to meet... the conversation was super helpful and I'm very grateful for the time I did get."

"I don't feel so alone now... really greatly appreciate the visit and knowing about resources."

"Good as I don't have a car. Thank you to everyone – help was appreciated."

04 Trustees' Report



Tea with TAG

Tea with TAG operates across four locations; Maidenhead, Windsor, Slough, and Bracknell. We have been offering themed discussion sessions and guest-led support for parents. Themes this year included nutrition and diet, child independence, cyber-crime webinars, and Christmas celebrations. Guest speakers included educational psychologists, Thames Valley Positive Support, the Area SENCO, the Associate Director for SEND, and the SEND Consultancy Hub.



Windsor – Spotlight

'Sue' has 3 children all diagnosed with Autism, and has been struggling with managing the differing needs of all 3. Each child's sensory needs conflict with their siblings' needs.

'Sue' joined the Windsor parent support group when it first opened and has been a regular attendee all year. During this time, she has shared her own ideas and tips with others and benefited from advice other parents have offered.

As a result of discussions in the parent support group, 'Sue' was advised to request a home visit to further develop strategies for managing the dynamic of the 3 children. This proved to be very helpful for her.

'Sue' also decided to follow the example of other parents in the support group and look into whether or not she herself is neurodivergent. The support of other parents in the group really helped her build her confidence to follow the assessment journey. 'Sue' is a really highly valued member of our support group and she always has a positive impact on the others who join.

04 Trustees' Report



Bracknell

Previously held at The Parks Community Centre, Bracknell had a close-knit group of 10–14 regular attendees. After relocating to Binfield in January, attendance grew from 3 participants in January to 9 in February. The new venue currently sees an average of 5 attendees, though we are aware accessing the new location has made it harder for some.

We are delighted that the old group of Tea with TAG attendees have continued with an evening group that has grown in popularity.

Maidenhead

Maidenhead has a core group of regular attendees. To attract new participants, themed sessions and guest speakers have been expanded, including educational psychologists and educational consultants. The average attendance for Maidenhead is 7.



Tea with TAG, Maidenhead 2023

04 Trustees' Report



Slough

Slough has continued to see positive and consistent engagement. Sessions covered themes including independence, cyber-crime, and guest sessions from the Educational Psychology Team and Thames Valley Positive Support. Attendance averaged 12 participants, ranging from 7 to 14, with Arbour Vale drawing the highest engagement.



Tea with TAG, Slough 2025

Support Sessions

Parent Support Workers delivered 33 support sessions during 2024/2025. Support sessions continue to provide a safe and constructive space for families to share concerns and gain practical strategies. Parents consistently reported feeling more confident, reassured and better equipped to support their children.

"She was so polite and helpful... she listened carefully and advised useful information."

"She was extremely helpful and understanding... I'm grateful for her time and knowledge."

"Just fantastic."

04 Trustees' Report



Support for children and young people

Themed Clubs

Our clubs are built around topics that young people told us they enjoy. We currently offer 14 clubs across 5 themes:

GAP (Gaming, Art and Pokemon for ages 9-13) – 2 clubs



Console Gaming (for ages 14-25) – 2 clubs



Art (for ages 9-25) – 4 clubs



Fusion (mixed activities for ages 14-25) – 4 clubs



Role Playing Games (for young teens teens and adults aged 18-30) – 2 clubs



04 Trustees' Report



TAG Clubs run primarily on Saturdays throughout the year in Maidenhead, Berkshire. Over the period from April 2024 to March 2025, 125 autistic young people attended one or more clubs during the year with us.

GAP (Gaming, Art and Pokemon)

GAP Clubs offer a blend of activities based around what the young people tell us they enjoy, including Gaming, Art and Pokémon.



Parent and carer feedback:

- "Thanks for making GAP 4 so amazing for him, it was life changing for him to make friends and have so much fun"
- "'Monty' loves GAP club so much, he looks forwards to it every month. It helps him hugely when he's struggled during the month with school or other things in his life. In essence GAP club provides him another safe space where he can relax and enjoy being himself. He'd really struggle without it. It's one of the most important things in his life he says..."

Participant Feedback:

"I had fun playing a game 'Bob' made up and it was amazing. I enjoyed it so much I don't want to go home. 1 Million Stars"

Fusion

Combining many activities popular with young people on the autism spectrum, these clubs are for those who enjoy off-line console gaming, table-top role-playing games, creative activities like Lego, board games and more. Aimed at those aged 14 to 25 and of mainstream ability but who need support in their social understanding.



04 Trustees' Report



Fusion, 2025

Parent/carer feedback:

*“When 'Evan' joined the RPG group at our Fusion Club, he had very narrow interests. Since joining in with the Role Play facilitated by TAG staff he has developed a friendship with one of the other players. The **increase in his confidence** has led to him joining a club at College and taking part in other activities, including a Live Action Role Play, a huge event. Joining the RPG at TAG and enjoying it, has enabled him to broaden his interests and engage in more activities meaning he feels **less isolated** and has an additional motivation for staying on at College as he now has friends there.”*

04 Trustees' Report



Art

Senior Art

A club for young autistic people aged 14 to 25 who enjoy a programme of art and craft activities and want to meet like-minded young people. Art activities are especially meaningful due to the unique ways autistic people experience and interact with the world.



Junior Art

At TAG's Junior Art Clubs, for those aged 9 to 13, the children enjoy a wide range of artistic techniques, meeting the artistic interests and sensory needs of each individual. In response to the large number of primary age children on our waiting lists, we created two new Junior Art Groups in Sept 2024.

Role Playing Games (RPG)

This club is for adult fans of tabletop roleplaying games up to age 30. For beginners or experienced players, this group loves exploring imaginary worlds together.



Role-playing has huge social benefits and we started two role-playing groups this year for young teens, which have been very successful.

Console Gaming

These friendly clubs offer the chance for young autistic people to play a wide range of off-line console games with other like-minded peers. Having a group specially for those aged 16 to 25 means they can enjoy some more grown up and sophisticated games.



04 Trustees' Report



More feedback on our clubs:

*"Toni' loves the creative side of the art club but also think it's **so important she has this space to socialise in a safe and comfortable environment.**"*

*"Keith' **cannot wait to attend** the session this weekend to see his friends!"*

*"I just laughed the whole time. 6 stars"
Participant*

*"Spending time with like-minded people is always **good for ones soul & self-esteem.** He thoroughly enjoys art and creating things, so this really is a great benefit to him. He's been keen to share the skills he's learnt too."*

*"Honestly.. the **positive impact** you all have on our children and young people is **enormous.....**"*



Junior Art – Spotlight

Achievement of Core Objectives

We set out to run a creative, inclusive club specifically for autistic children, and we have achieved this with consistency and impact. The Junior Art Club (JAC) ran consistently, welcomed a stable cohort of participants, and maintained a trauma-informed, autism-friendly approach.

Feedback from children, families, and staff confirms that the club is thriving. Children report enjoying their time at the club, feeling accepted and understood, and engaging positively with the art-based activities. Attendance remained steady, with minimal drop-off, indicating sustained interest and comfort.

Success Stories and Unexpected Benefits

Several individual stories highlight the club's success:

- *'Bobby'*, previously reluctant to join group activities, now initiates conversations with peers.
- *'Sandy'*, who struggled with transitions, has developed confidence through the predictable structure and creative freedom offered at JAC.

Unexpected benefits include:

- **Improved family wellbeing:** Families report that their child's mental health has improved following club attendance, with reduced anxiety and more positive mood at home.
- **Peer relationships:** Participants have developed friendships within the club, either self-reported, observed by staff, or shared by parents.



Junior Art – Spotlight

Challenges and How We Overcame Them

The main challenges included:

- Initial anxiety and attendance hesitancy: Some children were nervous about joining. We addressed this by offering pre-visit opportunities, visuals of unfamiliar spaces, and gentle introductions.
- Sensory sensitivities: A small number participants found the environment overstimulating and we address this by created quiet breakout spaces.

These responsive adaptations ensured that challenges did not compromise the club's ethos or outcomes.

Differences Made and Overall Benefits

The Junior Art Club has made a tangible difference in the lives of its participants and their families:

- Children feel safe, seen, and creatively engaged.
- Families report improved mental health and emotional regulation in their children.
- Friendships have blossomed, reducing isolation and enhancing social confidence.
- Staff have observed increased self-expression, resilience, and joy in participants.

The Junior Art Club is not only meeting its goals, it is enriching lives. The combination of structured creativity, emotional safety, and peer connection continues to offer a vital space for autistic children to thrive.

04 Trustees' Report



Home-educated children and young people

In February 2024, we opened our offices to children and young people who are home educated, to meet up and enjoy activities together, whilst their parents can discuss their experiences of home educating, share resources and ideas, and access guidance from our Parent Support Worker.

In 2024/2025 a total of 15 young people attended more than 1 session. Groups were run weekly during term-time.

This group offers children vital opportunities to socialise, form friendships, and have fun, tackling the isolation many face since they are outside of school.

We've learned a lot. Most children come to us carrying trauma from school, and deregistration is often a last resort after families have exhausted all other options. Many parents have had to give up work to home educate.

We've received consistent feedback that this is a session young people actively want to attend.

Parents tell us:

"It's a lifeline."

"He's learning to enjoy others' company despite differences."

"She can be herself here."

"It's helping their confidence and independence grow every week."

04 Trustees' Report



Financial Review

Summary

Total Incoming Resources for the year were £89,837 (2023/2024: £117,859), a 24% decrease compared to the previous year. During 2024/2025, 46% of Incoming Resources were restricted (2023/2024: 55%) as grants received fell significantly during the year. Unrestricted reserves as of 31st March 2025 were £8,146 (2024: £10,829) with restricted reserves of £26,749 (2024: £34,555) and totals reserves were £34,895 (2024: £45,384).

The Trustees have reviewed the reserve policy (see Note 14) and believe that available reserves are sufficient to support the organisation for at least six months and to ensure we will be able to continue to fulfil our charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure.

Grants Received

The Autism Group wishes to thank the following entities for their support during the year:

Arnold Clark Community Fund
Berkshire Community Foundation
Comic Relief
Coop Community Fund
Edward Gostling Foundation
Heathrow Community Trust
Louis Baylis Charitable Trust
Masonic Charitable Foundation
Rectory Foundation
Rotary Club of Pangbourne
Spoore Merry and Rixman Foundation
The 3H Foundation
TK Maxx
Tesco

04 Trustees' Report



Trustees Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the surplus of the CIO for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 18th December 2025

Signed on their behalf by:

Printed name: Esther Morley (Chairperson)

05 Statement of Financial Activities



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 / 2025 £	Total 2023 / 2024 £
Incoming Resources					
Donations, Legacies and Similar Income	4	8,202	-	8,202	22,135
Activities for Generating Funds	4	33,083	-	33,083	30,460
Investment Income	4	92	-	92	76
Charitable Activities	4	6,879	41,580	48,459	65,189
Total Incoming Resources		48,257	41,580	89,837	117,859
Resources Expended					
Charitable Activities	5	49,724	49,343	99,068	93,573
Governance Costs	5	1,215	43	1,258	769
Total Resources Expended		50,939	49,386	100,325	94,342
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources		(2,682)	(7,806)	(10,489)	23,517
Total Funds Brought Forward		10,829	34,555	45,384	21,867
Transfer of Funds		-	-	-	-
Total Funds Carried Forward		8,146	26,749	34,895	45,384

06 Balance Sheet



As of 31st March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-25 £	Total 31-Mar-24 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2	-	-	-	-
Investments	3	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and In Hand	7	7,404	28,011	35,416	48,087
Debtors and Prepayments	8	2,283	-	2,283	8,313
Total Current Assets		9,688	28,011	37,699	56,400
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	1,541	1,262	2,804	11,015
Net Current Assets		8,146	26,749	34,895	45,384
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		8,146	26,749	34,895	45,384
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	10	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		8,146	26,749	34,895	45,384
Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted Funds		8,146	-	8,146	10,829
Restricted Fund	6	-	26,749	26,749	34,555
Total Funds		8,146	26,749	34,895	45,384

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 18th December 2025 and were signed on their behalf by:

Esther Morley, Chairperson
Date: 18th December 2025

07 Notes to the Financial Statements



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP - FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Autism Group (the “Charity”) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are Initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the Charity becomes entitled to the resources,
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Where Incoming Resources have related Resources Expended (as with fundraising or contract income) they are reported gross in the SOFA.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming Resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA in the same financial period as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts In Kind

Gifts In Kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Charity or the amount realised. Gifts in Kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the Charity. Gifts in Kind for use by the Charity are included in the SOFA as Incoming Resources when receivable.

07 Notes to the Financial Statements



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

Donated Services and Facilities

These are only included in Incoming Resources (with an equivalent amount in Resources Expended) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the Charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

These include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the Charity receives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA as Incoming Resources once the Charity has provided the specified service or output.

Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, e.g., allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital employed, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included as the trustees' best estimate of market value.

Pensions

Pension contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

Unrestricted Funds

These funds can be used for the general objectives of the Charity as set out in the trustees' report. The movements in Unrestricted Funds are given in the Statement of Financial Activities.

07 Notes to the Financial Statements



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

Restricted Funds

These funds are where the donor has specified a purpose for the donation made. Grants are raised for specific purposes within the objectives of the Charity.

Designated Funds

These funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of Unrestricted Funds for specific purposes or projects.

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the Charity on receipt.

Depreciation Expense

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on an appropriate basis over their estimated useful lives. The rates and basis applied per annum are as follows:

Equipment: 20% on a Straight-Line Basis

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The Charity held no Tangible Fixed Assets during this or the previous financial period. The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

Year to 31st March 2024: None

Year to 31st March 2025: None

3. INVESTMENTS

The Charity had no Investments during this or the previous financial period.

07 Notes to the Financial Statements



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

4. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/2025	Total 2023/2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations, Legacies and Similar Income				
Donations and Gifts	6,541	-	6,541	9,135
Legacies and Bequests	-	-	-	13,000
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	1,661	-	1,661	-
	8,202	-	8,202	22,135
Activities for Generating Funds				
Services Provided	12,792	-	12,792	11,663
Clubs	18,763	-	18,763	16,004
Rental Income	120	-	120	1,018
Miscellaneous Income	1,409	-	1,409	1,775
	33,083	-	33,083	30,460
Investment Income				
Interest Received	92	-	92	76
	92	-	92	76
Charitable Activities				
Grants	6,879	41,580	48,459	65,189
	6,879	41,580	48,459	65,189
Total Incoming Resources	48,257	41,580	89,837	117,859

07 Notes to the Financial Statements



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024/2025 £	Total 2023/2024 £
Charitable Activities				
Bank Charges	60	-	60	60
Bad Debts	350	-	350	244
Computer Costs	362	-	362	739
Employer's Pension Costs	394	-	394	146
Equipment Costs	115	692	807	161
Hardship Fund	325	-	325	-
Insurance Costs	944	-	944	860
Postage and Stationery	144	16	160	274
Premises Costs	5,671	12,251	17,922	16,536
Salaries and Wages	38,321	35,587	73,907	70,413
Staff Clothing	157	33	190	216
Subscriptions	868	130	998	787
Telephone Costs	1,049	30	1,079	936
Training Costs	154	-	154	50
Travel and Subsistence	542	530	1,072	1,564
Welfare and Refreshments	268	75	343	589
	49,724	49,343	99,068	93,573
Governance Costs				
Legal & Professional Fees	327	43	370	128
Independent Examiners Fee	888	-	888	641
	1,215	43	1,258	769
Total Resources Expended	50,939	49,386	100,325	94,342

07 Notes to the Financial Statements



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 31-Mar-24	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance 31-Mar-25
	£	£	£	£	£
Abri Housing*	96	400	496	-	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	394	840	393	-	840
Berkshire Masonic Charity	-	13	13	-	-
Children in Need	-	421	421	-	-
Comic Relief	-	3,198	3,198	-	-
Co-op	5,177	4,702	6,823	-	3,056
Edward Gostling Foundation	4,671	4,458	3,431	-	5,698
ExxonMobil	375	-	375	-	-
Heathrow Community Trust	-	11,163	6,585	-	4,579
Julia Tredgett	-	200	200	-	-
LocalGiving Foundation*	246	92	338	-	-
Louis Baylis Charitable Trust	1,339	2,275	3,614	-	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation	-	4,158	253	-	3,905
Michael Shanly Foundation	-	2,632	2,632	-	-
National Lottery	19,758	-	12,511	-	7,247
One Slough	1,044	-	1,044	-	-
Prince Philip Trust	97	826	923	-	-
Rectory Foundation	-	1,022	1,022	-	-
Spoore Merry & Rixman Foundation	-	2,048	2,048	-	-
Summer Camp 2019	536	366	902	-	-
Tesco	821	1,725	1,122	-	1,424
The 3H Foundation	-	1,042	1,042	-	-
	34,555	41,580	49,386	-	26,749

* In the Annual Report dated 31st March 2024, the Abri Housing and LocalGiving Foundation year-end balances were combined at £342 and called "Windsor PSG".

The Restricted Funds held are wholly represented by the cash reserves of the Charity.

07 Notes to the Financial Statements



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

7. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-25 £	Total 31-Mar-24 £
Cash at Bank and In Hand	7,404	28,011	35,416	48,087
	7,404	28,011	35,416	48,087

8. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-25 £	Total 31-Mar-24 £
Sundry Debtors	1,480	-	1,480	6,503
Prepayments	803	-	803	1,810
Total Debtors and Prepayments	2,283	-	2,283	8,313

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-25 £	Total 31-Mar-24 £
Accrued Expenses	-	1,262	1,262	1,257
Deferred Income	-	-	-	7,404
Independent Examiners Fee	780	-	780	636
PAYE and NI	673	-	673	188
Pension Contributions	75	-	75	69
Sundry Creditors	14	-	14	1,461
	1,541	1,262	2,804	11,015

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR

The Charity had no long-term liabilities during this financial period.

07 Notes to the Financial Statements



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

11. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2024/2025	2023/2024
	£	£
Gross Wages and Salaries	73,907	70,413
Employer's National Insurance Costs	-	-
Pension Contributions	394	146
	74,301	70,558

	2024/2025	2023/2024
Activities to Further Charity's Objectives	1.90	1.88
Fundraising Activities	0.18	0.17
	2.07	2.05

No employees received emoluments in excess £60,000 (2023/24: None). All employed members of staff are paid through the PAYE system.

12. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

The only payments made to Trustees, or any persons connected with them, during this financial period relate to reimbursements for items purchased on behalf of the Charity in furthering the Charity's objects. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a Trustee, or any person connected with them.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the Charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

07 Notes to the Financial Statements



For the Year Ended 31st March 2025

14. RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain appropriate to the Charity's needs. This is based on the Charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The Trustees aim to ensure the Charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The Trustees will endeavor not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'alms' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the Charity has achieved this are provided in the Trustees' report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

THE AUTISM GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1166787

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

THE AUTISM GROUP

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1166787

Independent Examiners Ltd
2 Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
West Sussex P018 8NF

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1166787
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1 st April 2023
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31 st March 2024
TRUSTEES AS OF 31st MARCH 2024	Esther Morley Bridget McLeod Gary Admans Rachel Lucas (appointed 16 th June 2023)
LEGAL STATUS	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
REGISTERED ADDRESS	5 High Street Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 1JN
DATE OF REGISTRATION	27 th April 2016
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	CIO - Foundation Registered 27 th April 2016
PRIMARY BANKERS	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing ME19 4JQ
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Independent Examiners Ltd 2 Broadbridge Business Centre Delling Lane Bosham West Sussex P018 8NF

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of The Autism Group on the accounts for the year ended 31st of March 2024 set out on pages 9 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is need.

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.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

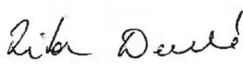
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the 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 report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have 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.

Zita Derbak
Independent Examiners Ltd
Unit 2 The Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
PO18 8NF

Sign: 

Date: 09.12.2024

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Objectives and Activities

The purposes of the charity, as set out in its governing document, are to relieve the needs of people with autism and their parents and carers by:

- (1) Offering a variety of training to parents/carers, family supporters and the community to enhance the understanding of autism in the Thames Valley.
- (2) Offering social opportunities and life skill activities primarily aimed at children (11+) and adults on the autism spectrum (up to the age of 25).
- (3) Building confidence and skills within families to support individuals on the autism spectrum to lead fulfilled lives.

Public Benefit

In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Services we have offered in the year:

- (1) Free parent training workshops were delivered.
- (2) 5 themed Clubs for different age groups of autistic children and young people
- (3) Face to face Parent Support Groups, Tea with TAG, in each of the three Local Authority areas; RBWM, Slough and Bracknell.

The TAG@Home service which provided 1 to 1 support and information to parents continued throughout the year.

All services were advertised via social media, websites, local statutory services, schools and other local community organisations.

The Autism Group engaged a number of volunteers during the year who are greatly valued; the volunteers contribute so much to the running of our clubs and the charity as a whole.

Achievements and Performance

- (1) 188 parents/carers attended workshops this year. These were on a variety of subjects and were commissioned by GEMS (the East Berkshire Autism and ADHD Service funded by the Frimley Integrated Care Board).

Of those participants who completed post-session evaluation, 99% would recommend The Autism Group workshops to others, 98% found them useful and 99% found them enjoyable.

Some of the attendees' feedback:

"I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support and help. Overall, it was a very effective and informative workshop related to anxiety and useful techniques to manage anxiety in a young person. As a parent, now I am more confident in supporting my child with anxiety and autistic characteristics. Once again, I am grateful for your support and work regarding understanding autism."

"Great session, presenter very knowledgeable. Lots of resources to go away and look up. Thank you."

"Many thanks. Lots to process. Excellent presenters. Good to have a candid space to chat to other parents with a moderator."

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

- (2) Over the year, Parent Support Workers carried out 70 home visits or 1-to-1 sessions. Parents are offered the first session in their own home and the second session was a telephone call or zoom session depending on parental preference. Feedback from parents was very positive and 100% would recommend The Autism Group home visit service to others, 100% found it useful and 100% found it enjoyable. This activity is funded by GEMS.

Additionally, this year we offered 1-to-1 Support Sessions for families whose need did not meet the criteria for a Home Visit but still needed greater depth than a limited helpline call. These sessions were attended by 19 parents, 100% of whom said the session was useful and enjoyable and that they would recommend the service.

Recipients of home visits and 1-to-1 support said:

"Thank you, your insights on utilizing pictures effectively and offering fewer options, meet the school team for needs... were invaluable. I appreciate you sharing those tips & information, and I'm looking forward to implementing them."

"Very good service, very informative and I never felt like any question was silly or unnecessary, thank you very much."

"Thank you for the support. I have been feeling isolated so to share how to help *** really helps."

- (3) Tea with TAG; parent support groups were held face-to-face in Bracknell, Maidenhead and Slough during term time. Over 100 parents across East Berkshire were provided with an opportunity to share the highs and lows of supporting autistic loved ones with empathetic autism professionals who understand. Feedback:

"I love the group. The team are fantastic! The advice, support and camaraderie is just what I need."

"Tea with TAG, has helped me in a big way it has given me someone to talk to and open up to helped me realised I am not alone, the advice and support I have received has made a massive impact on my family."

"This group has been invaluable, it gives us a time out once a month, just to get out the house and feel less alone, and lets you know that other people are on the same or similar journey."

- (4) In February 2024, we opened our offices to children and young people who are home educated, to meet up and enjoy activities together, whilst their parents can discuss their experiences of home educating, share resources and ideas. A total of 11 young people attended. Feedback:

"He is loving these groups and now thinks of M, J, P and D as friends, it's so nice to see the positive impact it has had on him."

"We have tried many, many things and this is the only thing he feels safe to be himself at and he really likes D and P and gaming with other children. As a parent it's a relief to finally have somewhere he can look forward to going too and want to get dressed for."

"It is also really nice to know us parents have a space to talk too and ... are all so friendly and welcoming."

- (5) Over the period from April 2023 to March 2024, 140 autistic young people attended more than one session during the year with us. 80% attended regularly.

Our five Clubs are:

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

- GAP (Gaming, Art and Pokemon for ages 9-13)
- Fusion (mixed activities for ages 14-25)
- Art (for ages 14-25)
- Console Gaming (for ages 14-25)
- Role Playing Games (a virtual club for ages 18-30)

As in previous years, most of our clubs have a waiting list. We have looked at ways to increase our capacity whilst maintaining a low arousal environment.

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of Maidenhead Library, young people from The Autism Group Art Clubs exhibited their work on the theme of books in the library. Art Club work has also been on display in Norden Farm Arts space, who have also facilitated several sessions with The Autism Group participants.

Some of the things young people said about our Clubs this year:

"It was the most comfortable I have been in a long-time meeting people I did not know."

"I played DD with R. I really liked it and want to play more."

"I enjoyed everything. 10/10."

And their parents said:

"Gives my son a chance to be himself. He doesn't have to fit in, the club fits around him."

"She is so used to people not knowing anything about her special interest or not showing interest, it really was very special to be able to discuss it with someone. I am so grateful it really was lovely to see her so happy."

"The club has given him the confidence to attend a social group without us. He doesn't normally stick to a club for very long but enjoys his time at GAP club and is always looking forward to the next session. All the volunteers are welcoming and friendly and have put him at ease so that he can't wait to get through the door. I have been given some wonderful feedback of him playing and interacting with other children whilst playing video games and it's fantastic to hear that he is socialising with likeminded children as he can be very quiet and unsure about how to interact with others."

(6) Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust ran a series of Nature sessions for Club attendees, their siblings and parents, supported by The Autism Group staff.

Financial Review

Total Incoming Resources for the year were £117,859 (2022/2023: £101,568), a 16% increase compared to the previous year. During 2023/2024, 55% of Incoming Resources were restricted (2022/2023: 78%) as unrestricted donations and legacies increased significantly during the year. Unrestricted reserves as of 31st March 2024 were £10,829 (2023: £10,428) with restricted reserves of £34,555 (2023: £11,439) and totals reserves were £45,384 (2023: £21,867).

The Trustees have reviewed the reserve policy (see Note 14) and believe that available reserves are sufficient to support the organisation for at least six months and to ensure we will be able to continue to fulfil our charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Grants Received

The Autism Group thanks the following for their support during the year:

Abri Community Fund
Art Society Maidenhead Community Grant
Berkshire Community Foundation
BNI Foundation
Blakemore Foundation
Bracknell Lions
Children in Need
Comic Relief
Coop Community Fund
EB Innovation Fund
Edward Gostling Foundation
ExxonMobil
Frimley Health and Care ICS
Foyle Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation
Gordon Palmer Memorial Trust
Heathrow Community Trust
Local Giving
Louis Baylis Trust
Michael Shanly Foundation
National Lottery Community Fund
One Slough
Prince Philip Trust Fund
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust (Ann Rylands)
Tesco Community Grant

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the surplus of the CIO for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 7th December 2024

Signed on their behalf by:



Printed name: Esther Morley (Chairperson)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023/2024 £	Total 2022/2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Donations, Legacies and Similar Income	4	22,135	-	22,135	3,706
Activities for Generating Funds	4	30,460	-	30,460	17,381
Investment Income	4	76	-	76	69
Charitable Activities	4	-	65,189	65,189	80,412
Total Incoming Resources		52,671	65,189	117,859	101,568
Resources Expended					
Charitable Activities	5	51,512	42,061	93,573	97,695
Governance Costs	5	757	12	769	1,167
Total Resources Expended		52,269	42,073	94,342	98,862
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		401	23,116	23,517	2,706
Total Funds Brought Forward		10,428	11,439	21,867	19,161
Transfer of Funds		-	-	-	-
Total Funds Carried Forward		10,829	34,555	45,384	21,867

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2	-	-	-	-
Investments	3	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and In Hand	7	5,403	42,684	48,087	31,008
Debtors and Prepayments	8	7,780	533	8,313	5,919
Total Current Assets		13,183	43,216	56,400	36,927
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	2,354	8,661	11,015	15,060
Net Current Assets		10,829	34,555	45,384	21,867
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		10,829	34,555	45,384	21,867
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	10	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		10,829	34,555	45,384	21,867
Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted Funds		10,829	-	10,829	10,428
Restricted Fund	6	-	34,555	34,555	11,439
Total Funds		10,829	34,555	45,384	21,867

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 7th December 2024 and were signed on their behalf by:

Signed:



Esther Morley, Chairperson

Date: 7th December 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP - FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Autism Group (the "Charity") meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are Initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the Charity becomes entitled to the resources,
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Where Incoming Resources have related Resources Expended (as with fundraising or contract income) they are reported gross in the SOFA.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming Resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA in the same financial period as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts In Kind

Gifts In Kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Charity or the amount realised. Gifts In Kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the Charity. Gifts In Kind for use by the Charity are included in the SOFA as Incoming Resources when receivable.

Donated services and facilities

These are only included in Incoming Resources (with an equivalent amount in Resources Expended) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the Charity of the service or facility

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

received.

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

These include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and the cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the Charity receives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA as Incoming Resources once the Charity has provided the specified service or output.

Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, e.g., allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital employed, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included as the trustees' best estimate of market value.

Pensions

Pension contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

Unrestricted Funds

These funds can be used for the general objectives of the Charity as set out in the trustees' report. The movements in Unrestricted Funds are given in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Restricted Funds

These funds are where the donor has specified a purpose for the donation made. Grants are raised for specific purposes within the objectives of the Charity.

Designated Funds

These funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of Unrestricted Funds for specific purposes or projects.

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,500.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the Charity on receipt.

Depreciation Expense

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on an appropriate basis over their estimated useful lives. The rates and basis applied per annum are as follows:

Equipment: 20% on a Straight-Line Basis

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The Charity held no Tangible Fixed Assets during this or the previous financial period. The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

Year to 31st March 2023: None

Year to 31st March 2024: None

3. INVESTMENTS

The Charity had no Investments during this or the previous financial period.

4. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023/2024 £	Total 2022/2023 £
Donations, Legacies and Similar Income				
Donations and Gifts	9,135	-	9,135	3,706
Legacies and Bequests	13,000	-	13,000	-
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	-	-	-	-
	22,135	-	22,135	3,706
Activities for Generating Funds				
Services Provided	11,663	-	11,663	-
Clubs	16,004	-	16,004	15,225
Rental Income	1,018	-	1,018	904
Sale of Equipment	1,775	-	1,775	1,252
	30,460	-	30,460	17,381
Investment Income				
Interest Received	76	-	76	69
	76	-	76	69
Charitable Activities				
Grants	-	65,189	65,189	80,412
Training Income	-	-	-	-
	-	65,189	65,189	80,412
Total Incoming Resources	52,671	65,189	117,859	101,568

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023/2024 £	Total 2022/2023 £
Charitable Activities				
Bank Charges	60	-	60	72
Bad Debts	244	-	244	-
Computer Costs	739	-	739	507
Employer's Pension Costs	146	-	146	121
Equipment Costs	-	161	161	537
Insurance Costs	860	-	860	855
Postage and Stationery	262	12	274	144
Premises Costs	14,352	2,184	16,536	16,559
Salaries and Wages	32,852	37,561	70,413	75,441
Staff Clothing	147	69	216	165
Subscriptions	621	166	787	152
Telephone Costs	275	660	936	895
Training Costs	-	50	50	266
Travel and Subsistence	664	900	1,564	1,530
Welfare and Refreshments	292	298	589	451
	51,512	42,061	93,573	97,695
Governance Costs				
Legal & Professional fees	116	12	128	507
Independent Examiners Fee	641	-	641	660
	757	12	769	1,167
Total Resources Expended	52,269	42,073	94,342	98,862

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 31-Mar-23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance 31-Mar-24 £
Ann Rylands	-	2,000	2,000	-	-
Arnold Clark	-	25	25	-	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	452	4,989	5,047	-	394
Berkshire Masonic Charity	-	62	62	-	-
BNI Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Bracknell Lions	-	300	300	-	-
Bracknell Town Council	100	-	100	-	-
Children in Need	-	9,817	9,817	-	-
Comic Relief	1,053	1,268	2,321	-	-
Co-op	-	8,037	2,859	-	5,177
Edward Gostling Foundation	313	5,000	642	-	4,671
ExxonMobil	-	375	-	-	375
Foyle Foundation	774	-	774	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	2,214	-	2,214	-	-
Gordon Palmer	-	750	750	-	-
Heathrow Community Trust	-	180	180	-	-
Innovation Fund	630	-	630	-	-
Louis Baylis Charitable Trust	62	2,303	1,027	-	1,339
Michael Shanly Foundation	1,572	3,568	5,140	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	19,758	-	-	19,758
One Slough	1,411	1,065	1,432	-	1,044
Prince Philip Trust	-	645	548	-	97
Solutions4Health	2,857	-	2,857	-	-
Summer Camp 2019	-	536	-	-	536
Tesco / Groundworks	-	2,160	1,339	-	821
The Arts Society Maidenhead	-	300	300	-	-
The Blakemore Foundation	-	100	100	-	-
Windsor PSG	-	950	608	-	342
	11,439	65,189	42,073	-	34,555

The Restricted Funds held are wholly represented by the cash reserves of the Charity.

7. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Cash at Bank and In Hand	5,403	42,684	48,087	31,008
	5,403	42,684	48,087	31,008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

8. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Sundry Debtors	5,970	533	6,503	3,661
Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	-	-	-	-
Prepayments	1,810	-	1,810	2,259
Total Debtors and Prepayments	7,780	533	8,313	5,919

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-24 £	Total 31-Mar-23 £
Accrued Expenses	-	1,257	1,257	2,766
Deferred Income	-	7,404	7,404	10,139
Independent Examiners Fee	636	-	636	660
PAYE and NI	188	-	188	182
Pension Contributions	69	-	69	24
Sundry Creditors	1,461	-	1,461	1,290
	2,354	8,661	11,015	15,060

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR

The Charity had no long-term liabilities during this financial period.

11. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2023/2024 £	2022/2023 £
Gross Wages and Salaries	70,413	75,441
Employer's National Insurance Costs	-	-
Pension Contributions	146	121
	70,558	75,561

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Activities to Further Charity's Objectives	1.88	2.15
Fundraising Activities	0.17	0.17
	2.05	2.32

No employees received emoluments in excess £60,000 (2022/23: None). All employed members of staff are paid through the PAYE system.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

12. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

The only payments made to Trustees, or any persons connected with them, during this financial period relate to reimbursements for items purchased on behalf of the Charity in furthering the Charity's objects. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a Trustee, or any person connected with them.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the Charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain appropriate to the Charity's needs. This is based on the Charity's size and the level of financial commitments held. The Trustees aim to ensure the Charity will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The Trustees will endeavor not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Charity acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'alms' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the Charity has achieved this are provided in the Trustees' report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

THE AUTISM GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1166787

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023**

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1166787

Independent Examiners Ltd
2 Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
West Sussex P018 8NF

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1166787
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1 st April 2022
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31 st March 2023
TRUSTEES AS AT 31st MARCH 2023	Esther Morley Bridget McLeod Stephen Bastiman-Davies Gary Admans (appointed 19 th September 2022)
LEGAL STATUS	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
REGISTERED ADDRESS	5 High Street Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 1JN
DATE OF REGISTRATION	27 th April 2016
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	CIO - Foundation Registered 27 th April 2016
PRIMARY BANKERS	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing ME19 4JQ
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Independent Examiners Ltd 2 Broadbrldge Business Centre Delling Lane Bosham West Sussex P018 8NF

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of The Autism Group on the accounts for the year ended 31st of March 2023 set out on pages 9 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is need.

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.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

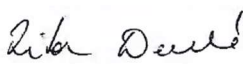
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the 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 report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have 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.

Zita Derbak
Independent Examiners Ltd
Unit 2 The Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
PO18 8NF

Sign: 

Date: 21/11/2023

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Objectives and Activities

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are:

To relieve the needs of people with autism and their parents and carers by:

- (1) Offering a variety of training to parents/carers, family supporters and the community to enhance the understanding of autism in the Thames Valley.
- (2) Offering social opportunities and life skill activities primarily aimed at children (11+) and adults on the autism spectrum (up to the age of 25).
- (3) Building confidence and skills within families to support individuals on the autism spectrum to lead fulfilled lives.

Public Benefit

In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Services we have offered in the year:

- (1) Free parent training workshops were delivered, some face-to-face in varied locations and some via Zoom, at different times of the day to ensure they were accessible to as many people as possible.

Training sessions were delivered to professionals supporting individuals on the autism spectrum.
- (2) 5 themed Clubs for different age groups of children and young people on the autism spectrum. Individuals were supported by autism trained staff and volunteers. The young people developed confidence and friendships within a safe and understanding environment.
- (3) Face to face Parent Support Groups, Tea with TAG, in each of the three Local Authority areas; RBWM, Slough and Bracknell.

The TAG@Home service which provided 1 to 1 support and information to parents continued throughout the year.

In 2022 we launched a Pilot scheme, TAG Tots, to support families with pre-school aged children. Learning from the pilot enabled us to follow it up with Stay & Play with TAG, open access groups where parents and pre-school children with a diagnosis of autism or who are siblings, can play together with other families.

All services were advertised via social media, websites, local statutory services, schools and other local community organisations.

The Autism Group engaged several volunteers who are greatly valued; the volunteers contribute so much to the running of our clubs, Tea with TAG, and the charity as a whole.

Achievements and Performance

- (1) 148 parent/carers attended workshops during 2022-23. These were on a variety of subjects and were commissioned by GEMS (the East Berkshire Autism and ADHD Service funded by the Frimley Integrated Care Board). Although Covid was no longer impacting face to face contact, the commissioners wanted to retain some virtual workshops to offer choice to parents who preferred an

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

online offer.

Of those participants who completed post-session evaluation, 100% would recommend The Autism Group workshops to others, 99% found them useful and 100 % found them enjoyable.

Some of the attendees' feedback:

"It's wonderful to share experiences – it felt like a safe, non-judgmental space."

"Excellent session. Thank you so much. Such great information, help and support given in a warm and accessible way."

(2) Over the year, Parent Support Workers carried out 268 home visits or 1-1 sessions to 146 families. Parents are offered the first session in their own home and the second session was a telephone call or zoom session depending on parental preference. The feedback was very positive and 100% would recommend The Autism Group home visit service to others, 100% found it useful and 100 % found it enjoyable. This is also funded by GEMS.

Recipients of home visits said:

"Thank you so much for your time this morning. Put quite simply, you are amazing. Your input is keeping us afloat when we often think we are about to sink. I just wanted you to know how much my husband and I appreciate you, your knowledge, empathy and time."

"Before the home visit, we felt so lost and found ourselves going down rabbit holes on the internet making us even more anxious and worried for our boy. The support worker listened to us and was able to give some fantastic practical advice along with pointing us in the direction of some amazing books and resources. We are so happy with the support that we received and would highly recommend the team at the Autism Group to anyone in need of support."

(3) "Tea with TAG" parent support groups were held face-to-face in Bracknell, Maidenhead and Slough during term time. A total of 225 parents across East Berkshire were provided with an opportunity to share the highs and lows of supporting autistic loved ones with empathetic autism professionals who understand.

(4) "TAG Tots" was a pilot project for The Autism Group which started in January 2022 and continued during the year with different cohorts of parents. Working with RBWM Early Years SEND Team, the 5 session programmes were for groups of 6 invited parents whose autistic child was due to start school in the next academic year. Alongside the parent support and information sessions, TAG staff ran a creche where parents could see their children being supported by autism trained workers using tried and tested strategies which they could then use themselves in the home environment. An example of feedback received from TAG Tots parents.

"Thank you so much for running the sessions. They were fantastic. We will really miss coming to them. They have been so helpful and informative."

(5) TAG received some separate grant funding to run pilot TAG Tots sessions in the other East Berks areas but after discussion with the funders, it was decided instead to expand a new "Stay and Play with TAG" service which had been trialed in RBWM from Sept 2022. Our Tea with TAG parent support sessions are child free so that parents can share concerns in a safe and confidential space but we recognised that some parents with pre-school children were also looking for somewhere that they could get support and bring their children along - hence Stay and Play with TAG was born.

The last part of the financial year was spent researching and identifying venues and ensuring there

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

were enough staff to run the sessions. At the time of writing, these are now all up and running successfully.

(6) Over the period from April 2022 to March 2023, 134 young people with a diagnosis of autism attended more than one session during the year with us. 78% attended regularly.

Our five Clubs are:

- GAP (Gaming, Art and Pokemon for ages 9-13)
- Fusion (mixed activities for ages 14-25)
- Art (for ages 14-25)
- Console Gaming (for ages 14-25)
- Role Playing Games (a virtual club for ages 18-30)

As in previous years, most of our clubs have a waiting list. We have looked at ways to increase our capacity whilst maintaining a low arousal environment.

Our Art club were invited to show their work at an art exhibition hosted at Norden Farm.

Some of the things young people said about Clubs this year:

"I did not have any friends before this group, and it has directly allowed me to experience this for the first time in a long time. The activity itself is very interesting and engaging and allows for creativity, intense thinking and most of all a lot of fun."

"I had fun playing a game Luke made up and it was amazing. I enjoyed it so much I don't want to go home."

And their parents said:

"R loves GAP group and it's one of the few things he truly looks forward to!"

"Although she didn't attend for long, it did really help R - it was the first thing she felt able to do since she left school in year 5, and we were proud of her for wanting to give it a go. She has since joined the Army cadets and is now looking to go back to a school rather than study online, and GAP club really was the start of her realising that not everywhere was scary and she would have better experiences and there were people out there who understood her needs, so thank you so much for your support."

Financial Review

Total Incoming Resources for the year was £101,568 (2021/2022: £74,986), a 35% increase compared to the previous year as grants received increased and we achieved higher levels of fundraising. Most of the Incoming Resources remains restricted with 78% of 2022/2023 income being restricted (2021/2022: 82%) which meant that we were unable to fully cover our unrestricted fixed core costs and so we further reduced unrestricted reserves by £6,034 (2021/2022: £5,827) to £10,428. With restricted reserves of £11,439 (2021/2022: £2,699), totals reserves are £21,867 (2021/2022: £19,161).

The Board has reviewed its reserve policy (see Note 14) and believes that available reserves are sufficient to support the organisation for at least six months and to ensure we will be able to continue to fulfil our charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Grants Received

The Autism Group thanks the following for their grant support in 2022-23:

Abri Homes
Children in Need
Comic Relief
Co-op Community Fund
The Foyle Foundation (£7,500)
Garfield Weston Foundation
Gordon Palmer Memorial
Heathrow Community Trust
Lions Club Bracknell
Lions Club Maidenhead
Louis Baylis Trust
Michael Shanly Foundation
Tesco Community Grant

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the surplus of the CIO for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 20th November 2023

Signed on their behalf by:



Printed name: Esther Morley (Chairperson)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022/2023 £	Total 2021/2022 £
Incoming Resources					
Donations, Legacies and Similar Income	4	3,706	-	3,706	1,760
Activities for Generating Funds	4	18,123	(742)	17,381	10,823
Investment Income	4	69	-	69	-
Charitable Activities	4	1,000	79,412	80,412	62,403
Total Incoming Resources		22,898	78,671	101,568	74,986
Resources Expended					
Charitable Activities	5	27,765	69,930	97,695	89,032
Governance Costs	5	1,167	-	1,167	1,178
Total Resources Expended		28,932	69,930	98,862	90,210
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		(6,034)	8,741	2,706	(15,224)
Total Funds Brought Forward		16,462	2,699	19,161	34,385
Transfer of Funds		-	-	-	-
Total Funds Carried Forward		10,428	11,439	21,867	19,161

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above.

All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

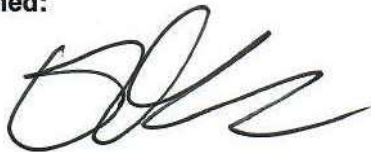
The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 31ST MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-23 £	Total 31-Mar-22 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2	-	-	-	-
Investments	3	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Debtors and Prepayments	8	2,115	3,804	5,919	11,210
Cash at Bank and In Hand	7	10,263	20,745	31,008	40,613
Total Current Assets		12,378	24,549	36,927	51,823
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	1,950	13,110	15,060	32,662
Net Current Assets		10,428	11,439	21,867	19,161
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		10,428	11,439	21,867	19,161
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	10	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		10,428	11,439	21,867	19,161
Funds of the Charity					
Unrestricted Funds		10,428	-	10,428	16,463
Restricted Fund	6	-	11,439	11,439	2,698
Total Funds		10,428	11,439	21,867	19,161

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 20th November 2023 and were signed on their behalf by:

Signed:



Esther Morley, Chairperson

Date: 20th November 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP - FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources

Recognition or incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources,
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA in the same financial period as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts In Kind

Gifts In Kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount realised. Gifts In Kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts In Kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated services and facilities

These are only included in Incoming Resources (with an equivalent amount in Resources Expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

received.

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees' meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, e.g., allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital employed, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included as the trustees' best estimate of market value.

Pensions

Pension contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

Unrestricted Funds

These funds can be used for the general objectives of the charity as set out in the trustees' report. The movements in Unrestricted Funds are given in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Restricted Funds

These funds are where the donor has specified a purpose for the donation made. Grants are raised for specific purposes within the objects of the charity.

Designated Funds

These funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of Unrestricted Funds for specific purposes or projects.

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Depreciation Expense

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on an appropriate basis over their estimated useful lives. The rates and basis applied per annum are as follows:

Equipment: 20 % on a Straight-Line Basis

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The Charity held no Tangible Fixed Assets during this or the previous financial period.

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

Year to 31st March 2022: None

Year to 31st March 2023: None

3. INVESTMENTS

The Charity had no Investments during this or the previous financial period.

4. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022/2023 £	Total 2021/2022 £
Donations, Legacies and Similar Income				
Donations and Gifts	3,706	-	3,706	1,652
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	-	-	-	108
	3,706	-	3,706	1,760
Activities for Generating Funds				
Fundraising Income	-	-	-	-
Clubs	15,967	(742)	15,225	10,823
Rental Income	904	-	904	-
Sale of Equipment	1,252	-	1,252	-
	18,123	(742)	17,381	10,823
Investment Income				
Interest Received	69	-	69	-
	69	-	69	-
Charitable Activities				
Grants	1,000	79,412	80,412	62,143
Training Income	-	-	-	260
	1,000	79,412	80,412	62,403
Total Incoming Resources	22,898	78,671	101,568	74,986

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023/2022 £	Total 2021/2022 £
Charitable Activities				
Bank Charges	72	0	72	96
Computer and Website Costs	504	3	507	4,458
Employers Pension Costs	121	0	121	138
Equipment Costs	43	494	537	734
Insurance Costs	459	396	855	1,162
Premises Costs	13,563	2,996	16,559	13,698
Printing, Postage and Stationery	107	37	144	180
Repairs and Maintenance	0	0	0	169
Salaries and Wages	11,805	63,635	75,441	65,109
Staff Clothing	106	59	165	301
Subscriptions	21	132	152	592
Telephone Costs	473	422	895	1,038
Training Costs	266	0	266	418
Travel and Subsistence	85	1,444	1,530	637
Welfare and Refreshments	140	311	451	302
	27,765	69,930	97,695	89,032
Governance Costs				
Legal & Professional fees	507	-	507	518
Independent Examiners Fee	660	-	660	660
	1,167	-	1,167	1,178
Total Resources Expended	28,932	69,930	98,862	90,210

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 31-Mar-22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Balance 31-Mar-23 £
Arnold Clark	-	294	294	-	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	598	2,420	2,567	-	451
Berkshire Masonic Charity	-	107	107	-	-
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	517	517	-	-
Bracknell Town Council	-	1,500	1,400	-	100
Children in Need	-	9,017	9,017	-	-
Co-Op Community Fund	-	2,588	2,588	-	-
Comic Relief	-	1,489	436	-	1,053
Edward Gostling RPG	-	5,000	4,687	-	313
Foyle Foundation	-	7,500	6,726	-	774
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	5,000	2,786	-	2,214
Heathrow Community Trust	-	3,426	3,426	-	-
Innovation Fund	350	2,277	1,997	-	629
Lewis Communications Ltd	-	833	833	-	-
Lions Club Maidenhead	-	250	250	-	-
Louis Baylis Trust	-	927	865	-	62
Michael Shanly Foundation	-	1,800	228	-	1,572
One Slough	1,750	993	1,332	-	1,411
Prince Philip Trust	-	2,250	2,250	-	-
Pixel Fund	-	2,673	2,673	-	-
Solutions 4 Health	-	27,564	24,707	-	2,857
Tesco Community Grant	-	245	245	-	-
	2,698	78,671	69,930	-	11,439

The restricted funds held are wholly represented by the cash reserves of the CIO.

7. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-23 £	Total 31-Mar-22 £
Cash at Bank and In Hand	10,263	20,745	31,008	40,613
	10,263	20,745	31,008	40,613

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

8. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-23 £	Total 31-Mar-22 £
Sundry Debtors	-	3,661	3,661	9,205
Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	-	-	-	8
Prepayments	2,115	144	2,259	1,997
Total Debtors and Prepayments	2,115	3,804	5,919	11,210

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31-Mar-23 £	Total 31-Mar-22 £
Accrued Expenses	-	2,766	2,766	387
Deferred Income	-	10,139	10,139	27,885
Independent Examiners Fee	660	-	660	660
PAYE and NI	-	182	182	327
Pension Contributions	-	24	24	29
Sundry Creditors	1,290	-	1,290	3,374
	1,950	13,110	15,060	32,662

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR

The CIO had no long-term liabilities during this financial period.

11. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2022/2023 £	2021/2022 £
Gross Wages and Salaries	75,441	65,109
Employer's National Insurance Costs	-	-
Pension Contributions	121	138
	75,561	65,247

	2022/2023	2021/2022
Activities to Further CIO's Objectives	2.15	2.34
Fundraising Activities	0.17	0.07
	2.32	2.41

No employees received emoluments in excess £60,000 (2021/22: None). All employed members of staff are paid through the PAYE system.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

12. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

The only payments made to Trustees, or any persons connected with them, during this financial period relate to reimbursements for items purchased on behalf of the Charity in furthering the Charity's objects. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a Trustee, or any person connected with them.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain appropriate to the CIO's needs. This is based on the CIO's size and the level of financial commitments held. The Trustees aim to ensure the CIO will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The Trustees will endeavor not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The CIO acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'alms' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the CIO has achieved this are provided in the Trustees' report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the CIO should undertake.

THE AUTISM GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1166787

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2022**

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1166787

Independent Examiners Ltd
2 Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
West Sussex
PO18 8NF

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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Page 4	Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees
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Page 8	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 9	Balance Sheet
Pages 10 to 15	Notes to the Financial Statements

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1166787
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2021
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2022
TRUSTEES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022	Gwen King Bridget McLeod Hanna Wrelton Ester Morley (appointed 25 May 2021) Stephen Bastiman-Davies (appointed 14 April 2021)
LEGAL STATUS	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
REGISTERED ADDRESS	5 High Street Maidenhead SL6 1JN
DATE OF REGISTRATION	27th April 2016
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	CIO - Foundation Registered 27th April 2016
PRIMARY BANKERS	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing ME19 4JQ
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Independent Examiners Ltd 2 Broadbridge Business Centre Delling Lane Bosham West Sussex PO18 8NF

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022 for The Autism Group CIO set out on pages 8 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have 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.

K Gomes MAAT
Independent Examiners Ltd
2 Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
West Sussex
PO18 8NF

Signed : 
Date: 6.7.22

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are:

To relieve the needs of people with autism and their parents and carers by:-

(1) Offering a variety of training to parents/carers, family supporters and the community to enhance the understanding of autism in the Thames Valley.

(2) Offering social opportunities and life skill activities primarily aimed at children (11+) and adults on the autism spectrum (up to the age of 25).

(3) Building confidence and skills within families to support individuals on the autism spectrum to lead fulfilled lives.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

At the beginning of the financial year, the Covid pandemic meant we were still delivering all of our services virtually. We continued to offer at least two Special Interest Clubs for young people every Saturday using Zoom and specialist gaming servers. Parent support services, comprising one-to-one tailored support and workshops, were delivered via Zoom.

From September 2021 we resumed offering services face-to-face.

(1) Free parent training workshops were delivered, some face-to-face in varied locations and some via Zoom, at different times of the day to ensure they were accessible to as many people as possible.

Training sessions are delivered to professionals and front-line staff supporting individuals on the autism spectrum.

(2) In 2021 an additional Special Interest Club was added meaning there were now 5 themed Clubs for different age groups of children and young people on the autism spectrum. Individuals were supported by autism trained staff and volunteers. The young people developed confidence and friendships within a safe and understanding environment.

(3) In September Parent Support Groups resumed face-to-face in each of the three Local Authority areas, RBWM, Slough and Bracknell.

The TAG@Home service which provided 1 to 1 support and information to parents continued throughout the year, virtually until August and face-to-face from September if parents so wished.

All services were advertised via social media, website, local statutory services, schools and other local community organisations.

The Autism Group engaged a number of volunteers who were greatly valued; the volunteers contribute so much to the running of our clubs and the charity as a whole.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

(1) 147 parent/carers attended workshops, the majority of which were delivered virtually during 2021-22. These were on a variety of subjects, all of which were reviewed and modified in response to feedback and the additional difficulties experienced as a result of the pandemic.

Of those participants who completed post-session evaluation, 100% would recommend The Autism Group workshops to others, 100% found them enjoyable and 100% found them useful.

Some of the attendees' feedback:

"Thank you to you both for all the advice and information you share, it is much appreciated!"

"Five star for today's TAG Talk. Thank you"

"Such a useful session, thank you."

(2) Virtual clubs continued from March to August. Providing clubs throughout the national lockdowns gave very isolated young people the opportunity to socialise in a fun environment, engaging in activities that they enjoyed with like-minded others in a safe way.

In August 2021 the first face-to-face clubs restarted and it was a delight to see so many of the young people so pleased to be back. Predictably not all the young people who had attended prior to March 2020 returned, anxiety had a continued and significant impact on a number of them. However, in a few short months all clubs were back to full capacity meaning that over 100 young autistic people were attending at least one Special Interest Club run by The Autism Group each month.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
TRUSTEES' REPORT (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE Continued

A new activity, Role Playing Games, was introduced while operating virtually which proved popular with a number of club members. This positive experience led to the creation of a brand new fortnightly RPG Club for young adults on the autism spectrum.

A measure of the charity's reputation was the size of the waiting lists – we had insufficient spaces for all those young people who wanted, and were eligible, to join. Waiting lists were in place for most clubs.

Some of the things young people said about Clubs this year:

"I really enjoyed GAP today. I played games and had tons of fun as well as colouring some amazing art"

"I have really enjoyed my experience as a participant of the RPG group. Through it I have been able to socialise in a judgement free environment, forming positive relationships including with a new very close friend. I did not have any friends before this RPG group..."

And their parents said:

"... he always comes out saying he loved it so thank you all for making him feel so welcome and relaxed"

"... he is really enjoying his time with you guys and we have seen an improvement with his attendance"

(3) Over the year, Parent Support Workers carried out 213 Home Visits, either in person or virtually. Feedback was very positive with 100% of those who completed the evaluation stating they would recommend the service and 100% said they found the support useful.

Recipients of Home Visits said:

"Great speaking to the support worker very helpful and understanding. Nice to know I have someone to talk to with lots of knowledge and ideas"

"The support worker was so knowledgeable and friendly and genuinely helped me to support my son better."

'Tea with TAG' parent support groups restarted face-to-face in Bracknell, Maidenhead and Slough having had to be put on hold due to lockdowns. There were 15 term time only group sessions in the 6 months since September 2021 providing nearly 100 parents with an opportunity to share the highs and lows of supporting loved ones with people who understand. Numbers were lower than pre-pandemic due to caps on attendees to ensure everyone felt safe returning to face-to-face groups.

Starting in January 2022, "TAG Tots" was a pilot project for The Autism Group. Working with RBWM Early Years SEND Team, TAG Tots sessions were for parents whose autistic child was due to start school in the next academic year. Alongside the informal parent support sessions, The Autism Group staff ran a creche where parents could see their children being supported by autism-trained workers using tried and tested strategies which they could then use themselves in the home environment.

Parent feedback about support they received:

"Super service, such a support to know you are not alone"

"Really useful session...It is also so good to be able to talk to others who have been there and understand how hard and how rewarding parenting a child with ASD can be."

In spite of the many challenges everyone faced during 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic, The Autism Group has successfully adapted services and continued offering services to the families of East Berkshire and beyond who have children with a diagnosis of autism.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

Grants Received

The Autism Group thanks the following for their grant support in 2021-22.

Children in Need
Berkshire Community Foundation
Hedley Foundation
CALA Homes Community Bursary
One Slough
RBWM
Windsor & Eton Rotary
Tesco Community Grant
The Berkshire Masonic Charity
UK Youth Fund
Frimley Heath CCG
Co-op Community Fund
The Prince Phillip Trust Fund
The Louis Baylis Trust
Boshler Hinton Foundation
Edward Gostling Foundation
Solutions4Health
Lewis Communications Limited
Greggs
Coronavirus Community Support
Michael Shanly Foundation
Albert Hunt Trust

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the surplus of the CIO for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 5/7/2022

Signed on their behalf: 

Printed Name: Esther Morley (chairperson)

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021/22 £	TOTAL 2020/21 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds					
Donations & Legacies	4a	1,760	-	1,760	2,401
Activities for Generating Funds	4b	11,198	(375)	10,823	8,460
Investment Income	4c	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	4d	260	62,143	62,403	65,982
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		13,218	61,768	74,986	76,843
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of Generating Funds					
Charitable Activities	5a	18,484	70,548	89,032	59,487
Governance Costs	5b	561	617	1,178	960
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		19,045	71,165	90,210	60,447
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(5,827)	(9,397)	(15,224)	16,396
Total Funds Brought Forward		22,290	12,095	34,385	17,989
Transfer of Funds		-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		16,463	2,698	19,161	34,385

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31-Mar-22 Total £	31-Mar-21 Total £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2	-	-	-	-
Investments	3	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments	8	1,993	9,217	11,210	594
Cash at Bank and in Hand	7	16,848	23,765	40,613	54,764
Total Current Assets		18,841	32,982	51,823	55,358
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	2,378	30,284	32,662	20,973
NET CURRENT ASSETS		16,463	2,698	19,161	34,385
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		16,463	2,698	19,161	34,385
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	10	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		16,463	2,698	19,161	34,385
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		16,463	-	16,463	22,290
Restricted Funds	6	-	2,698	2,698	12,095
Total Funds		16,463	2,698	19,161	34,385

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23rd May 2022 and were signed on it's behalf by:

Signed :



Printed Name: Esther Morley (chairperson)

Date : 5/7/22

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP - FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA in the same financial period as the gift to which they relate

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in Kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in Kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in Kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated Services and Facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital employed, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

Pensions

Pension contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

Unrestricted Funds

These funds can be used for the general objectives of the charity as set out in the trustees report. The movements of the unrestricted funds are given in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Restricted Funds

These funds are where the donor has specified a purpose for the donation made. Grants are raised for particular purposes within the objects of the charity.

Designated Funds

These funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects.

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation Expense

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on an appropriate basis over their estimated useful lives. The rates and basis applied per annum are as follows:

Equipment	20% - Straight Line Basis
-----------	---------------------------

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The Charity held no Tangible Fixed Assets during this or the previous financial period.

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st March 2022 : None
31st March 2021 : None

3. INVESTMENTS

The Charity held no Fixed Asset Investments during this or the previous financial period.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

4. INCOMING RESOURCES

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021/22 £	TOTAL 2020/21 £
a) Donations & Legacies				
Donations & Gifts	1,652	-	1,652	2,317
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	108	-	108	84
	1,760	-	1,760	2,401
b) Activities for Generating Funds				
Fundraising Income	-	-	-	40
Special Interest Groups	11,198	(375)	10,823	8,420
	11,198	(375)	10,823	8,460
c) Investment Income				
Interest Received	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
d) Charitable Activities				
Grants	-	62,143	62,143	65,882
Training Income	260	-	260	100
	260	62,143	62,403	65,982

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2021/22 £	TOTAL 2020/21 £
a) Charitable Activities					
Activities & Events		-	-	-	211
Bank Charges		96	-	96	69
Computer & Website Costs		1,304	3,154	4,458	1,577
Employers Pension Costs		138	-	138	107
Equipment Costs		13	721	734	1,205
Insurance Costs		785	377	1,162	425
Premises Costs		4,978	8,720	13,698	2,004
Printing, Postage & Stationery		87	93	180	133
Repairs & Maintenance		169	-	169	11
Salaries & Wages		9,407	55,702	65,109	51,937
Subcontracted Assistance		-	-	-	500
Subscriptions		13	579	592	144
Telephone Costs		640	398	1,038	435
Training Costs		153	265	418	259
Staff Clothing		125	176	301	-
Travel & Subsistence		319	318	637	130
Welfare & Refreshments		257	45	302	340
		18,484	70,548	89,032	59,487
b) Governance Costs					
Independent Examiners Fees	9	330	330	660	600
Legal & Professional Fees		231	287	518	360
		561	617	1,178	960

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance
	01-Apr-21				31-Mar-22
	£	£	£	£	£
East Berkshire CAMHS	1,735	-	1,735	-	-
Prince Philip Trust	1,342	750	2,092	-	-
Berkshire Community Foundation	-	7,494	6,896	-	598
Berkshire Masonic Foundation	-	518	518	-	-
Co-op	-	2,277	2,277	-	-
Children In Need	-	7,982	7,982	-	-
Hedley Foundation	-	1,170	1,170	-	-
Innovation Fund	-	1,055	705	-	349
Lewis Communications Ltd	-	167	167	-	-
Summer camp 2021	-	532	532	-	-
Louis Baylis Trust	704	1,232	1,936	-	-
Awards for All	1,751	-	1,751	-	-
Edward Gostling Foundation	1,281	3,736	5,017	-	-
One Slough	-	2,979	1,229	-	1,750
Coronavirus Community Support	-	892	892	-	-
Michael Shanly Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	-	-
St James Place	197	-	197	-	-
Solutions 4 Health	5,085	14,510	19,595	-	-
Boshier Hinton Foundation	-	517	517	-	-
Cala Homes	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
RBWM	-	3,000	3,000	-	-
Albert Hunt Trust	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Tesco groundworks	-	735	735	-	-
UK Youth Fund	-	4,721	4,721	-	-
Windsor & Eton Rotary	-	500	500	-	-
	12,095	61,768	71,165	-	2,698

The restricted funds held are wholly represented by the cash reserves of the CIO.

7. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 31-Mar-22	Total 31-Mar-21
	£	£	£	£
Cash at Bank & in Hand	16,848	23,765	40,613	54,764
	16,848	23,765	40,613	54,764

8. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 31-Mar-22	Total 31-Mar-21
	£	£	£	£
Sundry Debtors	-	9,205	9,205	100
Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	8	-	8	-
Prepayments	1,985	12	1,997	494
	1,993	9,217	11,210	594

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-22 £	Total 31-Mar-21 £
Accruals	100	287	387	268
Deferred Income	-	27,885	27,885	19,690
Independent Examiners Fees	330	330	660	600
PAYE & NI	-	327	327	317
Pension Contributions	29	-	29	29
Sundry Creditors	1,919	1,455	3,374	69
	2,378	30,284	32,662	20,973

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR

The CIO held no long term liabilities during this financial period.

11. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
Gross Wages & Salaries	65,109	51,937
Employer's National Insurance Costs	-	-
Pension Contributions	138	107
	65,247	52,044

Employees who were engaged in each of the following activities:

	2021/22 TOTAL	2020/21 TOTAL
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	2.34	2.05
Fundraising Activities	0.07	0.12
	2.41	2.17

No employees received emoluments in excess £60,000 (2020/21: None). All employed members of staff are paid through the PAYE system.

12. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

The only payments made to Trustees or any persons connected with them during this financial period related to reimbursements for items purchased on behalf of the Charity in furthering the Charity's objects. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee or any person connected with them.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the CIO's needs. This is based on the CIO's size and the level of financial commitments held. The trustees aim to ensure the CIO will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The CIO acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the CIO has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the CIO should undertake.

THE AUTISM GROUP

England & Wales - Charity number 1166787

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2021**

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

CHARITY REGISTRATION No: 1166787

Independent Examiners Ltd
2 Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
West Sussex
PO18 8NF

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

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THE AUTISM GROUP

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NUMBER	1166787
START OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1st April 2020
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	31st March 2021
TRUSTEES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021	Richard Tredgett (resigned 15 March 2021) Gwen King Bridget Mcleod Hanna Wrelton
LEGAL STATUS	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
REGISTERED ADDRESS	5 High Street Maidenhead SL6 1JN
DATE OF REGISTRATION	27th April 2016
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT	CIO - Foundation Registered 27th April 2016
PRIMARY BANKERS	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mailing ME19 4JQ
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Independent Examiners Ltd 2 Broadbridge Business Centre Delling Lane Bosham West Sussex PO18 8NF

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 for The Autism Group CIO set out on pages 8 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have 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.

Independent Examiners Ltd
2 Broadbridge Business Centre
Delling Lane
Bosham
West Sussex
PO18 8NF



Date: 27 July, 2021

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document are:

To relieve the needs of people with autism and their parents and carers by:-

(1) Offering a variety of training to parents/carers, family supporters and the community to enhance the understanding of autism in the Thames Valley.

(2) Offering social opportunities and life skill activities primarily aimed at children (11+) and adults on the autism spectrum (up to the age of 25).

(3) Building confidence and skills within families to support individuals on the autism spectrum to lead fulfilled lives.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

In accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

This is a summary of our activities. The Covid 19 pandemic started to have an impact on all face to face activities since March 2020. The charity adapted quickly and moved all its clubs to an online format, free parent workshops were presented via Zoom and 1-1 face to face support sessions were offered by phone or Zoom.

(1) Free parent training is delivered in a variety of locations at different times of the day to ensure they are accessible to as many people as possible. (During 2020-21 these were all delivered online via Zoom but still offered at different times to offer accessibility for as many as possible).

Training sessions are delivered to professionals and front-line staff supporting individuals on the autism spectrum.

Four free autism training sessions are also offered in each year to local community groups and charities. This is advertised on the website.

(2) 4 themed clubs for different ages of children and young people on the autism spectrum. Individuals are supported by autism trained staff and volunteers. There are 4 groups of children aged 9-13 years, 4 groups for young people aged 14 – 25 years and two groups for young people aged 16 – 25 years. The young people develop confidence and friendships within a safe and understanding environment. The parents are able to use this time as a break from caring or spending time with their other children.

All clubs meet every four weeks. Some young people attend more than one club. There is a small charge for activities but we offer financial support via a hardship fund to those who would otherwise be unable to attend.

(3) Parent support groups operate in three Local Authority areas: RBWM, Slough and Bracknell. These were moved on line and several get togethers were arranged either as morning or evening sessions for accessibility.

Parents who are not comfortable in groups or who wish to meet on a 1-1 basis can access the free TAG @Home service which ensures everyone can access support if they wish it.

All our services are widely advertised in social media, website, local statutory services including Health and Social care, schools and other local community organisations.

The Autism Group relies on a number of volunteers to support the work of the charity. Most of them support the young people to interact with each other and ensure that they have an enjoyable time at the clubs. Some other volunteers help with administrative tasks and fundraising events. We acknowledge the huge contribution they make to the charity and they are highly valued.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

(1) The Autism Group (TAG) delivered 14 workshops to a total of 130 parents during the year. These were on a variety of autism topics, some of which were adapted to give parents additional information which they needed during the pandemic, such as managing much higher anxiety and supporting their children returning to school. 100% of parents said they would recommend the training to friends and family.

Parent Quotes

"I really like the way that the trainers clearly discuss their topic, using clear facts, short info videos, relatable anecdotes as well as pointing us to relevant guides, books and additional materials for further research."

"Relaxed, nurturing environment. Knowledgeable but personable hosts."

"I liked the approachable manner of both speakers. Their support, care, understanding and expertise were second to none."

TAG also delivered training sessions (a much-reduced number of sessions during this unusual year) to professionals in the education sector. 100% of people said they would recommend our training to friends and family.

(2) About 90 different young people were attending clubs at the start of the pandemic. Most attendees are often very isolated with no friends or social activities outside their homes. Many have mental health difficulties associated with their autism such as anxiety. The clubs give them a safe space to meet like-minded people who share similar interests and their self-esteem and friendship skills develop.

During 2020, all the clubs were adapted to online virtual clubs. This posed many challenges which were overcome by our dedicated team to provide the children and young people much needed fun and interaction, albeit only online, with people who knew them and understood their difficulties.

Face to face clubs resumed in September 2020 for several weeks following careful risk assessments and discussions with staff and the families. The children who returned (some were too anxious to start with) were delighted to see one another although the environment felt very different due to the social distancing and other Covid guidance in place.

In November, Lockdown 2 took us back to the virtual world where we have continued to operate for consistency. Children with autism tend to dislike change so we are waiting until restrictions are much reduced before we return to face to face clubs again.

Approximately a third of our children accessed some activities during the year (about 30 out of 90). Some did not enjoy using zoom or were too overwhelmed by all the other changes to their lives. We reached out to those families who were not attending any activities to see how they were, offer support and to see if there was anything else we could add to our range of activities that might help to engage those children. We felt it was important to stay in touch and remind them we were still available during the difficult and challenging time.

Activities have been offered every Saturday morning throughout the year with a two week break in the summer. Halfway through the year we started to send out art activity packs in the post to extend the variety of resources the families would have had at home and to add some much needed fun.

There have been some successes during the year which will be continued after the Covid restrictions are over. A venture into role-playing games online has been so well received that we will continue to run these once we return to face to face clubs again.

We have also got plans to start a brand-new role-playing club for adults aged 18 – 30 following this success.

There were almost 30 children on the waiting list for GAP at the end of March 21 so plans are being made to develop another version of this club but with quiet activities excluding console gaming.

Our other clubs also have waiting lists which we see as a measure of our reputation and success.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

(3) The Autism Group @ Home service has reached parents who are unable to attend support groups or training because of caring, employment or other reasons. It is a free 1-1 service which enables parents to talk openly about their concerns to our professionals who are trained in autism but importantly have personal experience themselves. 117 families were supported during the year. Feedback received reported that their knowledge had improved and that they felt more confident in supporting their young person more effectively. 100% would recommend the service to friends and family.

Parent Quotes

"So helpful knowing I have someone to speak to, thank you".

"My support worker was so knowledgeable and friendly and genuinely helped me to support my son better".

"Great speaking to the support worker who was very helpful and understanding. Nice to know I have someone to talk to with lots of knowledge and ideas".

The charity has had to change all of its ways of working during this past year but we have carried on providing our services, albeit differently, to many grateful children, young people and their parents.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the surplus of the CIO for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on *22 July 2021*

Signed on their behalf: *Gwen King*

Printed Name: Gwen King (Acting Chair)

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2020/21 £	TOTAL 2019/20 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds					
Donations & Legacies	4a	2,401	-	2,401	8,654
Activities for Generating Funds	4b	8,754	(294)	8,460	11,699
Investment Income	4c	-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	4d	100	65,882	65,982	51,152
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		11,255	65,588	76,843	71,505
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of Generating Funds					
Charitable Activities	5a	4,305	55,182	59,487	69,394
Governance Costs	5b	360	600	960	950
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		4,665	55,782	60,447	70,344
NET INCOMING (OUTGOING) RESOURCES		6,590	9,806	16,396	1,161
Total Funds Brought Forward		15,700	2,289	17,989	16,828
Transfer of Funds		-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		22,290	12,095	34,385	17,989

Movements on all reserves and all recognised gains and losses are shown above. All of the organisation's operations are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31-Mar-21 Total £	31-Mar-20 Total £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	2	-	-	-	-
Investments	3	-	-	-	-
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	-
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments	8	594	-	594	6,175
Cash at Bank and in Hand	7	21,979	32,785	54,764	45,918
Total Current Assets		22,573	32,785	55,358	52,093
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	283	20,690	20,973	34,104
NET CURRENT ASSETS		22,290	12,095	34,385	17,989
TOTAL ASSETS less current liabilities		22,290	12,095	34,385	17,989
Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year	10	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		22,290	12,095	34,385	17,989
Funds of the Charity					
General Funds		22,290	-	22,290	15,700
Restricted Funds	6	-	12,095	12,095	2,289
Total Funds		22,290	12,095	34,385	17,989

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 25th May 2021 and were signed on it's behalf by:

Printed Name: Gwen King (Acting Chair) Gwen King

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation & Assessment of Going Concern

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP - FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Assessment of Going Concern

Preparation of the accounts is on a going concern basis. The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources

Recognition of Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Incoming Resources with Related Expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resource and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

Grants and Donations

Grants and Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Tax Reclaims on Donations and Gifts

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Contractual Income and Performance Related Grants

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services has been delivered.

Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised. Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity. Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SOFA as incoming resources when receivable.

Donated Services and Facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer Help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment Income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment Gains and Losses

This included any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Governance Costs

Include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of the trustees meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants with Performance Conditions

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient of the grant has provided the specified service or output.

Support Costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of the resources, e.g. allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capital employed, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at trustees' best estimate of market value.

Pensions

Pension contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as they become payable.

Unrestricted Funds

These funds can be used for the general objectives of the charity as set out in the trustees report. The movements of the unrestricted funds are given in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Restricted Funds

These funds are where the donor has specified a purpose for the donation made. Grants are raised for particular purposes within the objects of the charity.

Designated Funds

These funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific purposes or projects.

Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,500. They are valued at cost or, if gifted, at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation Expense

Depreciation is calculated at a rate to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets on an appropriate basis over their estimated useful lives. The rates and basis applied per annum are as follows:

Equipment	20% - Straight Line Basis
-----------	---------------------------

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

The Charity held no Tangible Fixed Assets during this or the previous financial period.

The annual commitments under non-cancelling operating leases and capital commitments are as follows:

31st March 2021 : None

31st March 2020 : None

3. INVESTMENTS

The Charity held no Fixed Asset Investments during this or the previous financial period.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

4. INCOMING RESOURCES

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2020/21 £	TOTAL 2019/20 £
a) Donations & Legacies				
Donations & Gifts	2,317	-	2,317	8,516
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	84	-	84	138
	2,401	-	2,401	8,654
b) Activities for Generating Funds				
Fundraising Income	40		40	868
Special Interest Groups	8,714	(294)	8,420	10,831
	8,754	(294)	8,460	11,699
c) Investment Income				
Interest Received	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
d) Charitable Activities				
Grants	-	65,882	65,882	50,320
Training Income	100	-	100	832
	100	65,882	65,982	51,152

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

5. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2020/21 £	TOTAL 2019/20 £
a) Charitable Activities					
Activities & Events		-	211	211	455
Autism Books		-	-	-	6
Bank Charges		69	-	69	60
Computer & Website Costs		221	1,356	1,577	1,874
Employers Pension Costs		107	-	107	-
Equipment Costs		49	1,156	1,205	817
Insurance Costs		100	325	425	375
Premises Costs		778	1,226	2,004	4,384
Printing, Postage & Stationery		56	77	133	1,175
Repairs & Maintenance		11	-	11	-
Salaries & Wages		2,719	49,218	51,937	54,427
Subcontracted Assistance		-	500	500	2,000
Subscriptions		-	144	144	-
Telephone Costs		95	340	435	196
Training Costs		-	259	259	552
Staff Clothing		-	-	-	384
Travel & Subsistence		-	130	130	2,256
Welfare & Refreshments		100	240	340	433
		4,305	55,182	59,487	69,394
b) Governance Costs					
Independent Examiners Fees	9	-	600	600	600
Legal & Professional Fees		360	-	360	350
		360	600	960	950

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 01-Apr-20	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance 31-Mar-21
	£	£	£	£	£
Albert Hunt Trust	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
Coronavirus Community Support	-	5,815	5,815	-	-
East Berkshire CAMHS	-	8,485	6,750	-	1,735
Berkshire Community Foundation	75	7,367	7,442	-	-
Awards for All	255	7,228	5,732	-	1,751
Edward Gostling Foundation	617	4,418	3,754	-	1,281
Maidenhead Rotary & Lions Club	-	850	850	-	-
MCKS Charitable Foundation	-	4,073	4,073	-	-
Prince Philip Trust	1,342	1,500	1,500	-	1,342
Co-op	-	4,328	4,328	-	-
Solutions 4 Health	-	14,100	9,015	-	5,085
St James Place	-	3,933	3,736	-	197
Summer Camp 2020	-	491	491	-	-
Louis Baylis Trust	-	2,000	1,296	-	704
	2,289	65,588	55,782	-	12,095

The restricted funds held are wholly represented by the cash reserves of the CIO.

7. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-21 £	Total 31-Mar-20 £
Cash at Bank & in Hand	21,979	32,785	54,764	45,918
	21,979	32,785	54,764	45,918

8. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-21 £	Total 31-Mar-20 £
Sundry Debtors	100	-	100	4,824
Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	-	-	-	78
Prepayments	494	-	494	1,273
	594	-	594	6,175

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 31-Mar-21 £	Total 31-Mar-20 £
Accruals	200	68	268	75
Deferred Income	-	19,690	19,690	32,975
Independent Examiners Fees	-	600	600	600
PAYE & NI	-	317	317	382
Pension Contributions	29	-	29	-
Sundry Creditors	54	15	69	72
	283	20,690	20,973	34,104

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR

The CIO held no long term liabilities during this financial period.

THE AUTISM GROUP
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

11. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Gross Wages & Salaries	51,937	54,427
Employer's National Insurance Costs	-	-
Pension Contributions	107	-
	52,044	54,427
	52,044	54,427

Employees who were engaged in each of the following activities:

	2020/21	2019/20
	TOTAL	TOTAL
Activities in furtherance of organisation's objects	2.05	2.37
Fundraising Activities	0.12	0.17
	2.17	2.54
	2.17	2.54

No employees received emoluments in excess £60,000 (2019/20: None). All employed members of staff are paid through the PAYE system.

12. TRUSTEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES

The only payments made to Trustees or any persons connected with them during this financial period related to reimbursements for items purchased on behalf of the Charity in furthering the Charity's objects. No material transaction took place between the organisation and a trustee or any person connected with them.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

The trustees actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining the free reserves stated, combined with the annual review of the controls over key financial systems carried out on an annual basis will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The trustees have also examined other operational and business risks which they face and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

14. RESERVES POLICY

The trustees have considered the level of reserves they wish to retain, appropriate to the CIO's needs. This is based on the CIO's size and the level of financial commitments held. The trustees aim to ensure the CIO will be able to continue to fulfil its charitable objectives even if there is a temporary shortfall in income or unexpected expenditure. The trustees will endeavour not to set aside funds unnecessarily.

15. PUBLIC BENEFIT

The CIO acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or 'aims' that are for the public benefit. Details of how the CIO has achieved this are provided in the Trustees report. The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities the CIO should undertake