

**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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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

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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
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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.

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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 attending"

(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.

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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
Boshier 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)

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**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.

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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
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**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.

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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
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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.

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

4. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021/22	TOTAL 2020/21
Note	£	£	£	£
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

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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

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

6. RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 01-Apr-21	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Balance 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

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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.

