



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date
From Day 06 Month 04 Year 2020 To Day 05 Month 04 Year 2021
Period end date

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Rugby Autism Network

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1167710

Charity's principal address 128 Lawford Lane

Rugby

Warwickshire

Postcode CV22 7JT

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fay McSorley	Chair		
2	Joanne Willis	Secretary		
3	Jacky Flear	Treasurer		
4	Helen Yuling Kao			
5				
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13				
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15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

Constitution

How the charity is constituted

CIO

Trustee selection methods

Appointed by the existing Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

(1) the promotion of social inclusion among persons who have Autism Spectrum Conditions or related conditions who are socially excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of such conditions to relieve the needs of such persons and assist them to integrate into society, in particular by: providing education and information to support and enable such persons to maximise educational and employment opportunities; raising public awareness of the issues affecting such persons both generally and

peer support, forums, advocacy and general support.

(2) To promote and protect the physical and mental health of persons who have Autism Spectrum Conditions or related conditions, their families, friends and carers, who have a connection to the Rugby area, through the provision of such support, advice, services and practical assistance as the Trustees see fit.

Our membership continues to grow year-on-year, as does our dedicated Facebook chat forum, which we closely monitor and administer to ensure it remains effective and supportive.

During the period we have offered the following activities, primarily for our Associate Members. Membership continues to be free.

Coffee mornings for parents to provide the opportunity for discussion about education, health and social issues in a safe environment.

Rebates for parents and carers attending relevant training courses, allowed those who wished to expand their knowledge or strategies for helping their children (such as Makaton courses) to do so at a reduced cost. We have also expanded our links with external parent training providers to give a more balanced and broad choice.

We provided rebates for annual carpark passes at country parks in the surrounding area. This allows families to access the outdoor spaces on a regular basis without having to pay parking fees each time. This is important not only to encourage outdoor play, exercise and inclusion but also to take away the worry of paying parking fees and only using the facilities for a short time, which can happen often.

We have given subsidies for family days out. This scheme has been extremely successful, in a similar way to the car park pass scheme, as it allows families flexibility to arrange activities which take into account their children's interests and needs, with less pressure on the financial implication if they cannot complete the whole day due to unforeseen difficulties or when their child can't cope.

We have encouraged our families to be fit, active and healthy by subsidising physical pursuits they might otherwise not engage in, in a scheme called Get Active.

In the run up to Christmas we provided rebates for families to enjoy a take away or some special treats, this was meant for a meal out but due to Covid restrictions restaurants we closed.

We also provided a rebate for learning equipment due to home schooling being in place this last year.

We have maintained and administered a Facebook Chat group and forum for advice and support, to allow 24 hour sharing of information and resources and for families to forge relationships. This continues to grow in participants.

We have offered signposting to other services through our website, Facebook and also via phone, email and personal meetings as and when required.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

for free use in the community. We have a large library of books on the Autism condition and related topics, both for parents and for their children, to be able to better understand and cope with the condition. We also have sensory equipment such as weighted blankets, which can be borrowed to try before making the decision to purchase these expensive items before knowing if they will benefit.

We have raised awareness of the condition in the community through social and other media and by forging relationships with local businesses and encouraging fundraising. We have forged valuable links with other local charities, such as Rotary and Rokeby Lions; as we have benefitted from their services, we have become involved in some of their fundraising activities. Working in this collaborative way we can support each other's common goals and forge an inclusive and supportive local community offer. We have also given a talk to the Daventry St Johns Ambulance team (including their Cadets) about the condition and how they can adapt their service to meet differing needs.

In providing these services, trustees have consulted on and given due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance. Although the main beneficiaries of benefits are the families associated with the Rugby area, our charity has a wider purpose. This includes raising awareness and understanding of Autism related conditions; educating the public in general through various mediums, such as the internet; invitation to our AGM; local media coverage and so-forth. Any members of our community who find themselves faced with diagnosis, education issues, health and social care issues or just needing peer to peer support will know of or be easily able to find our charity to gain the help and support they need.

The wider community also benefits from our services by the support we pass directly to our families, giving them the courage and/or resources to be able to engage in more local activities. By providing opportunities to be more active in the community and to have the support they need to do so, we hope that the condition will be accepted, people will see through the misconceptions about Autism and society will be more welcoming.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During the year, we have provided the activities and benefits listed in the previous section to our members. In addition to this, we have achieved the following:

We continued our fundraising efforts by maintaining a network of donation tins in local businesses.

We continue to accept donations through our online fundraising platform Golden Giving and People's Fundraising.

We continue to explore other fundraising opportunities and also accept donations when people shop, using EasyFundraising.com, Amazon Smile and Facebook.

We have continued to expand our book and equipment library which is a free service for our members and we have improved access to this through our website.

We have engaged with CAVA to gain advice on best practice for the charity. We have extended our policies to make us a robust and transparent charity and continue to review these regularly.

We have maintained a central source of information and news-sharing regarding Autism and its linked conditions and intolerances from around the world via our website and Facebook pages to keep families informed on the latest developments and to give them new strategies and ideas. We have been developing a new and improved website which is much more user-friendly and accessible.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We have a policy on our reserves, written and agreed by the Trustees. It states that we should aim to maintain a reserve of no less than £3000 and no more than £10000 in unrestricted funds. Monies allocated through grants for specific projects should be monitored to ensure they are used within any time-scales they are subject to. However due to the present situation with Covid-19 we have had to suspend any allocation of funds and hence the bank balance is over this amount. The funds will be distributed as and when the Government guidelines allow.

If our reserves increase over these parameters, the Trustees should act to ensure our funds are allocated to suitable new projects or necessary running costs of the charity.

We hold reserves to ensure the continued existence of the charity, to be able to react to new projects we feel will benefit the community in a timely way and to be able to allow a contingency for replacement of more expensive items, such as computer equipment, should it be necessary.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

FM

Full name(s)

FAY MICHELLE MCSORLEY

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair,
etc)**

CHAIRPERSON

Date

1/7/21



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Rugby Autism Network

**On accounts for the year
ended**

5th April 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1167710

Set out on pages

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2021.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

14/05/2021

Name:

Angela Boxwell

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

25 Plott Lane

Stretton on Dunsmore

Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 9HL

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Rugby Autism Network Income and Expenditure

For the period 6th April 2020 - 5th April 2021

Income

Donations	8450.56
Rugby Lotto	1393.50
Total Income	<u>9844.06</u>

Expenditure

Equipment	80.46
Depreciation	116.33
Insurance	203
Office Supplies	25.52
Courses Rebate	41.36
Family Day Out	2953.25
Family Feast	2171.79
Fundraising	20
Get Active	1428.2
Go Outdoors	270
Love to Learn	1084.43
Purple Planet Payment	8
Other Expenses	129.53
Total Expenditure	<u>8531.87</u>
Total Income less Expenditure	<u>1312.19</u>

Rugby Autism Network

Balance Sheet Report - 05/04/2021

	2021	2020
Assets		
Equipment	349.00	349
Equipment Accumulated Dep	-174.50	-58.17
Barclays	2804.22	21269.88
Barclays RAN Charity	19894.18	
Total Assets:	22872.90	21560.71
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities:	0.00	0
Assets - Liabilities	22872.90	21560.71
Capital		
Capital	22872.90	21560.71
Total Capital:	22872.90	21560.71