

Autistic Children and Carers Together

England & Wales · Charity number 1169099

Details

Other names	ASPERGER'S CHILDREN AND CARERS TOGETHER, ACCT
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-09-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St Mary's Community Centre Bramall Lane Sheffield South Yo
Phone	01142230242
Email	ENQUIRIES@ACCTSHEFFIELD.ORG.UK
Website	www.acctsheffield.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The object of the CIO is to support the needs of autistic children and young people living in the Sheffield area, in particular by provision of services and assistance to them and their family and carers, irrespective of political or religious affiliation, race, gender or sexual orientation.

Activities: ACCT runs a wide range of fun and supportive activity groups for autistic children and young people in Sheffield including regular multi-activity children and teenage groups, football coaching, arts and gaming, with sessions held in-person and online. We also run a social group for young autistic adults, a parent-carer support group and Autism-friendly activities for the whole family.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Sheffield City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£181,092	£195,916	-	-
2024-03-31	£211,734	£200,216	-	-
2023-03-31	£155,298	£210,025	-	-
2022-03-31	£206,140	£161,957	-	-
2021-03-31	£181,037	£140,590	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
HELEN PATRICIA GILDER	Chair	2016-09-08
Janet Himan		2024-10-22
Kate Richardson		2026-04-29
Margaret Kilner		2019-11-12
Sara Bartlett Brown		2022-03-09
Sharon Court		2024-06-24

Accounts

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Registered Charity Number 1169099

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees:	Helen Gilder – Chair Claire Dyson - resigned 6 August 2024 Margaret Kilner Nadine Cain Sara Bartlett Brown Sharon Court – appointed 24 June 2024 Janet Himan – appointed 21 October 2024
Honorary Trustees:	Dr. Nevyne Chalhoub, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust Dr. Val Harpin, Retired Consultant Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician
Staff:	Manager, 17.5 hours per week; Fundraising & Finance Coordinator, 16 hours per week; Deputy Coordinators (job share), 13 hours per week; Project Manager, 6 hours per week; Sessional Playworkers x 22
Principal Address:	St Mary's Community Centre Bramall Lane Sheffield S2 4QZ
Independent Examiner:	Terry Scully
Bankers:	Lloyds Church Street Sheffield

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Report from the Chair

Thank you for reading the 2024-25 annual report of Autistic Children and Carers Together (ACCT), our Sheffield charity supporting autistic young people and their families.

We were pleased to be able to offer such a wide range of activities last year with up to eight sessions available each week, including the multi-activity Activate and Teenage Club, ACCT Academy football sessions, online and in-person Dungeons & Dragons and other creative gaming sessions, InterACCT teenage drama group, ACCTing Out young adults' social group, parent-carer meetings, autism-friendly family swimming and other family trips.

Places at ACCT sessions remained in high demand. We are seeing more young people who need additional behavioural support to help them access our activities. While challenging, it is testament to the skill and commitment of the staff and volunteer team that we have been able to work with so many families to devise strategies and approaches that help young people in need benefit from their engagement with ACCT sessions.

ACCT has a strong core staff team supported by excellent sessional workers and volunteers. Our thanks and best wishes to sessional staff and volunteers who have moved on from ACCT over the year and a warm welcome to new and returning personnel.

Financially, we are delighted to have been reappointed to the Sheffield City Council SNIPS framework for 2025-29 and to have secured Reaching Communities funding for a three-year project. This funding provides some financial stability as we move into 2025-26 and enables us to focus on several areas of development work that we hope will improve our financial sustainability for the long-term.

It is wonderful that so many people also support ACCT with donations. In addition to the people who provide monthly or one-off donations towards our work, we also organised a team of runners who took on the challenge of the Sheffield 10k in September 2024: through sponsorship from friends, colleagues and families, the runners raised more than £5,000 for ACCT. Two runners also completed the Sheffield Half Marathon in March 2025, raising a further £1,200.

We were honoured to be selected as one of the charities supported by the Sole Sisters, a group of women organising events and challenges to raise money for good causes. Ending their campaign with an epic 20 mile Edale Skyline walk, the Sole Sisters raised more than £4,000 for ACCT - an amazing effort.

At governance level, long-standing trustee Claire Dyson left the board in August 2024. A huge thank you to Claire for all she has given to ACCT over the years and we are so pleased that Claire is continuing to be involved as a facilitator of the parent-carer meetings.

We also welcomed Sharon Court and Janet Himan as trustees, who have brought a wealth of experience to their roles. Many thanks to all my colleagues on the board who volunteer their time and skills to provide excellent governance and strategic support to the charity, members and the staff team. The Manager and Trustees have reviewed ACCT's policies and procedures, ensuring we are following best practice for a charity of our size working with vulnerable children.

Finally, thank you to all ACCT members and supporters for everything you do to help improve the lives of autistic children and their families in Sheffield.

Helen Gilder, Chair

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 8th September 2016 and as amended on 17 March 2023.

ACCT previously operated as an unincorporated charity - Asperger's Children and Carers Together (ACCT) Sheffield, registered charity 1123714 - which was re-formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity 1169099) from 1st April 2017.

The charity name was formally changed to Autistic Children and Carers Together on 17 March 2023 with an amended constitution and charitable object which updated the language used in relation to autism:

The object of the CIO is to support the needs of autistic children and young people living in the Sheffield area, in particular by provision of services and assistance to them and their family and carers, irrespective of political or religious affiliation, race, gender or sexual orientation.

Overall governance of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected from the membership and co-opted at the Annual General Meeting under the terms of the constitution. The Board of Trustees meets 10 times per year and has responsibility for managing the business of the organisation, safeguarding the assets and managing funds. Day to day activity is delivered by paid staff and volunteers.

Trustees serve for a term of three years at the end of which they are eligible to stand for re-election. Trustees are primarily drawn from ACCT's 700+ members, who are mainly parents and carers of autistic/neurodivergent children, or autistic people themselves. We may also co-opt Trustees from outside the membership to bring additional skills or experience onto the board.

Risk Assessment

The Board of Trustees regularly discusses and reviews all the major risks to which ACCT is exposed, and establishes suitable systems to mitigate those risks. We maintain an organisation-wide risk register which is regularly reviewed and updated by trustees, with risk assessments carried out for all activities and managed by the ACCT Manager.

Financial Review

Our annual income for the year was £181,092 and expenditure was £195,916. Just over £20,000 of restricted reserves carried forward from 2023-24 were spent during 2024-25, mainly the remainder of our Lottery People's Projects grant.

We would like to thank the many funding bodies and individuals who continue to support our work financially.

Our current contract agreement with Sheffield City Council's Short Breaks for Disabled Children (SNIPS) programme ended on 30 April 2025. We applied to the delivery framework for the new contract period and were very pleased to be reappointed to provide places at Activate and Teenage Club for autistic young people referred via the local authority Short Breaks programme for the period 2025-29. This local authority contract has long been ACCT's single biggest source of funding and its continuation with an uplift to ensure costs are covered is a real boost to ACCT's financial stability for the next four years.

We also secured a grant of £10,792 from Sheffield City Council's Universal Youth Grants programme which supported our InterACCT Drama group through 2024-25.

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

We have been developing our focus on creativity and gameplay and were grateful that the National Lottery Reaching Communities programme offered ACCT a £120k three-year grant towards this. Starting in January 2025, the grant supports the continued development of our online and in-person tabletop and role-playing gaming sessions, and our creative drama-based activities group.

It is also hugely welcome to receive unrestricted funding from grant-makers who are happy to support the core work of charities like ours. Amongst others, we were very grateful to receive £15,000 from the Wharfedale Foundation, £5,000 from the Masonic Charitable Foundation and to be reappointed to the Sheffield Town Trust's subscription list of grant recipients.

Similarly, we really appreciate the support of ACCT members and other individual supporters who continue to be generous donors, with regular giving, one-off donations, sponsorships and gift aid providing 19% of ACCT's income in 2024-25.

In 2025-26, we will continue to raise money from a range of contracts, grants and donations, and will be focusing on better engagement with our wider supporter network.

Reserves policy

ACCT needs to hold financial reserves in a realisable form in order to manage cashflow, meet unforeseen expenditure needs and ensure an orderly wind down in the unlikely event that the charity needs to close.

The trustees consider it prudent that the charity should hold unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover at least three months' running costs plus an amount set aside to ensure that ACCT can meet statutory redundancy payments to staff and other financial obligations in the event that the charity had to close down.

For 2024-25, this equates to £48,979 to cover three months running costs and £27,737 for close-down costs, a total target unrestricted reserves level of at least £76,716. At 31 March 2025, our total unrestricted reserves were £86,739.

Public Benefit

Autistic Children and Carers Together provides public benefit by delivering group activity sessions which support autistic children and young people to develop confidence and emotional resilience, practice vital life skills and engage with the world, make lasting friendships, and become empowered to better understand and celebrate the role their neurodivergence plays in their identity.

We aim to support parent-carers to gain knowledge, skills and confidence around parenting autistic children, and for families to develop the emotional resilience to address internal and external challenges related to neurodivergence, such as managing stressful times of transition, or dealing with bureaucratic intransigence.

Our activities are designed to enable stronger mutually supportive peer relationships between young people, between parents and between families that can continue outside of ACCT. By supporting a growing and empowered autism community in Sheffield, we can increase autism awareness in wider society, improving outcomes by helping families identify neurodiversity and seek support at an earlier stage.

Achievements and Performance

ACCT has been supporting autistic children and their families in Sheffield since 2006. We have

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

learned a lot about the use of fun activities as a way of helping young people to relax and be themselves without having to mask or hide behaviours that don't fit in with what neurotypical people might expect. And we have continued to develop our activities in order to support the social development of neurodivergent young people and provide support to parents and family members.

During 2024-25, we delivered:

Acctivate multi-activity club for 30 children aged 5-12 on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evening **Teenage Club** for 30 teenagers. Sessions include games and construction, arts and crafts, a sensory room and football and outside activities. Amongst other activities, we were happy to welcome several University sports teams to run taster sessions for our young people.

These sessions continued to be busy and we manage bookings carefully to ensure that all places are taken up and that as many young people as possible are able to get the support they need. We work with Sheffield City Council as part of the SNIPS contract framework on referrals to these groups as well as supporting a small number of self-referrals from families with young people in need who are outside the SNIPS eligibility.

ACCT Academy football coaching for up to 24 children and young people aged 7-16 per session. These sessions, focused on fun and inclusivity, are held every Friday evening, 6-7pm at Goals Sheffield. We have two groups for younger and older children.

ACCT Gaming Clubs support cooperative gameplay, imagination, flexibility and promote safe and positive online behaviour. We ran two sessions per week with sessions focusing on Dungeons & Dragons and other tabletop and role-playing games.

ACCTing Out is our vibrant group for young autistic adults which runs fortnightly social events, supporting young adults to develop independent living skills. This project has gone from strength to strength and celebrated 100 sessions in May 2025.

Our **InterACCT teenage drama group** continued with three blocks of sessions during the year. Many thanks to Forced Entertainment who provided the expert drama facilitation at the beginning of the year and to A Mind Apart who facilitated sessions in the latter part of the year and will continue in 2025-26.

Parent-carer meetings ran every fortnight, offering a space for discussion, information sharing, practical advice and peer support, facilitated by ACCT trustees, volunteers and ACCT's Manager, Nicola Hough.

We continued to offer whole family activities, including autism-friendly family swimming every two weeks at Hillsborough Leisure Centre. As a private hire session, we can better manage the leisure centre environment to make the sensory experience more accessible to neurodivergent people. We take a similar approach to our regular private hire family sessions at Air Haus.

Thanks to support from the Happy Days programme, we organised a trip to the pantomime at Sheffield Theatres on a donate-if-you-can basis, an always popular trip that offers many families an experience they would not otherwise be able to access.

We supported more than 500 autistic children and young people during the year, more than 250 through accessing in-person and online group activities, and 250+ via participation in family activities. In addition, more than 40 parent-carers accessed support via Parents' Meetings, with 100+ siblings and other family members benefiting from our whole family activities.

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Plans for 2025-26

In addition to continuing to develop and deliver a full programme of supportive groups for autistic young people and their families, there are several key areas of development we are planning to progress in 2025-26:

- Deaf accessibility: including offering interpreters at some family Air Haus sessions to enable deaf and hard of hearing parents of autistic young people to engage with ACCT.
- Swimming accessibility: exploring the issues around accessing leisure swimming as autistic children or adults, and developing resources for people and providers to help make swimming more accessible.
- Parents and families programme: identifying unmet needs for families within our existing provision and implementing new and redeveloped activities that best support parents and families.
- Membership engagement: development work to ensure that the wider ACCT membership has every opportunity to engage with the charity and be involved in shaping our work.

Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit for the period. In preparing these financial statements, Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

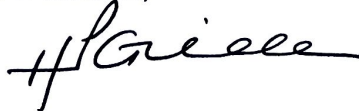
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to prepare the financial statements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable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

Independent Examiner

The trustees have appointed Mr. Terry Scully to provide an Independent Examination Report on the accounts for the year.

On behalf of the board of trustees,

Helen Gilder, Chair



9th October 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Autistic Children and Carers Together

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 9-15.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

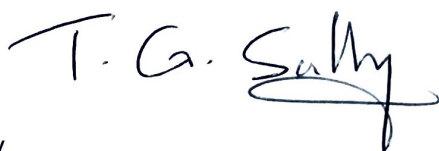
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



T G Scully
63 Argyle Road, Sheffield, S8 9HG

Date 9th October 2025

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st March 2025

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Contracts	6	-	66,198	66,198	57,469
Grants	7	33,960	44,256	78,216	126,165
Donations		34,994	-	34,994	26,721
Bank Interest		1,684	-	1,684	1,379
		<u>70,638</u>	<u>110,454</u>	<u>181,092</u>	<u>211,734</u>
Salaries NI and Pensions		48,579	87,371	135,950	138,865
Rent rates and Room Hire		13,511	16,572	30,083	26,945
Activity Delivery Costs		4,694	8,872	13,566	17,166
Equipment		-	-	-	102
Training		1,019	-	1,019	2,329
Travel		8	-	8	43
Volunteer costs		506	172	678	675
Office costs		2,166	-	2,166	3,120
Fundraising costs		1,607	-	1,607	872
Finance and accountancy costs		2,531	-	2,531	2,354
DBS checks		859	-	859	905
Professional fees		479	1,478	1,957	1,293
Insurance		1,492	-	1,492	1,439
Depreciation		610	2,790	3,400	3,758
Examiners Fees		600	-	600	350
		<u>78,661</u>	<u>117,255</u>	<u>195,916</u>	<u>200,216</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		(8,023)	(6,801)	(14,824)	11,518
Total funds brought forward		94,762	25,278	120,040	108,522
Total funds carried forward		86,739	18,477	105,216	120,040

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Balance Sheet
At 31 March 2025

		2025	2024
	note	£	£
Fixed Assets	8	1,825	5,225
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		105,053	118,120
Debtors and accrued income		-	-
		<u>105,053</u>	<u>118,120</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accruals and deferred income	9	1,662	3,305
		<u>1,662</u>	<u>3,305</u>
Net current assets		<u>103,391</u>	<u>114,815</u>
Net Assets		<u>105,216</u>	<u>120,040</u>
Funds			
Restricted	11	18,477	25,278
Unrestricted		86,739	94,762
Total Funds		<u>105,216</u>	<u>120,040</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the 20th October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Helen Gilder, Chair

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2025

Accounting Policies

- 1 The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments and 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 (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

a) Incoming resources

Incoming resources have been included on a receivable basis. Grants and voluntary income are accounted for in the year in which they are received unless receipt has become certain at the balance sheet date, and allocated to the period in which it applies if appropriate. Resources restricted to a specific purpose are carried forward until spent. Other income is accrued as it becomes due.

b) Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred, and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. The analysis follows a natural classification.

c) Allocation of costs

Costs directly related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Support costs, which are necessary to deliver an activity but do not themselves deliver the activity, are allocated in proportion to the benefit attributable. Governance costs are those costs incurred in meeting statutory and constitutional requirements.

d) Restricted funds

Funds are identified as restricted where they are received for a specific purpose or project and where the donor may require repayment if the conditions are not met.

e) Donations in kind

Donations in kind or goods or services are accounted for using the trustees' estimate of their value. No value is attributed to the activities of trustees or voluntary helpers.

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2025

Accounting Policies - continued

1 f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are included at original cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off each asset over its estimated useful life on a straight line basis.

The applicable rates are:

IT and visual equipment 25%

Notes to the Accounts

2 Taxation

As a registered charity, ACCT is exempt from income and capital taxes on its charitable activities.

3 Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions

Trustees received no remuneration. Expenses were paid in reimbursement of costs incurred on behalf of the charity. No more than £100 was involved in total. No trustees reported any interests in contracts involving ACCT.

4 Staff costs and numbers:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	127,084	130,547
Pension contributions	6,501	6,216
Health care scheme	2,365	2,102
	<u>135,950</u>	<u>138,865</u>

	2025	2024
Average number of Staff (part time)	28	24

No employees were paid more than £60,000.

5 Fees for examination of accounts

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiner	600	350

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2025

6 Contracts	2025	2024
SCC Short break contract	66,198	57,469

The SCC contract is part of the Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) framework and funds Short Break activity places for autistic children and young people at Acctivate and Teenage Club

7 Grants	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Ann Rylands Small Doations Scheme	1,500		1,500	-
Co-op Local Causes Fund	500		500	-
Cutler's Company Charitable Trust	1,000		1,000	1,000
Fitton Trust	300		300	200
Forrester Family Trust	5,000		5,000	-
Hyman Winstone Foundation	500		500	500
James Neill Trust Fund		2,500	2,500	-
Kaye Charitable Trust	1,000		1,000	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation	5,000		5,000	-
National Lottery Reaching Communities		19,569	19,569	-
Olive Lawrence Charitable Trust	1,000		1,000	2,000
SCC Universal Youth Grants		10,792	10,792	-
Sheffield Parent Carer Forum		1,000	1,000	-
Sheffield Town Trust	2,500		2,500	4,500
STA CommUNITY STArters		1,000	1,000	-
Tesco Community Grants		375	375	2,125
Tesco Stronger Starts		1,000	1,000	-
Trustees of Elsie Lawrence Deceased	660		660	-
United Way		1,500	1,500	-
Wesleyan Foundation		6,520	6,520	-
Wharfedale Foundation	15,000		15,000	-
	<u>33,960</u>	<u>44,256</u>	<u>78,216</u>	<u>10,325</u>

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2025

Accounting Policies - continued

8 Fixed Assets

	IT Equipment	Visual Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1/4/24	14,485	549	15,034
Additions	-	-	-
At 31/3/25	<u>14,485</u>	<u>549</u>	<u>15,034</u>
Depreciation			
At 1/4/24	9,363	446	9,809
Charge for the year	3,297	103	3,400
At 31/3/25	<u>12,660</u>	<u>549</u>	<u>13,209</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31/3/25	<u>1,825</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,825</u>
At 31/3/24	<u>5,122</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>5,225</u>

9 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
Taxes and pensions	-	724
Trade debtors	1,062	2,231
Accruals	600	350
	<u>1,662</u>	<u>3,305</u>

10 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	27	1,798	1,825
Current assets	88,375	16,679	105,054
Creditors falling due within one year	(1,663)	-	(1,663)
	<u>86,739</u>	<u>18,477</u>	<u>105,216</u>

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2025

11 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2025
SCC Contract	-	66,198	(66,198)	-	-
James Neill Trust Fund	-	2,500	(1,040)	-	1,460
Tesco Community Grants	638	375	(1,013)	-	-
Hargreaves Foundation	1,875	-	(1,875)	-	-
Nat. Lottery People's Projects	17,677	-	(17,677)	-	-
Sheffield Parent Carer Forum	500	1,000	(1,500)	-	-
SCC Universal Youth Grants	-	10,792	(10,792)	-	-
Wesleyan Foundation	-	6,520	(3,803)	-	2,717
Nat. Lottery Reaching Comm's	-	19,569	(9,067)	-	10,502
United Way	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
STA CommUNITY STArters	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Tesco Stronger Starts	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Restricted Asset fund	4,588		(2,790)	-	1,798
	<u>25,278</u>	<u>110,454</u>	<u>(117,255)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,477</u>

Restricted funds were received for the following purposes:

SCC Contract	Staff, venue and activity costs for 28 Activate places and 24 Teenage Club places
James Neill Trust Fund	Friday football coaching sessions
Tesco Community Grants	Towards swimming costs (hire and staff time)
Hargreaves Foundation	Football project expenses
Nat. Lottery People's Projects	Delivery costs of all young people's groups
Sheffield Parent Carer Forum	Staff costs and venue hire costs for Air Haus family trips
SCC Universal Youth Grants	Drama club
Wesleyan Foundation	In-person ACCT Gaming sessions
Nat. Lottery Reaching Comm's	ACCT Gaming, Drama and ACCTing Out sessions plus contribution towards core
United Way	Swimming pool hire and staff coordination costs
STA CommUNITY STArters	To improve swimming accessibility for autistic people
Tesco Stronger Starts	Friday football coaching sessions

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Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees:	Helen Gilder – Chair Deborah Young – resigned 30 January 2024 Claire Dyson – resigned 6 August 2024 Margaret Kilner Nadine Cain Sara Bartlett Brown Sharon Court – appointed 24 June 2024
Honorary Trustees:	Dr. Nevyne Chalhoub, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust Dr. Val Harpin, Retired Consultant Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician
Staff:	Manager, 17.5 hours per week; Fundraising & Finance Coordinator, 16 hours per week; Deputy Coordinators (job share), 13 hours per week; Project Manager, 6 hours per week; Sessional Playworkers x 22
Principal Address:	St Mary's Community Centre Bramall Lane Sheffield S2 4QZ
Independent Examiner:	Terry Scully
Bankers:	Lloyds Church Street Sheffield

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Report from the Chair

Thank you for reading the 2023-24 annual report of Autistic Children and Carers Together (ACCT), our Sheffield charity supporting autistic and neurodivergent young people and their families in Sheffield.

2023-24 was another busy year at ACCT. We continued to deliver as wide a range of activity sessions as funding would allow, including our multi-activity clubs, Activate and Teenage Club, as well as ACCT Academy football sessions, online and in-person Dungeons & Dragons and gaming sessions, InterACCT teenage drama group, ACCTing Out young adults' social group, parent-carer meetings, autism-friendly family swimming and other family activities.

We are pleased that general autism awareness continues to increase which means families are more likely to identify neurodivergence in their children and seek diagnosis and/or support. However, it remains a concern that the availability of statutory and other support has not kept pace with this. As a result, we see increasing pressure on our own activities, with need and demand for places at ACCT continuing to grow. We are also seeing more young people struggling with their mental health and other needs, putting additional pressure on staff capacity to ensure all young people at ACCT get timely support and to stop incidents from escalating.

The cost of living crisis has had an impact on ACCT as it has on so many organisations and people. We have seen significant increases in the costs of running our activities which has put even more pressure on fundraising. We have been able to maintain our activities but are facing some uncertainty in 2024-25, as are many charities. At board level, we are reviewing our financial position regularly and resolve to take timely actions to ensure that any changes to our activities and services are made in a carefully planned way to minimise disruption to families.

At board level, we changed our meeting pattern from two-hour meetings held quarterly to hour-long meetings every month except August and December (10 meetings per year). This was driven by practical considerations, ensuring that trustees would all be able to attend meetings, as well as ensuring that trustees had more regular opportunities for discussing strategic matters and planning for the future as well as providing the governance function required.

All of us at ACCT give our thanks to Deborah Young and Claire Dyson who left the board in 2024 after many years of valued service. We were delighted to welcome Sharon Court to the board in June 2024. We have five trustees, all parents of neurodivergent children.

Staff and volunteer recruitment has remained a challenge for ACCT. We have fixed session times, so finding Playworkers who can work at those specific times is sometimes difficult. In several cases, we have been able to recruit from within the organisation, with volunteers and casual workers able to develop skills and gain experience to be able to successfully apply for permanent sessional roles. Our thanks go to the staff and volunteer team who provide such high quality support to children and young people.

Many thanks also to my colleagues on the board who volunteer their time and skills to provide excellent governance and strategic advice and support that ensures ACCT meets our legal and other obligations as a charity, delivers activities that meet our charitable object and meet the needs of our members and the wider community in Sheffield. The Manager and Trustees have reviewed ACCT's policies and procedures, ensuring we are following best practice for a charity of our size working with vulnerable children.

And finally, thank you to all ACCT members and supporters for everything you do to help improve the lives of autistic children and their families in Sheffield.

Helen Gilder, Chair

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 8th September 2016 and as amended on 17 March 2023.

ACCT previously operated as an unincorporated charity - Asperger's Children and Carers Together (ACCT) Sheffield, registered charity 1123714 - which was re-formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity 1169099) from 1st April 2017.

The charity name was formally changed to Autistic Children and Carers Together on 17 March 2023 with an amended constitution and charitable object which updated the language used in relation to autism:

The object of the CIO is to support the needs of autistic children and young people living in the Sheffield area, in particular by provision of services and assistance to them and their family and carers, irrespective of political or religious affiliation, race, gender or sexual orientation.

Overall governance of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected from the membership and co-opted at the Annual General Meeting under the terms of the constitution. The Board of Trustees currently meet 10 times per year and has responsibility for managing the business of the organisation, safeguarding the assets and managing the funds. Day to day activity is managed by and carried out by paid staff and volunteers.

Trustees serve for a term of three years at the end of which they are eligible to stand for re-election. Trustees are primarily drawn from ACCT's 700+ members, who are mainly parents and carers of autistic/neurodivergent children, or autistic people themselves. We may also co-opt Trustees from outside the membership to bring additional skills or experience onto the board.

Risk Assessment

The Board of Trustees regularly discusses and reviews all the major risks to which ACCT is exposed, and establishes suitable systems to mitigate those risks. We maintain an organisation-wide risk register which is regularly reviewed and updated by trustees, with risk assessments carried out for all activities and managed by the ACCT Manager.

Financial Review

We budgeted for 2023-24 expenditure at approximately the same level as 2022-23 based on delivering a similar level of activities but looking for cost savings wherever possible to mitigate the impact of increases to venue hire and other costs.

Although fundraising has become significantly more challenging as a result of the difficulties in the wider economy, we were very pleased that we were able to secure grant, donation and contract income that covered our expenditure this year. In particular, we are grateful to ACCT members and supporters for their continued monthly and one-off donations as well as the sponsored events and other initiatives in which our supporters participate.

Our annual income for the year was £211,734 and expenditure was £200,216. We carried over some restricted reserves from 2022-23 which were spent during 2023-24. Similarly, some of the grant money received during 2023-24 from, for example, the Lottery People's Projects and the Hargreaves Foundation grants will be carried forward into 2024-25 as restricted reserves.

We would like to thank the many funding bodies and individuals who continue to support our work financially.

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Sheffield City Council remained ACCT's major long-term funder, continuing to fund 28 Activate places and 24 Teenage Club places at our weekly multi-activity clubs through the Short Breaks for Disabled Children (SNIPS) programme. Other funders enable us to provide additional non-SNIPS places at Activate and Teenage Club for children and young people who fall outside the SNIPS eligibility, e.g. those in urgent need without a diagnosis. We were able to successfully apply for an uplift to the contract value this year to help meet increased delivery costs.

We ran a successful campaign for the National Lottery People's Projects programme. After submitting a written application to become a shortlisted project for the Calendar South region, we competed with other local good causes for votes from supporters in this funding competition. We were delighted to secure over 3,000 votes and top the poll in our region, securing a major grant of £70,000 towards our young people's groups. We also secured a grant of £8,730 from the DCMS/National Lottery Awards for All programme towards our drama and Dungeons & Dragons groups.

ACCT were also featured in the Tesco Community Grants blue token voting competitions twice during the year, coming first and second in those votes.

We were pleased to have the support of the Hargreaves Foundation via a £7,500 towards our ACCT Academy football project and UK Youth who offered a three year grant of £10,000 per year from their Cost of Living grant programme. In addition, we were supported by a range of other local and national charitable trusts and foundations, including the Sheffield Town Trust, Cutler's Company Charitable Trust and Happy Days. We are incredibly grateful to all grant funding bodies who offer their support to ACCT.

Similarly, we really appreciate the support of ACCT members and other individual supporters who continue to be generous donors, with regular giving and one-off donations providing 12% of ACCT's income in 2023-24.

In 2024-25, grants from the Wharfedale Foundation, Masonic Charitable Foundation and Sheffield City Council Universal Youth Grants are all helping meet our activity running costs this year. Looking ahead, we are due to re-tender for the Sheffield City Council Short Breaks for Disabled Children framework for a new contract start date of 1 April 2025. As our major long-term funder, this will be a major piece of work for ACCT and we hope to continue to develop our positive working relationship with the SNIPS team.

Reserves policy

ACCT needs to hold financial reserves in a realisable form in order to manage cashflow, meet unforeseen expenditure needs and ensure an orderly wind down in the unlikely event that the charity needs to close.

The trustees consider it prudent that the charity should hold unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover at least three months' running costs plus an amount set aside to ensure that ACCT can meet statutory redundancy payments to staff and other financial obligations in the event that the charity had to close down.

For 2023-24, this equates to £50,054 to cover three months running costs and £23,268 for close-down costs, a total target unrestricted reserves level of at least £73,322. At 31 March 2024, our total unrestricted reserves were £94,762.

Public Benefit

Autistic Children and Carers Together provides public benefit by delivering group activity sessions which support autistic children and young people to develop confidence and emotional

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

resilience, practice vital life skills and engage with the world, make lasting friendships, and become empowered to better understand and celebrate the role their neurodivergence plays in their identity.

We aim to support parent-carers to gain knowledge, skills and confidence around parenting autistic children, and for families to develop the emotional resilience to address internal and external challenges related to neurodiversity, such as managing stressful times of transition, or dealing with bureaucratic intransigence.

Our activities are designed to enable stronger mutually supportive peer relationships between young people, between parents and between families that can continue outside of ACCT. By supporting a growing and empowered autism community in Sheffield, we can increase autism awareness in wider society, improving outcomes by helping families identify neurodiversity and seek support at an earlier stage.

Achievements and Performance

ACCT has been supporting autistic children and their families in Sheffield since 2006. We have learned a lot about the use of fun activities as a way of helping young people to relax and be themselves without having to mask or hide behaviours that don't fit in with what neurotypical people might expect. And we have continued to develop our activities in order to support the social development of neurodivergent young people and provide support to parents and family members.

During 2023-24, we delivered:

Acctivate multi-activity club for 30 children aged 5-12 on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evening **Teenage Club** for 30 teenagers. Sessions held in a self-contained annex of St Mary's Community Centre, Bramall Lane, just outside Sheffield city centre with a hard court area for sports and a grassed outside space. Sessions include games and construction, arts and crafts, a sensory room and football and outside activities.

These sessions continued to be busy and we manage session bookings carefully to ensure that all places are taken up and places are allocated fairly, with safe staff to participant ratios in place. We work with Sheffield City Council as part of the SNIPS contract framework on referrals to these groups as well as supporting a small number of self-referrals from families with young people in need who are outside the SNIPS eligibility.

ACCT Academy football coaching for up to 24 children and young people aged 7-16 per session. These sessions, focused on fun and inclusivity, are held every Friday evening, 6-7pm at Goals Sheffield. We have two groups for younger and older children, with two coaches per pitch.

ACCT Gaming Clubs, supporting cooperative gameplay, imagination, flexibility and promote safe and positive online behaviour.

We ran two Dungeons & Dragons online sessions per week, and continued to also offer a monthly in-person session alongside Teenage Club and a monthly in-person game at Patriot Games in Sheffield city centre. We continue to see some really exciting development and progression in this project, with young people devising characters and campaigns, and showing incredible imagination in developing the games, often over several weeks.

Whilst most of our activities from 2023-24 will continue into 2024-25, we did take the decision to wind down our Saturday morning online Minecraft sessions. There was a gradual decline in participation over the year and we saw that these sessions were not achieving as strong outcomes as our other activities. We are currently in the process of ensuring that the regular

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

players who had invested so much time into their builds do not lose that progress once we close our private server. Minecraft was one of the new groups we added to our service offer during the first Covid lockdown, and it was great to be able to continue with it for as long as it was popular with young people.

ACCTing Out is our vibrant group for young autistic adults which runs fortnightly social events, supporting young adults to develop independent living skills. This project has also worked with venues to support them to make their spaces and activities more accessible to neurodivergent people. The group went to a wide range of places, including Shuffle Shack, Builders Brew Cafe, Treehouse Board Game Cafe, S1 Artspace and more.

Young people attending our teenage drama sessions came up with a new name for the group this year – **InterACCT**. We delivered three terms of these sessions in partnership with Forced Entertainment, and saw continued strong outcomes.

Parent-carer meetings ran every fortnight, offering a space for discussion, information sharing, advice and peer support.

We continued to offer autism-friendly family swimming sessions every two weeks at Hillsborough Leisure Centre. As a private hire session, we can have lower light levels, less noise and lower numbers to make these sessions more accessible to neurodivergent people. We take a similar approach to the regular private hire family sessions we hold at Air Haus.

We didn't arrange a trip to the panto in 2023 as we have done in previous years, due to a lack of funding towards the ticket costs. We are delighted that Happy Days are providing a grant towards a panto trip in 2024 and are hopeful that participant donations will contribute the remaining costs.

We supported more than 500 autistic children and young people during the year, around 300 through in-person and online sessions and 200 via participation in family activities. More than 80 parent-carers accessed Parents' Meetings and workshops. And more than 120 siblings and other family members via family activities or attending groups.

Plans for 2024-25

We aim to continue to offer a wide range of activities to meet the needs of as many autistic children and young people as possible.

We are engaging with Sheffield City Council's consultations on the design of the new Short Breaks for Disabled Children framework and plan some internal development work to consider our approach to the new tender for this service.

We will continue to connect and network with other organisations via the Sheffield Autism Partnership Network and Autism Partnership Board to ensure our work is joined up locally and that we can connect our members to policy and other strategic developments in the city. We aim to continue developing a refining our delivery models

We are seeing more young people coming to ACCT with significant support needs, and we are seeking funding towards the costs of the additional staff time that is often needed to give 1-1 support to help young people engage with our activities and to develop strategies and support that address any individual needs.

We are also continuing to work on wider accessibility and engagement issues, to help reduce and remove barriers to accessing our support as well as addressing wider cultural and other

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

barriers that may reduce autism awareness or prevent people from accessing support.

Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit for the period. In preparing these financial statements, Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

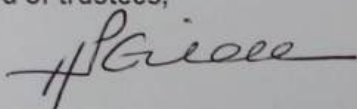
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to prepare the financial statements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable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

Independent Examiner

The trustees have appointed Mr. Terry Scully to provide an Independent Examination Report on the accounts for the year.

On behalf of the board of trustees,

Helen Gilder, Chair



21 October 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Autistic Children and Carers Together

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 10-16.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

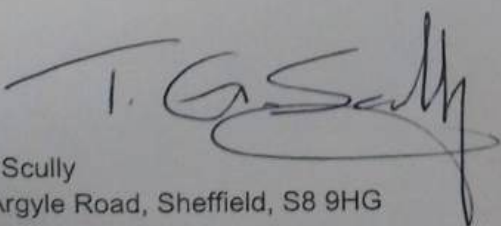
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


T G Scully
63 Argyle Road, Sheffield, S8 9HG

Date 22/10/24

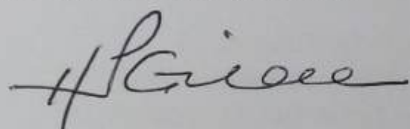
Autistic Children and Carers Together
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st March 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Contracts	6	-	57,469	57,469	52,800
Grants	7	33,810	92,355	126,165	79,796
Donations		28,100	-	28,100	22,702
		<u>61,910</u>	<u>149,824</u>	<u>211,734</u>	<u>155,298</u>
Salaries NI and Pensions		38,555	100,310	138,865	130,864
Rent rates and Room Hire		4,699	22,246	26,945	25,512
Activity Delivery Costs		4,729	12,437	17,166	33,454
Equipment		-	102	102	-
Training		2,329	-	2,329	5,838
Travel		-	43	43	360
Volunteer costs		170	505	675	824
Office costs		3,120	-	3,120	2,205
Fundraising costs		872	-	872	753
Finance and accountancy costs		2,354	-	2,354	2,358
DBS checks		905	-	905	962
Professional fees		114	1,179	1,293	1,453
Insurance		1,439	-	1,439	1,334
Depreciation		763	2,995	3,758	3,758
Examiners Fees		350	-	350	350
		<u>60,399</u>	<u>139,817</u>	<u>200,216</u>	<u>210,025</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,511	10,007	11,518	(54,727)
Total funds brought forward		93,251	15,271	108,522	163,249
Total funds carried forward		94,762	25,278	120,040	108,522

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Balance Sheet
At 31 March 2024

		2024	2023
	note	£	£
Fixed Assets	8	5,225	8,984
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		118,120	100,295
Debtors and accrued income		-	-
		<u>118,120</u>	<u>100,295</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accruals and deferred income	9	3,305	757
		<u>3,305</u>	<u>757</u>
Net current assets		<u>114,815</u>	<u>99,538</u>
Net Assets		<u>120,040</u>	<u>108,522</u>
Funds			
Restricted	11	25,278	15,271
Unrestricted		94,762	93,251
Total Funds		<u>120,040</u>	<u>108,522</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the 21st October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Helen Gilder, Chair

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2024

Accounting Policies

- 1 The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments and 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 (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

a) Incoming resources

Incoming resources have been included on a receivable basis. Grants and voluntary income are accounted for in the year in which they are received unless receipt has become certain at the balance sheet date, and allocated to the period in which it applies if appropriate. Resources restricted to a specific purpose are carried forward until spent. Other income is accrued as it becomes due.

b) Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred, and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. The analysis follows a natural classification.

c) Allocation of costs

Costs directly related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Support costs, which are necessary to deliver an activity but do not themselves deliver the activity, are allocated in proportion to the benefit attributable. Governance costs are those costs incurred in meeting statutory and constitutional requirements.

d) Restricted funds

Funds are identified as restricted where they are received for a specific purpose or project and where the donor may require repayment if the conditions are not met.

e) Donations in kind

Donations in kind or goods or services are accounted for using the trustees' estimate of their value. No value is attributed to the activities of trustees or voluntary helpers.

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2024

Accounting Policies - continued

1 f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are included at original cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off each asset over its estimated useful life on a straight line basis.

The applicable rates are:

IT and visual equipment 25%

Notes to the Accounts

2 Taxation

As a registered charity, ACCT is exempt from income and capital taxes on its charitable activities.

3 Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions

Trustees received no remuneration. Expenses were paid in reimbursement of costs incurred on behalf of the charity. No more than £100 was involved in total. No trustees reported any interests in contracts involving ACCT.

4 Staff costs and numbers:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	130,547	124,233
Pension contributions	6,216	5,843
Health care scheme	2,102	788
	<u>138,865</u>	<u>130,864</u>
 Staff (part time)	 24	 26

No employees were paid more than £60,000.

5 Fees for examination of accounts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examiner	350	350

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2024

6 Contracts **2024** **2023**

SCC Short break contract	57,469	52,800
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The SCC contract is part of the Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) framework and funds Short Break activity places for autistic children and young people at Activate and Teenage Club

7 Grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
UK Youth	20,000		20,000	-
Boshier-Hinton Foundation		1,000	1,000	-
St. Jude's Trust	1,000		1,000	-
Cutlers Company Charitable Trust	1,000		1,000	1,000
Tesco Community Grants		2,125	2,125	-
Hargreaves Foundation		7,500	7,500	-
National Lottery People's Projects		70,000	70,000	-
29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	1,000		1,000	1,000
The Hyman Winstone Foundation	500		500	-
Olive Lawrence Memorial Trust	2,000		2,000	1,000
Million Hours (DCMS/Nat. Lottery)		8,730	8,730	-
Marshall & Viggars Trust	700		700	-
Queen Victoria and Johnson Trust	1,000		1,000	-
Fitton Trust	200		200	-
Charities Trust	1,000		1,000	-
Sheffield Town Trust	4,500		4,500	4,500
Groundwork – Footie for All		1,000	1,000	-
Elsie Lawrence Deceased Trust	660		660	-
The Swann-Morton Foundation	250		250	-
Happy Days		1,500	1,500	2,000
Sheffield Parent Carer Forum		500	500	
Other grants		-	-	70,296
	<u>33,810</u>	<u>92,355</u>	<u>126,165</u>	<u>79,796</u>

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2024

Accounting Policies - continued

8 Fixed Assets

	IT Equipment	Visual Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1/4/23	14,485	549	15,034
Additions	-	-	-
At 31/3/24	<u>14,485</u>	<u>549</u>	<u>15,034</u>
Depreciation			
At 1/4/23	5,742	309	6,051
Charge for the year	3,621	137	3,758
At 31/3/24	<u>9,363</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>9,809</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31/3/24	<u>5,122</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>5,225</u>
At 31/3/23	<u>8,744</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>8,984</u>

9 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
Taxes and social security	724	-
Accruals	2,581	757
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>3,305</u>	<u>757</u>

10 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	638	4,587	5,225
Current assets	97,428	20,692	118,120
Creditors falling due within one year	(3,305)	-	(3,305)
	<u>94,761</u>	<u>25,279</u>	<u>120,040</u>

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2024

11 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2024
SCC Contract	-	57,469	(57,469)	-	-
Sheffield Autism Partnership	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
Westfield Health Trust	1,125	-	(1,125)	-	-
Morrison's Foundation	4,312	-	(4,312)	-	-
James Neill Trust Fund	1,250	-	(1,250)	-	-
Boshier-Hinton Foundation	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Tesco Community Grants	-	2,125	(1,487)	-	638
Hargreaves Foundation	-	7,500	(5,625)	-	1,875
Nat. Lottery People's Projects	-	70,000	(52,323)	-	17,677
Million Hours (DCMS/Nat. Lottery)	-	8,730	(8,730)	-	-
Groundwork – Footie for All	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Happy Days	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Sheffield Parent Carer Forum	-	500	-	-	500
Restricted Asset fund	7,584	-	(2,995)	-	4,589
	<u>15,271</u>	<u>149,824</u>	<u>(139,816)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,279</u>

Restricted funds were received for the following purposes:

SCC Contract	Support for Activate and Teenage Club
Sheffield Autism Partnership	Support for ACCTing out
Westfield Health Trust	Support for ACCTing out
Morrison's Foundation	Swimming activity costs
James Neill Trust Fund	Support for Drama activities
Boshier-Hinton Foundation	Support for ACCTing out
Tesco Community Grants	Swimming activity costs
Hargreaves Foundation	Football activity costs
Nat. Lottery People's Projects	Support for all current activities
Million Hours	Drama and gaming groups
Groundwork – Footie for All	Football activity costs
Happy Days	Pantomime trip
Sheffield Parent Carer Forum	Air Haus trips

Accounts

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Registered Charity Number 1169099

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2023

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Statement of financial activities	10
Balance sheet	11
Notes to the accounts	12-16

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees: Helen Gilder – Chair
Deborah Young
Claire Dyson
Margaret Kilner
Nadine Cain
Sara Bartlett Brown

Honorary Trustees: Dr. Nevyne Chalhoub, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Dr. Val Harpin, Retired Consultant Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician

Staff: Manager, 17.5 hours per week;
Fundraising & Finance Coordinator, 16 hours per week;
Deputy Coordinators (job share), 13 hours per week;
Project Manager, 6 hours per week;
Sessional Playworkers x 22

Principal Address: St Mary's Community Centre
Bramall Lane
Sheffield
S2 4QZ

Independent Examiner: Terry Scully

Bankers: Lloyds
Church Street
Sheffield

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Report from the Chair

Welcome to ACCT's annual report for 2022-23. This year, ACCT changed our legal charity name from Asperger's Children and Carers Together to Autistic Children and Carers Together. We still generally refer to ourselves by the acronym ACCT.

This change has been under discussion for some time, recognising that the outdated reference to Asperger's Syndrome in our name does not accurately reflect the wide range of neurodivergent young people that ACCT supports, including those without a formal diagnosis. The decision to change our legal name was made by members at the ACCT AGM on 31 January 2023 and agreed by the Charity Commission in February 2023.

Need and demand for ACCT support has continued to grow through the year. We continued to deliver as wide a range of activities as funding would allow, continuing our activity groups for young people and increasing support for parent-carers and whole family activities.

Acctivate and Teenage Club have continued to be over-subscribed. We continue to manage session bookings carefully to ensure that all places are taken up and places are allocated fairly, with safe staff to participant ratios in place. We have continued to offer 30 places per session; we work with Sheffield City Council as part of the SNIPS contract framework on referrals to these groups as well as supporting self-referrals from families with young people in need who are outside the SNIPS eligibility.

Our ACCT Academy Football Coaching sessions are fully booked most weeks. We have separate pitches for younger children and teenagers, and a move to different pitches at Goals Sheffield with seating at the side of the pitch has been a big help, meaning that parent-carers can more easily use the clubhouse and have a sit down.

We have also continued to deliver gaming groups. Our Saturday morning Minecraft session has time on Creative and Survival modes for different types of challenge, and young people have worked together in this online space and developed their online literacy. We run two Dungeons & Dragons online sessions per week, and have added a monthly session alongside Teenage Club and a monthly in-person game at Patriot Games in Sheffield city centre. D&D has continued to be very popular and we will look at ways of expanding this delivery next year so more young people are able to access the sessions.

The Teenage Drama sessions we piloted with theatre company Forced Entertainment in 2021-22 have continued to be popular with Autumn, Spring and Summer term blocks of sessions delivered. We are working towards ways of delivering this project sustainably in the future.

ACCTing Out is a vibrant group for young autistic adults which runs fortnightly social events, supporting young adults to develop independent living skills. This project has also worked with venues to support them to make their spaces and activities more accessible to neurodivergent people.

Parent-carer meetings ran every fortnight, offering a space for discussion, information sharing, advice and most importantly, moral support. We also commissioned webinars and workshops for parents on issues that arise frequently in meetings, such as Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

We increased the amount of family activities we ran this year. Our fortnightly Autism-friendly family swimming sessions are hugely popular. As a private hire session, we can have lower light levels, less noise and lower numbers to make these sessions more accessible to neurodivergent people. We take a similar approach to the private hire family sessions we have held at Air Haus (a giant bouncy castle park) during the year.

We have also continued to offer Summer day trips and a Christmas pantomime trip. For many families with autistic children, going out together to busy public places is very difficult due to the likelihood of sensory overload and meltdowns; it often means that families stop trying to go out to places together and can become quite isolated. Our trips give parents the confidence to join in, knowing that you'll be around other families who understand neurodiversity and where we may be able to work with venues to make activities more Autism-friendly.

As always, I'd like to thank everybody who gives their time to help ACCT achieve its positive outcomes.

Staff and volunteer recruitment have been a challenge for ACCT over the year. We have fixed session times, so finding Playworkers who can work at those specific times is sometimes difficult. Similarly, we have seen a reduction in new volunteers, with the cost of living crisis perhaps meaning that more students and other prospective volunteers are having to focus on paid work more than volunteering. Despite these challenges, we have managed to keep all sessions running and fully staffed and our thanks go to the staff and volunteer team who provide such great support to children and young people.

Many thanks to my colleagues on the ACCT board who volunteer their time and skills to ensure that our charity is well-governed and provide excellent governance support and strategic advice and support to the responds to strategic and operational needs. The Manager and Trustees have reviewed ACCT's policies and procedures, ensuring we are following best practice for a charity of our size working with vulnerable children.

Thank you to all ACCT members and supporters for everything you do to help improve the lives of autistic children and their families in Sheffield.

Helen Gilder, Chair

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 8th September 2016 and as amended on 17 March 2023. Amendments were made to reflect our new legal charity name Autistic Children and Carers Together and updates to the language regarding Autism rather than Asperger's and to include gender neutral pronouns. This language update meant we also updated our charitable object with permission from the Charity Commission. Our charitable object now reads:

The object of the CIO is to support the needs of autistic children and young people living in the Sheffield area, in particular by provision of services and assistance to them and their family and carers, irrespective of political or religious affiliation, race, gender or sexual orientation.

ACCT previously operated as an unincorporated charity - Asperger's Children and Carers Together (ACCT) Sheffield, registered charity 1123714 - which was re-formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity 1169099) from 1st April 2017.

Overall governance of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected from the membership and co-opted at the Annual General Meeting under the terms of the constitution. The Board of Trustees meets at least four times per year and is responsible for managing the business of the organisation, safeguarding the assets and managing the funds. Day to day activity is managed by and carried out by paid staff and volunteers.

Trustees serve for a term of three years at the end of which they are eligible to stand for re-election. Trustees are primarily drawn from ACCT's 500+ members, who are parents and carers of autistic children. We may also co-opt Trustees from outside the membership to bring additional skills or experience onto the board.

Risk Assessment

The Board of Trustees regularly discusses and reviews all the major risks to which ACCT is exposed, and establishes suitable systems to mitigate those risks.

Financial Review

We budgeted for 2022-23 expenditure at a slightly higher level to 2021-22 based on delivering a similar level of activities but allowing for anticipated cost increases. The cost of living crisis meant that some costs increased more than anticipated.

Fundraising has also become significantly more challenging as a result of the difficulties in the wider economy. Grants, contracts and donations received during the year helped raise the majority of the income needed to run all of our activities, but in light of the cost increases we knew that there would be a shortfall.

Trustees took the decision to continue to run our planned activities and bear the higher costs, knowing that we held a comfortable level of reserves from 2021-22.

We had a deficit of £25,301 in unrestricted funds for the year, which was paid for using charity reserves. This reduced our level of unrestricted reserves from £118,522 at 31 March 2022 to £93,251 at 31 March 2023.

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

We would like to thank the many funding bodies and individuals who continue to support our work financially, helping provide a total income this year of £155,298.

Sheffield City Council remained ACCT's major funder, continuing to fund 28 Acctivate places and 24 Teenage Club places at our weekly multi-activity clubs through the Short Breaks for Disabled Children (SNIPS) programme. Other funders enable us to provide additional non-SNIPS places at Acctivate and Teenage Club for children and young people who fall outside the SNIPS eligibility, e.g. those in urgent need without a diagnosis.

We apply to a wide range of trusts, foundations and other grant-makers to support our work. Our BBC Children in Need Next Steps grant ran until March 2023. We received the second £20,000 installment of our two year grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation, as well as a large number of other grants from charitable trusts and other funding bodies, which are listed in the accounts.

ACCT members and other individual supporters continue to be generous donors, with regular giving and one-off donations providing around 10% of ACCT's income.

ACCT begins 2022-23 in a healthy financial position to continue delivering our expanded programme, especially thanks to our successful National Lottery People's Projects campaign in Spring 2023 which raised £70,000 towards our single activity sessions and progression activities. We know that costs are continuing to increase and the fundraising climate remains challenging. Trustees are monitoring the charity finances and will make decisions through the year on our levels of activity accordingly.

Reserves policy

ACCT needs to hold financial reserves in a realisable form in order to manage cashflow, meet unforeseen expenditure needs and ensure an orderly wind down in the unlikely event that the charity needs to close.

The trustees consider it prudent that the charity should hold unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover at least three months' running costs plus close-down costs. For 2022-23, this meant a level of at least £56,000. At the end of the year 2022-2023, ACCT held unrestricted reserves of £93,251, or approximately 5 months' running costs plus close-down costs.

Public Benefit

Autistic Children and Carers Together provides public benefit by delivering group activity sessions which support autistic children and young people to develop confidence and emotional resilience, practice vital life skills and engage with the world, make lasting friendships, and become empowered to better understand and celebrate the role their neurodivergence plays in their identity.

We work with the whole family, with support for parent-carer and nurturing member families as part of a citywide Autism community. Parent-carers gain knowledge, skills and confidence around parenting autistic children. Families are able to develop the emotional resilience to address internal and external challenges related to Autism, such as managing stressful times of transition and change.

Our activities are designed to enable stronger mutually supportive peer relationships between young people, between parents and between families that can continue outside of ACCT. By supporting a growing and empowered Autism community in Sheffield, we can

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

increase Autism awareness in wider society, improving outcomes by helping families identify neurodiversity and seek support at an earlier stage.

Achievements and Performance

ACCT has been supporting autistic children and their families in Sheffield since 2006. We have learned a lot about the use of fun activities to motivate autistic children to communicate and interact, providing non-judgmental environments in which children are able to explore how their Autism impacts them and practice dealing with the resulting behaviours and challenges in a safe way.

During 2022-23, we delivered the following sessions each week:

Acctivate multi-activity club for 30 children aged 5-12 on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evening **Teenage Club** for 30 teenagers. Sessions held in a self-contained annex of St Mary's Community Centre, Bramall Lane, just outside Sheffield city centre with a hard court area for sports and a grassed outside space. Sessions include games and construction, arts and crafts, a sensory room and football and outside activities.

ACCT Academy football coaching for 30 children and young people aged 5-18. Sessions are held every Friday evening, 6-7pm at Goals Sheffield, which provides all-weather pitch facilities. We have two groups for younger and older children, with two coaches per pitch.

ACCT Gaming Clubs. 3 staffed Minecraft and Dungeons & Dragons online sessions per week plus monthly in-person D&D sessions at Patriot Games and alongside Teenage Club. Sessions support cooperative gameplay, imagination, flexibility and promote safe and positive online behaviour.

We also delivered fortnightly ACCTing Out social group activities for young autistic adults, three terms of Drama Club sessions for teenagers, fortnightly peer support meetings for parent-carers, fortnightly Autism-friendly family swimming sessions and a programme of family day trips and activities throughout the year.

We supported more than 500 autistic children and young people during the year, around 300 through in-person and online sessions and 200 via participation in family activities. More than 100 parent-carers accessed Parents' Meetings and workshops. And more than 140 siblings and other family members via family activities or attending groups.

Plans for 2023-24

We aim to continue to offer a wide range of activities to meet the needs of as many autistic children and young people as possible. We recognise the continuing delays and discouragement for families in seeking diagnosis and applying for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and want to make sure that children and parent-carers can be supported in these circumstances.

During the year, we are revising our delivery models to make sure we manage demand fairly and that we are able to get the most value for money. Costs are increasing and fundraising is becoming more challenging, so we know we need to manage our spending carefully so we are able to deliver as much activity as possible. For example, we are working with theatre company Forced Entertainment on developing a way of delivering our teenage drama sessions in a cost-effective way.

Autistic Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2023

We are focusing on strategic developments for ACCT in the coming year, beginning with a trustee and core staff away day held in Spring 2023 from which we identified a range of possible development areas for the charity to address current needs, as well as beginning the process of developing improved processes for trustees to quantify and manage key risks impacting the organisation.

Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit for the period. In preparing these financial statements, Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

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

Independent Examiner

The trustees have appointed Mr. Terry Scully to provide an Independent Examination Report on the accounts for the year.

On behalf of the board of trustees,

Helen Gilder, Chair

17th October 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Autistic Children and Carers Together

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 10-16.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T G Scully
63 Argyle Road, Sheffield, S8 9HG

Date 17th October 2023

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st March 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Contracts	6	-	52,800	52,800	52,800
Grants	7	40,531	39,265	79,796	133,244
Donations		22,702	-	22,702	20,096
		<u>63,233</u>	<u>92,065</u>	<u>155,298</u>	<u>206,140</u>
Salaries NI and Pensions		53,010	77,854	130,864	109,263
Rent rates and Room Hire		8,473	17,039	25,512	21,993
Activity Delivery Costs		12,106	21,348	33,454	12,993
Equipment		-	-	-	1,683
Training		5,838	-	5,838	4,301
Travel		-	360	360	252
Volunteer costs		28	796	824	237
Office costs		2,205	-	2,205	3,209
Fundraising costs		753	-	753	752
Finance and accountancy costs		2,358	-	2,358	2,203
DBS checks		962	-	962	1,321
Professional fees		354	1,099	1,453	-
Insurance		1,334	-	1,334	1,249
Depreciation		763	2,995	3,758	2,151
Examiners Fees		350	-	350	350
		<u>88,534</u>	<u>121,491</u>	<u>210,025</u>	<u>161,957</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		(25,301)	(29,426)	(54,727)	44,183
Total funds brought forward		118,552	44,697	163,249	119,066
Total funds carried forward		93,251	15,271	108,522	163,249

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Balance Sheet
At 31 March 2023

		2023	2022
	note	£	£
Fixed Assets	8	8,984	12,742
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		100,295	152,528
Debtors and accrued income		-	832
		<u>100,295</u>	<u>153,360</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accruals and deferred income	9	757	2,853
		<u>757</u>	<u>2,853</u>
Net current assets		<u>99,538</u>	<u>150,507</u>
Net Assets		<u>108,522</u>	<u>163,249</u>
Funds			
Restricted	11	15,271	44,697
Unrestricted		93,251	118,552
Total Funds		<u>108,522</u>	<u>163,249</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the 17th October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Helen Gilder, Chair

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2023

Accounting Policies

- 1 The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments and 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 (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

a) Incoming resources

Incoming resources have been included on a receivable basis. Grants and voluntary income are accounted for in the year in which they are received unless receipt has become certain at the balance sheet date, and allocated to the period in which it applies if appropriate. Resources restricted to a specific purpose are carried forward until spent. Other income is accrued as it becomes due.

b) Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred, and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. The analysis follows a natural classification.

c) Allocation of costs

Costs directly related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Support costs, which are necessary to deliver an activity but do not themselves deliver the activity, are allocated in proportion to the benefit attributable. Governance costs are those costs incurred in meeting statutory and constitutional requirements.

d) Restricted funds

Funds are identified as restricted where they are received for a specific purpose or project and where the donor may require repayment if the conditions are not met.

e) Donations in kind

Donations in kind or goods or services are accounted for using the trustees' estimate of their value. No value is attributed to the activities of trustees or voluntary helpers.

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2022

Accounting Policies - continued

1 f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are included at original cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off each asset over its estimated useful life on a straight line basis.

The applicable rates are:

Musical equipment	20%
IT and visual equipment	25%

Notes to the Accounts

2 Taxation

As a registered charity, ACCT is exempt from income and capital taxes on its charitable activities.

3 Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions

Trustees received no remuneration. Expenses were paid in reimbursement of costs incurred on behalf of the charity. No more than £100 was involved in total. No trustees reported any interests in contracts involving ACCT.

4 Staff costs and numbers:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	124,233	104,116
Pension contributions	5,843	4,359
Health care scheme	788	788
	<u>130,864</u>	<u>109,263</u>
Staff (part time)	26	22

No employees were paid more than £60,000.

5 Fees for examination of accounts

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examiner	350	350

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2023

6 Contracts **2023** **2022**

SCC Short break contract	52,800	52,800
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The SCC contract is part of the Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) framework and funds Short Break activity places for autistic children and young people at Acctivate and Teenage Club

7 Grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
BBC Children in Need	750	29,040	29,790	36,281
Garfield Weston Foundation	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Morrisons Foundation	-	4,600	4,600	-
Sheffield Town Trust	4,500	-	4,500	4,500
NHS Sheffield CCG	2,500	-	2,500	1,572
The James Neill Trust Fund	-	2,500	2,500	-
Happy Days	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
Forced Entertainment	1,781	-	1,781	1,465
Westfield Health Charitable Trust	-	1,125	1,125	-
29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Charities Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Cutlers Company Charitable Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
J G Graves Charitable Trust	-	1,000	1,000	-
Olive Lawrence Memorial Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Sir John Eastwood Foundation	1,000	-	1,000	-
Voluntary Action Sheffield	-	1,000	1,000	4,058
Other grants and trusts	2,000	-	2,000	63,368
	<u>40,531</u>	<u>39,265</u>	<u>79,796</u>	<u>133,244</u>

In addition to the above the trustees wish to acknowledge the following trusts and grant making bodies who have contributed towards the funding of the charity during the year.

The Dixon Pitchfork Charitable Trust Fund
The Fitton Trust
Trustees of Elsie Lawrence Deceased
The Vulcan Rotary Club

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2023

Accounting Policies - continued

8 Fixed Assets

	IT Equipment £	Visual Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1/4/22	35,972	2,637	38,609
Additions	-	-	-
At 31/3/23	<u>35,972</u>	<u>2,637</u>	<u>38,609</u>
Depreciation			
At 1/4/22	23,608	2,259	25,867
Charge for the year	3,621	137	3,758
At 31/3/23	<u>27,229</u>	<u>2,396</u>	<u>29,625</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31/3/23	<u>8,743</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>8,984</u>
At 31/3/22	<u>12,364</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>12,742</u>

9 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
Taxes and social security	-	631
Accruals	757	2,222
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>757</u>	<u>2,853</u>

10 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,400	7,584	8,984
Current assets	92,608	7,687	100,295
Creditors falling due within one year	(757)	-	(757)
	<u>93,251</u>	<u>15,271</u>	<u>108,522</u>

Autistic Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2023

11 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2023
SCC Contract	-	52,800	(52,800)	-	-
BBC CIN, Next Steps	-	29,040	(29,040)	-	-
National Lottery	9,351	-	(9,351)	-	-
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust	8,537	-	(8,537)	-	-
SCC Covid Recovery Fund	13,701	-	(13,701)	-	-
Voluntary Action Sheffield	2,529	-	(2,529)	-	-
Sheffield Autism Partnership	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Westfield Health Trust	-	1,125	-	-	1,125
JG Graves Charitable Trust		1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Morrisons Foundation		4,600	(288)	-	4,312
James Neill Trust Fund		2,500	(1,250)	-	1,250
Restricted Asset fund	10,579		(2,995)	-	7,584
	<u>44,697</u>	<u>92,065</u>	<u>(121,491)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,271</u>

Restricted funds were received for the following purposes:

SCC Contract	Support for Activate and Teenage Club
BBC CIN, Next Steps	Support for activities and parents
National Lottery	Support for ACCTing Out young adults' activities and joint working with SAPAG
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust	Football activity costs
SCC Covid Recovery Fund	Support for online clubs and gaming groups
Voluntary Action Sheffield	Support for ACCTing Out young adults' activities and joint working with SAPAG
Sheffield Autism Partnership	Support for ACCTing Out young adults' activities
Westfield Health Trust	Support for ACCTing Out young adults' activities
JG Graves Charitable Trust	Swimming activity costs
Morrisons Foundation	Swimming activity costs
James Neill Trust Fund	Support for Drama activities

Accounts

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Registered Charity Number 1169099

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2022

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Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees:	Helen Gilder – Chair Deborah Young Claire Dyson Sarah Tame (resigned 8 November 2021) Margaret Kilner Nadine Cain (appointed 27 July 2021) Sara Bartlett Brown (appointed 9 March 2022)
Honorary Trustees:	Dr. Nevyne Chalhoub, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust Dr. Val Harpin, Retired Consultant Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician
Staff:	Manager, 17.5 hours per week; Fundraising & Finance Coordinator, 16 hours per week; Deputy Coordinators (job share), 13 hours per week; Project Manager, 6 hours per week; Sessional Playworkers x 22
Principal Address:	St Mary's Community Centre Bramall Lane Sheffield S2 4QZ
Independent Examiner:	Terry Scully
Bankers:	Lloyds Church Street Sheffield

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

Report from the Chair

Welcome to ACCT's annual report for 2021-22. This year saw the continued easing of Covid restrictions which meant we were able to reinstate the activities that had been on hold for some or all of the previous year, including ACCT Academy Football coaching sessions, ACCTing Out young adults social group and our programme of family social activities.

We established new online gaming groups and online parent-carer support meetings during 2020-21 to keep children and families supported and connected during lockdowns. Families told us that these sessions have proven such a valuable addition to the support ACCT offers that we took the decision to continue them this year. We have been so pleased to be able to grow and develop our Minecraft and Dungeons & Dragons groups, deliver new workshops alongside peer support sessions for parent-carers and increase our family activities with fortnightly swimming sessions and more term-time and holiday trips out.

We gradually eased the 'bubbles' and social distancing at our multi-activity Acctivate and Teenage Club sessions as guidance and our own risk assessments changed. We have continued to offer 30 places per session at these clubs, lower than our pre-Covid capacity of 40 places at Acctivate and 35 at Teenage Club. This has been beneficial for reducing the potential for Covid transmission and in terms of providing a quieter session that some members find more accessible. However, it means that places are in high demand and it reduces our capacity to offer places to families in need who are unable to be referred through our Sheffield City Council (SNIPS) contract, such as those stuck on long waiting lists for Autism diagnosis or SNIPS assessment.

We continue to work in partnership with organisations to improve our positive impact for autistic children and their families in Sheffield. We partnered with renowned theatre company Forced Entertainment to offer a Drama Club for autistic teenagers which has been incredibly popular and met a real need in the city where drama at school or via mainstream community groups have proven less accessible for autistic young people. We aim to continue this project in 2022-23.

Towards the end of the year, we established a partnership between our ACCTing Out young adults social group and The A Team, the social group for autistic adults coordinated by Sheffield Asperger's Parents Action Group (SAPAG). By running some joint events for both groups and supporting members who want to try activities run by the partner group, we hope to provide seamless support for autistic people in Sheffield, particularly for ACCTing Out participants as they get older and may want to move on to other activities with people of a similar age. This joint working came about in part thanks to our active role in the Sheffield Autism Partnership Network, which also provided a welcome small grant towards our joint work.

As always, I'd like to thank everybody who gives their time to help ACCT achieve its positive outcomes. Several sessional staff members left during the year and we recruited several new members of the team. Thank you to all ACCT staff who provide such great support to children and young people. We were also able to offer more and different opportunities to existing and new volunteers in line with our expanded range of activities. Our volunteers do a wonderful job at ACCT and we aim to support them with a great volunteering experience.

My colleagues on the ACCT board volunteer their time and skills to ensure that our charity is well-governed and provides excellent support that responds to strategic and operational needs. Many thanks to Sarah Tame who left the board during the year, and welcome to Nadine Cain and Sara Bartlett Brown who joined. All trustees have direct experience of our

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

work as parent-carers of autistic children.

During 2021-2022, we reduced the number of board meetings per year from six to four, now held quarterly, with other discussions and decisions as necessary carried out between meetings via emails. The Manager and Trustees have reviewed ACCT's policies and procedures, ensuring we are following best practice for a charity of our size working with vulnerable children.

Thank you to all ACCT's members and supporters for everything you do to help improve the lives of autistic children and their families in Sheffield.

Helen Gilder, Chair

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 8th September 2016.

ACCT previously operated as an unincorporated charity - Asperger's Children and Carers Together (ACCT) Sheffield, registered charity 1123714 - which was re-formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity 1169099) from 1st April 2017.

Overall governance of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected from the membership and co-opted at the Annual General Meeting under the terms of the constitution. The Board of Trustees meets at least four times per year and is responsible for managing the business of the organisation, safeguarding the assets and managing the funds. Day to day activity is managed by and carried out by paid staff and volunteers.

Trustees serve for a term of three years at the end of which they are eligible to stand for re-election. Trustees are primarily drawn from ACCT's 500+ members, who are parents and carers of autistic children. We may also co-opt Trustees from outside the membership to bring additional skills or experience onto the board.

Risk Assessment

The Board of Trustees regularly discusses and reviews all the major risks to which ACCT is exposed, and establishes suitable systems to mitigate those risks.

Financial Review

We budgeted for a significant increase in our expenditure this year in order to pay for our expanded programme with more parent and family activities and continuing our online gaming groups alongside our in-person groups.

This in turn meant an increased fundraising target to pay for this work. We would like to thank the many funding bodies and individuals who continue to support our work financially, helping provide a total income this year of £206,140.

Sheffield City Council remained ACCT's major funder, continuing to fund 28 Activate places and 24 Teenage Club places at our weekly multi-activity clubs through the Short Breaks for Disabled Children (SNIPS) programme.

We apply to a wide range of trusts, foundations and other grant-makers to support our work.

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

Our BBC Children in Need Next Steps grant of £43,651 over 18 months contributed towards our online gaming groups and we were delighted to be awarded an extension to this grant, which now runs until March 2023. We were awarded £20,000 per year for two years from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £14,950 from the Postcode Neighbourhood Trust towards ACCT Academy football as well as a large number of other grants from charitable trusts and other funding bodies, which are listed in the accounts.

ACCT members and other individual supporters continue to be generous donors, with regular giving and one-off donations providing around 10% of ACCT's income.

We began 2021-22 with a healthy level of unrestricted reserves. Along with the generous support received during the year, we were able to meet the increased costs of our expanded activity programme and maintain unrestricted reserves at £118,552. This means that ACCT begins 2022-23 in a healthy financial position to continue delivering our expanded programme, though we are mindful of the difficult wider economic situation which is likely to have an impact on ACCT's finances over the coming year.

Reserves policy

ACCT needs to hold financial reserves in a realisable form in order to manage cashflow, meet unforeseen expenditure needs and ensure an orderly wind down in the unlikely event that the charity needs to close.

The trustees consider it prudent that the charity should hold unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover at least three months' running costs plus close-down costs. For 2021-22, this meant a level of at least £55,000. At the end of the year 2021-2022, ACCT held unrestricted reserves of £118,552, or approximately 7 months' running costs plus close-down costs. Trustees consider this an appropriate level of reserves in light of the wider economic outlook and will keep this under review.

Public Benefit

Asperger's Children and Carers Together provides public benefit by delivering group activity sessions which engage autistic children and young people in a safe, relaxed environment where they feel comfortable to practice social interactions and develop relationships, improve their confidence and well-being, and work with peers, staff and volunteers to better understand and manage the way their Autism affects their day-to-day life.

We believe in working with the whole family, providing support to parents and carers, siblings and others to ensure that autistic children are understood and supported in the best way possible. We aim for all autistic people in Sheffield to be valued and supported to live happy, fulfilling lives. We want to work with others to improve awareness of Autism and deliver positive action towards inclusion of autistic people in all aspects of life.

Achievements and Performance

ACCT has been supporting autistic children and their families in Sheffield since 2006. We have learned a lot about the use of fun activities to motivate autistic children to communicate and interact, providing non-judgmental environments in which children are able to explore how their Autism impacts them and practice dealing with the resulting behaviours and challenges in a safe way.

Our work supports children, young people, young adults and parent-carers of autistic

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

children to make progress against three outcomes:

Emotionally Well: Through participating in fun and safe ACCT sessions amongst peers, children and young people feel relaxed enough to be themselves without having to hide or mask their Autism, and are more able to improve their confidence and mental well-being. Parent-carers and other neurotypical family members are supported to become more confident in their support of their autistic family members.

Positive Relationships: Autistic children are motivated to take part in engaging activities through which they are able to learn and practice social communication in a safe environment, develop friendships with peers and develop the skills needed for social interaction in the wider world. Parent support and whole family sessions support positive relationship development within and between families.

Understanding Autism's Impact: Children and young people are able to better understand the way their Autism impacts on their life, emotions and behaviours, and develop strategies for managing its effects in a positive way. Other family members are better able to understand Autism and engage positively with their children's development.

Over 2021-22, we supported more than 400 autistic children and young people, around 200 through in-person and online sessions and 200 via participation in family activities. More than 100 parent-carers accessed Parents' Meetings and workshops. And more than 120 siblings and other family members via family activities or attending groups. During 2021-22, our activity programme included:

Acctivate (2.5 hours on Saturday mornings attended by 30 children aged 5-12) and **Teenage Club** (2 hours on Wednesday evenings for 30 teenagers).

These weekly multi-activity clubs at St Mary's Community Centre in central Sheffield offer 30 places for autistic children and teenagers, with each session incorporating various creative and playful age-appropriate activities including ICT, games and construction, toys, arts and crafts, a sensory room, space to relax and chat, and football and outside activities. The majority of places at Acctivate and Teenage Club are allocated through the Sheffield City Council SNIPS contract arrangement, with some additional places available to children and young people in need who cannot access places via SNIPS.

ACCT Academy Football. Weekly Friday evening football coaching session at Goals Sheffield, with groups for younger children and teenagers. Sessions involve training drills, skills and matchplay specifically tailored to the needs of autistic children. Sessions continued to grow in popularity and we have implemented a new booking system to help manage capacity. We supported members who wanted to play more competitively by accompanying them to Sheffield FC sessions, a progression route we aim to develop.

ACCTing Out Young Adults Social Group. We reopened our young adults group in June 2021 and delivered fortnightly social activities including bowling, the cinema, meals out and adventure golf, with the group attracting several new members who had not previously accessed ACCT support in addition to those who had previously attended Teenage Club or other groups. We also established our partnership with The A Team which will deliver more joint activities in 2022-23.

ACCT Gaming For Good – Minecraft and Dungeons & Dragons groups. We continued to deliver a Saturday morning **Minecraft** (world-building online game) group taking place online. We run this session alongside Acctivate so children attending that session can

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

participate in Minecraft for part of the time alongside their friends playing online. These sessions have been popular and helped young people develop online communication skills as well as negotiation and collaboration via the gameplay. We implemented two modes of play (Survival and Creative) to meet different young people's needs and preferences.

We also delivered two **Dungeons and Dragons** (creative role playing game) online sessions each week. These sessions help young people practice cooperation, communication and building positive relationships in a safe and supportive online space, with facilitation and session management provided by ACCT staff and volunteers. We are planning to trial some in-person D&D sessions next year.

Drama Group. We worked with acclaimed theatre company Forced Entertainment to establish an ACCT Drama Group for autistic teenagers which delivered fully booked term-time and holiday sessions and have proven an incredibly popular addition to our programme.

Parents Meetings & Workshop Programme. We continued to deliver fortnightly online Parent-carer meetings in a peer support and discussion format. Each session attracts 10-20 parent-carers and we have had very positive feedback from parent-carers who have found the sessions a useful source of information, advice and support. We also maintained public and private Facebook groups for parent-carers to share relevant information. We offer ad hoc one-to-one support to families in need, responding to arising issues.

We delivered a programme of training workshops and webinars for parent-carers on topics of interest, as determined by discussions in Parents' Meetings and in our Facebook groups. These included sessions on Education and Health Care Plans, Makaton and ADHD.

Family trips and activities. We run Autism-friendly family swimming sessions by hiring Hillsborough Leisure Centre for private use, with lower lighting and reduced noise for improved accessibility. These sessions are incredibly popular because they give families the opportunity to take part in a fun leisure activity that may otherwise be inaccessible due to the sensory impact of the regular public swimming pool environment on autistic children. This year we increased the frequency of our family swimming sessions to fortnightly instead of monthly to try to meet the needs of so many families.

We delivered several day trips over the Summer school holidays as well as term-time trips to activities like Air Haus and a Christmas pantomime trip.

Plans for 2022-23

In Sheffield, public sector cuts mean that the waiting time for Autism diagnosis can now be more than two years. Without a diagnosis, families are generally unable to even begin the lengthy and often difficult processes for accessing support such as Education Health and Care Plans or Sheffield City Council SNIPS activities (including Activate and Teenage Club). Therefore, we are seeing significant needs for children and families awaiting diagnosis. In 2022-23 we want to make sure that ACCT's services are well publicised via relevant NHS and other organisations so that families know they can access ACCT without needing a diagnosis. We will look for opportunities to engage with statutory bodies in ways that could address these issues and lead to meaningful improvements for families in need.

We plan to continue delivering our groups and activities as we have this year, continuing to refine and improve our model of activity-based support for autistic children and young people, alongside support for parent-carers and whole family social activities. We will

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

continue to encourage children and young people to speak up about ACCT and how sessions are working for them, and we aim to develop our activities in line with what children tell us they want and need.

We will continue to develop and deliver our partnership project for autistic adults, building closer links between ACCTing Out and The A Team. Having had a successful pilot of our drama group, we plan to develop that project and aim to continue our partnership with Forced Entertainment. We also plan to pilot in-person Dungeons and Dragons sessions with sessions at community games spaces and taster sessions for young people who want to give it a try.

Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit for the period. In preparing these financial statements, Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

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

Independent Examiner

The trustees have appointed Mr. Terry Scully to provide an Independent Examination Report on the accounts for the year.

On behalf of the board of trustees,

Helen Gilder, Chair

17 October 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Asperger's Children and Carers Together

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 10-16.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T G Scully
63 Argyle Road, Sheffield, S8 9HG

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st March 2022

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Contracts	6	-	52,800	52,800	52,774
Grants	7	43,398	89,846	133,244	101,005
Donations		20,096	-	20,096	27,258
		<u>63,494</u>	<u>142,646</u>	<u>206,140</u>	<u>181,037</u>
Salaries NI and Pensions		20,540	88,723	109,263	109,151
Rent rates and Room Hire		7,241	14,752	21,993	11,894
Activity Delivery Costs		11,296	1,697	12,993	2,021
Equipment		1,456	227	1,683	2,378
Training		4,301	-	4,301	6,153
Travel		252	-	252	38
Volunteer costs		-	237	237	121
Office costs		3,209	-	3,209	1,288
Fundraising costs		752	-	752	752
Finance and accountancy costs		2,160	43	2,203	2,259
DBS checks		1,321	-	1,321	381
Professional fees		-	-	-	1,188
Insurance		1,249	-	1,249	1,098
Depreciation		954	1,197	2,151	1,468
Examiners Fees		350	-	350	400
		<u>55,081</u>	<u>106,876</u>	<u>161,957</u>	<u>140,590</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		8,413	35,770	44,183	40,447
Total funds brought forward		110,139	8,927	119,066	78,619
Total funds carried forward		118,552	44,697	163,249	119,066

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Balance Sheet
At 31 March 2022

		2022	2021
	note	£	£
Fixed Assets	8	12,742	7,042
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		152,528	115,623
Debtors and accrued income		832	-
		<u>153,360</u>	<u>115,623</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accruals and deferred income	9	2,853	3,599
		<u>2,853</u>	<u>3,599</u>
Net current assets		<u>150,507</u>	<u>112,024</u>
Net Assets		<u>163,249</u>	<u>119,066</u>
Funds			
Restricted	11	44,697	8,927
Unrestricted		118,552	110,139
Total Funds		<u>163,249</u>	<u>119,066</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the 17th October 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Helen Gilder, Chair

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2022

Accounting Policies

- 1 The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments and 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 (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

a) Incoming resources

Incoming resources have been included on a receivable basis. Grants and voluntary income are accounted for in the year in which they are received unless receipt has become certain at the balance sheet date, and allocated to the period in which it applies if appropriate. Resources restricted to a specific purpose are carried forward until spent. Other income is accrued as it becomes due.

b) Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred, and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. The analysis follows a natural classification.

c) Allocation of costs

Costs directly related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Support costs, which are necessary to deliver an activity but do not themselves deliver the activity, are allocated in proportion to the benefit attributable. Governance costs are those costs incurred in meeting statutory and constitutional requirements.

d) Restricted funds

Funds are identified as restricted where they are received for a specific purpose or project and where the donor may require repayment if the conditions are not met.

e) Donations in kind

Donations in kind or goods or services are accounted for using the trustees' estimate of their value. No value is attributed to the activities of trustees or voluntary helpers.

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2022

Accounting Policies - continued

1 f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are included at original cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off each asset over its estimated useful life on a straight line basis.

The applicable rates are:

Musical equipment	20%
IT and visual equipment	25%

Notes to the Accounts

2 Taxation

As a registered charity, ACCT is exempt from income and capital taxes on its charitable activities.

3 Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions

Trustees received no remuneration. Expenses were paid in reimbursement of costs incurred on behalf of the charity. No more than £100 was involved in total. No trustees reported any interests in contracts involving ACCT.

4 Staff costs and numbers:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	104,116	103,293
Pension contributions	4,359	5,201
Health care scheme	788	657
	<u>109,263</u>	<u>109,151</u>
 Staff (part time)	 26	 22

No employees were paid more than £60,000.

5 Fees for examination of accounts

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent examiner	350	400

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2022

6 Contracts **2022** **2021**

SCC Short break contract	52,800	52,774
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The SCC contract is part of the Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) framework and funds Short Break activity places for autistic children and young people at Acctivate and Teenage Club

7 Grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
BBC Children in Need	-	36,281	36,281	17,435
HMRC Job Retention Scheme	3,333	-	3,333	6,527
National Lottery	-	9,978	9,978	10,000
Forced Entertainment	1,465	-	1,465	
Garfield Weston	20,000	-	20,000	10,000
Happy Days	2,000	-	2,000	
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	-	8,838	8,838	9,822
NHS Sheffield CCG		1,572	1,572	
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust		14,950	14,950	
Sheffield Town Trust	4,500	-	4,500	2,500
SCC Covid Recovery Fund		13,701	13,701	
The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	1,500	-	1,500	
The Talbot Trusts	2,000	-	2,000	
UK Youth	2,000	-	2,000	
Voluntary Action Sheffield		4,058	4,058	
Other grants and trusts	6,600	468	7,068	11,505
	<u>43,398</u>	<u>89,846</u>	<u>133,244</u>	<u>67,789</u>

In addition to the above the trustees wish to acknowledge the following trusts and grant making bodies who have contributed towards the funding of the charity during the year.

29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	Cutlers Company Charitable Trust
Arnold Clark Community Fund	N Smith Charitable Settlement
Casey Trust	R S Brownless Charitable Trust
Charities Trust	Stella Symons Charitable Trust
Football Foundation	Trustees of Elsie Lawrence Deceased
Mazars Charitable Trust	Wallace Bell Charitable Trust

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2022

Accounting Policies - continued

8 Fixed Assets

	IT Equipment	Visual Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1/4/21	28,121	2,637	30,758
Additions	7,851	-	7,851
At 31/3/22	<u>35,972</u>	<u>2,637</u>	<u>38,609</u>
Depreciation			
At 1/4/21	21,594	2,122	23,716
Charge for the year	2,014	137	2,151
At 31/3/22	<u>23,608</u>	<u>2,259</u>	<u>25,867</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31/3/22	<u>12,364</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>12,742</u>
At 31/3/21	<u>6,527</u>	<u>515</u>	<u>7,042</u>

9 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
Taxes and social security	631	(352)
Accruals	2,222	3,951
Deferred income	-	-
	<u>2,853</u>	<u>3,599</u>

10 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,163	10,579	12,742
Current assets	117,372	35,988	153,360
Creditors falling due within one year	(983)	(1,870)	(2,853)
	<u>118,552</u>	<u>44,697</u>	<u>163,249</u>

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2022

11 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2022
Cheshire C. F.	4,343	-	(4,343)	-	-
BBC Children in Need (CIN)	-	29,089	(29,089)	-	-
BBC CIN, Youth Investment	-	7,192	-	(7,192)	-
National Lottery	-	9,978	(627)	-	9,351
Football Foundation	-	468	(468)	-	-
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	-	8,838	(8,838)	-	-
NHS Sheffield CCG	-	1,572	(1,572)	-	-
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust	-	14,950	(6,413)	-	8,537
SCC Contract	-	52,800	(52,800)	-	-
SCC Covid Recovery Fund	-	13,701	-	-	13,701
Voluntary Action Sheffield	-	4,058	(1,529)	-	2,529
Restricted Asset fund	4,584	-	(1,197)	7,192	10,579
	<u>8,927</u>	<u>142,646</u>	<u>(106,876)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,697</u>

Restricted funds were received for the following purposes:

Cheshire C. F.	Funding towards volunteering support costs
BBC Children in Need (CIN)	Delivery of online/in-person activities and support for families.
BBC CIN, Youth Investment	Laptops for clubs
National Lottery	Support for activities and trips and joint working with SAPAG
Football Foundation	Football pitch hire
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	Support for core costs
NHS Sheffield CCG	Swimming activity costs
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust	Football activity costs
SCC Contract	Support for Activate and Teenage Club
SCC Covid Recovery Fund	Support for online clubs and gaming groups
Voluntary Action Sheffield	Support for activities and trips and joint working with SAPAG

Accounts

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Registered Charity Number 1169099

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 March 2021

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Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees:	Helen Gilder – Chair Deborah Young Claire Dyson Sarah Tame Philip Stevenson (resigned 15 December 2020) Margaret Kilner
Honorary Trustees:	Dr. Nevyne Chalhoub, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust Dr. Val Harpin, Retired Consultant Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician
Staff:	Manager, 17.5 hours per week; Fundraising & Finance Coordinator, 16 hours per week; Deputy Coordinators (job share), 13 hours per week; Project Manager, 6 hours per week; Sessional Playworkers x 17
Principal Address:	St Mary's Community Centre Bramall Lane Sheffield S2 4QZ
Independent Examiner:	Terry Scully
Bankers:	Lloyds Church Street Sheffield

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Report from the Chair

The past year has of course been devastating and tragic for so many thousands of people and families. Even for those who did not lose family or friends or experience any serious illness, the disruption and shock of lockdowns and the pandemic has had a severe negative impact; this has a disproportionate effect on autistic children and young people. The loss of routine and being away from support at ACCT meant real issues for mental well-being and social isolation for children and families we support.

It is testament to everybody at ACCT that we were able to respond to lockdown so quickly and establish a new programme of online sessions that enabled families to keep connected to ACCT and to one another during this incredibly difficult time.

We were able to reopen in-person Acctivate, Teenage Club and ACCT Academy Football sessions safely as soon as guidance allowed in July 2020. We implemented two 'bubbles' per session with reduced capacities of 30 at Acctivate and Teenage Club. We also continued to deliver our online Minecraft and Dungeons & Dragons groups, which had become so popular and delivered such strong outcomes during lockdown, as well as additional arts & crafts Zoom sessions and multi-sports sessions. We also began a fortnightly Parent-carer peer support meeting over Zoom which has proven very popular. All of this has meant we have been able to continue supporting families even with disruption through lockdown and not being able to run our family swimming, days out, or ACCTing Out young adults group.

Thank you to all the people who give so much time and energy to keep ACCT running. The ACCT trustees have continued to give their time and expertise to help guide the charity through this especially difficult year. Philip Stevenson resigned from the board during the year and we thank him very much for his service.

We had some staff changes during the year. ACCT's long-standing Deputy Coordinator moved on to another job, but has continued on with ACCT as a Bank Playworker. We brought in two new Deputies, this expanded capacity for the core team a reflection of ACCT's increased service delivery and the growing workload for the team. Both new Deputies were previously ACCT Playworkers who know our work and the children and young people we support and have been able to hit the ground running. During the year, we recruited several new members of sessional staff, including specialist coaching staff for our ACCT Academy Football Project and new bank Playworkers for our club sessions. Many thanks to the whole staff team.

Lockdown meant there were fewer opportunities for our regular volunteers to support sessions and that our volunteers had other commitments to concentrate on. We were glad to reconnect with existing volunteers as in-person sessions reopened and we recruited several new volunteers towards the end of the year. We are very grateful to all those people who give their time to make Acctivate, Teenage Club and Football Club such fun and vibrant sessions and ensure that our children and young people get the close support and attention they deserve.

During 2020-2021 the Manager and Trustees have reviewed ACCT's policies and procedures, ensuring we are following best practice for a charity of our size working with vulnerable children.

Very many thanks to all of you for your support during 2020-21. We are anticipating more

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

disruption and challenge as we enter 2021-22 and hope to continue to be able to adapt our delivery to meet the needs of autistic children and young people, and their families.

Helen Gilder, Chair

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution dated 8th September 2016.

ACCT previously operated as an unincorporated charity - Asperger's Children and Carers Together (ACCT) Sheffield, registered charity 1123714 - which was re-formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registered charity 1169099) from 1st April 2017.

Overall governance of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected from the membership and co-opted at the Annual General Meeting under the terms of the constitution. The Board of Trustees meets at least 4 times a year and is responsible for managing the business of the organisation, safeguarding the assets and managing the funds. Day to day activity is managed by and carried out by paid staff and volunteers.

Trustees serve for a term of three years at the end of which they are eligible to stand for re-election. Trustees are primarily drawn from ACCT's 500+ members, who are parents and carers of autistic children. We may also co-opt Trustees from outside the membership to bring additional skills or experience onto the board.

Risk Assessment

The Board of Trustees regularly discusses and reviews all the major risks to which ACCT is exposed, and establishes suitable systems to mitigate those risks.

Financial Review

Everybody at ACCT is grateful to the many funding bodies and individuals who continue to support our work financially, especially during this Covid-affected year.

Sheffield City Council have funded ACCT's Acctivate and Teenage Club activities for several years through the SNIPS Short Breaks for Disabled Children programme. During 2020-21, we went through a re-tendering process and were appointed to the service framework for a three year term with a slightly different arrangement. Rather than funding every other Acctivate and Teenage Club session as previously, our new agreement funds the basic sessional costs of up to 28 Acctivate places and 24 Teenage Club places at each session (50 Acctivate and 50 Teenage Club sessions per year).

We continue to apply to a wide range of trusts, foundations and other grant-makers to support our work. Our major National Lottery People's Projects grant came to an end in June 2020, with our three year BBC Children in Need Small Grant programme ending in September 2020. We were delighted to receive two further Children in Need grants: a small Booster Grant grant to fund additional Covid-related staff time and a large Next Steps grant of £43,651 over 18 months towards our online programme and work to engage and support children and young people in-between activity sessions.

Many funding bodies opened emergency Covid-19 grant programmes from their own funds or as distributors of UK Government funding. ACCT were able to access several of these

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programmes including the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, Julia and Hans Rausing Trust Charity Survival Fund and the CAF Resilience Fund. The funding they provided meant we were able to deliver our expanded programme to meet the growing needs of autistic children and their families during this year. Their support during an incredibly difficult year means a great deal to us and to ACCT members. We were also able to access support from the Government Job Retention Scheme for workers furloughed during the year. All those charitable trusts and other funding bodies supporting us during the year are listed in the accounts.

ACCT members and other individual supporters continue to be generous donors, with regular giving and one-off donations providing around 10% of ACCT's income. Covid did have a negative impact on individual giving with fewer opportunities for sponsored events or being able to collect cash donations at in-person activities. Our members are also active in supporting ACCT in funding competitions such as the Co-op Local Causes scheme or Amazon Smile. This support helps us fund the whole costs of our work and particularly the added extras that make our sessions so fun and engaging for children and young people.

Overall this has meant that ACCT begins 2021-22 in a healthy financial position with an ongoing local authority contract and continuing Children in Need grant in place providing more than half of the funding the charity will need to deliver our full range of proposed activities in 2021-22.

Reserves policy

ACCT needs to hold financial reserves in a realisable form in order to deal with unforeseen expenditure not specifically provided for in the annual budget and to meet outstanding commitments in the unlikely event that the charity needs to close.

The trustees consider it prudent that unrestricted reserves should be not less than £40,000, equating to approximately three months' running costs plus close-down costs. At the end of the year 2020-2021, ACCT held unrestricted reserves (excluding fixed assets) of £107,680, or approximately 7 months' running costs plus close-down costs.

Public Benefit

Asperger's Children and Carers Together provides public benefit by delivering group activity sessions which engage autistic children and young people in a safe, relaxed environment where they feel comfortable to practice social interactions and develop relationships, improve their confidence and well-being, and work with peers, staff and volunteers to better understand and manage the way their Autism affects their day-to-day life.

We believe in working with the whole family, providing support to parents and carers, siblings and others to ensure that autistic children are understood and supported in the best way possible. We aim for all autistic people in Sheffield to be valued and supported to live happy, fulfilling lives. We want Autism to be understood as a difference, not a disability.

Achievements and Performance

ACCT has been supporting autistic children and their families since 2006. We have learned a lot about the use of fun activities to motivate autistic children to communicate and interact, providing non-judgmental environments in which children are able to explore how their Autism impacts them and practice dealing with the resulting behaviours and challenges in a safe way.

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

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Our work supports children, young people, young adults and parent-carers of autistic children to make progress against three outcomes:

Emotionally Well: Through participating in fun and safe ACCT sessions amongst people who understand Autism, children and young people feel relaxed enough to be themselves, explore the impact of their Autism, and improve their confidence and mental well-being. Family members are supported to become more confident in their support of their autistic family members.

Positive Relationships: Autistic children are motivated to take part in engaging activities through which they are able to learn and practice social communication in a safe environment, develop friendships with peers and develop the skills needed for social interaction in the wider world. Parent support and whole family sessions support positive relationship development within and between families.

Understanding Autism's Impact: Children and young people are able to better understand the way their Autism impacts on their life, emotions and behaviours, and develop strategies for managing its effects in a positive way. Other family members are better able to understand Autism and engage positively with their children's development.

During 2020-21, we delivered the following:

In-person activities:

Acctivate (2.5 hours on Saturday mornings attended by 30 children aged 5-12) and **Teenage Club** (2 hours on Wednesday evenings for 30 teenagers).

These weekly multi-activity clubs at St Mary's Community Centre in central Sheffield incorporate various creative and playful age-appropriate activities including ICT, games and construction, toys, arts and crafts, a sensory room, space to relax and chat, and football and outside activities. These sessions reopened in July 2020 at a reduced social-distancing capacity of 30 people per session after a hiatus due to Covid-19 during which sessions were delivered online. Sessions were regularly fully booked, especially after July with reduced capacity.

Acctivate and Teenage Club sessions are delivered through a Sheffield City Council funded Short Breaks for Disabled Children contract, with places available to children and young people registered through the local authority's process.

ACCT Academy Football. We deliver a weekly Friday evening football coaching session at Goals Sheffield, with groups for younger children and teenagers. Sessions involve training drills, skills and matchplay. Sessions are specifically tailored to the needs of autistic children (i.e. this is a specialist activity, rather than a general football community programme activity provided by non-specialist organisations which is open, but not fully accessible to, autistic children). We also ran an ACCT multi-sports session at St Mary's for several weeks when Goals Sheffield was closed due to the third lockdown. The number of football participants continued to grow over the year with more than 20 children and young people regularly attending.

Online programme

During the first Covid-19 lockdown, ACCT developed a full programme of online group sessions that kept young people practising their social communication skills and building the

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

social connections and friendships they would otherwise avoid, providing some stability and consistency during the uncertain times.

Since reopening our face-to-face sessions at the end of July 2020, we have continued to deliver and develop the twice-weekly **Minecraft** (world-building online game) and twice-weekly **Dungeons and Dragons** (creative role playing game) sessions online which are reaching new young people and delivering good outcomes. These sessions help young people practise cooperation, communication and building positive relationships in a safe and supportive online space, with facilitation and session management provided by ACCT staff and volunteers. Both these activities have proven popular, with 50 Minecraft participants during the year and more than 20 Dungeons & Dragons players. We will look at how these and similar focused activity sessions can be expanded and developed next year.

Parent-carer and whole family support

During lockdown, we switched our previous quarterly face-to-face Parents' Meetings to a fortnightly online peer support and discussion. These sessions have proven popular and useful in this format, with many parents telling us they find it easier to access Zoom sessions than in-person group meetings. Each session attracts 15-20 parent-carers and we intend to continue to deliver and develop these sessions as a key part of our support offer to parent-carers.

We also have a public and a private Facebook group available for parent-carers to offer informal peer support, advice and information, and we offer ad hoc one-to-one support to families in need, responding to issues we become aware of.

We delivered a programme of training workshops and webinars for parent-carers on topics of interest, as determined by discussions in Parents' Meetings and in our Facebook groups. These included webinar series on SEN legal issues including practical small group sessions on Education and Health Care Plans.

In non-Covid years, we would usually also offer a family programme of activities, including Summer Days Out, a Christmas pantomime trip and monthly Autism-friendly family swimming sessions. We intend to re-establish this programme once it is feasible. We did however offer families access to an online Pantomime performance and many families got together over Zoom to watch.

Over 2020-21, we worked with over 370 children and young people through in-person and online sessions and a further 100+ parent-carers through Parents' Meetings, workshops and webinars.

Plans for 2021-22

We aim to continue to develop and deliver our model of activity-based support for autistic children and young people, with a vibrant schedule of multi-activity and specialised activity sessions, with some in-person and some online groups. We will continue to encourage children and young people to speak up about ACCT and how sessions are working for them, and we aim to develop our activities in line with what children tell us they want and need. We are very aware that there is a chance of further lockdowns and disruption, so are ensuring we are ready to be flexible to adapt our programmes as necessary to meet children and family needs. We hope to be able to reinstate activities that have been on hold, particularly our ACCTing Out young adults social group, family swimming sessions and Summer Days Out.

Asperger's Children and Carers Together

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Most of all, we plan to continue to provide consistent, supportive and engaging activities for this vulnerable group of children and young people and their families, listening to the needs identified by our members and other families in Sheffield, and being responsive to their developing needs. We will continue to advocate for families, publicise our work widely, and work with local providers to ensure support for autistic people is as useful and joined-up as possible. For example, during 2020-21, we helped develop the Sheffield Autism Partnership Network with colleagues in the sector and will continue to work with partners to ensure ACCT's work meets needs and fits well with the valuable work being delivered by other organisations here in Sheffield.

Trustees' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit for the period. In preparing these financial statements, Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

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

Independent Examiner

The trustees have appointed Mr. Terry Scully to provide an Independent Examination Report on the accounts for the year.

The trustees would also like to thank Mr Anthony Ball for all his work independently examining ACCT's annual accounts in previous years, and we wish him well in his retirement.

On behalf of the board of trustees,

Helen Gilder, Chair
30th September 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Asperger's Children and Carers Together

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 10-16.

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T G Scully
63 Argyle Road, Sheffield, S8 9HG

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st March 2021

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Contracts	6	-	52,774	52,774	45,000
Grants	7	53,951	47,054	101,005	87,176
Donations		27,258	-	27,258	22,297
		<u>81,209</u>	<u>99,828</u>	<u>181,037</u>	<u>154,473</u>
Salaries NI and Pensions		14,010	95,141	109,151	85,837
Rent rates and Room Hire		2,681	9,213	11,894	18,009
Activity Delivery Costs		321	1,700	2,021	18,432
Equipment		1,316	1,062	2,378	3,133
Training		3	6,150	6,153	2,633
Travel		3	35	38	139
Volunteer costs		1	120	121	226
Office costs		1,288	-	1,288	1,084
Fundraising costs		752	-	752	1,211
Finance and accountancy costs		2,259	-	2,259	2,215
DBS checks		6	375	381	747
Professional fees		1,188	-	1,188	-
Insurance		1,098	-	1,098	1,048
Depreciation		1,002	466	1,468	1,338
Examiners Fees		400	-	400	250
		<u>26,328</u>	<u>114,262</u>	<u>140,590</u>	<u>136,302</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		54,881	(14,434)	40,447	18,171
Total funds brought forward		55,258	23,361	78,619	60,448
Total funds carried forward		110,139	8,927	119,066	78,619

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Balance Sheet
At 31 March 2021

		2021	2020
	note	£	£
Fixed Assets	8	7,042	1,327
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		115,623	89,822
Debtors and accrued income		-	-
		<u>115,623</u>	<u>89,822</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accruals and deferred income	9	3,599	12,530
		<u>3,599</u>	<u>12,530</u>
Net current assets		<u>112,024</u>	<u>77,292</u>
Net Assets		<u>119,066</u>	<u>78,619</u>
Funds			
Restricted	11	8,927	23,361
Unrestricted		<u>110,139</u>	<u>55,258</u>
Total Funds		<u>119,066</u>	<u>78,619</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on the 30th September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Helen Gilder, Chair

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2021

Accounting Policies

- 1 The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments and 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 (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

a) Incoming resources

Incoming resources have been included on a receivable basis. Grants and voluntary income are accounted for in the year in which they are received unless receipt has become certain at the balance sheet date, and allocated to the period in which it applies if appropriate. Resources restricted to a specific purpose are carried forward until spent. Other income is accrued as it becomes due.

b) Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred, and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. The analysis follows a natural classification.

c) Allocation of costs

Costs directly related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Support costs, which are necessary to deliver an activity but do not themselves deliver the activity, are allocated in proportion to the benefit attributable. Governance costs are those costs incurred in meeting statutory and constitutional requirements.

d) Restricted funds

Funds are identified as restricted where they are received for a specific purpose or project and where the donor may require repayment if the conditions are not met.

e) Donations in kind

Donations in kind or goods or services are accounted for using the trustees' estimate of their value. No value is attributed to the activities of trustees or voluntary helpers.

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2021

Accounting Policies - continued

1 f) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are included at original cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided to write off each asset over its estimated useful life on a straight line basis.

The applicable rates are:

Musical equipment	20%
IT and visual equipment	25%

Notes to the Accounts

2 Taxation

As a registered charity, ACCT is exempt from income and capital taxes on its charitable activities.

3 Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions

Trustees received no remuneration. Expenses were paid in reimbursement of costs incurred on behalf of the charity. No more than £100 was involved in total. No trustees reported any interests in contracts involving ACCT.

4 Staff costs and numbers:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	103,293	83,074
Pension contributions	5,201	2,563
Health care scheme	657	-
	<u>109,151</u>	<u>85,637</u>
 Staff (part time)	 22	 20

No employees were paid more than £60,000.

5 Fees for examination of accounts

	2021	2020
	£	£
Independent examiner	400	250

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2021

6 Contracts	2021	2020
SCC Short break contract	52,774	45,000

The SCC contract is part of the Special Needs Inclusion Playcare Service (SNIPS) framework and funds Short Break activity places for autistic children and young people at Acctivate and Teenage Club

7 Grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
BBC Children in Need	-	17,435	17,435	9,500
CAF Resilience Fund	-	10,361	10,361	-
Cheshire Community Foundation	-	4,758	4,758	-
HMRC Job Retention Scheme	6,527	-	6,527	-
Mental Health Sustainability Fund	-	3,000	3,000	-
National Lottery	-	10,000	10,000	50,000
United Way Give Local	-	1,500	1,500	-
Garfield Weston	10,000	-	10,000	-
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	9,822	-	9,822	-
Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation	5,000	-	5,000	-
Co-op Local Causes	3,009	-	3,009	-
Sheffield Town Trust	2,500	-	2,500	-
South Yorkshire Community Found	1,728	-	1,728	-
The Hobson Charity	2,360	-	2,360	-
Tesco bags of help	1,500	-	1,500	-
Brelms Trust	-	-	-	3,000
UK Youth Fund	-	-	-	3,600
W O Street Charitable Foundation	-	-	-	2,450
Other grants and trusts	11,505	-	11,505	18,626
	<u>53,951</u>	<u>47,054</u>	<u>101,005</u>	<u>87,176</u>

In addition to the above the trustees wish to acknowledge the following trusts and grant making bodies who have contributed towards the funding of the charity during the year.

Adult Autism Fund (via VAS)	Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust
Crowdfunder Ltd (Aviva)	Matthews Wrightson Charity Trust
Culra Charitable Trust	Sheffield Young People's Life Skills Trust
Douglas Arter Foundation	Sir John Eastwood Foundation
Dixon Pitchfork Charitable Trust	Sir John Osborn Charitable Trust
Fitton Trust	Speak Up Grant (via VAS)
Freshgate Trust Foundation	Stella Symons Charitable Trust
Jack's Support	Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2021

Accounting Policies - continued

8 Fixed Assets

	IT Equipment	Visual Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1/4/20	21,487	2,088	23,575
Additions	6,634	549	7,183
At 31/3/21	<u>28,121</u>	<u>2,637</u>	<u>30,758</u>
Depreciation			
At 1/4/20	20,160	2,088	22,248
Charge for the year	1,434	34	1,468
At 31/3/21	<u>21,594</u>	<u>2,122</u>	<u>23,716</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31/3/21	<u>6,527</u>	<u>515</u>	<u>7,042</u>
At 31/3/20	<u>1,067</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>1,327</u>

9 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
Taxes and social security	(352)	724
Accruals	3,951	1,806
Deferred income	-	10,000
	<u>3,599</u>	<u>12,530</u>

10 Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,459	4,583	7,042
Current assets	111,279	4,344	115,623
Creditors falling due within one year	(3,599)	-	(3,599)
	<u>110,139</u>	<u>8,927</u>	<u>119,066</u>

Asperger's Children and Carers Together
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31st March 2021

11 Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31/03/2021
BBC Children in Need (1)	4,502	-	(4,502)	-	-
National Lottery (1)	17,604	-	(17,604)	-	-
Brelms Trust	693	-	(693)	-	-
Anton Jurgens C. Trust	562	-	(291)	(271)	-
SCC	-	52,774	(52,774)	-	-
BBC Children in Need (2)	-	2,963	(2,963)	-	-
BBC Children in Need (3)	-	14,472	(14,472)	-	-
CAF Resilience Fund	-	10,361	(10,361)	-	-
Cheshire C. F.	-	4,758	(415)	-	4,343
Mental Health S. Fund	-	3,000	(129)	(2,871)	-
National Lottery (2)	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
United Way Give Local	-	1,500	(58)	(1,442)	-
Restricted Assets Fund	-	-	-	4,584	4,584
	<u>23,361</u>	<u>99,828</u>	<u>(114,262)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,927</u>

Restricted funds were received for the following purposes:

BBC Children in Need (1)	Part funding of the operations co-ordinator
National Lottery (1)	People's Project, for salaries and running costs of activities
Brelms Trust	For office rentals
Anton Jurgens C. Trust	IT equipment for club use
SCC	For playworkers and related costs / activities
BBC Children in Need (2)	For additional delivery costs incurred during lockdown
BBC Children in Need (3)	For salary, materials and technology costs related to online clubs and engaging with families
CAF Resilience Fund	Funding towards clubs
Cheshire C. F.	Funding towards volunteering support costs
Mental Health S. Fund	Funding for new laptops for Acctivate and Teenage Club
National Lottery (2)	Funding towards clubs
United Way Give Local	Funding for new laptops for Acctivate and Teenage Club