SPACE

England & Wales · Charity number 1172178

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2017-03-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Unit 5 THE MALTINGS BUSINESS CENTRE Stanstead Abbotts Ware Hertfordshire SG12 8HG
Phone	01920452270
Email	admin@spaceherts.org.uk
Website	www.spaceherts.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES AND CARERS OF CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE DIAGNOSED OR UNDER ASSESSMENT FOR AUTISM (ASD) AND/OR ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD) AND RELATED CONDITIONS IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY:A) PROVIDING, ORGANISING AND FACILITATING EXPERIENCES TO REDUCE FAMILY ISOLATION AND PROMOTE INCLUSION;B) IMPROVING AND ADVANCING THE KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING AND SKILLS OF PARENTS/CARERS AND PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH SUCH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND SUPPORT AND PROMOTE COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION;C) BUILDING A SMALL BANK OF RESOURCES INCLUDING AIDES THAT PARENTS/CARERS CAN BORROW TO FURTHER SUPPORT FAMILIES IN THE HOME ENVIRONMENT; ANDD) RAISING AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES FACED BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THESE CONDITIONS AND THE SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

Activities: SPACE is a Hertfordshire based charity supporting parent/carers of children and young people on the Autistic Spectrum, with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or a Neurodiverse condition.Providing:Exclusive Social Events,Support Groups, Workshops,Training,Conferences,Equipment Lending Library,Alternative Provision,Therapeutic Interventions, Pre Screening Services

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Classification

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

Geography

- Barnet
- Bedford
- Buckinghamshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Central Bedfordshire
- Enfield
- Essex
- Hertfordshire
- Luton
- Milton Keynes

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£986,512	£1,035,468	£258,879	22
2024-03-31	£822,648	£723,245	£307,835	14
2023-03-31	£456,085	£425,676	-	-
2022-03-31	£352,471	£265,047	-	-
2021-03-31	£154,168	£131,015	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
LYN HEATHCOTE SHARIF	Chair	2017-03-17
DONNA CHAMBERLAIN		2017-03-21
Mark Wilson		2020-11-28
Polly Kerr		2020-02-11
Sarah Jones		2026-01-06
Victoria Helen Kemp		2018-10-09

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SPACE

England & Wales - Charity number 1172178

Accounts



SPACE HERTFORDSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024-25

Empowering neurodivergent children, young people and families across Hertfordshire

SPACE

Autism | ADHD
Neurodiverse Conditions

Impact Snapshot 2024-25

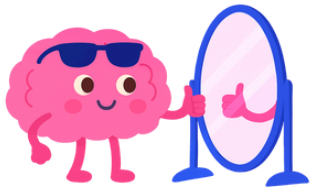
A year filled with connection, support and empowerment. These numbers represent thousands of moments where families felt understood, reassured, supported and less alone.



4,350

one-to-one family support appointments for 1,105 families

88



Young people completed Understanding My Autism and ADHD

321



Children's activities with 3,287 attendees

3,334

Hours of Alternative Provision delivered to 61 children



95-100%

Positive outcomes across every service



3,528

Sensory and learning items loaned

10,700+

Families supported in our private Facebook community

184

Workshops and courses, 38 topics, 9,000+ attendees, 3,086 on-demand views



36

In-person support groups with 636 attendees





MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & CEO

Lyn Heathcote Sharif, Chair

Karen Spencer, Chief Executive Officer

Families often tell us that SPACE is the first place where they feel genuinely understood, a community that truly "gets it". They come to us looking for support, reassurance, help and connection. Together we navigate challenges, celebrate strengths and build confidence.

This year more families than ever reached out for support. In response, we expanded services, strengthened partnerships and invested in the people and systems that make our work possible. We have grown not just in numbers, but in depth, understanding and our commitment to meeting families exactly where they are.

Like many charities, we have faced a challenging financial landscape this year, with rising costs and increasing demand. Our accounts reflect intentional investment in frontline services and the infrastructure that supports them, at a time when families need us most. We remain financially stable, and we are focused on strengthening long-term sustainability so that SPACE can continue to be here for every family who needs us.

We are proud of our team, most of whom bring lived experience as neurodivergent people and/or as parent carers. Their empathy and dedication shape the heart of SPACE. They turn fear into understanding, confusion into clarity, and isolation into belonging.

To every family who trusted us to walk alongside them this year - thank you.
To every funder, partner and volunteer - your support changes lives.
Together, we are creating a Hertfordshire where neurodivergent children and their families are understood, celebrated and supported to thrive.

ABOUT SPACE

SPACE works across Hertfordshire to empower and support families of neurodivergent children and young people whether they are awaiting assessment, newly diagnosed or further along in their journey.

Families often tell us that SPACE feels different: calmer, kinder and easier to navigate. That is intentional. Our work is shaped by lived experience and grounded in the belief that every child deserves to be understood in their own unique way, and that no family should have to face the system alone.

Across Hertfordshire, we offer emotional support, practical guidance, inclusive activities, learning opportunities and specialist services that help families feel more informed, confident and connected. We support parents to build resilience and wellbeing, equip professionals with the knowledge needed to create inclusive environments, and provide children with spaces where they can be themselves without pressure or judgement.

We work closely with schools, health teams, social care and community organisations to strengthen pathways and improve outcomes for neurodivergent children and young people.

Whether families come to us for clarity, community or celebration, our aim is always the same: to create safe, knowledgeable, supportive spaces where every child and family can thrive.

OUR VALUES

Lived experience at the heart

The majority of our staff and volunteers are neurodivergent themselves and/or parent carers raising neurodivergent children and young people. This creates understanding that families feel immediately.

Support is needs-led

Diagnosis or paperwork is never required. If you need us, we're here.

Shaped by the families we support

Stories and feedback from the families we support guide our programmes, development and priorities.

Stronger together

We work closely with schools, professionals and local services to make sure families don't face the system alone.

Empowering every step of the way

We help children and families understand themselves, build confidence and celebrate differences.

WHO WE SUPPORT

Parents and carers

By offering practical tools, specialist guidance and emotional reassurance, we help parents feel heard, more hopeful and more informed.

Children and young people

Through play, creativity, physical activity, mentoring and learning, children find spaces where they can be themselves without masking or pressure.

Professionals

We equip teachers, support staff and other professionals across education, health care and social services to understand neurodivergence and create safer, more inclusive environments.

Commissioners and system partners

Our Alternative Provision (AP), diagnostic services, training and partnerships help shape better outcomes across Hertfordshire.









OUR YEAR IN FOCUS

This year every part of SPACE continued to grow in reach, in depth and in the difference we make for families. Across all our services, we focused on providing clearer pathways, earlier support, stronger partnerships and more opportunities for children and young people to thrive. What follows is a snapshot of that work and the impact it has had on families across Hertfordshire.

SEND FAMILY SUPPORT

Meeting families with compassion, clarity and the reassurance that they are not alone.

Families reached out to us during some of their hardest moments whether they were confused by pathways, worried about school, concerned about their child's wellbeing, looking for practical tools or simply looking for someone they could trust.

"I felt that the family support team understood my daughter and her needs, they validated my experiences and gave me lots of information and practical advice about what we could do next. I haven't experienced this level of emotional support and sharing of expertise from anywhere else and I'm extremely grateful that I'm able to access this service and that it is free."

Family voice



NEW DEVELOPMENTS THIS YEAR

This year we launched Bright Beginnings and Primary Steps, new early support pathways shaped directly by family feedback and the success of our work with First Steps. Parents told us they needed clearer guidance earlier in their journey, so we created structured programmes that offer reassurance, practical tools and strategies, gentle support and the opportunity to build peer networks from the moment concerns first arise.

WHAT WE DELIVERED

4,350
support appointments

1,105
families supported with personalised advice

Early years and school-age guidance
through First Steps, Bright Beginnings and Primary Steps

IMPACT

100%
felt heard, understood and respected

97%
saw improved wellbeing

100%
felt more confident navigating SEND systems

100%
reported improved family relationships

SUPPORT GROUPS

Our monthly support groups continued to be a lifeline for parents and carers - warm, welcoming spaces where families can connect, share experiences, and feel understood by people who "get it."



"I'm so glad I found this group. I genuinely look forward to coming every month. The speakers are brilliant, the other parents are lovely, and the SPACE team are so welcoming and kind. It's been a lifeline."

Family voice

WHAT WE DELIVERED

36

in person support groups delivered across the year

636

parents and carers attending our support groups

Each group provided a safe environment to talk openly, learn from others, and access practical signposting and emotional support from our trained facilitators.

IMPACT

Feedback from parents and carers shows just how vital these groups are:

69%

strongly agree they feel less isolated, with the remaining 31% agreeing

75%

strongly agree the group has a positive impact on their mental health, with 25% agreeing

63%

strongly agree they feel heard and understood, with 37% agreeing

Parents consistently tell us that the combination of in-person peer connection, lived-experience understanding, and gentle guidance has helped them feel more confident and less alone.

LENDING SPACE

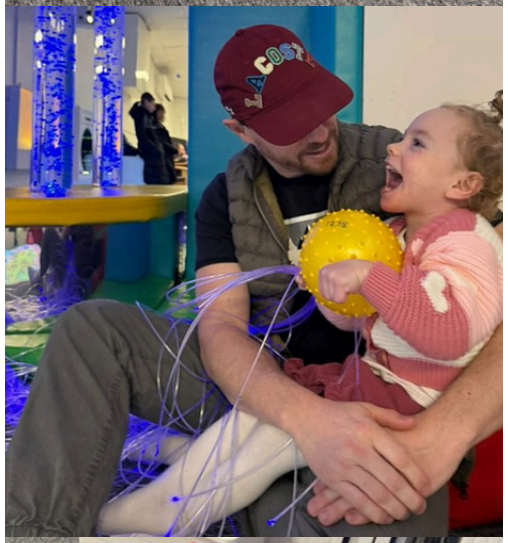
A calm, welcoming community hub where children explore sensory tools, families can borrow items with confidence, and everyone benefits from informed signposting and kind support.

Lending SPACE is often described as “a breath of fresh air”. It’s a place where children can play and explore sensory tools, families can discover what works, parent carers can build peer connections and get support and advice, and everyone is welcomed warmly.

“My son loves attending Lending SPACE and borrowing a range of items each time. It’s saved me so much money being able to test out various sensory devices and find out what works for us. The wonderful staff are so welcoming and have also helped signpost me to various other support we are able to access.”

Family voice







WHAT WE DELIVERED

3,528
items loaned

480
families supported

3,187
visits throughout the year

SUCCESSFUL PILOT LAUNCH
of mobile Lending SPACE

BRAND NEW
sensory area

OVER 80
professionals welcomed as part of our first professionals open day or individually to learn and collaborate

IMPACT

98%
saved money

96%
felt more confident supporting their child

100%
felt safe, welcomed and understood

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Helping parents replace fear with understanding and overwhelm with confidence.

Parents often describe our workshops as moments of “everything falling into place” - where uncertainty is replaced with clarity and hope.





“I have loved every workshop. They are clear, informative and transformational. Honestly, the understanding and knowledge that I have gained has helped me to understand my child better. With understanding him, I can better support him and with that comes a happier child. Our family life is smoother and more secure. All in all, I do not know what would have happened if we hadn't had the opportunity to learn with SPACE.”

Family voice

WHAT WE DELIVERED

184
workshops & courses

9,000+
live attendees

3,086
Recordings of all workshops so parent carers don’t need to attend live - 3,086 on-demand views

38
topics, from emotional regulation to PDA, ADHD in girls, puberty and executive functioning

2
large conferences for parents and professionals

IMPACT

98%
apply strategies immediately

99%
feel more confident advocating for their child

96%
feel more connected and hopeful

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Joyful, inclusive spaces where children can simply be themselves.

These activities provide more than fun. They help children build confidence, explore interests and feel part of a community where they are celebrated exactly as they are.



"Every SPACE event we have attended is extremely well organised. We have been able to enjoy activities we may have been too cautious to organise on our own. Knowing the other families attending are all in similar circumstances makes the whole experience more relaxing and enjoyable. Thank you."

Family voice



WHAT WE DELIVERED

321
activities

3,287
attendees

LAUNCH
of Gaming & Coding Club responding to feedback from families

1,626
hours of SBLO activities delivered as a recommissioned Hertfordshire County Council Short Break Local Offer provider

EXTRA
summer and holiday programmes

IMPACT

100%
increased confidence

98%
increased self-esteem

78%
reduced anxiety

96%
increased independence

UNDERSTANDING MY AUTISM AND ADHD

Helping young people understand themselves, build confidence and feel proud of who they are.

Young people often tell us they feel different, misunderstood or unsure how to express their experiences. Our Understanding My Autism & ADHD programme provides a safe, identity-affirming space where they can explore who they are, connect with peers, and learn strategies that support their wellbeing.

Delivered by neurodivergent facilitators with lived experience, the programme offers authentic understanding and positive role-modelling that families value deeply.

WHAT WE DELIVERED

- 6-week structured programme delivered in small groups (max 8)
- Groups tailored for school years 3-6, 7–9 and 10–11
- Delivered in person and online
- 1:1 sessions for children too anxious to join a group
- Personalised workbooks and certificates for every young person
- A curriculum covering:
  - identity and strengths
  - sensory differences
  - communication
  - friendships
  - emotional regulation
  - resilience and self-advocacy

IMPACT

- 100% of young people would recommend the programme
- All rated the programme 4–5 out of 5
- Increased confidence, self-awareness and emotional vocabulary
- Improved ability to express needs and ask for help
- Parents reported:
  - greater understanding of their child
  - increased openness at home
  - reduced anxiety
  - improved wellbeing and communication

"I was loving coming to you. I now have more strategies and ideas to cope with tricky situations. It's ok to be different."

Young people and family voices

"It has honestly made such a difference to her life, feeling like everyone else in the room."

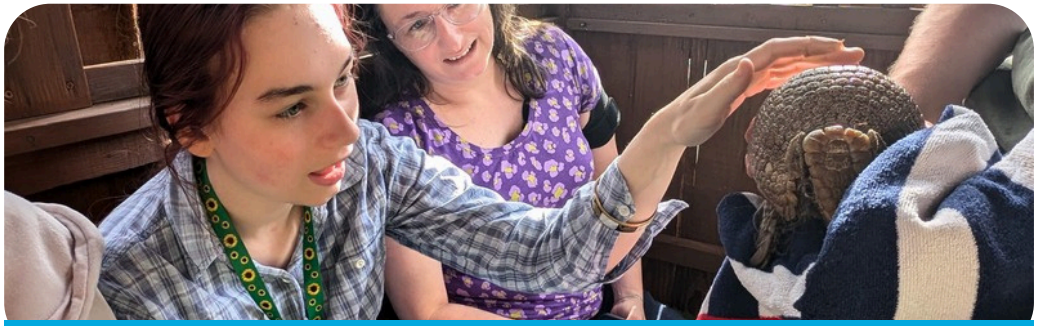
Young people and family voices

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

A calm, relational approach that helps children rebuild trust and re-engage with learning.

Some children reach a point where mainstream school feels overwhelming, unsafe and unmanageable. Our Alternative Provision offers a nurturing, low-arousal environment where children can breathe, reset and reconnect with learning at a pace that works for them.

Our delivery model combines specialist in-house staff with carefully selected external partners, creating a flexible, blended approach that is both cost-effective and tailored to each child's individual needs. This allows us to offer a broader range of skills, interests and expertise and to shape support around what each young person responds to best.



"I will be forever grateful to you for the meeting notes & advice. Feel a better outcome this time around in the meeting. Sometimes we reach out to the right people at the right time… you were certainly the lifeline I needed. Thank you so much!"

Family voice



WHAT WE DELIVERED

3,334
hours of Alternative Provision support

SPECIALIST EBSNA
focused work to gently rebuild trust and confidence in learning

61
children supported

CLOSE PARTNERSHIP
working with schools and families

1:1
relational support tailored to each child's strengths and needs

IMPACT

- Reduced anxiety and increased emotional stability
- Improved engagement, communication and willingness to try new activities
- Children developed stronger trusting relationships with adults

PAID FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND SPECIALIST NEURODIVERSITY SERVICES

Providing specialist insight and essential evidence when families are stuck in assessment pathways or struggling to access the support they need.

With long waiting lists and growing unmet need, families turn to SPACE's paid-for diagnostic and specialist assessment services for timely, neuroaffirming support. Our blend of clinical expertise and lived experience helps families understand their child's needs sooner, get answers quicker, feel more confident navigating onward pathways, and be better positioned to secure the support their child or young person needs in different settings.

I cannot tell you from beginning to end what a breath of fresh air it has been to talk and meet with SPACE's dyslexia assessor. From our initial telephone conversation before the assessment, we had a long and meaningful discussion about my daughter and her needs. My daughter is complex – EBSA, a traumatic school experience, and since our assessment we have also had confirmation of ASD, inattentive ADHD, sensory issues, social anxiety and high masking, which feels like such a positive as it is an exact fit. I felt hugely supported throughout, never judged, but completely understood. It is quite a journey we are on with my daughter, and it helped me so much to speak with someone who truly 'got it'. My daughter was very happy to meet with SPACE's dyslexia assessor and connected with her well. The assessment itself and the subsequent report were extremely thorough.

Family voice

WHAT WE DELIVERED

64
QbChecks to support ADHD diagnostic pathways

34
dyslexia screenings and 10 full dyslexia assessments

23
Educational Psychologist consultations

48
autism and ADHD consultations

13
Occupational Therapy consultations

21
full Occupational Therapy assessments

Ongoing
development of new education-focused pathways

50%
A 50% increase in appointments

VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Our volunteers bring heart, creativity and warmth to everything we do.

These activities provide more than fun. They help children build confidence, explore interests and feel part of a community where they are celebrated exactly as they are.

This year:

- Regular volunteers grew from 14 to 17 supporting our events and activities, Lending SPACE and workshops programmes in particular
- Corporate volunteers enhanced Growing SPACE
- Skilled volunteers contributed to successful grant applications

Partnerships with schools, libraries, adoption teams, community groups and national initiatives like Purple Tuesday.









PARTNERSHIPS THAT STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

We worked with dozens of partners this year, including:

- Schools, libraries, organisations and businesses across Hertfordshire
- HPCI, Autism in Schools and professional networks
- Fostering and adoption teams
- Helping Herts

These partnerships help families feel supported not only by SPACE, but by the wider community around them.

FUNDRAISING AND SUPPORTER HIGHLIGHTS

This year we laid strong foundations for future sustainability:

- The Great Big Walk for Herts brought families, supporters and partners together
- Corporate relationships grew in both number and depth
- Trust and foundation income strengthened our programmes
- Workplace training commissions increased
- Alternative Provision and Neurodiversity Services diversify our income streams





VINCI Building golf day raised £4,180

VINCI BUILDING raised an impressive £4,180 for SPACE at their Golf Day in September 2025. Over 70 players took part, enjoying a day of camaraderie despite grey skies, with a charity raffle and drinks buggy helping to boost fundraising.



Family raised £3,255

BOUNCING FOR SPACE

Layla and Scott are parent/carers to their neurodivergent daughter - their family has accessed lots of SPACE events and activities, Lending SPACE and more. They joined forced with sister and brother-in-law Laurel and Anthony to take on an inflatable 5k for SPACE.



London Landmarks runners raised £2,486

LONDON LANDMARKS

The fantastic four runners all stormed pass their individual fundraising targets. London Landmarks is a 13.1 mile unique route taking runners past stunning landscape of iconic landmarks. All runners have a very personal connection to SPACE.









THANK YOU

To every family who trusted us this year - thank you.

To every child and young person who let us into their world - thank you.

To our volunteers, partners, funders and staff - you make this work possible.

Together, we are creating a Hertfordshire where neurodivergent children are understood, celebrated and supported to thrive.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025–26

As demand continues to grow, we will keep strengthening the support families rely on. Next year, we will build on what works, deepen our specialist offer and create even more opportunities for children, young people and families to feel understood, included and celebrated.

We will:

- Expand Lending SPACE with new Lending SPACE Pop-Ups
- Develop our Family Support Outreach home-based programme
- Strengthen Alternative Provision and diagnostic services to meet rising need
- Deepen our partnerships with schools, health teams and community organisations
- Develop a Young Ambassador's Programme bringing youth voice to the centre of our decision making and new opportunities for older neurodivergent young people
- Continue developing sustainable fundraising pathways to secure SPACE's future

Principle 1a

Reduction in social isolation of vulnerable families through:

- Bespoke carefully orchestrated social opportunities and activities, online and in-person, throughout the year for children, young people and the whole family to attend.
- Monthly support groups promoting and facilitating a peer support network.
- Online community support through a closed administrated Facebook Group and Public page.
- Bespoke online and face to face support, guidance and signposting including home visits from our Family Support Team.
- Raising the profile of the charity and awareness of families' needs within the local community and helping to shape future provisions.
- Supporting local businesses and services to promote inclusion.

Improving and advancing the knowledge, understanding and skills of parent/carers and professionals.

- Online and in-person monthly support groups which may be attended by a guest speaker/ service operating in the field of Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Themed Conferences for both parent/carers and professionals delivered by SPACE and experts within that field.
- Online and in-person workshops and courses on a variety of topics throughout the year.
- Sharing information and resources through a variety of mediums and organisations.
- Forging links with other service providers, organisations and charities to educate and instil confidence in working with families that have children and young people with SEND.

Principle 1b

The public benefits of the organisation closely reflect and adheres to the charity's Aims, Objects and Constitution. The trustees ensure the charity remains focused on these principles in all decision making.

Principle 1c

The charity benefits are balanced against detriment or harm. The trustees are fully aware of the need and demand from the public on the charity's services therefore the charity must grow to meet this demand. However, the trustees must ensure this pace of growth is realistic and not be in detriment of the team and volunteers running the organisation. SPACE Registered Charity England and Wales no: 117 2178 Supporting Families in Hertfordshire - Autism ADHD and other Neurodiverse Conditions.

Principle 2a

The direct beneficiaries of the charity are Hertfordshire families with children and young people on the autistic spectrum and/or ADHD and other neurodiverse conditions either with or without diagnosis. Other beneficiaries include the wider community, extended families and professionals also working within the SEND field. The beneficiaries of the charity are in direct keeping with the charity's aims, objectives and constitution.

Principle 2b

The section of the public that can benefit are not unreasonably restricted by geographic location. Although the organisation is a Hertfordshire-based charity as stated in the constitution, the trustees considered the following to ensure maximum accessibility.

- All support groups are not geographically restricted to the area they are hosted in.
- The support groups are spread over various Hertfordshire locations and on various days and times to maximise accessibility.
- There are online support groups that remove geographical restrictions completely, giving access to all of Hertfordshire.
- An appropriate video conferencing platform has been selected that supports a wide range of hardware, including mobile phones. The platform does not have a high barrier to entry from an account, pricing, or accessibility perspective.
- The organisation is mindful to hold events and socials in a variety of Hertfordshire locations subject to venues, opportunities, and cost implications.

Principle 2c

People in poverty are not excluded from the opportunity to benefit.

- There are no joining, membership or subscription fees.
- All support groups, online community and face to face support are free.
- All online activities, courses and workshops are free and involve no travel costs.
- All projects that have received specific funding are offered to families at a nominal charge, this is to ensure their commitment in attendance.
- The charity subsidises activities wherever possible to maximise accessibility.
- Larger events and conferences carry a charge to attend. The trustees will investigate whether this can be offered as concessions in relation to poverty in the future.

Principle 2d

Any private benefits are incidental.

Declaration: The trustees are satisfied that there has been regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit in decision making and organisation performance.

SPACE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ending 31 March 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

	NOTES	RESTRICTED £	UNRESTRICTED £	2025 £	2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Total income for the period	2	427,326.67	559,185.90	986,512.57	822,648.01
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**427,326.67**	**559,185.90**	**986,512.57**	**822,648.01**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Administration, Management, Cost of Activities		422,170.63	613,298.32	1,035,468.95	723,245.12
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**422,170.63**	**613,298.32**	**1,035,468.95**	**723,245.12**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		**5,156.04**	**(54,112.42)**	**(48,956.38)**	**99,402.89**
ADJUSTMENT		**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		**120,266.59**	**187,569.40**	**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	6, 7, 8	**125,422.63**	**133,456.98**	**258,879.61**	**307,835.99**

SPACE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2025

	NOTES	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	3	40,743.92	7,554.47
CURRENT ASSETS			
Total Current Assets	4	404,980.21	410,130.33
		404,980.21	**410,130.33**
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	186,844.52	109,848.81
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		**218,135.69**	**300,281.52**
NET ASSETS		**258,879.61**	**307,835.99**
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Funds	6	133,456.98	187,569.40
Restricted Funds	7	125,422.63	120,266.59
TOTAL FUNDS		**258,879.61**	**307,835.99**

SPACE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

b) Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure is recorded on the accruals basis.

c) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at rates which are intended to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives, and is itemised as follows:

Plant and machinery and office equipment	33%
Fixtures and fittings	33%
Motor vehicles	33%

d) Leases

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account in equal annual instalments covering the period of the leases.

e) Fund Accounting

Grants and similar income which are subjected to restrictions by the donors are shown as restricted funds and any expenditure incurred will be set off against this fund. All other income and expenditure is shown as unrestricted.

SPACE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

2 FUNDING RECEIVABLE (INCLUDING GRANTS)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Total funding income received	465,576.67	419,698.50
Total	**465,576.67**	**419,698.50**

3 FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and Fixtures	Office Equip	Motor Vehicles	Plant and Machinery	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	4,610.74	8,187.76	32,695.50	200.00	45,694.00
Additions	368.06	816.00	54,616.00	0.00	55,800.06
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2025	4,978.80	9,003.76	87,311.50	200.00	101,494.06
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	1,536.91	3,707.12	32,695.50	200.00	38,139.53
Charge for the year	1,659.60	2,745.68	18,205.33	0.00	22,610.61
Depreciation on disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2025	3,196.51	6,452.80	50,900.83	200.00	60,750.14
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	1,782.29	2,550.96	36,410.67	0.00	40,743.92
At 31 March 2024	3,073.83	4,480.64	0.00	0.00	7,554.47

SPACE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

4	CURRENT ASSETS - Cash & Bank Balances & Debtors	2025	2024
		£	£
	Cash and Bank Balance	157,034.38	323,380.21
	Debtors, Prepayments & Accrued Income	247,945.83	86,750.12
	Total	**404,980.21**	**410,130.33**

5	CREDITORS - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	2025	2024
		£	£
	Trade Creditors	34,651.74	1,225.22
	Accruals and Deferred Income	144,429.00	108,623.59
	PAYE, Social Security and Other Taxes	7,763.78	0.00
		186,844.52	**109,848.81**

6	UNRESTRICTED FUND	2025	2024
		£	£
	Opening Balance	187,569.40	135,672.80
	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	(54,112.42)	51,896.60
	Revaluation adjustment	-	-
	Closing Balance	**133,456.98**	**187,569.40**

SPACE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

7 RESTRICTED FUND

	2025	2024
	£	£
Opening Balance	120,266.59	72,760.30
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	5,156.04	47,506.29
Revaluation adjustment	-	-
Closing Balance	**125,422.63**	**120,266.59**

8 ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	36,928.04	3,815.88	40,743.92
Net Current Assets	88,494.59	129,641.10	218,135.69
Total	**125,422.63**	**133,456.98**	**258,879.61**

SPACE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025			2024
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Funding	427,326.67	38,250.00	465,576.67	419,698.50
Donations	0.00	86,191.42	86,191.42	61,553.27
Event Income	0.00	54,307.07	54,307.07	38,706.85
Other Services Income	0.00	380,437.41	380,437.41	302,689.39
	427326.67	559185.90	986512.57	822648.01
Outgoing Resources				
Bank Charges	0.00	156.04	156.04	191.46
Bookkeeping and Accounting	0.00	3,933.50	3,933.50	3,611.00
Legal Costs	0.00	17,534.00	17,534.00	0.00
Core Costs	15,044.67	2,203.71	17,248.38	33,525.58
Equipment	21,175.49	2,299.25	23,474.74	10,277.11
Event Costs	99,374.20	49,238.16	148,612.36	109,157.77
Cost of Other Services	0.00	166,418.06	166,418.06	167,026.37
General Expenses	438.25	665.50	1,103.75	0.00
Insurance	1,266.18	5,064.49	6,330.67	5,610.66
IT Software and Consumables	475.68	10,879.34	11,355.02	8,923.02
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,016.59	24.00	1,040.59	320.00
Other Costs	10,968.62	6,181.76	17,150.38	2,969.83
Printing, Postage, Stationary	179.09	1,613.61	1,792.70	1,716.24
Refreshments	510.37	1,294.53	1,804.90	2,776.70
Removal costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rent, Rates and Utilities	29,589.60	45,289.80	74,879.40	42,063.82
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	796.70	796.70	0.00
Salaries	202,657.70	253,075.27	455,732.97	277,193.68
Pension Costs	2,633.71	6,639.54	9,273.25	5,595.89
Employers NIC	12,149.58	19,296.47	31,446.05	17,032.98
Staff Training	0.00	2,248.59	2,248.59	2,424.60
Subscriptions	0.00	2,722.40	2,722.40	3,044.50
Telephone & Internet	1,469.00	4,722.81	6,191.81	3,834.62
Travel Costs	4,457.89	7,154.19	11,612.08	10,717.95
Depreciation Expense	18,764.01	3,846.60	22,610.61	15,231.34
	422,170.63	613,298.32	1,035,468.95	723,245.12
Surplus / (Deficit)	**5,156.04**	**(54,112.42)**	**(48,956.38)**	**99,402.89**
Funds				
Opening balance	120,266.59	187,569.40	307,835.99	208,433.10
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	5,156.04	(54,112.42)	(48,956.38)	99,402.89
Closing balance	**125,422.63**	**133,456.98**	**258,879.61**	**307,835.99**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

CHARITY NAME: SPACE

Registered charity number: 1172178

Charity's principal address: Unit 5 The Maltings Business Centre
Stanstead Abbotts
Ware, Herts
SG12 8HG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Lyn Heathcote Sharif (Chair)
Mark Wilson (Treasurer)
Dr Sharmishtha Sarkar
Donna Chamberlain
Victoria Kemp
Polly Kerr

Type of governing document: Constitution
SPACE is constituted by CIO with voting members other than charity trustees. The trustee selection method is elected by trustees and voting members.

Financial review: Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are held exclusively for the furtherance of the Charitable Objectives. None of the Charity's reserves may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Charity. The Charity will hold a minimum of 4 months in way of reserve.

Declaration: The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above - signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Lyn Heathcote Sharif



Mark Wilson



Dr Sharmishtha Sarkar



Donna Chamberlain



Victoria Kemp



Polly Kerr



Unaudited Financial Statements

For the Year Ending 31 March 2025

SPACE is a registered charity:
Registration number 1172178

SPACE

INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

CONTENTS	**PAGE**
Income and Expenditure Account	1
Balance Sheet	2
Notes to the Financial Statements	3-5

SPACE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

	NOTES	RESTRICTED £	UNRESTRICTED £	2025 £	2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Total income for the period	**2**	427,326.67	559,185.90	986,512.57	822,648.01
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**427,326.67**	**559,185.90**	**986,512.57**	**822,648.01**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Administration, Management, Cost of Activities		422,170.63	613,298.32	1,035,468.95	723,245.12
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**422,170.63**	**613,298.32**	**1,035,468.95**	**723,245.12**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		**5,156.04**	**(54,112.42)**	**(48,956.38)**	**99,402.89**
ADJUSTMENT		**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		**120,266.59**	**187,569.40**	**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**6, 7, 8**	**125,422.63**	**133,456.98**	**258,879.61**	**307,835.99**

SPACE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2025

	NOTES	2025	2024
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	**3**	40,743.92	7,554.47
CURRENT ASSETS			
Total Current Assets	**4**	404,980.21	410,130.33
		404,980.21	**410,130.33**
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	**5**	186,844.52	109,848.81
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		**218,135.69**	**300,281.52**
NET ASSETS		**258,879.61**	**307,835.99**
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Funds	**6**	133,456.98	187,569.40
Restricted Funds	**7**	125,422.63	120,266.59
TOTAL FUNDS		**258,879.61**	**307,835.99**

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 18 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Lyn Heathcote-Sharif - Chair

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the accounts

SPACE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

b) Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure is recorded on the accruals basis.

c) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at rates which are intended to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives, and is itemised as follows:

Plant and machinery and office equipment	33%
Fixtures and fittings	33%
Motor vehicles	33%

d) Leases

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account in equal annual instalments covering the period of the leases.

e) Fund Accounting

Grants and similar income which are subjected to restrictions by the donors are shown as restricted funds and any expenditure incurred will be set off against this fund. All other income and expenditure is shown as unrestricted.

SPACE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

2 FUNDING RECEIVABLE (INCLUDING GRANTS)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Total funding income received	465,576.67	419,698.50
Total	**465,576.67**	**419,698.50**

3 FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and Fixtures	Office Equip	Motor Vehicles	Plant and Machinery	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	4,610.74	8,187.76	32,695.50	200.00	45,694.00
Additions	368.06	816.00	54,616.00	0.00	55,800.06
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2025	4,978.80	9,003.76	87,311.50	200.00	101,494.06
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	1,536.91	3,707.12	32,695.50	200.00	38,139.53
Charge for the year	1,659.60	2,745.68	18,205.33	0.00	22,610.61
Depreciation on disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2025	3,196.51	6,452.80	50,900.83	200.00	60,750.14
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	1,782.29	2,550.96	36,410.67	0.00	40,743.92
At 31 March 2024	3,073.83	4,480.64	0.00	0.00	7,554.47

4 CURRENT ASSETS - Cash & Bank Balances & Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash and Bank Balance	157,034.38	323,380.21
Debtors, Prepayments & Accrued Income	247,945.83	86,750.12
Total	**404,980.21**	**410,130.33**

5 CREDITORS - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors	34,651.74	1,225.22
Accruals and Deferred Income	144,429.00	108,623.59
PAYE, Social Security and Other Taxes	7,763.78	0.00
	186,844.52	**109,848.81**

SPACE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

6	**UNRESTRICTED FUND**	**2025**	**2024**
		£	**£**
	Opening Balance	187,569.40	135,672.80
	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	(54,112.42)	51,896.60
	Revaluation adjustment	-	-
	Closing Balance	**133,456.98**	**187,569.40**

7	**RESTRICTED FUND**	**2025**	**2024**
		£	**£**
	Opening Balance	120,266.59	72,760.30
	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	5,156.04	47,506.29
	Revaluation adjustment	-	-
	Closing Balance	**125,422.63**	**120,266.59**

8	**ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS**	**Restricted**	**Unrestricted**	**Total**
		£	**£**	**£**
	Tangible Fixed Assets	36,928.04	3,815.88	40,743.92
	Net Current Assets	88,494.59	129,641.10	218,135.69
	Total	**125,422.63**	**133,456.98**	**258,879.61**

9	**STAFF NUMBERS**	**2025**	**2024**
		£	**£**
	Total Staff Costs for the Year	**496,452.27**	**299,822.55**
		2025	**2024**
	Average Number of Paid Staff	22	14

SPACE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025			2024
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Funding	427,326.67	38,250.00	465,576.67	419,698.50
Donations	0.00	86,191.42	86,191.42	61,553.27
Event Income	0.00	54,307.07	54,307.07	38,706.85
Other Services Income	0.00	380,437.41	380,437.41	302,689.39
	427326.67	559185.90	986512.57	822648.01
Outgoing Resources				
Bank Charges	0.00	156.04	156.04	191.46
Bookkeeping and Accounting	0.00	3,933.50	3,933.50	3,611.00
Legal Costs	0.00	17,534.00	17,534.00	0.00
Core Costs	15,044.67	2,203.71	17,248.38	33,525.58
Equipment	21,175.49	2,299.25	23,474.74	10,277.11
Event Costs	99,374.20	49,238.16	148,612.36	109,157.77
Cost of Other Services	0.00	166,418.06	166,418.06	167,026.37
General Expenses	438.25	665.50	1,103.75	0.00
Insurance	1,266.18	5,064.49	6,330.67	5,610.66
IT Software and Consumables	475.68	10,879.34	11,355.02	8,923.02
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,016.59	24.00	1,040.59	320.00
Other Costs	10,968.62	6,181.76	17,150.38	2,969.83
Printing, Postage, Stationary	179.09	1,613.61	1,792.70	1,716.24
Refreshments	510.37	1,294.53	1,804.90	2,776.70
Removal costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rent, Rates and Utilities	29,589.60	45,289.80	74,879.40	42,063.82
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	796.70	796.70	0.00
Salaries	202,657.70	253,075.27	455,732.97	277,193.68
Pension Costs	2,633.71	6,639.54	9,273.25	5,595.89
Employers NIC	12,149.58	19,296.47	31,446.05	17,032.98
Staff Training	0.00	2,248.59	2,248.59	2,424.60
Subscriptions	0.00	2,722.40	2,722.40	3,044.50
Telephone & Internet	1,469.00	4,722.81	6,191.81	3,834.62
Travel Costs	4,457.89	7,154.19	11,612.08	10,717.95
Depreciation Expense	18,764.01	3,846.60	22,610.61	15,231.34
	422,170.63	613,298.32	1,035,468.95	723,245.12
Surplus / (Deficit)	**5,156.04**	**(54,112.42)**	**(48,956.38)**	**99,402.89**
Funds				
Opening balance	120,266.59	187,569.40	307,835.99	208,433.10
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	5,156.04	(54,112.42)	(48,956.38)	99,402.89
Closing balance	**125,422.63**	**133,456.98**	**258,879.61**	**307,835.99**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name SPACE		
On accounts for the year ended	31ST MARCH 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1172178
Set out on pages	1-5 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		**Date:**	23/01/2026
Name:	Mrs Julie Gittins FCCA		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)		
Address:	c/o J K Minerva LLP		
	46 Crossway		
	Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7EE		

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

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	NONE

SPACE

England & Wales - Charity number 1172178

Accounts



SPACE

Autism | ADHD
Neurodiverse Conditions

2024

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR FROM OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

KAREN SPENCER, NICKY CHAPERLIN (SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM) AND LYN HEATHCOTE SHARIF - CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In 2023-24, SPACE empowered and supported over 9,700 families with neurodivergent children and young people (autism, ADHD, dyslexia and other neurodiverse conditions) – an increase of 2,200 families compared to the previous year. This growth demonstrates not only the ever-increasing demand for our services but also our commitment to meet these needs.

As a needs-led charity we remain 100% committed to ensuring our vital family support services remain free to all at the point of access. Our impact continues to span a range of free essential services and programmes, including our expanding bespoke SEND family support service, Lending SPACE Community Hub, in-person support groups, dynamic Facebook community and workshops and courses. We have also continued to expand our inclusive activities tailored for neurodivergent children, their siblings, and their families.

This year, we also made significant strides in further strengthening the financial sustainability of SPACE through the rapid growth of our paid-for professional services which enable us to support families as well as the NHS and the education system. By providing pre-diagnostic and diagnostic services, we help families access needs-led support and faster referrals - bridging critical gaps in the system.

Our Alternative Provision Services, commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council and also available for private commissioning, are instrumental in supporting young people with complex needs and those awaiting special school placements. These services underscore our strategic commitment to evolving alongside the needs of our families whilst diversifying our income to support our charitable objectives.

In addition to local authority tenders and services income, we have been privileged to receive funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, trusts, foundations, companies, and individual supporters. Their generosity has enabled us to continue to grow whilst stabilising our operations and increasing our impact across our programmes and initiatives. This year, we expanded our team to 16 PAYE staff members. We are proud to be a Living Wage employer that embraces inclusivity, employing both parent-carers and neurodivergent individuals with diverse skills and abilities. Half of our team identify as neurodivergent and collectively parent 24 neurodivergent children. Their lived experiences bring unparalleled empathy and commitment to our mission.

We are equally grateful to our network of over 15 ad hoc support staff and regular volunteers, whose dedication is supported by ongoing training and development. Together, they form the backbone of our efforts to meet the ever-growing demand for our services.







LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

The coming year promises to be both challenging and exciting as SPACE continues to grow and innovate. Whether families need light-touch support or complex, multi-agency assistance, we are uniquely positioned to deliver comprehensive, end-to-end solutions that empower neurodivergent children, young people, and their families to thrive.
With a clear strategic vision, robust governance, and the tireless dedication of our staff and volunteers, we remain steadfast in our mission to be there when families need us most.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our trustees, colleagues, and volunteers for their hard work, passion, and commitment to SPACE. Your support ensures that we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of so many.

Karen Spencer Nicky Chaperlin Lyn Heathcote Sharif

2023-24 AT A GLANCE

We're here to empower and support local families with neurodivergent children and young people. We will listen to and help them however they need us to - no matter how big or small.

306



We hosted 306 events and activities in inclusive settings



4,352

Lending SPACE supported loans of 4,352 items from our library of resources.

162

Our Training team ran a total of 162 workshops and courses



1,031

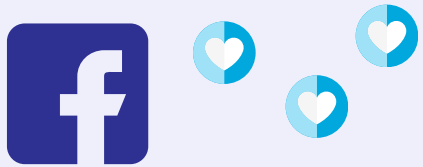
1,031 families of neurodivergent children and young people received 1:1 support from our dedicated Family Support team



448

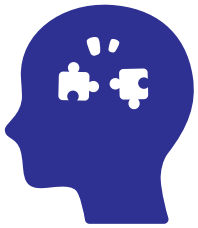


Parents and carers booked to attend a SPACE Hertfordshire support group



9,700+

The 'SPACE Hertfordshire' private Facebook Support Group enables over 9,700 parents and carers to get peer-based support from other families in Hertfordshire.



140

140 families accessed our Diagnostic Services including QbChecks, Dyslexia Screenings, Educational Psychology Consultations and Speech and Language Consultations



1,955

1,955 families accessed individual advice appointments

67



Our Alternative Provision service supported 67 families

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

We create safe spaces to allow our children and young people to be their authentic selves through delivering an activities programme brimming with opportunities accessible to those who might not have access otherwise These exclusive events are designed to enhance learning, social interaction, and physical activity whilst having fun!

We hosted over 25 inclusive activities on a regular basis across Hertfordshire, ranging from sports to creative activities - siblings are welcome to take part, and many of the activities can be enjoyed by the whole family.

This year, we expanded our offerings to meet the growing demand by introducing new activities and bringing back some family favourites such as Doughnutting and Bell boating - working with Herts Disability Sports Foundation, Wellbeing Walks, Therapeutic farming, Roller Skating and Indoor Climbing.

We also continued our successful collaborations with the Hertfordshire Fire Service through their SEND open days and Hertfordshire Libraries with inclusive live theatre events hosted in their venues.



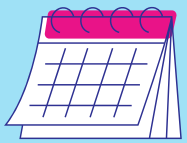




OUR 2024 EVENTS IN NUMBERS



306
events hosted in inclusive settings



3,175
bookings were made



357
hours of group events and activities were facilitated



Based on demand for holiday activities, we ran a programme of events over the summer holidays for the first time

658
children and young people attended in total

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT



Parents and carers

100%
find our events and activities safe environments for their family to be themselves

97%
feel they contribute to their emotional wellbeing and support

98%
feel they help them feel part of a community

95%
feel less isolated



Children and young people

92%
feel more optimistic about the future

97%
increased confidence

98%
increased self-esteem

85%
reduced anxiety

86%
increased independence

97%
increased general wellbeing

90%
improved family relationships

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

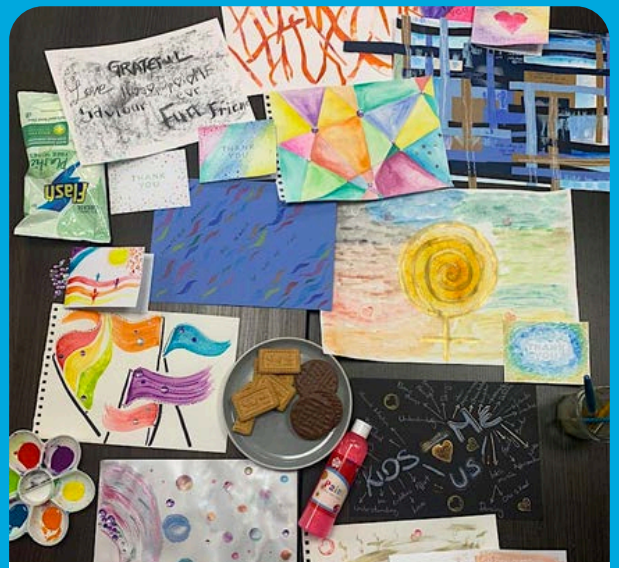
THIS YEAR WE...



Partnered with the Herts and Middlessex Wildlife Trust to bring a series of outdoor events focused on connecting with nature and the natural environment to our families including wildlife walks, fire lighting, and animal mosaics.



Responded to a fast growing number of young people unable to attend school due to anxiety, overwhelm and unmet needs. We initiated wellbeing walks for them during the school day in partnership with a clinical psychologist.



Collaborated with a skilled art therapist to successfully introduce subsidised group art therapy sessions for some of our vulnerable parents and carers. The positive outcomes experienced by participants have led us to expand the programme with 6-week courses.

SHORT BREAK LOCAL OFFER



2,061
hours of SBLO activities were delivered

We were recommissioned by Hertfordshire County Council as a Short Break Local Offer (SBLO) provider. The children and young people who signed up to SPACE SBLO enjoyed group activities such as graffiti, aerial gymnastics and watersports and towards the end of the year an expanded offer which included 1:1 activities such as cooking, art, yoga, driving and mixed martial arts.

1:1 ACTIVITIES



1,255
sessions of 1:1 therapeutic activities were delivered

There continues to be a strong demand for our online and in-person 1:1 activities, designed to boost confidence and self-esteem in children and young people with SEND. These sessions help them transition into our inclusive group activities, encouraging social skills, new interests, and friendship. Sessions included 1:1 therapeutic yoga, art, cooking and martial arts.

PARENT / CARER ACTIVITIES



10
parent / carer activities hosted

At SPACE, we understand the highs and lows, the challenges and joys because we also live with and love children and young people who are neurodivergent. Recognising the need for parent/carers to have respite, a supportive environment, and opportunities to connect with others on a similar journey - we organised craft sessions, art therapy, and comedy nights with Joe Wells.

AN ACTIVITY FOR EVERYONE

Our event schedule includes:

- Aerial Gymnastics
- Pottery Painting
- Outdoor Play at The Patch
- Lego Club
- Online Lego Club
- Paddle Sports
- Indoor Climbing Experience
- Introduction to Roller Skating
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding
- Bell Boating
- Booster Cushion Theatre
- Little City Role Play
- Therapeutic Farming
- Waterways Boat Trip
- Animal Encounters
- Virtual Zoo
- Parent/Carer Art Therapy
- Online Art
- Online Cooking
- Jump City

New additions for 2024:

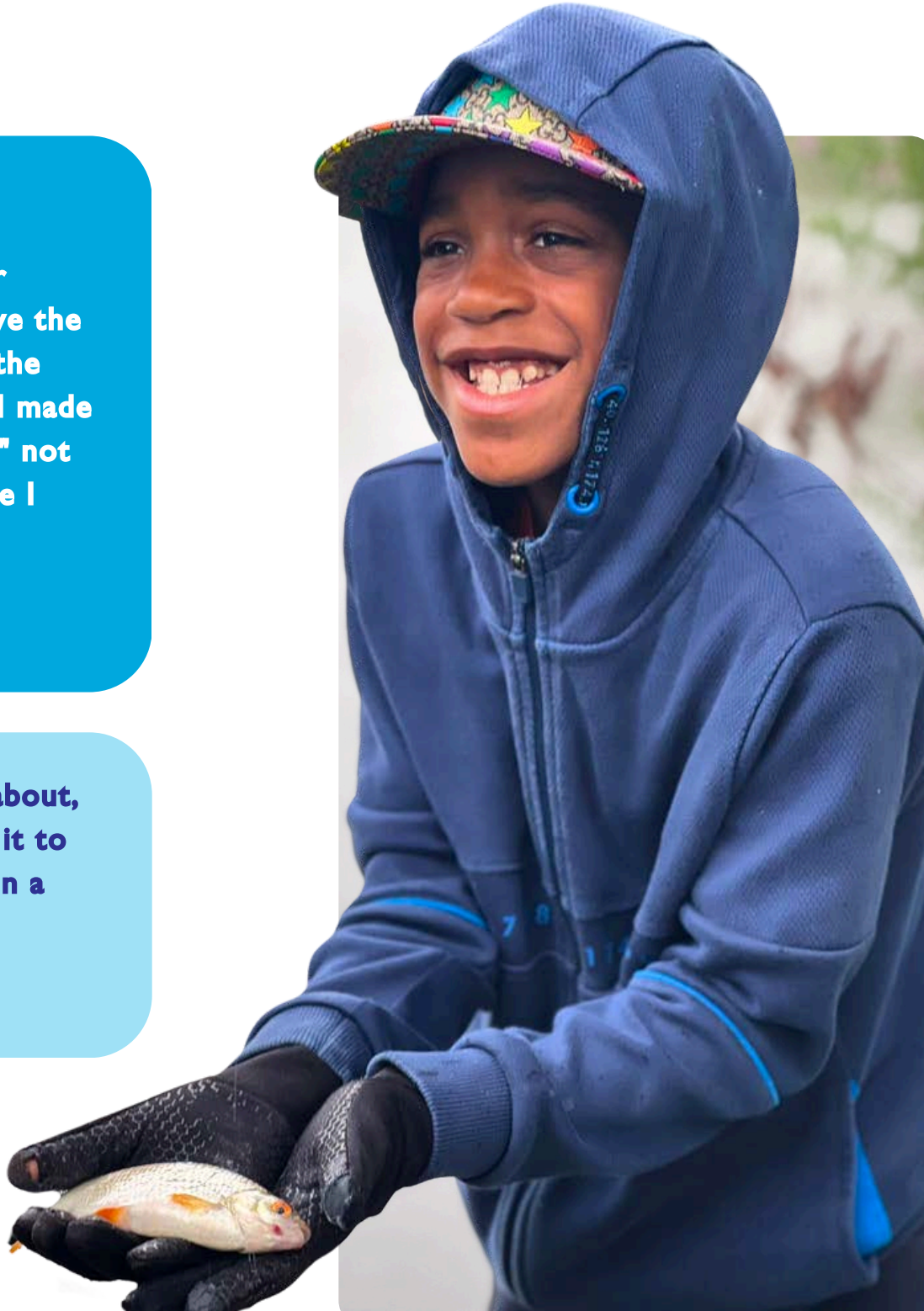
- Breakfast with Santa
- Christmas Craft Workshop
- Joe Wells Comedy Show
- Mosaic Animals with Herts Wildlife Trust
- Parent/Carer Craft Session
- SPACE to Grow
- Tweens and Teens Craft Session
- Wellbeing Walk

“When attending SPACE activities we know we will be welcomed and included. Activities are set up to allow our children to participate as well as ensuring the parents have the opportunity to socialise if they want to. Through one of the groups my daughter has made a friend, and subsequently I made friends with the other Mum. SPACE created that "SPACE" not just for my child but for me too - I don't know where else I could have found that. Thank you SPACE.”

Parent/Carer

“Really amazing opportunity to get the children out and about, which can be difficult but we have not yet failed to make it to their space activities! Thank you for this genuine lifeline in a really tricky time for our family!”

Parent/Carer



YOUR SPACE

We were recommissioned by Hertfordshire County Council by the Transforming Care Team to run Your SPACE – a social care project supporting some of the most vulnerable children in our community. This is a project designed to enable children and young people on Hertfordshire's Dynamic Support Register (DSR) to access recreational activities to meet their complex needs.

Using a highly tailored, person-centred, therapeutic approach, since launch in October 2021 SPACE has received:

58
referrals to date

609
hours of bespoke 1:1 activity respite has been successfully delivered to young people on the DSR with over

162
planned hours of delivery

YOUNG PERSON B

Child B was referred to Your SPACE after her discharge from a CAMHS inpatient facility. In the initial meeting it was stated that Child B presented with severe anxiety, low mood, and self-harming behaviours (cutting and burning). She was electively mute, rarely speaking to family for over 3 years. She self-isolated in her bedroom, lacked motivation, had a poor appetite, and was not attending school. Her key worker stressed that any transition into activities required careful planning due to her anxiety and difficulties in engaging with others.

A transition meeting was held with key staff to discuss Child B's needs, preferences, and communication preferences where it was agreed she would initially communicate through text on her mobile phone. Child B attended a CathARTic taster session, where she felt safe, comfortable, and understood to the point of verbally communicating with staff. During a subsequent inpatient stay at CAMHS, she expressed a desire to continue accessing CathARTic and on looking at the wider Your SPACE offer also showed interest in attending Therapeutic Hooves.

Outcomes (ongoing)

- Upon discharge, Child B resumed attending CathARTic and is also now attending Therapeutic Hooves.
- The 1:1 nature of the activities has provided a safe and supportive environment for Child B to engage and build trust.
- Child B has continued to verbally communicate with key staff.
- She is responding positively to having meaningful structure and support after this discharge.



LENDING SPACE

Our Lending SPACE, commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council, serves as a Community Hub for SPACE families. Open three times a week for drop-in sessions, it offers parents and carers the opportunity to borrow equipment, enjoy a cup of tea, let children play, and connect with other parents. Our staff and volunteers provide advice, support, and a listening ear. To accommodate working families, we are also open on Saturday mornings. Additionally, our SPACE van is used to deliver equipment to families unable to visit in person. The hub welcomes our community and professionals, providing a versatile space for various family interventions.

"The Lending Space has been fantastic and saved us so much money too. Kids love the things we've been trialling and of course having the novelty factor as we can change them also is a big bonus. Thanks from the whole family."

This year Lending SPACE supported loans of

4,352

items from our library of resources.



- Families tell us that their children feel safe and happy at Lending SPACE, which is essential for their wellbeing.
- The provision of sensory items and advice has enabled families to engage in activities like dining out and taking trips, which were previously challenging.
- The ability to try out resources has helped children prepare for important events, such as exams, with tools like weighted jackets.









LENDING SPACE - IMPACT ON FAMILIES

Community, Emotional and Financial Support

- Lending SPACE provides a community where parent/carers can share experiences and strategies, making them feel understood and less isolated.
- Parents and carers have the opportunity to meet others facing similar challenges, fostering a supportive network.
- The ability to borrow and try expensive sensory items before purchasing has significantly helped families make informed decisions, saving money and reducing stress.

100%
agree it provides a safe environment for their family to be themselves

100%
have tried resources that support their child's needs

98%
have saved money by being able to try resources

96%
feel support from staff has made them more confident supporting their child's needs

91%
have gone on to buy resources they initially borrowed from Lending SPACE

1,383
families visited Lending SPACE over the course of the year (3,108 individuals)

120
deliveries and collections were made to families otherwise unable to access Lending SPACE to all areas of Hertfordshire

50+
professionals including children's centre family support teams, health visitors, social practitioners, SENCOs, nursery nurses and wheelchair services visited Lending SPACE

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

We were recommissioned by Hertfordshire County Council to run workshops for parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people, we also fund our own programme of workshops and courses so we are able to quickly respond to the current and changing needs of our families.

During this period we ran a total of

162 workshops and courses

For over

11,000 parent / carer bookings

We ran workshops on

32 different topics

designed to support parents and carers better understand and support the needs of their children and young people.

"SPACE workshops have been a game changer, not only have they helped myself and my husband understand our children better but we've been able to pass on that knowledge to extended family. It's helped us understand his sensory needs in school, and placed us better able to communicate and affirm those needs to the school."

LIVE RECORDINGS

We have made our online workshops more accessible by recording them and making them available for 7 days to any parent/carers who registered and then weren't able to attend live. Since November 2023 these have been watched 1.7k times.



WORKSHOPS AND COURSES FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Our workshops and courses have a big impact on the parents and carers who attend them and on their children and young people, including:

98%
use tools and strategies at home to support their child/young person

96%
better understand their child/young person's neurodiverse condition

94%
feel better able to prioritise the needs of their child/young person

96%
feel more empowered to advocate for the needs of their child/young person with friends and family

98%
feel more confident discussing their child's neurodiverse condition with others

96%
feel more empowered to advocate for the needs of their young person at their school or setting

TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS



SPACE works with schools, settings and corporate clients to help support the needs of children, young people and adults with neurodiverse conditions. Our training is tailored to link in with the parent programmes we deliver and so brings a person-centered outcome. This year, we delivered 18 training sessions including to many private schools in Hertfordshire and a rolling training programme for Hertfordshire Libraries.

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE TOPICS INCLUDED:

- Navigating the SEND World
- Navigating the SEND World Post 16
- Autistic Girls
- Anxiety & SEND
- ADHD in Girls and Women
- Understanding Autism
- Understanding ADHD
- Anger & Conflict
- Sensory, Signs, Signals and Solutions
- Sleep Workshop
- Understanding and Supporting Executive Functioning
- Understanding Specific Literacy Difficulties Including Dyslexia
- Understanding Dual Diagnosis: Autism and ADHD
- Puberty and SEND
- Understanding and Supporting Emotional Regulation
- Access Arrangements
- No Two Brains Are the Same. What is Neuro Diversity?
- Navigating the SEND World
- Understanding Behaviour as Communication: A Therapeutic Approach
- Tourettes
- ECHP - New Applications
- EHCP - Annual Reviews
- EHCP - Submission to Finalisation
- Navigating the SEND World (Beginning the Journey)
- Talking SENse
- First Steps
- Sleep tight

AND MORE!

BESPOKE, FREE 1:1 FAMILY SUPPORT

Our SEND Family Support team has continued to grow and adapt to meet the increasing and changing needs of our families. Our work now includes home visits, formal casework, intensive family support over extended periods, and the implementation of person-centred support plans tailored to family need.

We have strong working relationships with other agencies enabling multi-agency support to identified families with clear responsibilities shared between SPACE and specialist services.

We also deliver SEND Champion work supporting and upskilling other Family Support Services including Hertfordshire's Intensive Family Support Team, Social Workers, School Support Workers.

1,031
families supported

1,955
individual advice appointments

39
families supported through formal casework



Our family support team won 'Partner of the Year' from CHEXS, a family support charity covering the Broxbourne area of Hertfordshire

First STEPS

Early intervention for neurodivergent children and supporting them during this critical stage of development is essential for their holistic development as well as their long-term mental health and wellbeing.

Responding to a 50% increase in the number of parents and carers of children under 5 contacting our Family Support team and the challenges they outlined, we developed and piloted our new 6 week First Steps course in October.

Questionnaires were issued 12 weeks later, to assess impact.

100%
of participants strongly agreed that the course helped them to: better understand their child's neurodiverse condition, sensory needs, and communication preferences; and feel better equipped to support difficult behaviours.

We have now run 4 First Steps courses in different areas of Hertfordshire empowering 76 parent/carers.

"I don't think it's any exaggeration to say First Steps has transformed my relationship with my daughter. I understand her so much more and have a whole bucket load of ideas to help support her which I've also shared with her nursery and they have commented how helpful it's been too. Nothing was too much for the trainers with lots of individual advice and perspective. I couldn't recommend it more."

Whilst being supported by our support workers, families remain at the centre of all planning and decision making. Here are some examples of the tailored 1:1 support families received from the team during this period:

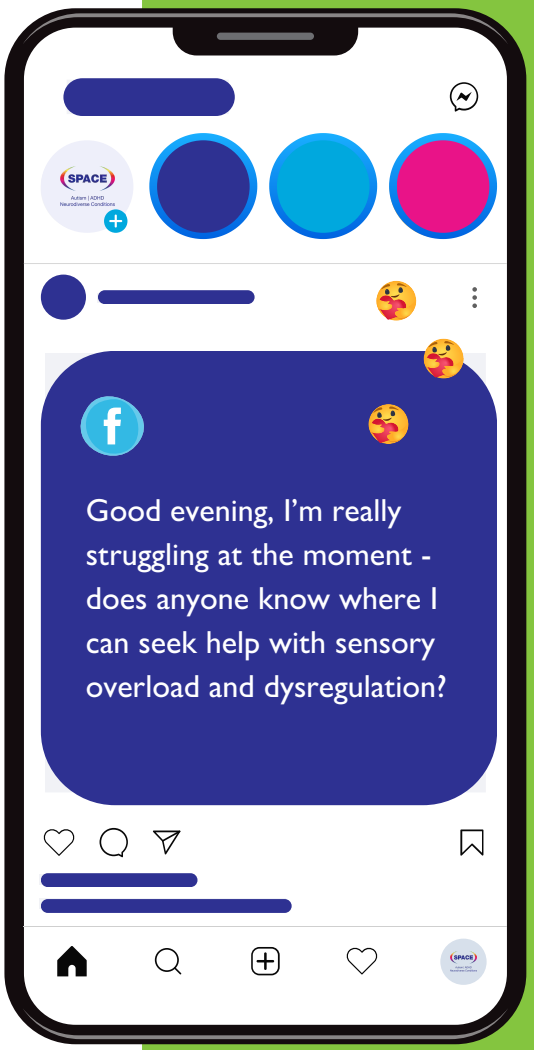
- Practical advice, including help with paperwork and claiming the benefits they are entitled to
- Support to navigate the pathway for Autism & ADHD diagnosis
- Information & signposting to additional services
- Emotional support and a listening ear
- Advice and suggestions on supporting and modelling interactions, interventions, and strategies
- Help to understand and support behaviours
- Advocacy to ensure the family's specific needs are understood
- Making direct referrals & following up with agencies to access support required quickly, his includes successful referrals to all levels of Hertfordshire's mental health services (PALMS, CAMHS, Step 2)
- Support at meetings with other stakeholders including school and Child In Need Meetings
- Support to access the wider SPACE offer

Other stakeholders the team has worked with during this period:

- Intensive Family Support Team (Hertfordshire County Council)
- Integrated Services for Learning (Hertfordshire County Council)
- Special Needs Health Visitors
- Health Visitors
- School Nurses
- Social Prescribers
- CHEXS
- HABS
- Families First Partnerships
- PALMS
- CAHMS
- Other statutory services including the NHS
- Police
- Schools (Public and Private sector)

FACEBOOK SUPPORT GROUP

The 'SPACE Hertfordshire' private Facebook Support Group enables parents and carers to get peer-based support from other families in Hertfordshire.



9,700+ members

It remains the biggest online SEND support group in the county with over 9,700 members and brings parent/carers and professionals together to share experience and support, increase understanding and reduce social isolation.

During the year we had over 2,000 members post on the group which includes sharing successes, asking questions, looking for advice or simply looking to offload, and over 28,000 supportive peer-to-peer responses.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Child L, 13 years old

Child L and their older sibling had both been waiting for autism/ADHD diagnoses for over 27 months, with no appointment in sight. Child L was experiencing mental health issues, school avoidance (EBSA), self-care difficulties, and challenging behaviours, including a restricted diet and controlling behaviours at home. Mum and dad struggled to get child L to attend school or engage socially with friends or family. Family relationships were deteriorating, with no external support from school or services. The family had previously accessed SPACE's support, but challenges resurfaced after Christmas.

Actions taken by SPACE Family Support:

- Regular telephone and email support tailored to the family's needs.
- Development of action plans addressing key challenges.
- Provided parents with information and strategies for understanding and managing their child's behaviours, including de-escalation techniques.
- Referrals made to CAMHS, PALMS, Children's Services (IFST), and ARC interventions for specialized support.
- Helped the family develop strategies to re-engage the child with the community at their own pace.
- Participated in multi-agency meetings to develop a plan for mental health support and liaised with various health and service professionals to expedite the family's needs.
- Provided emotional support to the mother.

Outcomes after support

- An Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) is now in process.
- The mother feels more confident and empowered to manage difficult situations.
- The family has had successful experiences that help them prepare for future challenges.
- The mother has engaged in workshops and courses to better understand her child's needs.
- Carer's assessment is in progress, and mentoring support has been commissioned to help the CYP access school and community activities.
- The family is now receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and enjoying more positive moments together.
- SPACE continues to support the family alongside the IFST team.

"I cannot thank you enough for helping us when we really needed it. You really supported me especially and have always been right by our side! Your support has been our lifeline. We felt like bad parents but now we realise there was a reason and are able to put things in place to support our child." - Parent/Carer

FAMILY SUPPORT SURVEY OUTCOMES

Aspect of the Family Support service parents and carers have found the most useful are:

81%

Practical advice and strategies

76%

Emotional support

76%

Signposting and access to resources and services

57%

Information about neurodiversity

100%

say support from the Family Support team has helped me…

- Improve my understanding of neurodiversity
- Get practical information and advice on how to support my ND CYP
- Feel more empowered to embrace neurodiversity
- Feel more confident managing challenges relating to neurodiversity in my family
- Feel less isolated

100%

agree support from the Family Support team has positively impacted emotional wellbeing

100%

agree family relationships have improved thanks to advice and support from the family support team

"We are an immigrant family. My wife and I are going through a very stressful time. It is not an easy situation. At first we were overwhelmed but the team has given us a lot of support. We felt lost before we began involving with SPACE. Now we have a place to go to and ask questions and get advice. We are confident the assistance we get from SPACE will have a positive effect on our child's life." - Parent/Carer

"The Family support worker offered us tips on how we can request help from the school. The information she gave me has been amazing and the suggestions she gave have now been out in place at my child's school."
- Parent/Carer

"Our Family support worker was amazing in the support she provided. She helped me change my perspective and to understand my son. She provided very tailored advice and helped me to problem solve. She was able to reassure me and provided real life examples and encouragement. She did not dismiss our concerns or experiences." - Parent/Carer

"It was so lovely to speak to someone who completely understands what we are going through. The positivity about what I had done to support my son so far and the acknowledgment that I was doing everything I could for the stage we are at. I have felt like a failure as a mum so many times in the last few years so it was just what I needed to reenergise me to keep going and thinking more positively for the future." - Parent/Carer

SUPPORT GROUPS

Our three in-person support groups that run monthly across the county in Croxley Green, Welwyn Garden City and Hoddesdon, provide safe, nurturing environments for parents and carers to connect, share experiences, and access valuable resources. As well as providing practical peer-based advice and support their primary purpose is often to support the mental health and wellbeing of these caregivers. During this period we have had

448

parents and carers book on to these groups.

The impact on the mental health and wellbeing of parent/carers who attend the support groups is clear. Feedback has shown:

Feel less isolated	Positive impact on mental health	Feel heard and understood
69% Strongly agree	**75%** Strongly agree	**63%** Strongly agree
31% Agree	**25%** Agree	**37%** Agree



"The SPACE support workers who attend are wonderful and really help you through any difficult times you are having. Some of the monthly speakers are really informative and give guidance for help that I didn't know was available for my child."

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND TOGETHERNESS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

As we work with neurodivergent children and young people, providing safe and inclusive community based initiatives is of great importance to SPACE.

This year we have launched SPACE to Grow, our new allotment project providing activities and horticultural therapy. After a successful pilot and with support from volunteers, families and local businesses we have transformed a neglected, overgrown plot that we took on in March 2023.

We have installed a shed, greenhouse, and compostable toilet. Picnic tables, seating, a fire pit and a gazebo create social space. We have created flower and vegetable beds and a pumpkin patch. Raised beds accommodate wheelchair users. A sensory garden with windchimes, fragrant plants, and colourful garden decorations is a calm area, whilst our mud kitchen is a fun play space for neurodiverse children and their siblings.

We also participated in Feel Good Week focused on mental health and connection with the outdoors running a conservation and irrigation session on the allotment for children and young people not currently able to attend school.



INVESTING IN OUR VOLUNTEERS

We have maintained our team of regular event and Lending SPACE volunteers at 14 and focused on their development and increasing their voluntary time with SPACE.

In total just under 50% of all staff hours at our events and activities was donated by volunteers equating to a saving of £2,200 for the charity over the course of the year.

We have developed an ongoing programme of 'litebite' training for volunteers to support them in their own 'professional development' – professional boundaries, safeguarding, managing tricky situations and photography. We have had 70% attendance at these sessions.

We have started to work with our community to source more specialist skills where required for example working with a local printer as their Charity of the Year so they produce all our flyers and other marketing materials (such as running vests) at cost.

We have 6 volunteer 'caretaker' families for our SPACE to Grow allotment and have 4 additional regular volunteers working purely on the allotment making things, fixing things and advising us.

We have built opportunities for local businesses to volunteer on our allotment and have had corporate volunteering days donated from ASOS, Schneider Electric and Volker Fitzpatrick.



"I'm just blown away by SPACE, we only heard about you in the summer when meeting a doctor for testing our son for ADHD but since then we've been on a boat trip with other families, tried golf and been on a few courses and it is amazing. The people who run the courses are so knowledgeable, create a friendly open approach and we learn so much and feel "no longer alone". You guys are amazing."

ADDING OUR VOICE TO ENSURE THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY ARE HEARD AND REFLECTED

This year, we regularly attended group meetings and conferences to give a voice to our community and ensure their needs are met.

- Early Years Network meetings
- Early Years SEND Conference
- DSPL meetings
- Cluster meetings

We continue to be particularly focused on strengthening our relationships with local schools and have attended many school coffee mornings to talk with parent/carers about SPACE as well as being actively involved in Hertfordshire's Autism in Schools Programme.

ON THE ROAD

The team have visited Family Centres, Homestart sessions, schools, colleges and play groups to speak with staff and parents about SPACE and offer support to individuals experiencing challenges.

EDUCATING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We take pride in being an active member of our community. By participating in SENCo forums, we ensure that schools are aware of SPACE and can direct parents accordingly. We attended information stands organised by the local authority, DSPL's (Delivering specialist provision locally) community halls and local businesses such as Tesco, participated in Purple Tuesday in Welwyn Garden City, worked with local councils to deliver Neurodiversity Celebration Week campaigns and delivered presentations to Rotary clubs, community interest groups, and local residents groups to provide the local community with information about SPACE and neurodiversity.

To build on collaborative opportunities to support our community, we also attended events organised by other community interest groups and charities.

THIS YEAR, OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH WAS ACCESSED BY PROFESSIONALS, INCLUDING:

- AJM Healthcare
- Autism in schools
- Carters - usually six weekly visits
- CHEXS
- Community Nursery Nurse (North Herts)
- Daisy chains - monthly visits
- Family Support Amwell View
- Family Support Children's Centre
- Family Support (Welwyn and Hatfield)
- Hatfield Family Centre
- Health Visitors (North)
- Health Visitors (East)
- OT - Private and NHS
- Social Practitioners
- Watford Fire Station
- SENCOs



Outreach

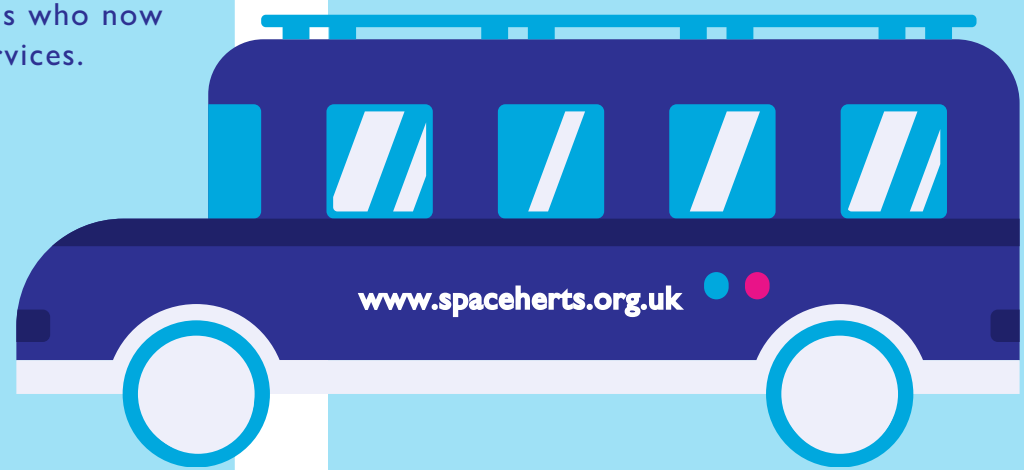
- Wheelchair services engaged in a Q&A session at Lending SPACE and returned for a second visit
- Engaged in SEND quiet hour at Watford fire station open day
- Visited Daisychains 4 times this year with future visits planned
- Took Lending SPACE to Southfields School and connected with 6 new families who now use our services.

BUILDING BETTER LINKS WITH COMMUNITIES

We have made significant strides in enhancing access to our Lending SPACE resources. Through our outreach efforts, we are able to extend our support to a wider audience, reaching more families and professionals. This allows them to recommend us to parents/carers who need us. This year, we have made

120
deliveries and collections to

17
different areas - new areas reached include: Bengeo, Broxbourne, Croxley, Hatfield and Royston



ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

In its first year of operation, SPACE Hertfordshire's Alternative Provision has grown from strength to strength, firmly establishing itself as a trusted resource for families in need of tailored educational support. At the heart of everything we do are children and young people, with every decision made focused on what is best for them. By putting families at the centre of all decisions, we ensure a bespoke package of support is created to meet each child or young person's individual needs.

Our dedicated Specialist Alternative Provision team works closely with families, taking a flexible approach to design child-centred plans that aim to achieve the best and most consistent outcomes. Through open communication, we ensure that families are involved every step of the way, offering a solution tailored to each unique situation.

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION SERVICES

- Tutoring for children with SEND
- Speech and Language Therapy
- 1-1 Therapeutic and Therapy sessions
- 1-1 activities
- Individual Support (mentoring)



THIS YEAR ALTERNATIVE PROVISION HAVE...

Supported

67 families

Delivered

1,896 sessions

Equating to

3,461 hours

- Worked intensively with 11 children and young people, each accessing over 100 hours of support.
- Two of the families supported are refugees, both facing learning difficulties and navigating the English education system.
- Delivered support across a range of Special Educational Needs (SEN), including Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) challenges, and an increasing number of children and young people experiencing Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA).
- Sessions primarily focused on tutoring or re-engagement, tailored to the appropriate level for each child or young person, in alignment with professional reports, Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), etc.
- Most sessions were commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council
- We are looking to expand our therapy services to provide more holistic support for children and young people.
- Therapeutic and therapy options currently offered include Therapeutic Farming, Drawing and Talking Therapy, Mentoring (for primary-age children), Music Therapy, Therapeutic Music, Golf, and Fishing.

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

Young Person A, Year 7

Young person A transitioned to secondary school with her peers in year 7 and initially seemed to adjust well. However, by the second half of the Autumn Term, A began struggling, and her school attendance dropped sharply. By Christmas, she was unable to attend school at all. A was on the autism pathway and although she was performing academically, she was unable to cope with the larger school environment. Her mum reported that she had previously been in a small primary school that tried to meet her needs. However, in secondary school, A isolated herself, struggling to engage with the outside world at all - even with her favourite activity, horse riding.

Actions Taken by our Alternative Provision Team

We began working with A and her family in February, starting with a home visit from our Alternative Provision (AP) manager and the Specialist Teacher (ST) who would be delivering our re-engagement programme. The goal was to establish a trusted adult relationship that could potentially support A's transition back to school or whatever other suitable path felt right in the future. A was at the centre of all planning and decisions. Sessions were tailored around A's needs and interests, with the ST taking her lead on activities. Together, they worked on various hands-on projects, including:

- Origami, following written instructions.
- Creating a business plan, with website and material design ideas.
- Planning a gardening project in her family's garden.
- Baking many cakes and cookies, including researching recipes and ideas and visiting a local shop for ingredients.

The ST allowed A to dictate the pace and duration of each session, focusing on projects that encouraged engagement and confidence. Initially, her family funded one hour per week of sessions, which increased to two hours due to progress. We also supported the family with a school meeting to request session funding while A's Education, Health, and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) was in process, providing detailed reports and guidance. Funding was secured just before the summer holidays.

Outcomes, which are ongoing

A is now accessing two hours of support weekly. Since the summer break, she has started engaging with some age-appropriate maths and is exploring other areas of academic work - a significant breakthrough. Her EHCP is expected to be finalised soon. This progress marks a considerable achievement in A's journey toward re-engagement and independence.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

As we continue to secure the ongoing financial stability of the charity we are developing our professional services that support families as well as the NHS and the Education system.

In our first full year of providing these services 140 families accessed our QB Checks, Dyslexia Screenings, Speech and Language or Educational Psychology Consultations

All our assessments and consultations are followed up with a comprehensive report from our specialists.

DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES IN NUMBERS

75
QBChecks

26
Educational Psychology Consultations

17
Dyslexia Screenings

22
Speech and Language Consultations

QBCHECKS

We were accredited to run QbCheck – an ADHD assessment tool - in 2023.

Administered by clinical psychologists, this service launched in March 2023 and 75 individuals completed the QbCheck in 2023/24.

"It was a calm and peaceful setting which enabled my son to feel quickly at ease and relax. The toys made it feel it was a space designed for him. I am really glad I used SPACE for the QB test."

"It has given us a better understanding of the difficulties experienced and also provided evidence for a formal diagnosis to take place."

"It also made me think about other neurodiverse conditions that might be at play. Helped me understand how co-existing conditions can occur."

"We shared the report with my son's University to provide support while waiting for full ADHD assessment, which was very helpful."

OUR FUNDRAISING

#TEAMSPACE

The work we do wouldn't be possible without our supporters. Our diverse fundraising portfolio encompasses corporate donors, grant funding and community fundraising initiatives.

SPACE'S PRINCIPLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

- CLA Charitable Trust
- Groundwork UK Tesco
- Hanbury Manor Golf Club
- Hertfordshire Community Foundation
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Postcode Places Trust
- St James's Place Charitable Foundation
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Speech, Language and Hearing Foundation





Michell raised £1,232

25K, 50K, 100K...

Michell went the extra mile(s) for SPACE, quite literally. In April, Michell completed a 25k walk around Windsor... two months later she stormed her way through a 50k hike, taking on the hills of the Lake District and super boosted her fundraising with a tremendous 100k trek from Putney to Henley-on-Thames in September.



Millie and Freddie raised £1.17k

WALKING FOR SPACE

Millie and Freddie are both neurodivergent and they and their families have accessed lots of SPACE events and activities. It was their own idea to raise some money! The money raised was kindly triple-matched by Cazenove Capital.

Leonie raised £507

THE BIG HALF

Just 10 days out from the race - Leonie and her friend, Lauren, set out on a fundraising mission for SPACE. The duo trained super hard together and what a journey it was - they flew past their fundraising target, raising over double of the original target.



ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON

Joss: "I am running the Royal Parks Half Marathon in support of SPACE. My daughter and family have received so much support and I would like to show my appreciation."



CHOIR RAISES THE ROOF AND FUNDS

The a cappella vocal group presented 'Mamma Mia' with songs and words for Mother's Day including poetry reading and folksongs.



HANBURY MANOR GOLF CLUB

Hanbury Manor Golf Club hits another hole-in-one! Member swung into action, raising an astounding amount of money. A further £500 was match-funded by wealth management company, Cazenove Capital, bumping the total figure up to £11,750.



ROTARIANS ROLL OUT SANTA SUIT AND SLEIGH

Families were on the lookout for Santa Claus, thanks to the Rotary Satellite Club of Welwyn Garden City, which brought festive cheer and raised funds through a Santa sleigh tour and collections in November and December.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

TRACTORS ON TOUR

Tractors on Tour supported SPACE through a special ‘Tractors on Tour’ road trip - the fundraiser revved up a brilliant £1,823.29 for SPACE on New Year's Eve!

39 tractors of all colours and sizes were raring to go with their SPACE-coloured balloons, rosettes, and logos for the tour across Brickendon, Hoddesdon, Stanstead Abbotts, and Ware.

There was tremendous excitement in our neighbouring towns, with the SPACE colours paraded proudly and huge smiles on our community's faces.

The day ended perfectly with a raffle as drivers and supporters enjoyed food and drink at the Farmers Boy pub, soaking up New Year's Eve festivities.

We were overwhelmed by the support from Tractors on Tour, their families, our families, and community members who showed up along the route or at one of the pub stop-offs.

A special thank you to Tractors on Tour for selecting SPACE as their charity of the year, and a huge thank you to everyone for making this event possible - The Jolly Fisherman, The Farmers Boy, our staff, and volunteers.









Principle 1a

Reduction in social isolation of vulnerable families through:

- Bespoke carefully orchestrated social opportunities and activities, online and in-person, throughout the year for children, young people and the whole family to attend.
- Monthly support groups promoting and facilitating a peer support network.
- Online community support through a closed administrated Facebook Group and Public page.
- Bespoke online and face to face support, guidance and signposting including home visits from our Family Support Team.
- Raising the profile of the charity and awareness of families' needs within the local community and helping to shape future provisions.
- Supporting local businesses and services to promote inclusion.

Improving and advancing the knowledge, understanding and skills of parent/carers and professionals.

- Online and in-person monthly support groups which may be attended by a guest speaker/ service operating in the field of Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Themed Conferences for both parent/carers and professionals delivered by SPACE and experts within that field.
- Online and in-person workshops and courses on a variety of topics throughout the year.
- Sharing information and resources through a variety of mediums and organisations.
- Forging links with other service providers, organisations and charities to educate and instil confidence in working with families that have children and young people with SEND.

Principle 1b

The public benefits of the organisation closely reflect and adheres to the charity's Aims, Objects and Constitution. The trustees ensure the charity remains focused on these principles in all decision making.

Principle 1c

The charity benefits are balanced against detriment or harm. The trustees are fully aware of the need and demand from the public on the charity's services therefore the charity must grow to meet this demand. However, the trustees must ensure this pace of growth is realistic and not be in detriment of the team and volunteers running the organisation. SPACE Registered Charity England and Wales no: 117 2178 Supporting Families in Hertfordshire - Autism ADHD and other Neurodiverse Conditions.

Principle 2a

The direct beneficiaries of the charity are Hertfordshire families with children and young people on the autistic spectrum and/or ADHD and other neurodiverse conditions either with or without diagnosis. Other beneficiaries include the wider community, extended families and professionals also working within the SEND field. The beneficiaries of the charity are in direct keeping with the charity's aims, objectives and constitution.

Principle 2b

The section of the public that can benefit are not unreasonably restricted by geographic location. Although the organisation is a Hertfordshire-based charity as stated in the constitution, the trustees considered the following to ensure maximum accessibility.

- All support groups are not geographically restricted to the area they are hosted in.
- The support groups are spread over various Hertfordshire locations and on various days and times to maximise accessibility.
- There are online support groups that remove geographical restrictions completely, giving access to all of Hertfordshire.
- An appropriate video conferencing platform has been selected that supports a wide range of hardware, including mobile phones. The platform does not have a high barrier to entry from an account, pricing, or accessibility perspective.
- The organisation is mindful to hold events and socials in a variety of Hertfordshire locations subject to venues, opportunities, and cost implications.

Principle 2c

People in poverty are not excluded from the opportunity to benefit.

- There are no joining, membership or subscription fees.
- All support groups, online community and face to face support are free.
- All online activities, courses and workshops are free and involve no travel costs.
- All projects that have received specific funding are offered to families at a nominal charge, this is to ensure their commitment in attendance.
- The charity subsidises activities wherever possible to maximise accessibility.
- Larger events and conferences carry a charge to attend. The trustees will investigate whether this can be offered as concessions in relation to poverty in the future.

Principle 2d

Any private benefits are incidental.

Declaration: The trustees are satisfied that there has been regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit in decision making and organisation performance.

SPACE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ending 31 March 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

	NOTES	RESTRICTED £	UNRESTRICTED £	2024 £	2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Total income for the period	2	409,988.50	412,659.51	822,648.01	456,085.33
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**409,988.50**	**412,659.51**	**822,648.01**	**456,085.33**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Administration, Management, Cost of Activities etc.		362,482.21	360,762.91	723,245.12	425,676.01
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**362,482.21**	**360,762.91**	**723,245.12**	**425,676.01**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		**47,506.29**	**51,896.60**	**99,402.89**	**30,409.32**
ADJUSTMENT		**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		**72,760.30**	**135,672.80**	**208,433.10**	**178,023.78**
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	6, 7, 8	**120,266.59**	**187,569.40**	**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**

SPACE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

	NOTES	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	3	7,554.47	12,154.07
CURRENT ASSETS			
Total Current Assets	4	410,130.33	289,525.50
		410,130.33	**289,525.50**
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	109,848.81	93,246.47
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		**300,281.52**	**196,279.03**
NET ASSETS		**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Funds	6	187,569.40	135,672.80
Restricted Funds	7	120,266.59	72,760.30
TOTAL FUNDS		**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**

SPACE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

b) Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure is recorded on the accruals basis.

c) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at rates which are intended to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives, and is itemised as follows:

Plant and machinery and office equipment	33%
Fixtures and fittings	33%
Motor vehicles	33%

d) Leases

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account in equal annual instalments covering the period of the leases.

e) Fund Accounting

Grants and similar income which are subjected to restrictions by the donors are shown as restricted funds and any expenditure incurred will be set off against this fund. All other income and expenditure is shown as unrestricted.

2 FUNDING RECEIVABLE (INCLUDING GRANTS)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Total funding income received	419,698.50	331,828.60
Total	**419,698.50**	**331,828.60**

3 FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and Fixtures	Office Equip	Motor Vehicles	Plant and Machinery	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	0.00	2,166.76	32,695.50	200.00	35,062.26
Additions	4,610.74	6,021.00	0.00	0.00	10,631.74
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2024	4,610.74	8,187.76	32,695.50	200.00	45,694.00
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	0.00	977.85	21,797.00	133.34	22,908.19
Charge for the year	1,536.91	2,729.27	10,898.50	66.66	15,231.34
Depreciation on disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2024	1,536.91	3,707.12	32,695.50	200.00	38,139.53
Net book value					
At 31 March 2024	3,073.83	4,480.64	0.00	0.00	7,554.47
At 31 March 2023	0.00	1,188.91	10,898.50	66.66	12,154.07

SPACE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

4	CURRENT ASSETS - Cash & Bank Balances & Debtors	2024	2023
		£	£
	Cash and Bank Balance	323,380.21	286,226.50
	Debtors, Prepayments & Accrued Income	86,750.12	3,299.00
	Total	**410,130.33**	**289,525.50**

5	CREDITORS - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Trade Creditors	1,225.22	716.66
	Accruals and Deferred Income	108,623.59	92,529.81
	PAYE, Social Security and Other Taxes	0.00	0.00
		109,848.81	**93,246.47**

6	UNRESTRICTED FUND	2024	2023
		£	£
	Opening Balance	135,672.80	72,805.89
	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	51,896.60	62,866.91
	Revaluation adjustment	-	-
	Closing Balance	**187,569.40**	**135,672.80**

SPACE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

7	RESTRICTED FUND	2024	2023
		£	£
	Opening Balance	72,760.30	105,217.89
	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	47,506.29	(32,457.59)
	Revaluation adjustment	-	-
	Closing Balance	**120,266.59**	**72,760.30**

8	ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
		£	£	£
	Tangible Fixed Assets	299.99	7,254.48	7,554.47
	Net Current Assets	119,966.60	180,314.92	300,281.52
	Total	**120,266.59**	**187,569.40**	**307,835.99**

SPACE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024 Restricted £	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Incoming Resources				
Funding	409,988.50	9,710.00	419,698.50	331,828.60
Donations	0.00	61,553.27	61,553.27	44,211.80
Event Income	0.00	38,706.85	38,706.85	50,229.01
Other Services Income	0.00	302,689.39	302,689.39	29,815.92
	409988.50	412659.51	822648.01	456085.33
Outgoing Resources				
Bank Charges	0.00	191.46	191.46	229.93
Bookkeeping and Accounting	392.00	3,219.00	3,611.00	3,652.00
Core Costs	27,301.41	6,224.17	33,525.58	28,812.39
Equipment	8,211.85	2,065.26	10,277.11	3,934.16
Event Costs	92,157.83	16,999.94	109,157.77	94,628.25
Cost of Other Services	0.00	167,026.37	167,026.37	21,473.98
General Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	2,112.27	3,498.39	5,610.66	4,800.06
IT Software and Consumables	734.88	8,188.14	8,923.02	2,633.27
Motor Vehicle Expenses	320.00	0.00	320.00	290.00
Other Costs	1,213.47	1,756.36	2,969.83	2,421.25
Printing, Postage, Stationary	706.83	1,009.41	1,716.24	1,334.50
Refreshments	556.72	2,219.98	2,776.70	2,173.61
Removal costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,185.60
Rent & Rates	27,384.84	14,678.98	42,063.82	27,063.38
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Salaries	171,523.38	105,670.30	277,193.68	194,413.10
Pension Costs	3,218.92	2,376.97	5,595.89	3,317.81
Employers NIC	9,351.20	7,681.78	17,032.98	8,175.50
Staff Training	980.00	1,444.60	2,424.60	360.00
Subscriptions	0.00	3,044.50	3,044.50	1,663.95
Telephone & Internet	0.00	3,834.62	3,834.62	2,497.66
Travel Costs	4,862.52	5,855.43	10,717.95	8,928.19
Depreciation Expense	11,454.09	3,777.25	15,231.34	11,687.42
	362,482.21	360,762.91	723,245.12	425,676.01
Surplus / (Deficit)	**47,506.29**	**51,896.60**	**99,402.89**	**30,409.32**
Funds				
Opening balance	72,760.30	135,672.80	208,433.10	178,023.78
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	47,506.29	51,896.60	99,402.89	30,409.32
Closing balance	**120,266.59**	**187,569.40**	**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

CHARITY NAME: SPACE

Registered charity number: 1172178

Charity's principal address: Unit 5 The Maltings Business Centre
Stanstead Abbotts
Ware, Herts
SG12 8HG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Lyn Heathcote Sharif (Chair)
Mark Wilson (Treasurer)
Dr Sharmishtha Sarkar
Donna Chamberlain
Victoria Kemp
Polly Kerr

Type of governing document: Constitution
SPACE is constituted by CIO with voting members other than charity trustees. The trustee selection method is elected by trustees and voting members.

Financial review: Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are held exclusively for the furtherance of the Charitable Objectives. None of the Charity's reserves may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Charity. The Charity will hold a minimum of 4 months in way of reserve.

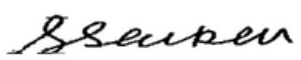
Declaration: The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above - signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Lyn Heathcote Sharif



Mark Wilson



Dr Sharmishtha Sarkar



Donna Chamberlain



Victoria Kemp



Polly Kerr

SPACE

Financial Statements

For the Year Ending 31 March 2024

SPACE is a registered charity:
Registration number 1172178

SPACE

INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

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Notes to the Financial Statements	3-5

SPACE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

	NOTES	RESTRICTED £	UNRESTRICTED £	2024 £	2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Total income for the period	**2**	409,988.50	412,659.51	822,648.01	456,085.33
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**409,988.50**	**412,659.51**	**822,648.01**	**456,085.33**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Administration, Management, Cost of Activities etc.		362,482.21	360,762.91	723,245.12	425,676.01
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**362,482.21**	**360,762.91**	**723,245.12**	**425,676.01**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		**47,506.29**	**51,896.60**	**99,402.89**	**30,409.32**
ADJUSTMENT		**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		**72,760.30**	**135,672.80**	**208,433.10**	**178,023.78**
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**6, 7, 8**	**120,266.59**	**187,569.40**	**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**

SPACE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	**3**	7,554.47	12,154.07
CURRENT ASSETS			
Total Current Assets	**4**	410,130.33	289,525.50
		410,130.33	**289,525.50**
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	**5**	109,848.81	93,246.47
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		**300,281.52**	**196,279.03**
NET ASSETS		**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Funds	**6**	187,569.40	135,672.80
Restricted Funds	**7**	120,266.59	72,760.30
TOTAL FUNDS		**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the accounts

SPACE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

b) Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure is recorded on the accruals basis.

c) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at rates which are intended to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives, and is itemised as follows:

Plant and machinery and office equipment	33%
Fixtures and fittings	33%
Motor vehicles	33%

d) Leases

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account in equal annual instalments covering the period of the leases.

e) Fund Accounting

Grants and similar income which are subjected to restrictions by the donors are shown as restricted funds and any expenditure incurred will be set off against this fund. All other income and expenditure is shown as unrestricted.

SPACE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

2 FUNDING RECEIVABLE (INCLUDING GRANTS)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Total funding income received	419,698.50	331,828.60
Total	**419,698.50**	**331,828.60**

3 FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture and Fixtures	Office Equip	Motor Vehicles	Plant and Machinery	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	0.00	2,166.76	32,695.50	200.00	35,062.26
Additions	4,610.74	6,021.00	0.00	0.00	10,631.74
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2024	4,610.74	8,187.76	32,695.50	200.00	45,694.00
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	0.00	977.85	21,797.00	133.34	22,908.19
Charge for the year	1,536.91	2,729.27	10,898.50	66.66	15,231.34
Depreciation on disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2024	1,536.91	3,707.12	32,695.50	200.00	38,139.53
Net book value					
At 31 March 2024	3,073.83	4,480.64	0.00	0.00	7,554.47
At 31 March 2023	0.00	1,188.91	10,898.50	66.66	12,154.07

4 CURRENT ASSETS - Cash & Bank Balances & Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash and Bank Balance	323,380.21	286,226.50
Debtors, Prepayments & Accrued Income	86,750.12	3,299.00
Total	**410,130.33**	**289,525.50**

5 CREDITORS - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	1,225.22	716.66
Accruals and Deferred Income	108,623.59	92,529.81
PAYE, Social Security and Other Taxes	0.00	0.00
	109,848.81	**93,246.47**

SPACE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024

6	**UNRESTRICTED FUND**	**2024**	**2023**
		£	**£**
	Opening Balance	135,672.80	72,805.89
	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	51,896.60	62,866.91
	Revaluation adjustment	-	-
	Closing Balance	**187,569.40**	**135,672.80**

7	**RESTRICTED FUND**	**2024**	**2023**
		£	**£**
	Opening Balance	72,760.30	105,217.89
	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	47,506.29	(32,457.59)
	Revaluation adjustment	-	-
	Closing Balance	**120,266.59**	**72,760.30**

8	**ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS**	**Restricted**	**Unrestricted**	**Total**
		£	**£**	**£**
	Tangible Fixed Assets	299.99	7,254.48	7,554.47
	Net Current Assets	119,966.60	180,314.92	300,281.52
	Total	**120,266.59**	**187,569.40**	**307,835.99**

9	**STAFF NUMBERS**	**2024**	**2023**
		£	**£**
	Total Staff Costs for the Year	**299,822.55**	**205,906.41**

	2024	**2023**
Average Number of Paid Staff	14	12

SPACE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024			2023
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Funding	409,988.50	9,710.00	419,698.50	331,828.60
Donations	0.00	61,553.27	61,553.27	44,211.80
Event Income	0.00	38,706.85	38,706.85	50,229.01
Other Services Income	0.00	302,689.39	302,689.39	29,815.92
	409988.50	412659.51	822648.01	456085.33
Outgoing Resources				
Bank Charges	0.00	191.46	191.46	229.93
Bookkeeping and Accounting	392.00	3,219.00	3,611.00	3,652.00
Core Costs	27,301.41	6,224.17	33,525.58	28,812.39
Equipment	8,211.85	2,065.26	10,277.11	3,934.16
Event Costs	92,157.83	16,999.94	109,157.77	94,628.25
Cost of Other Services	0.00	167,026.37	167,026.37	21,473.98
General Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	2,112.27	3,498.39	5,610.66	4,800.06
IT Software and Consumables	734.88	8,188.14	8,923.02	2,633.27
Motor Vehicle Expenses	320.00	0.00	320.00	290.00
Other Costs	1,213.47	1,756.36	2,969.83	2,421.25
Printing, Postage, Stationary	706.83	1,009.41	1,716.24	1,334.50
Refreshments	556.72	2,219.98	2,776.70	2,173.61
Removal costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,185.60
Rent & Rates	27,384.84	14,678.98	42,063.82	27,063.38
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Salaries	171,523.38	105,670.30	277,193.68	194,413.10
Pension Costs	3,218.92	2,376.97	5,595.89	3,317.81
Employers NIC	9,351.20	7,681.78	17,032.98	8,175.50
Staff Training	980.00	1,444.60	2,424.60	360.00
Subscriptions	0.00	3,044.50	3,044.50	1,663.95
Telephone & Internet	0.00	3,834.62	3,834.62	2,497.66
Travel Costs	4,862.52	5,855.43	10,717.95	8,928.19
Depreciation Expense	11,454.09	3,777.25	15,231.34	11,687.42
	362,482.21	360,762.91	723,245.12	425,676.01
Surplus / (Deficit)	**47,506.29**	**51,896.60**	**99,402.89**	**30,409.32**
Funds				
Opening balance	72,760.30	135,672.80	208,433.10	178,023.78
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	47,506.29	51,896.60	99,402.89	30,409.32
Closing balance	**120,266.59**	**187,569.40**	**307,835.99**	**208,433.10**

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	SPACE		
On accounts for the year ended	31/03/2024	**Charity no (if any)**	1172178
Set out on pages	1-5		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signed:		**Date:**	19/11/2024
Name:	KEITH JONES		

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	
Address:	46 CROSSWAY
	WELWYN GARDEN CITY
	AL8 7EE

Section B Disclosure

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

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

SPACE

England & Wales - Charity number 1172178

Accounts



Annual report and accounts 2023

SPACE

Autism | ADHD
Neurodiverse Conditions

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR FROM OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

KAREN SPENCER, CLARE BRILLUS AND NICKY CHAPERLIN (SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM) AND LYN HEATHCOTE SHARIF - CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



We are one full year out of the Covid-19 pandemic and continue to adapt to the needs of our families and the professionals who support them.

In 2022-23 we empowered and supported over 7,500 families with neurodivergent children and young people. This included the continued growth of our free family support service, our Lending SPACE Community Hub, our in-person support groups, our vibrant Facebook support group, our programme of workshops and courses and our exclusive events for neurodivergent children and young people, their siblings and families.

As we continue to secure the ongoing financial stability of the charity we are developing our professional services that support families as well as the NHS and the Education system. We have been accredited to run QbCheck – an ADHD assessment tool. Administered by clinical psychologists, this service launched in March 2023. A percentage of this income is being set aside in a discretionary fund to help us further support our most financially vulnerable families.

We have also been approved by Hertfordshire County Council to provide Alternative Provision Services which includes SEND tutoring, speech and language therapy, mentoring and therapeutic interventions. This has enabled us to scaffold the charity to move forward in the direction needed to support those young people with more complex needs and those waiting for special school placements.

As well as tenders from the Local Authority we have been supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, trusts and foundations, companies and individuals enabling us to grow our services and our impact and stabilise each department as we strive to meet an ever increasing demand. We have increased the SPACE team from 13 PAYE staff to 15 PAYE staff with an additional 5 self-employed staff. We are passionate about employing not only parent/carers but neurodivergent individuals with a range of abilities and skills. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive and a Living Wage employer. Half of our team have a diagnosis or consider themselves to be neurodivergent and between them they are parents to 23 neurodiverse children. Their lived experience gives them a deep understanding and huge commitment to support our families. We also are hugely grateful to have the support of over 15 ad hoc support staff and regular volunteers.

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

The year ahead is another busy but very exciting one in terms of the development of SPACE. We are now in a position where regardless of whether families need light touch engagement or have complex needs involving multiple statutory and other services, we are able to deliver the end to end support they need.

With a clear plan, strong governance and the enthusiasm and dedication that our staff and volunteers bring every single day we will continue to develop and deliver services to be there when needed - empowering and supporting neurodivergent children and young people and their families so that they can thrive.

We want to thank our trustees, colleagues and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the Charity.

Karen Spencer

Clare Brillus

Nicky Chaperlin

Lyn Heathcote Sharif



CREATING MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES IN A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE

Our activities programme makes experiences accessible to young people who would otherwise be unable to access them. These exclusive events are designed to enhance learning, social interaction, and physical activity for our children and young people.

We ran a whole host of over 20 different activities regularly across Hertfordshire from sports to creative activities. Siblings are welcome to take part, and many of the activities can be enjoyed by the whole family.

"We would be lost without SPACE"

OUR 2023 EVENTS IN NUMBERS

SPACE heavily subsidises the amount parents and carers pay to access these events in order to make them as accessible as possible to as many families as possible.

302

hours of group events and activites

241

events hosted in inclusive settings

2,552

bookings made by our families

AN ACTIVITY FOR EVERYONE

Our event schedule includes online art, Lego, cooking, trampolining, driving, and aerial gymnastics! We've delivered inflatables, graffiti, outdoor play at The Patch, paddle sports, stand-up paddleboarding, yoga, pottery painting, quizzes and soft play. New activities added this year included Little City roleplay and Melody Monkeys for pre-schoolers.

Thanks to a partnership with Hertfordshire Libraries and Booster Cushion Theatre we were also able to make relaxed live performances accessible to our younger SPACE children. And, of course, we had a special Christmas show to top it all off!



MAKING A GENUINE IMPACT

87%

of children and young people increased confidence

90%

increased self-esteem

88%

reduced anxiety

71%

improved social and communication skills

92%

have increased general well-being

IT'S NOT JUST THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO BENEFIT

95%

of parents and carers feel less isolated because they are able to attend these activities with their young people.



"SPACE provides safe spaces for families to get together and experience opportunities that might not be possible in a mainstream world. Giving parents/carers the confidence to take their neurodiverse child/children to activities in a safe and accepting environment."

ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE

We launched an 'Introduction to…' activities series to enable children and young people to gain the basic skills and confidence to be able to build towards accessing them independently - such as fishing and golf. Since we launched these in summer 2022, 80 young people have been introduced to golf and 40 to fishing.

We also launched 'Life Skills' events for our older young people, starting with an Introduction to Independent Shopping experience in partnership with a local ASDA.

SHORT BREAK LOCAL OFFER

We were recommissioned by Hertfordshire County Council as a Short Break Local Offer (SBLO) provider. The children and young people who signed up to SPACE SBLO enjoyed group activities such as graffiti, aerial gymnastics and watersports and towards the end of the year an expanded offer which included 1:1 activities such as cooking, art, yoga, driving and mixed martial arts.

1,317 hours of SBLO activities were delivered.

"Having SPACE SBLO events to attend are a lifeline for me. My daughter can be 100% herself. She is free from masking and it helps us as a family to be able to do fun things while being our true selves with total understanding from you all."

THERAPEUTIC 1:1 ACTIVITIES

There continues to be a big demand for participation in our programme of online and in-person therapeutic 1:1 activities which are specifically designed to increase confidence and self-esteem and help transition children and young people with SEND into our inclusive group activities. We further increased capacity this year by adding My Happy SPACE to the programme.

613

sessions of 1:1 therapeutic activities were delivered.

Families reported that this programme has a significant positive impact across multiple areas that affect the mental wellbeing of the children who have participated from the activities to date including an average of a

23%

uplift in self-esteem

20%

boost in confidence following instructions

23%

uplift in being happy to leave the house

YOUR SPACE

We were recommissioned by Hertfordshire County Council by the Transforming Care Team to run Your SPACE – a social care project supporting some of the most vulnerable children in our community. This is a project designed to enable children and young people on Hertfordshire's Dynamic Support Register (DSR) to access recreational activities to meet their complex needs.

Using a highly tailored, person-centred, therapeutic approach, since launch in October 2021 SPACE has received

58

referrals to date

609

hours of bespoke 1:1 activity respite has been successfully delivered to young people on the DSR with over

162

planned hours of delivery

CHILD E'S JOURNEY

Child E is 15 years old and was referred to Your SPACE while still in hospital. Child E was very anxious to go outside, and was fearful to be out in the community without holding her mother's hand. The Your SPACE coordinator worked with Child E's keyworker by attending meetings with key staff involved in her care to ascertain her exact support needs to access the community for the first time since her hospital admission. Your SPACE met with Therapeutic Hooves to communicate Child E's complex needs and ensured that her first taster session was to take place at the same time as her day-release from hospital.

Child E's sessions began with a visit to an indoor 'hut' to help with the anxiety of being out in the community, supported by a 2:1 staff ratio. After 3 sessions in the hut, Child E began to spend more time outside with the horses as her confidence grew. Child E wanted to attend regularly and did so over the course of 6 months, growing with confidence each time and becoming less and less anxious to go outside in the community. Over the course of her 48 hours of support, Child E no longer uses the hut as a safe space as she feels comfortable enough to be outdoors with other members of the community.

Child E's package of support with Your SPACE is now coming to an end, as she has started volunteering with Therapeutic Hooves to gain employment skills and a sense of responsibility. Child E's care team reports that she would not have had the opportunity to build her confidence and find her way from hospitalisation into early employment skills without the support of the Your SPACE project.



LENDING SPACE

We were recommissioned by Hertfordshire County Council to run Lending SPACE - our community hub. It provides an inclusive environment for parent/carers to borrow toys, trial sensory items, and useful aids that can help empower and assist children with SEND. We are committed to providing emotional support to parent/carers, and have created a welcoming space where they can come to chat with like-minded people, browse through our selection of items, have a warm drink and allow children to play.

This year Lending SPACE supported loans of

3,147

items from our library of resources.

394 families are a part of our Lending SPACE community













"Lending SPACE became a safe place for our family at a time which felt scary and unknown. The staff at Lending SPACE welcomed us with open arms, provided consistency, invaluable knowledge and an endless supply of custard creams. "

-Lending SPACE parent



100% OF PARENT/CARERS AGREE THAT THE ENVIRONMENT AT LENDING SPACE IS:

- Supportive
- Non-judgemental
- Welcoming
- Safe
- Empathic
- Friendly
- Inclusive

We were awarded a Hertfordshire County Council 'warm spaces' grant for Lending SPACE for winter/spring 2022-23 which enabled us to temporarily add an additional drop-in session on Tuesdays and extend opening hours during the school holidays.

98%

have been able to try resources that have supported their child's needs

98%

agree it provides a safe environment for their family to be themselves

96%

have saved money by being able to try resources from Lending SPACE

88%

have gone on to buy resources for their young person that they originally tried at Lending SPACE

96%

agree it contributes to their emotional well-being and support

"The support is truly amazing. The children feel so comfortable and the knowledge the team has its truly amazing, offering caring advice to struggling parents. Truly a safe place."

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

We were recommissioned by Hertfordshire County Council to run workshops for parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people, we also fund our own programme of workshops and courses.

During this period we ran a total of

133

workshops and

11

courses designed to support parents and carers better understand and support the needs of their children and young people. All of our workshops and courses were delivered online.

We ran workshops on

32

different topics throughout the year and, based on feedback from our families, expanded our range of training topics to include workshops on What is Neurodiversity?, Navigating the SEND World Post 16, ADHD in Girls and Women, Understanding Behaviour as Communication, Autism Plus – Co-occurring Conditions, Tourettes and Understanding Specific Literacy Difficulties.

We also gained CPD accreditation for our ADHD in Girls and Women workshop and will be rolling out additional accredited workshops in the future.

In total we had

6,496

bookings from parents and carers. Our workshops and courses have a big impact on the parents and carers who attend them and on their children and young people, including:

- Increased confidence: **98%** are more confident when talking about their child's neurodiverse condition
- Increased ability to advocate: **98%** are more empowered to advocate for their child at their school/setting
- Improved skills: **98%** use our tools and strategies at home
- More empowered: **93%** are better able to prioritise the needs of their child
- Increased understanding: **98%** better understand their child's neurodiverse condition
- Improved relationships: **90%** have improved family relationships

"You have changed my life and the life of my family. I could go further and say that you have actually saved a marriage. The fact that we know how our child thinks and why he reacts to things the way he does, having ideas on how to help our child was a life saver. You have no idea of the difference SPACE makes to people's lives."

TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS

As well as being commissioned to deliver training in schools and settings we launched our Neurodiversity in the Workplace training programme and were commissioned to deliver this to a number of businesses across the UK.

This programme is designed to promote an understanding of how neurological differences, such as Autism and ADHD, may affect professionals in their place of work. It highlights the importance and advantages of a neurodiverse team, and the reasonable adjustments that a workplace can make to support their team.

"The knowledge they had was amazing and I found it so beneficial."

"So much real life experiences which makes everything so relatable and extremely helpful."



Over 100 attendees

AUTUMN CONFERENCES

We ran two conferences in Autumn in partnership with the ADHD Neurodiversity Charity attended by over 100 parents, carers and professionals. The parent and carer conference was packed full of practical insights and strategies for supporting emotional regulation, executive functioning and sensory integration at home.

Education professionals attended a twilight conference on how to support neurodiversity through the key stages. This programme had a specific focus on practical strategies for supporting the difficulties some neurodivergent children and young people experience with executive functions to help them learn more effectively, achieve their potential and enhance emotional resilience.

100% of the professionals who attended said they would attend another SPACE conference.

TAILORED, BESPOKE 1:1 FAMILY SUPPORT

In its second full year of operation, our SEND Family Support team supported 977 families with tailored and bespoke family support. With statutory services continuing to face severe capacity challenges and families often waiting months, sometimes years, for help, diagnosis and support, our family support service has never been more needed or in demand and the support required is increasingly complex. To meet this need, in September we re-structured the service to enable us to take on formal case work and home visits alongside our email, telephone and face-to-face appointments and support.

The first contact is often emotional and can be tearful. Families can be isolated and feel desperate, seeking help and advice with no one else to turn to.

As with all our services our bespoke family support is needs-led and no diagnosis is necessary. Parents and carers may self-refer and may also be referred by their school or setting, social worker, GP or other healthcare practitioner. The SPACE team also actively monitor our closed Facebook support group and reach out to parents and carers where there is clear need for more bespoke or intensive support and advice. Our family support team has extensive lived experience as well as in depth knowledge of Herts statutory & community-based provision.

FAMILY SUPPORT IN NUMBERS:

977

families supported

1,129

individual advice appointments on the telephone

69

face-to-face appointments

27

home visits

132

appointments supporting and/or advocating with other professional stakeholders across health, social care and education

EHCP SURGERIES

In response to an increase in demand for Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) support and advice through our family support service we launched regular dedicated EHCP surgeries. Parents and carers can book a face-to-face appointment at Lending SPACE to get support in making an initial EHCP application. This is non-legal advice and the surgeries are free for families to access. To date they have been fully booked with waiting lists.

Whilst being supported by our support workers, families remain at the centre of all planning and decision making. Here are some examples of the tailored 1:1 support families received from the team during this period:

- Practical advice, including help with paperwork and claiming the benefits they are entitled to
- Support to navigate the pathway for Autism & ADHD diagnosis
- Information & signposting to additional services
- Emotional support and a listening ear
- Advice and suggestions on supporting and modelling interactions, interventions, and strategies
- Help to understand and support behaviours
- Advocacy to ensure the family's specific needs are understood
- Making direct referrals & following up with agencies to access support required quickly, whilst ensure the family remains at the centre of all planning and decision making
- Support at meetings with other stakeholders including school and Child In Need Meetings
- Support to access the wider SPACE offer

FACEBOOK SUPPORT GROUP

The 'SPACE Hertfordshire' private Facebook Support Group enables parents and carers to get peer-based support from other families in Hertfordshire. It is the biggest online SEND support group in the county with over 7.6k members and brings parent/carers and professionals together to share experience and support, increase understanding and reduce social isolation.

During the year we had over 2,000 members post on the group which includes sharing successes, asking questions, looking for advice or simply looking to offload, and over 28,000 supportive peer-to-peer responses.

Child A 4 years old and attending a nursery setting

Child A's family were signposted to the SPACE SEND Family Support Service via the Lending SPACE team. Mum was struggling with how to help her son and understanding what he was trying to communicate.

Observation

The SPACE SEND Family Support Worker looked at the behaviours Child A was displaying. He was pointing to different things in the cupboards and mum was showing him different items. Child A would become distressed and throw objects that were in reach before throwing himself to the floor.

Action plan

We identified his sensory needs by working together to complete the SPACE Sensory Profile and introduced activities to meet these needs.

Our analysis of his non-verbal behaviour enabled us to develop a plan to support Child A's communication. We created a visual choice board, which was modelled to mum by encouraging Child A to use the board to begin to make requests.

Outcomes after support

Mum and Child A are using the visuals consistently. Mum reports the visuals are helping to reduce frustration. But also, are helping with Child A's speech. He is beginning to repeat back the word on the visual and is sometimes saying the word spontaneously.

Child H, 12 years old in a mainstream secondary school

Child H was displaying difficult, dangerous, and controlling behaviours in the home. Mum was unable to get H out into the community, other than their local coffee shop. Child H wasn't accessing any additional support in school. The relationships within the family home were breaking down. Child H was awaiting an autism assessment. The family accessed support from their school's family support team who subsequently referred them to us.

Action plan

Supported mum over the telephone and email on a regular basis as this communication best suited mum's work commitments. This included emotional wellbeing support for her.

Provided visuals to support transitions, processing and to reduce verbal communication as we identified this often caused behaviours to escalate.

Shared strategies to help de-escalate and manage challenging behaviours and meltdowns.

Worked on strategies to access the community with step-by-step suggestions to engage Child H at her pace, including the Hertfordshire STEPS approach.

Worked in partnership with the school family support team and liaised with paediatrics regarding concerns/difficulties.

Outcomes after support

Mum was able to implement a lot of strategies and suggestions given, which reduced lots of difficult behaviours and home life become more enjoyable for the family.

Mum felt more confident in managing the situations and felt empowered.

The family enjoyed some days out and had a successful holiday.

Mum attended many workshops and courses with SPACE to build up her understanding.

Mum spoke with school about reasonable adjustments, to make the mornings easier, which has made a substantial difference.

Child H's two siblings are starting to have moments of shared enjoyment with Child H.

Child H's behaviour is less controlling, she has fewer outbursts and is beginning to communicate her difficulties with mum.

"I really look forward to our sessions. You have been the most understanding and accurate professional I have worked with, with ideas on managing H, you really do seem to just get it. I felt like things would never change but I now feel empowered and finally getting to understand my child." - Mum of Child H

Other stakeholders the team has worked with during this period:

- Intensive Family Support Team (Hertfordshire County Council)
- Integrated Services for Learning (Hertfordshire County Council)
- Special Needs Health Visitors
- Health Visitors
- School Nurses
- Social Prescribers
- CHEXS
- HABS
- Families First Partnerships
- PALMS
- CAHMS
- Other statutory services including the NHS
- Police
- Schools (Public and Private sector)

SUPPORT GROUPS

Our three in-person support groups that run monthly across the county in Croxley Green, Welwyn Garden City and Hoddesdon, provide safe, nurturing environments for parents and carers to connect, share experiences, and access valuable resources. As well as providing practical peer-based advice and support their primary purpose is often to support the mental health and wellbeing of these caregivers. During this period we have had

376

parents and carers book on to these groups.

The impact on the mental health and wellbeing of parent/carers who attend the support groups is clear.

100% agree:

- ✓ The group has a positive impact on my mental health
- ✓ I feel less isolated by attending the group
- ✓ I feel heard and understood by other people attending the group
- ✓ It's helped me feel more confident in my ability to cope with challenges related to my young person's neurodivergence.

"Attending this group has been a game-changer for my wellbeing. Sharing our ups and downs with others who "get it" is very validating and it reminds me that we are not alone on this journey."

STARTING SPACE

This was our first full year of running Starting SPACE, a two-week group programme led by our family support workers for families with children 0-6 years of age. These are families that are often particularly vulnerable, just starting out on their special needs journey. The support they need is often particularly focused on emotional support as well as practical.

71

Families have been supported through the Starting SPACE programme this year.

"Our granddaughter has after 18 months of assessment been diagnosed Autistic. As a grandparent we have found that learning about autism is a journey over time for us as it's impossible to just read a book and be an expert. Also very difficult at our age to take all in instantly. Your excellent session helped fill in a lot of answers we needed."

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND TOGETHERNESS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



As we work with neurodivergent children and young people, providing safe and inclusive community based initiatives is of great importance to SPACE. This year we have:

Established a SPACE community allotment, which is dedicated to creating a safe and sensory-friendly environment for families to come together and grow their own produce. We recruited a team of dedicated volunteers to help transform and maintain the space as a welcoming outdoor haven.

Collaborated with local supermarket, ASDA, to design an independent shopping experience for our young people to build upon their confidence by providing a supportive and neurodiverse-friendly framework.

Partnered with Hertfordshire Fire Service and Therapeutic Hooves, a local charity, to organize and execute Hertfordshire Fire Station's first inclusive open day.

Came together with Hertfordshire libraries to encourage neurodivergent families to feel welcome and at ease using their local library. Planned and implemented with the library a series of Booster seat theatre fun sessions for families hosted within the library.

Striving for safe and inclusive environments for neurodivergent children and young people

FUNDRAISING NEWS

We were proud to once again run the annual historic Ware Duck Race working with many community partners including the Amwell Rotary Club, Hertford Canoe Club and local Yarn Bombers raising £2,182.40.





ADDING OUR VOICE TO ENSURE THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY ARE HEARD AND REFLECTED

This year, we regularly attended group meetings and conferences to give a voice to our community and ensure their needs are met.

- Early Years Network meetings
- Early Years SEND Conference
- DSPL meetings
- Cluster meetings

Our efforts extended to supporting the Autism in Schools Outreach Programme, as well as working alongside a local primary school on the Young Dragons apprentice scheme. This involved developing a business plan and generating funds from initial seed money.

ON THE ROAD

The team have visited Family Centres, Homestart sessions, schools, colleges and play groups to speak with staff and parents about SPACE and offer support to individuals experiencing challenges.

EDUCATING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We take pride in being an active member of our community. By participating in SENCo forums, we ensure that schools are aware of SPACE and can direct parents accordingly. We attended information stands organised by the local authority, DSPL's (Delivering specialist provision locally) community halls and local businesses such as Tesco and we delivered presentations to Rotary clubs, Citizen Advice Bureau, community interest groups, and local residents groups to provide the local community with information about SPACE and neurodiversity.

To build on collaborative opportunities to support our community, we also attended events organised by other community interest groups and charities.

"They put families at the forefront of everything they do, from supporting individual families with bespoke support to delivering training to groups of families. They make every family feel included and welcomed."

BUILDING BETTER LINKS WITH COMMUNITIES

This year we made it easier for people to access our Lending SPACE resources. Our outreach work enables us to deliver our support further afield and reach more families and professionals so that they can in turn, recommend us to parents/carers who need us.

Where we can, we offer deliveries and collections in order to make sure our service can be as inclusive as possible.

During April 2022- March 2023, we made

102

deliveries and collections to

13

different areas, these areas included **Bishop's Stortford,** Cheshunt, **Hemel Hempstead,** Hertford, **Hitchin,** Hoddesdon, **Letchworth,** St Albans, **Stevenage,** Waltham Cross, **Ware,** Watford and **Welwyn Garden City.**



THIS YEAR, OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH WAS ACCESSED BY

Occupational Therapists, **Health Visitors,** Visual Impaired and Hearing Team, **Social Workers,** School Family Support, **Autism in Schools,** Hatfield SEN Support Group and **Wheathampstead Church.**

We also extended our outreach area meaning we were accessed by more services including

Oxley Family Centre, **St Cuthberts Church Hoddesdon,** Selections Centre Hertford, **Family Support Amwell View and** Family Support at Local Children's Centres.

We also completed

21

visits to SEND nurseries - Daisychains and Carters Sunflowers to reach parents and carers and had contact with further services with a view to outreach.

SPACE'S PRINCIPLE SOURCES OF FUNDING:

- Bain Capital Europe Children's Fund
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Hanbury Manor Golf Club
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Hertfordshire Community Foundation
- The Edward Gosling Foundation
- The Foyle Foundation
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- The Speech, Language and Hearing Foundation

FUNDRAISING TO SUPPORT AND EMPOWER NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

As the year progressed the changes in the economic climate became more evident and the impact of the cost of living crisis became progressively more of a challenge for our fundraising and for our supporters. We were particularly grateful to those who fundraised and supported SPACE during such financially uncertain times.

Here are just some of the highlights:

DAD DELIVERS A KNOCKOUT FOR SPACE

Martyn Oakley took to the ring to take part in a white collar boxing event and raise money for us because of his direct experience of the impact our services and support can have.

"We love our little boy and want the best for him and without the support of SPACE we wouldn't have achieved such important milestones in supporting his development."



Martyn Oakley took to the ring to raise money for SPACE



Luan Pope completed the 50k Thames Path Challenge

MIGHTY STEPS

Luan Pope completed the 50k Thames Path Challenge in memory of a dear friend. His wife and daughters chose SPACE for the support they have received.

"The team have been amazing with us over the last couple of years."

The Brad's Annual Christmas Lights raised money and awareness and also brought extra Christmas joy to those who donated to their appeal.



THE RESIDENTS OF OUSDEN

raised money for us at their Jubilee street party celebrations. They hosted a raffle and an auction and donated to SPACE in support of one of their neighbours.

A big thank you as well to Asda, Tesco – Groundworks UK, Floradio radio and Amwell Rotary along with community groups across Hertfordshire including local churches and schools, all our individual fundraisers and their supporters, and our individual and regular donors for their generous support.

BUSHIN MMA

ran a fun and friendly sparring event for all ages which raised over £600 for SPACE and created a huge amount of awareness in the community.



2023 TRUSTEES REPORT ON PUBLIC BENEFIT

Principle 1a

Reduction in social isolation of vulnerable families through:

- Bespoke carefully orchestrated social opportunities and activities, online and in-person, throughout the year for children, young people and the whole family to attend.
- Monthly support groups promoting and facilitating a peer support network.
- Online community support through a closed administrated Facebook Group and Public page.
- Bespoke online and face to face support, guidance and signposting including home visits from our Family Support Team.
- Raising the profile of the charity and awareness of families' needs within the local community and helping to shape future provisions.
- Supporting local businesses and services to promote inclusion.

Improving and advancing the knowledge, understanding and skills of parent/carers and professionals.

- Online and in-person monthly support groups which may be attended by a guest speaker/ service operating in the field of Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Themed Conferences for both parent/carers and professionals delivered by SPACE and experts within that field.
- Online and in-person workshops and courses on a variety of topics throughout the year.
- Sharing information and resources through a variety of mediums and organisations.
- Forging links with other service providers, organisations and charities to educate and instil confidence in working with families that have children and young people with SEND.

Principle 1b

The public benefits of the organisation closely reflect and adheres to the charity's Aims, Objects and Constitution. The trustees ensure the charity remains focused on these principles in all decision making.

Principle 1c

The charity benefits are balanced against detriment or harm. The trustees are fully aware of the need and demand from the public on the charity's services therefore the charity must grow to meet this demand. However, the trustees must ensure this pace of growth is realistic and not be in detriment of the team and volunteers running the organisation. SPACE Registered Charity England and Wales no: 117 2178 Supporting Families in Hertfordshire - Autism ADHD and other Neurodiverse Conditions.

Principle 2a

The direct beneficiaries of the charity are Hertfordshire families with children and young people on the autistic spectrum and/or ADHD and other neurodiverse conditions either with or without diagnosis. Other beneficiaries include the wider community, extended families and professionals also working within the SEND field. The beneficiaries of the charity are in direct keeping with the charity's aims, objectives and constitution.

Principle 2b

The section of the public that can benefit are not unreasonably restricted by geographic location. Although the organisation is a Hertfordshire-based charity as stated in the constitution, the trustees considered the following to ensure maximum accessibility.

- All support groups are not geographically restricted to the area they are hosted in.
- The support groups are spread over various Hertfordshire locations and on various days and times to maximise accessibility.
- There are online support groups that remove geographical restrictions completely, giving access to all of Hertfordshire.
- An appropriate video conferencing platform has been selected that supports a wide range of hardware, including mobile phones. The platform does not have a high barrier to entry from an account, pricing, or accessibility perspective.
- The organisation is mindful to hold events and socials in a variety of Hertfordshire locations subject to venues, opportunities, and cost implications.

Principle 2c

People in poverty are not excluded from the opportunity to benefit.

- There are no joining, membership or subscription fees.
- All support groups, online community and face to face support are free.
- All online activities, courses and workshops are free and involve no travel costs.
- All projects that have received specific funding are offered to families at a nominal charge, this is to ensure their commitment in attendance.
- The charity subsidises activities wherever possible to maximise accessibility.
- Larger events and conferences carry a charge to attend. The trustees will investigate whether this can be offered as concessions in relation to poverty in the future.

Principle 2d

Any private benefits are incidental.

Declaration: The trustees are satisfied that there has been regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit in decision making and organisation performance.

SPACE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ending 31 March 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

	NOTES	RESTRICTED £	UNRESTRICTED £	2023 £	2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Total income for the period	2	290,578.60	165,506.73	456,085.33	352,471.93
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**290,578.60**	**165,506.73**	**456,085.33**	**352,471.93**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Administration, Management, Cost of Activities etc.		323,036.19	102,639.82	425,676.01	265,047.15
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**323,036.19**	**102,639.82**	**425,676.01**	**265,047.15**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		**(32,457.59)**	**62,866.91**	**30,409.32**	**87,424.78**
ADJUSTMENT		**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		**105,217.89**	**72,805.89**	**178,023.78**	**90,599.00**
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	6, 7, 8	**72,760.30**	**135,672.80**	**208,433.10**	**178,023.78**

SPACE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2023

	NOTES	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	3	12,154.07	22,441.53
CURRENT ASSETS			
Total Current Assets	4	289,525.50	200,363.35
		289,525.50	**200,363.35**
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	93,246.47	44,781.10
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		**196,279.03**	**155,582.25**
NET ASSETS		**208,433.10**	**178,023.78**
FUNDS			
Unrestricted Funds	6	135,672.80	72,805.89
Restricted Funds	7	72,760.30	105,217.89
TOTAL FUNDS		**208,433.10**	**178,023.78**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Preparation and Assessment of Going Concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

b) Income and Expenditure

Income and Expenditure is recorded on the accruals basis.

c) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis at rates which are intended to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives, and is itemised as follows:

Plant and machinery and office equipment	33%
Fixtures and fittings	33%
Motor vehicles	33%

d) Leases

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account in equal annual instalments covering the period of the leases.

e) Fund Accounting

Grants and similar income which are subjected to restrictions by the donors are shown as restricted funds and any expenditure incurred will be set off against this fund. All other income and expenditure is shown as unrestricted.

2 FUNDING RECEIVABLE (INCLUDING GRANTS)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Total funding income received	331,828.60	296,205.96
Total	**331,828.60**	**296,205.96**

3 FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Plant and Machinery	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	766.80	32,695.50	200.00	32,895.50
Additions	1,399.96	0.00	0.00	1,399.96
Disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2023	2,166.76	32,695.50	200.00	35,062.26
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022	255.60	10,898.50	66.67	11,220.77
Charge for the year	722.25	10,898.50	66.67	11,687.42
Depreciation on disposals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
At 31 March 2023	977.85	21,797.00	133.34	22,908.19
Net book value				
At 31 March 2023	1,188.91	10,898.50	66.66	12,154.07
At 31 March 2022	511.20	21,797.00	133.33	22,441.53

SPACE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

4	CURRENT ASSETS - Cash & Bank Balances & Debtors	2023	2022
		£	£
	Cash and Bank Balance	286,226.50	200,084.95
	Debtors, Prepayments & Accrued Income	3,299.00	278.40
	Total	**289,525.50**	**200,363.35**

5	CREDITORS - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	2023	2022
		£	£
	Trade Creditors	716.66	3,468.10
	Accruals and Deferred Income	92,529.81	36,334.94
	PAYE, Social Security and Other Taxes	0.00	4,978.06
		93,246.47	**44,781.10**

6	UNRESTRICTED FUND	2023	2022
		£	£
	Opening Balance	72,805.89	29,153.60
	Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	62,866.91	43,652.29
	Revaluation adjustment	-	-
	Closing Balance	**135,672.80**	**72,805.89**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

7 RESTRICTED FUND

	2023	2022
	£	£
Opening Balance	105,217.89	61,445.40
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	(32,457.59)	43,772.49
Revaluation adjustment	-	-
Closing Balance	**72,760.30**	**105,217.89**

8 ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	11,754.08	399.99	12,154.07
Net Current Assets	61,006.22	135,272.81	196,279.03
Total	**72,760.30**	**135,672.80**	**208,433.10**

SPACE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	2023			2022
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Funding	290,578.60	41,250.00	331,828.60	296,205.96
Donations	0.00	44,211.80	44,211.80	40,657.37
Event Income	0.00	50,229.01	50,229.01	15,608.60
Other Services Income	0.00	29,815.92	29,815.92	15,609.60
	290578.60	165506.73	456085.33	352471.93
Outgoing Resources				
Bank Charges	0.00	229.93	229.93	77.32
Bookkeeping and Accounting	1,249.00	2,403.00	3,652.00	1,640.50
Core Costs	25,787.20	3,025.19	28,812.39	23,309.86
Equipment	3,208.81	725.35	3,934.16	9,708.95
Event Costs	71,036.98	23,591.27	94,628.25	55,801.72
Cost of Other Services	0.00	21,473.98	21,473.98	55,802.72
General Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	248.95
Insurance	1,689.26	3,110.80	4,800.06	3,693.04
IT Software and Consumables	384.05	2,249.22	2,633.27	724.00
Motor Vehicle Expenses	290.00	0.00	290.00	275.00
Other Costs	1,506.60	914.65	2,421.25	1,153.20
Printing, Postage, Stationary	142.01	1,192.49	1,334.50	367.61
Refreshments	307.44	1,866.17	2,173.61	1,030.17
Removal costs	1,185.60	0.00	1,185.60	816.00
Rent & Rates	15,203.54	11,859.84	27,063.38	26,949.72
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	852.95
Salaries	173,116.50	21,296.60	194,413.10	115,075.35
Pension Costs	2,847.77	470.04	3,317.81	1,811.73
Employers NIC	6,908.79	1,266.71	8,175.50	2,686.52
Staff Training	0.00	360.00	360.00	180.00
Subscriptions	0.00	1,663.95	1,663.95	840.54
Telephone & Internet	292.50	2,205.16	2,497.66	1,162.62
Travel Costs	6,426.05	2,502.14	8,928.19	5,420.63
Depreciation Expense	11,454.09	233.33	11,687.42	11,220.77
	323,036.19	102,639.82	425,676.01	265,047.15
Surplus / (Deficit)	**(32,457.59)**	**62,866.91**	**30,409.32**	**87,424.78**
Funds				
Opening balance	105,217.89	72,805.89	178,023.78	67,445.96
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	(32,457.59)	62,866.91	30,409.32	23,153.04
Closing balance	**72,760.30**	**135,672.80**	**208,433.10**	**90,599.00**

SPACE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

SECTION A INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees/ members of	SPACE		
On accounts for the year ended	31/03/2023	**Charity no (if any)**	1172178
Set out on pages	1-5		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signed:		**Date:**	08/06/2023
Name:	KEITH JONES		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):			
Address:	46 CROSSWAY WELWYN GARDEN CITY AL8 7EE		

Section B Disclosure

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

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

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

CHARITY NAME: SPACE

Registered charity number: 1172178

Charity's principal address: Unit 5 The Maltings Business Centre
Stanstead Abbotts
Ware, Herts
SG12 8HG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Lyn Heathcote Sharif (Chair)
Mark Wilson (Treasurer)
Dr Sharmishtha Sarkar
Donna Chamberlain
Victoria Kemp
Polly Kerr

Type of governing document: Constitution
SPACE is constituted by CIO with voting members other than charity trustees. The trustee selection method is elected by trustees and voting members.

Financial review: Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Reserves are held exclusively for the furtherance of the Charitable Objectives. None of the Charity's reserves may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Charity. The Charity will hold a minimum of 4 months in way of reserve.

Declaration: The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above - signed on behalf of the charity's trustees


Lyn Heathcote Sharif


Mark Wilson


Dr Sharmishtha Sarkar


Donna Chamberlain


Victoria Kemp


Polly Kerr

SPACE

England & Wales - Charity number 1172178

Accounts

SPACE

Income and Expenditure Account

For the Year Ending 31 March 2022

SPACE is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales:
Registration number 1172178

SPACE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	2022			2021
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Funding	296205.96	0.00	296205.96	134625.00
Donations	0.00	40657.37	40657.37	16447.34
Event Income	0.00	15608.60	15608.60	3095.83
	296205.96	56265.97	352471.93	154168.17
Outgoing Resources				
Bank Charges	0.00	77.32	77.32	0.00
Bookkeeping and Accounting	1380.50	260.00	1640.50	0.00
Core Costs	22839.18	470.68	23309.86	61354.36
Depreciation Expense	11154.10	66.67	11220.77	0.00
Employers NIC	2686.52	0.00	2686.52	0.00
Equipment	9629.98	78.97	9708.95	3639.98
Event Costs	53284.64	2517.08	55801.72	58019.53
General Expenses	282.47	-33.52	248.95	2335.39
Insurance	2296.24	1396.80	3693.04	0.00
IT Software and Consumables	602.61	121.39	724.00	0.00
Motor Vehicle Expenses	275.00	0.00	275.00	0.00
Other Costs	1153.20	0.00	1153.20	0.00
Pension Costs	1811.73	0.00	1811.73	0.00
Printing, Postage, Stationary	367.61	0.00	367.61	103.88
Refreshments	666.82	363.35	1030.17	0.00
Removal costs	816.00	0.00	816.00	0.00
Rent & Rates	26949.72	0.00	26949.72	5096.19
Repairs & Maintenance	758.60	94.35	852.95	0.00
Salaries	109875.35	5200.00	115075.35	0.00
Staff Training	150.00	30.00	180.00	0.00
Subscriptions	51.60	788.94	840.54	0.00
Telephone & Internet	327.36	835.26	1162.62	0.00
Travel Costs	5074.24	346.39	5420.63	85.50
	252433.47	12613.68	265047.15	131015.13
Surplus / (Deficit)	**43772.49**	**43652.29**	**87424.78**	**23153.04**
Funds				
Opening balance	61445.40	29153.60	90599.00	67445.96
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	43772.49	43652.29	87424.78	23153.04
Closing balance	105217.89	72805.89	178023.78	90599.00

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	SPACE		
On accounts for the year ended	31/03/22	**Charity no (if any)**	1172178
Set out on pages	1		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signed:		**Date:**	08/07/2022
Name:	KEITH JONES		

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	
Address:	46 CROSSWAY
	WELWYN GARDEN CITY
	AL8 7EE

Section B Disclosure

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

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

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	28	09	2021	**To**	14	07	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	SPACE
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1172178
Charity's principal address	Unit 5 The Maltings Business Centre
	Stanstead Abbotts
	Ware, Herts.
	Postcode SG12 8HG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Lyn Heathcote Sharif	Chair		
2	Dr Sharmishtha Sarkar			
3	Donna Chamberlain			
4	Victoria Kemp			
5	Polly Kerr			
6	Mark Wilson	Treasurer		
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Nichola Chaperlin, Karen Spencer and Clare Brillus - senior staff members

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO with voting members other than charity trustees
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by trustees and voting members

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

Section C Objectives and activities

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

Relieving the needs of families and carers of children and young people on the Autistic Spectrum and/or ADHD and Neurodiverse conditions. Providing and delivering experiences to reduce isolation and promote inclusion. Improving and advancing the knowledge, understanding and skills of parent/carers and professionals in order to improve outcomes, support and promote communication and collaboration.
Raising awareness of issues faced by Neurodiverse children and young people and the support, information and services available.

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

Please see additional report

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

- policy on grant making
- policy programme related investment
- contribution made by volunteers

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Sustainability and growth,

- Monthly in-person and online support groups across Hertfordshire.
- Membership to the SPACE community has shown significant growth and now exceeds seven and a half thousand members. An increase of 500 this year.
- Increase in the SPACE team from 9 PAYE staff and 2 self-employed staff to 13 PAYE staff and 5 self-employed staff, as well as ad hoc support staff and volunteers.
- Increase in delivery of workshops and courses. E.g., PDA, ODD and ADHD, autistic girls, supporting SEND for group leaders.
- In addition, re-commissioned by Hertford County Council to deliver workshops
- Re-commissioned as Short Break Local Offer provider.
- New SEND Family Support team established.
- Re-commissioned by HCC to run a Lending Library service - we have expanded this to include a mobile service and increased opening hours to become a community hub.
- Increased staff for Lending SPACE.
- Outreach for Lending SPACE.
- Re-commissioned by HCC/Transforming Care Team to support a new social care pilot.
- One year remaining of two-year funding by the National Lottery to contribute staff costs.
- Continual updating of new website that has notably increased positive feedback and increased presence on social media.
- Increased capacity for in-person and online therapeutic sessions, training and workshops.
- Increase in new activities e.g., yoga, golf, graffiti, Melody Monkeys, fishing.

Raising the awareness and profile of the charity within the local and wider community

- Being shortlisted for the National Diversity Award 2021 in the "**Community Organisation Award for Disability"** category.
- Organising and running a long-standing charity event 'The Annual Ware Duck Race'.
- Running a conference with Professor Tony Attwood attended by 250 attendees including professionals.
- Working collaboratively with an ever-increasing number of charities, statutory bodies and business service providers with shared goals. Including but not limited to Hertfordshire County Council, The ADHD Foundation, The Sleep Charity, Hertfordshire Libraries, Scouts and Cubs, Hanbury Manor Golf Club, Herts Disability Sports Foundation, Amwell Rotary Club, LVKA Karate, Hertfordshire Community Foundation, Community Alliance Broxbourne and East Herts.
- Hanbury Marriott Golf Ladies and Male Golf Captains Charity of the Year 2022.
- CVS Dragons – coffee mornings at schools
- Community events
- Neurodiversity Support Centre - Involvement with Support Offer Marketing DIGG
- Made connections with Special Needs Health Visitors and Early Years Providers.

Individual bespoke projects

- Engaging several hundred children and young people in numerous activities including driving, water sports, online safety, sporting pursuits, cooking, yoga, Lego club, creative pursuits, aerial relaxation, animal encounters and girls' group. Some of which is nationally accredited.
- Numerous learning and social events for families throughout the year - hugely popular, well attended, and over-subscribed. 1140 places booked for 111 face-to-face activities, 797 places booked for 77 online activities.
- Supportive leisure activities for parent/carers
- Targeted 1:1 therapeutic activities – 345 sessions
- Intensive targeted 1:1 therapeutic activities, 176 sessions with a further 240 planned.
- Retained online activities to include virtual animal encounters, quizzes, Lego, art sessions and cooking lessons.
- Social Communication project launched to last 3 years, first year successfully completed, led by a speech and language therapist.
- Starting SPACE – an introduction to the SEND world for parents/ carers and how SPACE can support them.

Improving knowledge, understanding and skill set to improve outcomes for the children, young people, and families that we support

- Autism conference
- Sensory Processing workshops
- Puberty workshops
- EHCP Workshops
- Navigating the SEND world course
- Autistic Girls
- Internet Safety workshops
- Emotional Regulation
- Executive Functioning
- ADHD Foundation parent/carer skills building licenced course
- The Sleep Charity Accredited Sleep Tight course
- Support Groups
- Delivering workshops to professionals for their continued professional development.
- PDD, ODA and ADHD, understanding the difference
- Supporting SEND for Group Leaders

Ongoing COVID-19 Recovery

- As we emerge from the pandemic, we continue to offer online services alongside face-to-face, to ensure accessibility is maintained for families. These include online quiz nights, art sessions, cooking tutorials, online check in and chats/support groups, workshops and courses.

- Our greater presence online has enhanced our accessibility to parent/carers/families and professionals.

- Our face-to-face services have recovered well and are regularly over-subscribed.

- We have kept our families up to date with home learning opportunities.

Section D Achievements and performance

- We have shared vital information with regards to disseminating information relating to government guidance and relevant statutory guidelines.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	Reserves are held exclusively for the furtherance of the Charitable Objectives. None of the Charity's reserves may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Charity. The Charity will hold a minimum of 4 months in way of reserve.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	

Further financial review details (Optional information)

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

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

Principle sources of funding:

- Hertfordshire County Council
- Hertfordshire Community Foundation
- The Foyle Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Edward Gosling Foundation
- National Lottery
- ECET
- Simon Gibson
- Youth Investment Fund

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	L HEATHCOTE STIMPER	
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	

Date 27/9/22

2022 TRUSTEES REPORT ON PUBLIC BENEFIT

Principle 1a

- Reduction in social isolation of vulnerable families through:
    - Bespoke carefully orchestrated social opportunities and activities, online and in-person, throughout the year for children, young people and the whole family to attend.
    - Monthly support groups promoting and facilitating a peer support network.
    - Online community support through a closed administrated Facebook Group and Public page.
    - Online and face to face support, guidance and signposting.
    - Raising the profile of the charity and awareness of family's needs within the local community and helping to shape future provisions.
    - Supporting local businesses and services to promote inclusion.

- Improving and advancing the knowledge, understanding and skills of parent/carers and professionals.
    - Online and in-person monthly support groups which may be attended by a guest speaker/ service operating in the field of Special Educational Needs and disabilities (SEND)
    - Themed Conferences for both parent/carers and professionals delivered by SPACE and experts within that field.
    - Online and in-person workshops and courses on a variety of topics throughout the year.
    - Sharing Information and resources through a variety of mediums and organisations.
    - Forging links with other service providers, organisations and charities to educate and instil confidence in working with families that have children and young people with SEND.

Principle 1b

The public benefits of the organisation closely reflect and adheres to the charity's aims, Objects and Constitution. The trustees ensure the charity remains focused on these principles in all decision making.

Principle 1c

The charity benefits are balanced against detriment or harm. The trustees are fully aware of the need and demand from the public on the charity's services therefore the charity must grow to meet this demand. However, the trustees must ensure this pace of growth is realistic and not be in detriment of the team and volunteers running the organisation. SPACE Registered Charity England and Wales no: 117 2178 Supporting Families in Hertfordshire - Autism ADHD and other Neurodiverse Conditions

2022 TRUSTEES REPORT ON PUBLIC BENEFIT

Principle 2a

The direct beneficiaries of the charity are Hertfordshire families with children and young people on the Autistic Spectrum and/or ADHD and other Neurodiverse conditions either with or without diagnosis. Other beneficiaries include the wider community, extended families and profession- also working within the SEND field. The beneficiaries of the charity are in direct keeping with the charity's aims, objectives and constitution.

Principle 2b

The section of the public that can benefit are not unreasonably restricted by geographic location. Although the organisation is a Hertfordshire-based charity as stated in the constitution, the trustees considered the following to ensure maximum accessibility.

- All support groups are not geographically restricted to the area they are hosted in.
- The support groups are spread over various Hertfordshire locations and on various days and times to maximise accessibility.
- There are online support groups that remove geographical restrictions completely, giving access to all of Hertfordshire.
- An appropriate video conferencing platform has been selected that supports a wide range of hardware, including mobile phones. The platform does not have a high barrier to entry from an account, pricing, or accessibility perspective.
- The organisation is mindful to hold events and socials in a variety of Hertfordshire locations subject to venues, opportunities, and cost implications.

Principle 2c

People in poverty are not excluded from the opportunity to benefit.

- There are no joining, membership or subscription fees.
- All support groups, online community and face to face support are free.
- All online activities, courses and workshops are free and involve no travel costs.
- All projects that have received specific funding are offered to families at a nominal charge, this is to ensure their commitment in attendance.
- The charity subsidises activities wherever possible to maximise accessibility.
- Larger events and conferences carry a charge to attend. The Trustees will investigate whether this can be offered as concessions in relation to poverty in the future.

Principle 2d

Any private benefits are incidental.

Declaration: The trustees are satisfied that there has been regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit in decision making and organisation performance.