



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From

Period start date

Day1

Month4

Year2024

To

Period end date

Day31

Month3

Year2025

## Section A

## Reference and administration details

Charity name Autism Support Crawley

Other names charity is known by -----

Registered charity number (if any) 1179383

Charity's principal address 1 – 7 Station Road

Crawley

West Sussex

Postcode

RH10 1HT

### 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	Maria Cook	Chairperson		
2	Lee Cook	Trustee	Co-opted 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 / Voted on at AGM 24 January 2025	
3	Simon King	Trustee Safeguarding	Co-opted 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 / Voted on at AGM 24 January 2025	
4	Carol Jackson	Trustee Secretariat	Voted on at AGM 24 January 2025	
5	Jane Wilson	Agreed to continue as Interim Treasurer	Voted on at AGM 24 January 2025	
6	Georgina James	Trustee	Stepped down 24 January 2025	
7	Janet Flanagan	Vice Chair	Resigned with immediate effect 15 October 2024	
8	Vee McMath	Trustee	Resigned with immediate effect 23 August 2024	
9	Dorota Soronna	Trustee	Resigned with immediate effect 15 October 2024	
10	Jessica Grant	Trustee	Resigned with immediate effect 17 October 2024	

### 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
<b>Charitable/Community Groups Adviser</b>	Crawley Community Action	The Orchard, 1-2 Gleneagles Court, Brighton Road, Crawley, RH10 6AD
<b>Accountants</b>	Richard Place Dobson	1-7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1HT
<b>Autism Specialist, Autism rights, School procedures.</b>	David Burns MBE	No business premises
<b>Autism Consultant/Specialist</b>	Nicole Goodman	No business premises
<b>Community Development Officers</b>	Crawley Borough Council	Town Hall, The Boulevard, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1UZ
<b>Psychotherapist</b>	Tara Cresswell	No Business Premises
<b>Senior Children's Dietitian</b>	Joanna Mankelow	First Community Health & Care, Caterham Dene Hospital, Church Road, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 5RA
<b>Human Resources</b>	Adastra HR	Unit 10, Newhouse Business Centre, Horsham West Sussex RH12 4RU
<b>Human Resources</b>	Loch Associates	Oxford House, 15-17 Mount Ephraim Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1EN
<b>CaPS Ltd (GDPR)</b>	Freedom Works	Spectrum House, Beehive Ring Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH6 0LG

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

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (e.g. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (e.g. trust, association, company)	CIO (Charitable incorporated Organisation)
Trustee selection methods (e.g. appointed by, elected by)	Elected at Annual General Meeting and up to two trustees can be co-opted during the year by the existing trustees. All positions are advertised on our closed and public social media and via email to our stakeholders.

### 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.

## Policies

### Existing Policies

Social Media  
Code of Conduct for Trustees  
Conflict of Interest for Trustees  
Environmental Policy  
Confidentiality  
Equality & Diversity  
Health & Safety  
Skills Audit x Induction for New Trustees  
Fundraising Policy  
Financial Controls  
Whistleblowing  
Safeguarding

### New Policies for 24/25

Menopause  
PREVENT  
Guest Speaker

### Autism Support Crawley organisational structure:

Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Safeguarding Trustee, Officers

### Induction of New Trustees

New Trustees receive necessary training depending on their individual responsibilities. They are required to undertake safeguarding training or provide evidence if they have had this training from another organisation.

## Section C

## Objectives and activities

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

The objects of the CIO are for the public benefit to promote and protect the good health and relieve the needs of people and their families/carers affected by Autistic Spectrum Condition or social communication and interaction difficulties (with or without a diagnosis) living within the counties of Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Brighton and Hove by the provision of support, education, information and activities and such other means as the trustees deem fit.

### 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)

Autism Support Crawley is a parent/carer peer support charity for parents, grandparents and other family members over the age of 18, who help support someone with an Autistic/Neurodivergent mind, or other social communication differences and co-conditions. Our current *full* membership stands at 290. By full membership we mean any carer who has registered with us and benefitted financially from our services. Our primary online support platform is our closed Facebook page, which is an invaluable source of carer peer support, where members can receive support, ask questions, share information and make friends in a relaxed, understanding, supportive and confidential environment. We also add events, courses and services run by our charity and other associated charities/organisations to the group page. We have over 2.7k members on our closed charity page. We also send via email all previously mentioned resources and opportunities organised by our charity and those we recognise to our members who do not have access to our closed Facebook forum, or who do not want to miss the information added to our page. We also have a professionals email list where we circulate events and services run by our charity that may be of interest to them or to share to their clients/stakeholders. There is a strict criteria and vetting process for our closed Facebook page to ensure confidentiality

and to maintain a safe space. Those not meeting our criteria for the closed forum are signposted to follow our public social media accounts on X, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Threads, BlueSky and TikTok. Anyone, unless blocked, can follow these public pages. We have strict guidelines in place to protect ourselves and the individuals that have posts approved on the closed Facebook page.

We host regular term time monthly meetings for our carer membership. These are in the form of coffee mornings, often with relevant speakers invited and evening in person and online meetings. We have kept our online carer peer support meetings running as we recognise that many carers are not able to access face to face gatherings due to their caring roles, location, transport difficulties and/or lack of respite options. We host these evening online get togethers via Teams. We have continued to run bi monthly male carer in person evening meetings, which have proved to be very popular and needed. All of our regular face to face carer peer support meetings are held at The Coaching Halt in Crawley, with whom we also collaborate to organise and host family events at Christmas, Easter and in the Summer Holidays.

Thanks to the joint funding from NHS Sussex and WSCC, we have continued to host a programme of educational workshops for carers with a varied subject matter, all pertinent to the needs of our members' caring roles and to give them a better understanding of Autism. These take place term time and each topic is delivered in person and online (via Zoom.) We are very lucky to still be able the Training Room at Tesco, Hazelwick FOC. They are very supportive of our work. We use accredited Autism Management, Psychotherapist and Dietitian professionals to deliver such sessions. We have also continued to host small support group surgeries with a very limited number of stakeholders, gaining access to time with these professionals in a supportive, confidential environment. We are grateful to Manor Green College for giving us the safe space to do this. Quite often we have then highlighted particularly vulnerable carers who have accessed any of these mentioned sessions and offer them a short course of 1:1s over the phone with an Autism Management specialist. These have been so incredibly well received and life changing.

In the August of 2024 we returned to Kilmarnock Horse Rescue, to host our annual members' family picnic which is always such a popular and well received opportunity to relax, have fun, participate in games, engage with animals without fear of judgement, in a supportive, inclusive environment. In the September of 2024 we were given the opportunity by Nyman's National Trust to have exclusive FREE access to their Summer of Play family activity set up in Combers Field. Another opportunity to relax, play games and chat with like-minded parent/carers in a non judgemental safe space, without fear of being asked to leave, due to lack of understanding, societal judgement and prejudice. These events make such a difference to families and those they care for.

Autism Support Crawley improves awareness, acceptance and understanding of Autism and Neurodiversity by delivering information sessions by its Trustees to front line organisations. This started by us working with doctors surgeries for which we won the HealthWatch #ItStartsWithYou national award in 2017 and also included, but not exclusive to delivering talks at Tilgate Nature Centre, response teams at Crawley Police Station, Horsham JCP, Crawley UTC, Nymans and Sheffield Park NTs and the local branch of the NTC. The pandemic brought with it an enforced sabbatical, but we have now resumed these

<p>informal talks having delivered a refresher talk at a doctors surgery and more enquiries coming in.</p> <p>Our Chairperson, (or our Secretary or Administrative Assistant if unavailable,) represents our charity at meetings with Crawley Ambassadors Forum, Crawley Disability Forum and Sussex Police. She has advised Sussex Police on autism acceptance and inclusion at their online forum. We are part of the Crawley Pathfinder Local Planning Group, a forum dedicated to improving mental health in the area.</p> <p>Autism Support Crawley continues to fulfil its public benefit statement and raise acceptance and awareness of Autism, by having a presence at events where members of the public can find out about our charity and autism. These include Crawley Borough Council public celebration events in the town centre. We have attended disability specific events throughout the year with our information stand to provide parent/carers and other family members with information about how our charity can support them and their families.</p> <p>We hold an annual public Autism specific guest speaker event at Manor Green College, Crawley, which is open to anyone who has an interest in Autism, be it in a professional or personal capacity. We now host these hybrid, offering an online option via Teams, as we recognise that many people are not able to access face to face gatherings due to their caring roles, location, transport difficulties and/or lack of respite options. Being hybrid also enables us to reach out to people further afield geographically as well.</p> <p>We continue to work closely with other organisations to improve Autism Acceptance. We continue to liaise regularly with Crawley Community Action, including being part of their social prescribing scheme and attending their networking events and workshops. We also feature in the West Sussex Local Offer, Crawley Older Persons Directory.and CCA's Volunteer Directory</p> <p>We continue to work with a local theatre to support them with their relaxed performances and also produce a guide to help people attending these supportive productions. We also provide free carer tickets so families have the opportunity to access the theatre where they may not be able to otherwise due to the cost.</p> <p>We hold quarterly Board meetings via Teams.</p> <p>We are very proud to learn how well received the Changing Place facilities have been at The Hawth Theatre, Crawley and K2 Leisure Centre, Crawley, having donated to the cost of some equipment for both installations. These gestures have meant improved access to and inclusion in the local community for disabled users who need this level of personal care.</p>
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#### **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;

<p>The charity has 2 (two) part time employees, a Secretary and an Administration Assistant, to assist the Trustees, committee members and volunteers.</p> <p>A huge contribution is made every day by members offering support and answering queries from other members on our closed charity Facebook page.</p>
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- contribution made by volunteers.

Autism Support Crawley is very grateful for the time taken and advice given without charge by Crawley Community Action and Richard Place Dobson.

**We would like to thank the following organisations for their support with awarding our charity with much needed grants.**

**Toby Silverman, SEND Health Commissioner**, for arranging joint funding from **NHS Sussex** and **WSCC** to give us the opportunity to deliver workshops and small group surgeries to carers.

**Sussex Community Fund for funding to reach out to members of the minority groups in our locality to address health inequalities.**

**We would also like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their support.**

**The Coaching Halt, Crawley** for letting us use their premises for our support meetings and family events,

**Kilmarnock Horse Rescue** for letting us use one of their fields to host our members picnic.

**Manor Green College** for the use of their premises for public speaker events and small support group surgeries. We choose to give them a donation for the use of their premises for our guest speaker event, but they do not charge us directly for this.

**Nicole Goodman** for delivering exceptional workshops and 1:1s for carers.

**Tara Cresswell** for delivering phenomenal small group surgeries alongside Nicole Goodman.

**Joanna Mankelow** for delivering excellent workshops on complex eating/ARFID.

**Tesco Hazelwick** for donating food and drinks for our events throughout the year.

**Richard Place Dobson** for providing vital ad hoc charity and account advice.

**Crawley Community Action** for regular consultation catch ups.

**Tesco Distribution Centre** for donating food and drinks for our events throughout the year.

**The UK Garrison** for their unmatched loyalty in helping entertain our families!!

**Nyman's National Trust** for giving us exclusive access to their Summer of Play field and supporting some carers in Carers Week to access the grounds and enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake.

Plus, a huge thank you to everyone else who has supported us with volunteering their time and donating to our funds. We are so grateful for the help and support we have received.

**ABM UK Crawley Branch** for choosing us as their charity of the year locally.

**Creative Pod** for our rebrand and new website.

**Ifield Golf Club** for having us as their charity of the year once again and for supporting our annual golf day so generously.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We continue to send out regular emails detailing opportunities organised by our charity and those we recognise to our stakeholders, which include, but are not exclusive to events, training courses and services. There is also an email list for professionals, this is so that we can send information out to those interested in our charity, but do not qualify to be members. We have a popular following on our public social media accounts. Our membership continues to increase. We have over 2.7K members on our closed Facebook page and mailing list. We have 290 full members and the rest are associate members. Our closed Facebook page is a lifeline for so many, an invaluable source of carer peer support, where members can receive support, ask questions, share information and make friends in a relaxed, understanding, supportive and confidential environment, reducing isolation. We have 2,250 followers on our public Facebook page, 834 on X, 596 on Instagram, 111 on Threads, 335 on LinkedIn, 5 on BlueSky and 35 on TikTok

We are so delighted by how well received our coffee mornings and peer support carer meetings are. We love hosting them as we can see for ourselves the difference they are making to carers' emotional wellbeing. The same goes for the family events as so many families would be left utterly isolated as a result if we did not put these on.

The feedback we have received from stakeholders participating in the workshops, small support group surgeries and 1:1s has been heartwarming to read and be proud of. These sessions really are making a difference to carers' lives by giving them the tools to help support those they care for to the highest level.

Our annual Golf Day fundraiser in September 2024 saw us break the £10k barrier for the very first time. An extremely proud moment. We are very grateful to have been Ifield Golf Club and ABM's nominated charities of the year.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Autism Support Crawley always ensures that a full year running costs for the charity remains in the bank account.

### 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.

The key objective of our charity is to support our parent/carers and their families to help them feel connected and not alone. We organise events to help prevent feelings of isolation for our families and therefore they can feel relaxed in a non-judgemental and supportive environment.

Our funds have enabled us to achieve this and we have plans to expand our events and services to benefit our members by increasing our offer in different directions, but in keeping with our remit.


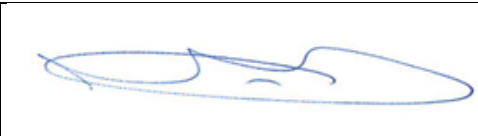
## Section F Other optional information

We are currently in the process of redesigning our website [www.autismsupportcrawley.co.uk](http://www.autismsupportcrawley.co.uk) The new website will be an invaluable resource for information, signposting and will be highlighting and celebrating our member events. To make the website accessible to our users, it will be disability and neurodiverse friendly and available in other languages.

## 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)	Maria Cook	Mick Turpie
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Vice Chair
Date	24/01/26	





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Autism Support Crawley

117983

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01/04/2024


To

Period end date  
31/03/2025

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Co-op	1,940	-	-	1,940	1,259
Donations	7,753	1,000	-	8,753	5,312
Gazebo	349	-	-	349	-
Golf Day	13,476	-	-	13,476	8,562
Grants	-	10,500	-	10,500	10,000
Other Revenue	1,199	-	-	1,199	7,500
Petty Cash	-	-	-	-	71
West Sussex	-	-	-	-	20,000
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>24,717</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,217</b>	<b>52,704</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>24,717</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,217</b>	<b>52,704</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Staff	4,816	11,500	-	15,316	9,519
Office Supplies and equipment	3,624	-	-	4,624	4,723
Creative pod	6,160	-	-	6,160	4,518
advertising/promo	-	-	-	-	1,089
golf day	2,751	-	-	2,751	2,300
group events	1,795	-	-	1,795	2,001
members meal	725	-	-	725	1,798
misc costs	4,704	-	-	4,704	1,109
speaker	-	-	-	-	6,549
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>24,575</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,075</b>	<b>33,606</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>24,575</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,075</b>	<b>33,606</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>19,098</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>33,825</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,237</b>	<b>15,139</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>33,967</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,379</b>	<b>34,237</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		33,967	412	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>33,967</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Maria Cook	20/01/2026	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name

Autism Support Crawley

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1179383

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

21/01/2026

Name:

Darren Harding

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

ACA FCCA DChA

Address:

Richard Place Dobson, 1-7 Station Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 1HT