



Axial SpA
works silently.
We don't.

Improving Care, Transforming Diagnosis and Influencing Change.

Our Impact in 2021



Our story

Axial SpA is an inflammatory disease of the spine and joints. Inflammation, where muscles attach to the bones, causes extreme pain. If left untreated, it can permanently fuse bones together.

www.nass.co.uk

Axial SpA works silently. We don't.

We are the National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (NASS) and we transform the diagnosis and care of people living with axial SpA.

It's an invisible and misdiagnosed condition, often leaving people feeling powerless, in increasing pain and extreme exhaustion. So, we campaign policy makers for early diagnosis, treatment and better services.

We work with the NHS to get axial SpA identified and diagnosed quickly, and are determined that everyone receives effective care.

We make sure people with axial SpA can access the latest information and the support they need to tackle living with this condition. And we build active communities, online and through our local branches across the UK. We're with you all the way.

Join us. Help us raise our voices and raise funds. Axial SpA works silently. We don't.



Raising our voices, changing lives

The COVID19 pandemic continued to cast a shadow over us all in 2021 and we began to face a new challenge, a cost-of-living crisis.

The NHS remained under pressure and people found getting access to their rheumatology team increasingly challenging.

We were determined to ensure that people received the support they needed to understand how to live well with axial spondyloarthritis. We were also determined to lead change to end the unacceptable 8.5 year delay to diagnosis and drive improvements in care.

With demand for support from our Helpline remaining at unprecedented levels, we provided clarity in a confusing world and ensured that people got timely and accurate information about the vaccine roll-out.

We innovated, piloting our first supported self-management programme in partnership with rheumatology teams. We showed that online patient education sessions give people the skills and knowledge they need to live with the daily challenges of axial SpA. We will continue to develop the programme and are confident that we'll get funding to launch in full during the coming year.

We also launched our ground-breaking *Act on Axial SpA* programme in June 2021, aiming to establish a Gold Standard time to diagnosis of just one year. Our public awareness campaign reached people with unexplained back pain and encouraged them to take steps towards a diagnosis. Our priority over the next few years is to continue to work with health care professionals to ensure that the right patient pathways, diagnostic support and education is in place to ensure early diagnosis.

Our campaigning work continued to gain momentum. We are particularly grateful to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Axial Spondyloarthritis for shining a light on the importance of mental health support and the role of primary care in the diagnosis of axial SpA.

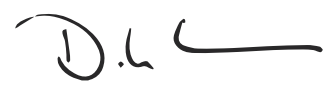
We successfully lobbied to ensure that time to diagnosis of axial spondyloarthritis has a much stronger focus in the National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit. This will give us invaluable data and a deeper understanding of the causes of diagnostic delay.

We're proud of our achievements in 2021 but we couldn't have done it without our committed networks of branches volunteers, healthcare professionals, donors and funders, Parliamentarians and policy-makers, who were unfailing in their support.

We want to thank everyone for helping us to deliver more than ever for people with axial SpA during an unprecedented time.



Raj Mahapatra
Chair

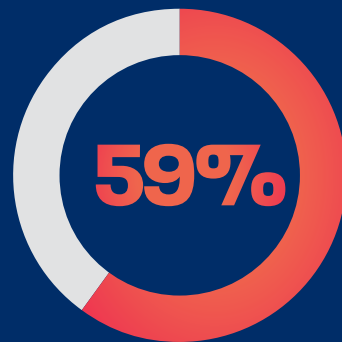


Dr Dale Webb
CEO

Life with axial spondyloarthritis



1 in 200
people live
with axial
SpA in
the UK



of people suffer
with depression

Average number of years
to diagnosis of axial SpA



8.5



The average age of onset

26

Our impact



7,524

Responses to requests
for advice and support



Estimated value
of disability
benefits we
helped
people claim



349m

Total reach of our
media coverage

Total number
of axial SpA
online symptom
checker
completions

2,249

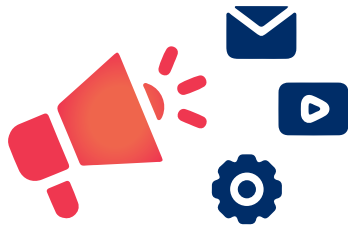


82,000+
views of My AS
My Life, Facebook
Live sessions



Number of
NASS members
4,089

Our influence



Launched a ground-breaking campaign to end the 8.5 year delay to diagnosis



Called for improvements in mental health support for people with axial SpA



Built political pressure for improved diagnosis in primary care



Ensured axial SpA is a larger part of the National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit



Campaigned to get hydrotherapy the attention it deserves



Continued to deliver the largest UK programme to improve the quality of care for axial SpA patients

By your side in 2021

The COVID19 pandemic continued to overshadow us in 2021 and the need for our support was greater than ever. When lockdowns ended, people remained concerned about stepping outside. And with the NHS under increasing pressure, many people experienced longer waiting times for vital healthcare appointments.

"I get loads of support both emotionally and physically from NASS, I don't know what I would do without it. Instead of scrolling through social media in the long lockdown evenings, I have been watching live sessions (or recordings) on so many AS bits and pieces, Yoga, self-care, relaxation, AS and psoriasis (biggie for me!)"

NASS Supporter

Providing clarity in a changing world

As the COVID19 vaccine was rolled out and the UK was under lockdown for the early part of the year, we provided up-to-date information when people needed it most.

We worked hard to understand the impact of the virus, the vaccines and the treatments for people living with axial SpA. We ensured our website was kept up-to-date and provided vital information at a time when official information could be confusing.

The COVID19 vaccine pages of our website were visited 27,542 times.

We also continued to provide our guides to rheumatology departments and to individuals with more than 16,000 guides being sent out over the year.

Our Helpline providing a lifeline

Our Helpline team are here to listen, understand and provide advice and practical support to anyone affected by axial SpA. With people struggling to get in contact with their rheumatology department and the COVID19 pandemic still causing disruption, people needed our help and support more than ever.

Calls to our Helpline rose to an all-time high and we responded to over 7,500 requests for advice and support, a third more than in 2020. To do so, we sustained the extended Helpline opening hours that we established in 2020. Along with information and advice on COVID19, we worked to support people who had questions about how to best manage their axial SpA.

As more people started to experience greater financial pressure because of the pandemic, we were there helping them get the benefits they are entitled to.

We wrote over 200 letters in support of disability benefits claims, resulting in benefits awards totalling more than an estimated £1,000,000. We also wrote letters to employers, to housing departments and to support Blue Badge parking applications.

Helping people live well with axial SpA, wherever they are

In 2021, we continued our innovative *My AS, My Life* programme which empowers people to overcome the challenges of living with axial SpA. We ran 33 sessions through Facebook Live, which were designed to help people understand how to live well and self-manage their condition. These sessions were viewed over 82,000 times.

Our *My AS, My Life* website pages continued to be popular, with 10,376 visitors using resources including videos, blogs and exercise sheets.

Enabling people to overcome daily challenges

We're determined to enable people to thrive with axial SpA and developed an online supported self-management programme to help people develop the skills and knowledge they need to manage daily challenges.

We piloted the programme during the first five months of 2021. Thanks to a grant from the Postcode Neighbourhood Trust, we ran 10 online sessions and established a case for running a full programme in the future.

The results from the pilot showed the programme gives people with axial SpA the information and support they need to manage their condition, helps them build connections in their local area and feel less isolated. It also helps rheumatology departments provide more patient education for people who are struggling to access routine appointments.

We will continue to develop the programme in 2022.

“Thank you so much! It was a really enjoyable session. I haven't been prioritising my health recently and it has spurred me on to get back on track with exercising.”

Session participant,
November 2021



Campaigning to transform care and diagnosis

With people finding it harder to access NHS services and the pandemic causing significant disruption, we did more than ever to ensure that parliamentarians and policy makers heard the voice of people with axial SpA.

Calling for improvements in mental health services

Axial SpA has a significant impact on people's mental health, as well as physical health. Indeed, up to 59% of people with the condition report having poor mental health.

We were acutely aware that the pandemic and lockdown had put more pressure on people's mental health and in April, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Axial Spondyloarthritis met to look at the issue.

We were grateful to NASS Trustee, Paul Curry, for sharing a very emotional and personal story about the impact living with axial SpA has on his own mental health.

The meeting shone a light on research that shows the emotional impact of living with axial SpA, steps that have been taken in Newcastle to ensure people have access to mental health services and approaches to improving the management of long-term conditions. Sue Brown from the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance shared its view on how mental health services could be improved for people with MSK conditions.

Improving diagnosis and referral in primary care

Lack of awareness of axial SpA in primary care is one barrier to the faster diagnosis of the condition. The seventh meeting of the APPG explored this area and highlighted the main challenges faced by GPs and secondary care professionals in recognising and diagnosing axial SpA, the role of first contact practitioners and the NHS England Best MSK Health programme and how it's supporting improved outcomes for those affected by axial SpA.

Dr Dale Webb, our CEO, also talked about the *Act on the Axial SpA* campaign and our programme to introduce a Gold Standard time to diagnosis of just one year.

Ensuring hydrotherapy gets the recognition it deserves

We are determined that hydrotherapy is recognised as a vital treatment for people with axial SpA. In 2021, we established a new alliance to promote aquatic physiotherapy and hydrotherapy for a range of conditions.

Standing together gives us a strong voice. The group includes professional bodies for physiotherapy and aquatic therapy, Swim England, as well as our fellow patient organisations.

Campaigning for hydrotherapy services to re-open

Too many people are missing out on vital hydrotherapy because pools in some parts of the country have remained closed.

To help keep up the pressure for pools to reopen following the COVID19 pandemic, Tom Randall MP asked a question in the House of Commons. This led to Dale Webb meeting with Health Minister Ed Agar and the Department of Health to discuss the issue in more detail.

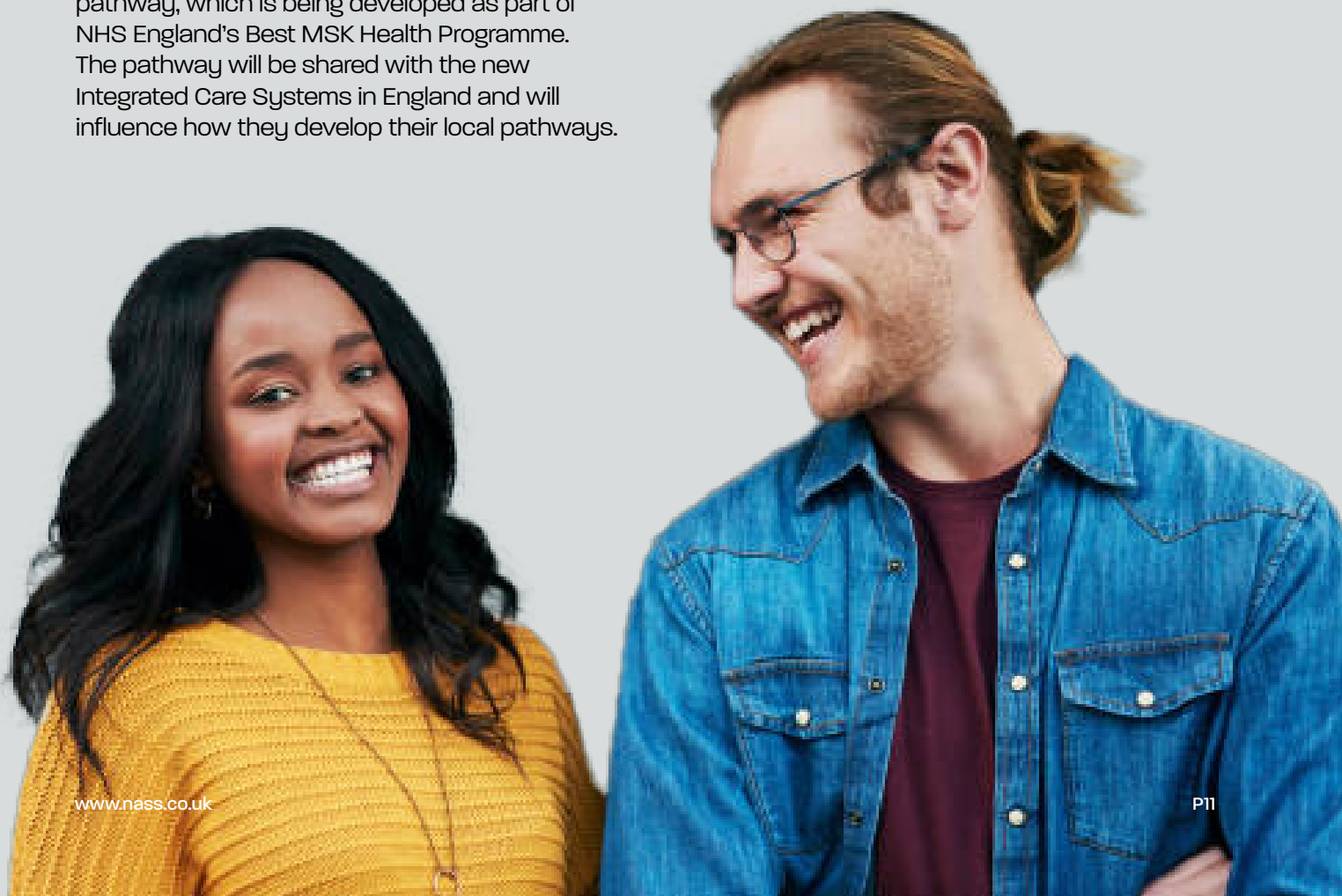
Influencing change

We worked hard to influence policy to ensure that axial SpA gets the attention it deserves.

We helped shape the new axial SpA patient pathway, which is being developed as part of NHS England's Best MSK Health Programme. The pathway will be shared with the new Integrated Care Systems in England and will influence how they develop their local pathways.

Our work with the National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit ensured that axial spondyloarthritis has a stronger focus in the audit. Data will be collected on people's journey to diagnosis, giving us invaluable evidence on the causes of diagnostic delays that will influence our *Act on Axial SpA campaign*.

We helped improve treatment options for people with axial SpA by providing evidence for two National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) technology appraisals which led to two new treatments being approved for non-radiographic axial SpA and ankylosing spondylitis.



Ending the delay to diagnosis

In June 2021 we launched our ground-breaking *Act on Axial SpA programme* to tackle the unacceptable 8.5 year delay to diagnosis of axial spondyloarthritis and introduce the world's first Gold Standard time to diagnosis of one year.

Building consensus

Over the next four years, we will work closely with people living with axial SpA, primary and community care, secondary care, professional bodies, commissioners, Parliamentarians and policy-makers, to reduce the time to diagnosis.

Our first step was to build strong foundations for the programme by developing it in consultation with people with axial SpA and healthcare professionals. We used the insights we gathered to refine the campaign strategy and develop a new language and visual identity for the campaign.

Increasing public awareness

Lack of public awareness of axial SpA and its symptoms contributes to the delay to diagnosis. According to our research, 91% of people say they haven't heard of the condition and eight out of 10 people are unable to identify the three main symptoms.

Our first step was to launch a public awareness campaign and a new website, www.actonaxialspa.com. It provides the most comprehensive hub of information for healthcare professionals and people who think they may have the condition, and hosts an easy-to-use symptom checker.

The campaign targets people aged 40 and under who are experiencing lower-back pain. In the first year, we showed that by telling emotionally compelling and relatable stories about axial SpA, we can motivate people to find out more about the condition and use our online symptoms checker.

Making progress in 2021

Our focus for the first year was testing the public awareness campaign. By the end of the year, social media content had touched people 1.2m times, we secured 14 pieces of media coverage, 16,000 people visited our campaign website and 2,249 people had completed the symptom checker.

Stepping into 2022

During 2022 we will work closely with primary and secondary care professionals, including launching a *Champions in Primary Care* programme and developing a local pilot to test data-led innovative approaches to driving up referrals to rheumatology.


We will also launch ground-breaking research on the full economic cost of the 8.5 year delay to diagnosis, to support our influencing work.

We are grateful to UCB for fully funding the programme and to Norfolk & Norwich NHS Foundation Trust and Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust for their support.



www.actonaxialspa.com

The most comprehensive hub
of information and hosts an
symptom checker



“More than eight years is too long to wait for a diagnosis but we can only tackle this delay by working together. NASS is not only increasing public awareness but leading a community of healthcare professionals who are committed to this movement for change. A movement that will make a life changing difference to thousands of people.”

Raj Sengupta

Consultant Rheumatologist

Improving axial SpA care

We're determined to improve axial SpA care. Established in 2019, *Aspiring to Excellence* encourages and recognises service improvement in axial SpA care. The programme is a strategic partnership between NASS, BRITSpA, the NHS Transformation Unit, and sponsors AbbVie, Biogen, Lilly, Novartis and UCB.

Driving improvement

The programme provides tailored support that helps rheumatology teams drive improvements in their departments. Teams from across the UK are taking part and exploring novel approaches to care to inform, encourage and support national changes in axial SpA services.

Six rheumatology departments joined the programme in 2019 and five more in 2021.

Resilience in the face of Covid19

Against a backdrop of increasing pressures on the NHS, the teams demonstrated an impressive ability to stay engaged and implement many of their planned improvement initiatives.

They have shown significant adaptability, resilience and teamwork and, turned adversity into opportunity – harnessing digital solutions and innovative new ways of working – in rapid response to the pandemic.

- The Newcastle rheumatology team trained community-based physiotherapists, leading to improved rheumatology referrals in order to reduce the time to diagnosis.
- The Southampton team implemented an inflammatory back pain (IBP) pathway from primary care in order to reduce time to presentation in rheumatology. They also introduced an MRI spine inflammatory back pain protocol to reduce variation in imaging.

- The Leeds team established a tertiary referral service which has significantly improved time to diagnosis.
- The Berkshire team implemented mental health interventions for patients which have reduced the percentage of patients with abnormal Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale scores.
- The Fife team established a pathway for physiotherapy self-referral and reduced physiotherapy 'Did Not Attend' rates.
- The Sheffield team used audit data to make the business case for an extended scope practitioner.

“The Aspiring to Excellence programme has given us structure and focus to build on our work to achieve the best standard of care in axial SpA. We have embedded new practices into our axial SpA patient pathway that have both spread and are sustainable. This will ensure there is continuous improvement in our service long after we have completed the programme for the benefit of our patients.”

Dr Antoni Chan

Consultant Rheumatologist

Building a community

People tell us that living with axial SpA can be isolating, so through branches and NASS membership we build connected communities that help people feel less alone.

Branches are our lifeblood

During 2021, there were 85 NASS branches run entirely by volunteers. Against a backdrop of Covid lockdowns, many continued to meet online, giving hundreds of people a much needed opportunity to take part in essential physiotherapy-led exercise and connect with friends.

As things started to open up, our branches worked tirelessly to get back to in-person sessions. We are grateful for the resilience they showed during an unprecedented time.

Connecting through membership

Our members tell us that by joining NASS they feel less alone and isolated with axial SpA, and part of a community that understands life with the condition.

We have seen a steady growth in the number of NASS members, and by the end of 2021 we had 4089 members.

We also held our first hybrid Members' Day, which was attended by 60 people in person and 200 online. Attendees spent a day diving into sessions on the latest treatments for axial SpA and also new ideas on how to manage the condition at home.

“NASS has been invaluable and enabled me to connect with other people with axial SpA.”

Richard Shire

NASS Member

NASS Voices

[It was] a very informative day with lots of new information on issues I need to address. Great venue. It was lovely to meet new people.”

In 2021, over eighty people attended events in Chester and Newcastle to learn more about axial SpA from NASS, rheumatologists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists, and to meet others affected by the condition.

Over 90% of attendees came away from NASS Voices events, feeling more confident about managing their condition.

NASS Voices Newcastle was funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, which is funded by National Lottery players while NASS Voices Chester was funded by The Ursula Keyes Trust.

Raising funds, raising voices

We want to say a special thank you to everyone who helped us raise vital funds and stepped forward to tell their story to increase awareness of axial SpA. You helped us raise our voices and change lives.

Raising essential funds in a tough year

We receive no statutory funding and rely on the generosity of our fundraisers to do our amazing work.

Thank you to everyone who donated or took part in fundraising, despite the pandemic. Thanks to you, we continued to run our helpline, support people with benefits applications, provide free resources such as guides and videos and run Facebook Live sessions. You helped power us through the pandemic and we couldn't have made a life changing difference to so many people without your help.

"I decided that I wanted to combine my love of swimming to raise awareness about axial SpA, and raise money to support NASS, who have been such amazing support for me over the years."

Darren Fletcher swam 10 miles
and raised £1,459 for NASS.



Raising our voices in the media

We are doing more work than ever to ensure axial SpA gets the attention it deserves and to tell the story of life with the condition in the media and on social media

During 2021, our media relations work led to nearly 349 million opportunities to see or hear our campaign messages. Coverage included BBC Radio 2 Jeremy Vine Show, The Dundee Courier, The Daily Express, The Daily Mirror, The Daily Mail, Men's Fitness Magazine, The Sun Online, Chat Magazine and Irish News.

We have also changed our approach to social media and seen a significant growth in the number of followers. During 2021, the total reach of our Facebook page was 1,148,046, a growth of 469% compared to 2020. Our Facebook followers grew by 59%.

We're grateful to everyone who stepped forward to tell their story, but particularly grateful to Singer-Songwriter, Talia Dean, and DJ and Entrepreneur, Mark Wilkinson.

We would like to thank the Charitable Trusts that supported us in 2021

- The Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation
- The Baker Charitable Trust
- The David Gibbons Foundation
- The Eveson Charitable Trust
- The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust
- The Edward Gostling Foundation
- The G C Gibson Charitable Trust
- The Ganzoni Charitable Trust
- The Hospital Saturday Fund
- The Hugh Fraser Foundation
- The Hamilton Wallace Trust
- John Coates Charitable Trust
- The James Weir Foundation
- James Tudor Foundation
- The Khayami Foundation
- Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust
- Lottery Awards for All
- The Mary Homfray Charitable Trust
- Masonic Charitable Foundation
- The Norman Family Charitable Trust
- Northern Pharmacies Limited Trust Fund
- Summers & May Charitable Settlement
- Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
- The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust
- The Thousandth Man-Richard Burns Charitable Trust
- The Ursula Keyes Trust
- The Weinstock Fund
- Postcode Neighbourhood Trust

We would like to thank the companies that supported us in 2021

abbvie

 Biogen

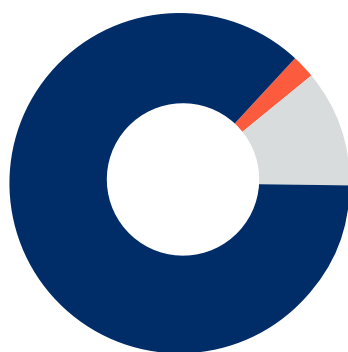
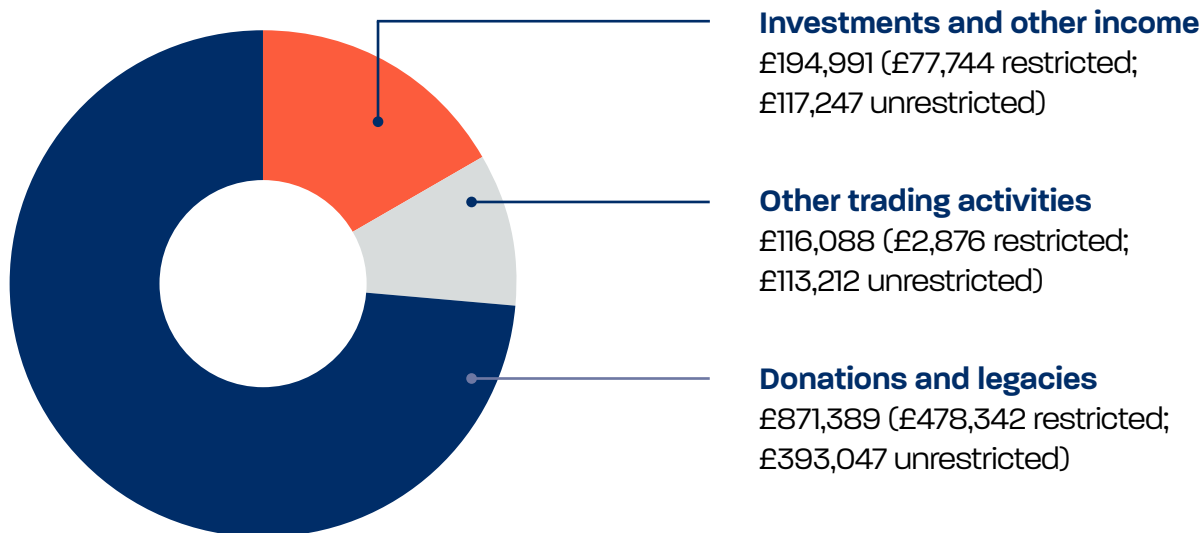
Lilly

janssen 

 NOVARTIS

 Inspired by patients.
Driven by science.

Our year in numbers



Our expenditure

Cost of raising funds £126,457 (£106,356 Direct costs; £20,101 allocation of overheads)

Governance £23,134

Charitable activities £988,511 (£412,830 restricted; £575,681 unrestricted)



A breakdown of how every £1 was spent in 2021

■ 87% was on charitable activities

■ 11% was on raising funds

■ 2% was on governance

**Axial SpA
works silently.
We don't.**



**National Axial
Spondyloarthritis
Society**

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210 Shepherds Bush Road
London
W6 7NJ

Helpline & General Enquiries 020 8741 1515

Membership & Events 020 3011 5133

Email: admin@nass.co.uk

Website: www.nass.co.uk

Twitter: **@NASSEXERCISE**

Facebook: **@NationalAxialSpondyloarthritisSociety**

Instagram: **@NASS_exercise**

NASS is a registered charity in England and Wales (1183175) and Scotland (SC049746)

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

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NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Trustees	Rajeevendra Kumar Mahapatra, Chair Daniel McFarlane, Trustee Dr Antoni Tuck Yin Chan, Trustee Nicholas Clarke, Trustee Paul Curry, Trustee Gillian Eames, Trustee (Re-elected 12 June 2021) Poppy Hocken, Trustee (Re-elected 12 June 2021) Claire Jeffries, Trustee Dr Jacqueline Harris, Trustee Dr Lesley Kay, Trustee (Elected 12 June 2021) Monika Mayhew, Trustee (Retired 12 June 2021) Hannah Murphy, Trustee (Elected 12 June 2021) Patricia O'Callaghan Peter Ernest Proctor Townsend (Retired 12 June 2021)
Charity registered number	1183175
Principal office	172 King street London W6 0QU
Independent auditors	BKL Audit LLP Chartered Accountants 35 Ballards Lane London N3 1XW

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Charity (NASS) for the year 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. NASS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

1. Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

NASS is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and was registered as a charity in April 2019. The rules and regulations of the CIO are set out in its Constitution, adopted by the Board of Trustees on 14 September 2019 and approved by the Charity Commission.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The governing body of NASS is a Board of Trustees consisting of elected Trustees. Only members of NASS may be appointed as Trustees. The maximum number of charity trustees that may be appointed to NASS in its first year of incorporation is thirteen. Thereafter the maximum number of charity trustees that may be appointed to NASS is twelve.

At every annual general meeting of the members of NASS, one third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting; any vacancies not filled at the annual general meeting may be filled by the charity trustees. Such persons shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15 (Retirement and removal of charity trustees), or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit specified on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded.

The Chair and Treasurer are approved by the Board and selected from among the trustee group. Their term of office as Chair and Treasurer is consistent with their term of office as a trustee. In advance of each AGM members of NASS are widely encouraged to nominate a fellow member as Trustee.

On appointment, new trustees are asked to spend a half day in the NASS central office for a briefing with the Chief Executive and staff to understand how the society works. Formal training is provided when required.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The Trustees meet quarterly to review matters of policy and to make appropriate judgements, directions and decisions on CIO issues. Trustees delegate authority some matters to a Finance and General Purposes Committee consisting of the Chair, the Treasurer, up to three appointed Trustees and the Chief Executive. This Committee meets four times per year. NASS also has a Medical Advisory Board which acts in advisory capacity only. Day to day management of NASS is undertaken by the Chief Executive and his / her staff. The trustees consider the Chief Executive as comprising the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. The pay of the Chief Executive is reviewed annually by the trustees.

d. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have adopted appropriate policies necessary to limit or mitigate the risks faced by NASS.

The principal risks are:

- Loss of funds: Funds are held with various first tier banks on a short term basis and as a result there is little risk of loss in the short to medium term.
- Loss of income: NASS seeks to broaden and expand its income from all sources. Nevertheless, NASS is dependent upon voluntary income, both at branch level and at national level, and aims to increase its membership locally and nationally.
- Loss of reputation: NASS seeks at all times to maintain its independent viewpoint. Assistance received from external bodies, such as members of the pharmaceutical industry, is strictly controlled so as to ensure that independence is not compromised.
- Loss of staff: NASS has a Reward Strategy to ensure that the charity is able to recruit and retain high quality staff. It also has a set of HR policies to provide the appropriate framing for all HR matters.

NASS has a safeguarding policy and set of procedures which is applicable to beneficiaries, staff, trustees and volunteers. Staff are trained and NASS branches have a training resource. The safeguarding policy and procedures is reviewed on an annual basis

e. Pay policy for key management personnel

The pay of the staff and Chief Executive is reviewed annually by the trustees.

f. Volunteers

NASS is heavily dependent on 250 volunteer members who provide support at branch level. Volunteer members are unpaid and NASS's accounts do not reflect the value to NASS of the many hours work provided free to NASS. The Trustees are fully conscious of this value and recognise that the work of NASS would be considerably curtailed without the support provided by volunteer members.

Our 85 NASS branches work to offer regular, physiotherapist-led group exercise for anyone living with axial SpA. Our NASS branches are sub-committees of NASS and are led by a committee usually comprising a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We support our branches with a suite of resources, regular promotion of their activities, online meetings and having a named member of staff who is available Monday to Friday to help with any problems or issues.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Structure, governance and management (continued)

g. Organisational relationships

NASS is a member of the following organisations:

- Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance (ARMA)
- Axial Spondyloarthritis International Federation (ASIF)
- Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO)
- Charity Finance Group
- Charity Comms
- Fundraising Regulator
- National Voices
- National Council for Voluntary Organization (NCVO)
- Helpline Partnership

NASS also works in close partnerships with other charities and organisations as part of the Disability Benefits Consortium and Prescription Charge Coalition.

2. Objectives and strategy

a. Objectives

NASS's vision is as follows:

"The future we want to create is one where every person with axial spondyloarthritis (axial SpA) has timely and effective diagnosis, treatment and care, is empowered to make informed health choices and feels part of a supportive community."

It seeks to do this by:

- providing information to the general public about axial SpA, and advice to people living with the condition, their families, carers, service-providers and employers
- advocating to ensure that every person has timely and effective diagnosis, treatment and care of the condition
- funding and disseminating research and analysis to advance scientific understanding of the condition and its effective treatment.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'. NASS provides public benefit by:

- working with statutory bodies and others that provide for the treatment and welfare of people affected by axial SpA
- educating people affected by axial SpA, as well as healthcare professionals and the public, on the problems related to it
- putting people affected by axial SpA in contact with expert advisers
- promoting research into the management and cure of axial SpA and its causes
- disseminating the results of research related to axial SpA.

In so doing NASS improves the lives of those affected by axial SpA, particularly in relation to their ability to contribute positively to the prosperity of their communities and the country as a whole.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2. Objectives and strategy (continued)

b. Strategy for achieving objectives

In accordance with the provisions set out in its Constitution, the Trustees have adopted the following strategy for the period 2020 – 2024 to meet NASS's principal objects:

To ensure that people with axial SpA receive timely diagnosis, effective treatment and care

- Maintain pressure at national level to ensure effective and widespread implementation of the NICE Guideline and Quality Standard for axial SpA
 - Continue to run an All Party Parliamentary Group for axial spondyloarthritis
 - Undertake Parliamentary work in the devolved nations
 - Develop and publish a Gold Standard time to diagnosis route map
 - Commission research on the economic consequences of a delay to diagnosis
 - Create impactful ways to engage primary care professionals and those in appropriate secondary care services to ensure that they identify and refer patients who may have axial SpA
 - Form an alliance to protect NHS hydrotherapy services
 - Develop a primary care clinical champions programme
 - Continue to work in partnership with professional bodies
- Support rheumatology and other services to test approaches to improving diagnosis and treatment and spread the learning across the UK
 - Expand the Aspiring to Excellence healthcare improvement programme
 - Ensure that patient values and needs underpin NHS service delivery
 - Disseminate learning from Aspiring to Excellence
 - Raise awareness among those working in emergency care and NHS 111

To empower, inform and inspire people affected by axial SpA

- Ensure that everyone affected by axial SpA has access to personalised support and the best information about the condition
 - Extend personalised support through our Helpline service, and reliable and user-friendly information resources for everyone affected by axial SpA
- Promote physical activity, and support and motivate people to exercise
 - Support and develop the NASS branch network to continue to ensure people can access regular group, physiotherapy led exercise sessions
 - Support and motivate people to confidently and safely exercise independently
- Ensure that everyone affected by axial SpA (AS) has the skills, confidence and knowledge they need to manage their condition optimally
- Develop a face-to-face self-management pilot programme and roll out if successful
- Consider an online version of a self-management programme for NASS members

To foster a connected and supportive community, raising axial SpA awareness everyday, everywhere

- Conduct public awareness campaigns using various methods and channels to try and increase knowledge. Chiefly this activity will include:
 - Using case studies of people living with axial SpA to generate media coverage
 - Encouraging our members and supporters to become advocates for NASS and campaigners for improvements in axial care
 - Online and social media campaigns to create interest and inform the public
 - Using related national and international awareness days
 - Create an active community of NASS members and supporters who work together
 - Make more use of online tools such as Facebook Live for streaming events, conversations and debates, to encourage participation and engagement

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2. Objectives and strategy (continued)

- Increase our online supporter numbers through social media promotion, listening, and 'surprise and delight' outreach to potential supporters
- Encourage members and supporters to take up fundraising activity for NASS, whether large-scale challenge events or activity such as raffles and coffee mornings
- Ensure that people know what NASS stands for, the changes that are seeking to bring about and how we operate
- Offer thought leadership and op-ed pieces from the CEO, Chair and other key colleagues to professional and trade outlets, and also for mainstream health outlets
- Use social media listening techniques to reach out to people talking about axial SpA, making them aware of NASS and its resources
- Develop annual membership campaigns to increase the number of members and membership revenue
- Seek opportunities to outreach through external events outside of the sector at which NASS can contribute and have visibility.

3. Achievements and performance

a. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

Ensure people with axial SpA receive timely diagnosis, effective treatment and care

- We continued to work with Parliamentarians through our All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on axial SpA to provide national oversight of the implementation of the NICE Guideline on the diagnosis and management of spondyloarthritis. We held two meetings to explore the importance of mental health support and the role of primary care in the diagnosis of axial SpA
- Following a national consultation process, we launched a route map to achieve a Gold Standard time to diagnosis of one year. We call it *Act on Axial SpA*
- We launched a new website, www.actonaxialspa.com which provides the most comprehensive hub of information for healthcare professionals and people who think they may have the condition, and hosts an easy-to-use symptom checker
- We established a new alliance to promote aquatic physiotherapy and hydrotherapy for a range of conditions
- We commissioned research to identify the full economic costs of delayed diagnosis and another study to identify the needs and values of people with axial SpA about their diagnosis, treatment and care
- Our service improvement programme *Aspiring to Excellence* welcomed a second cohort of rheumatology departments. All 11 departments undertook planned projects, supported by our partner the NHS Transformation Unit.

Empower, inform and inspire people affected by axial SpA

- We continued to run extended Helpline opening hours to deal with unprecedented demand as a consequence of the COVID19 pandemic
- We wrote over 200 letters in support of disability benefits claims, as well as letters to employers, to housing departments and to support Blue Badge parking applications
- We continued our innovative *My AS My Life* programme and ran 33 sessions through Facebook Live, to help people understand how to live well with axial SpA and self-manage their condition
- We piloted a self-management programme with 10 rheumatology departments
- We provided COVID19 information through our website and Helpline service
- We sent 16,000 of our Guides to rheumatology departments and individuals
- We continued to support NASS branches to maintain appropriate activities during the pandemic.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Foster a connected and supportive community, raising axial SpA awareness every day, everywhere

- We launched the first phase of a national awareness raising campaign about the condition, its symptoms and the need for early presentation at primary care
- We developed the Act on Axial SpA campaign website and a symptom checker.
- We held our annual Members Day which was in hybrid form
- We held two NASS Voices regional events for people in Newcastle and Chester
- We developed a new and distinctive NASS brand, based on research with our community
- We partnered with singer-songwriter Talia Dean and DJ and Entrepreneur Mark Wilkinson, as part of our awareness campaign.
- We continued to test new approaches to help grow our social media audience, such as a myth busting campaign and quiz and a Christmas campaign.
- We continued to test paid for social media advertising, which enabled us to reach people outside our current audience.

b. Achievements and performance

- We supported 50% more people in 2021 through our Helpline and Information Service than in 2019: 7,524 in total
- We helped people claim in excess of £1,000,000 of disability benefits
- Our self-management videos were watched 82,000 times and there were 10,000 visitors to our *My AS My Life* website pages
- The Covid-19 vaccine pages of our website were visited 27,542 times
- The evaluation of our self-management programme showed that it gives people with axial SpA the information and support they need to manage their condition and helps them build connections in their local area and feel less isolated. It also helps rheumatology departments provide more patient education for people who are struggling to access routine appointments
- The total reach of our media coverage was 349 million
- The total reach of our Facebook page was 1,148,046, a growth of 469% compared to 2020. Our Facebook followers grew by 59%
- 2,000 people completed our new axial SpA online symptom checker
- Our membership numbers rose by 11% from 3,685 to 4089
- The Chair of the APPG asked a question on hydrotherapy pools in the House of Commons. This led to a meeting with Health Minister Ed Agar and the Department of Health to discuss the issue in more detail
- We helped shape the new axial SpA patient pathway, developed as part of NHS England's Best MSK Health Programme
- We successfully lobbied to ensure that axial SpA is a larger part of the National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit
- A review of *Aspiring to Excellence* showed that all of the first cohort of rheumatology departments had achieved service improvements:
 - The Newcastle rheumatology team trained community-based physiotherapists, leading to improved rheumatology referrals in order to reduce the time to diagnosis
 - The Southampton team implemented an inflammatory back pain pathway from primary care in order to reduce time to presentation in rheumatology. They also introduced an MRI spine inflammatory back pain protocol to reduce variation in imaging
 - The Leeds team established a tertiary referral service which has significantly improved time to diagnosis
 - The Berkshire team implemented mental health interventions for patients which have reduced the percentage of patients with abnormal Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale scores
 - The Fife team established a pathway for physiotherapy self-referral and reduced physiotherapy Did Not Attend rates
 - The Sheffield team used audit to make the business case for an extended scope practitioner.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

c. Fundraising activities and income generation

NASS receives no statutory funding and relies on income from charitable trusts, voluntary fundraising and donations and pharmaceutical companies to do its life-changing work. In 2021, we updated our fundraising strategy to diversify our income streams and reviewed our approach to marketing fundraising and stewardship. This included the development of a new community fundraising product, Go Orange for AS, to integrate with the new NASS brand.

NASS is grateful to everyone who donated money or undertook a fundraising activity on our behalf in 2021:

- 55 people took part in third-party events such as the London Marathon and Royal Parks Half marathon
- 185 people took part in community fundraising or organised their own fundraising activity
- 106 people gave a regular donation via direct debit

We are hugely grateful to everyone who gave a cash gift in 2021. We ran two fundraising appeals, continued to ask people to support us by giving a one-off cash donation and sign-up to give monthly by direct debit.

Gifts in Wills provide sustainable future income for NASS and are a wonderful way for people to help the next generation live well with axial SpA. In 2021 we developed a new legacy marketing brochure. By the end of the year our total number of legacy pledgers had grown to 59.

NASS also receives grants from charitable trusts and from the pharmaceutical industry. Developing the Trust pipeline and increasing the number of applications was a priority for us in 2021.

During the year NASS received:

- Unrestricted grants from charitable trusts totalling £44,700

With special thanks to:

The Edward Gostling Foundation
The John Coates Charitable Trust
The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust
The Khayami Foundation
Lord Leverhulme's Charitable Trust
Hamilton Wallace Trust
The Hospital Saturday Fund
The Mary Homfray Charitable Trust
Miss Summers and Miss May's Charitable Settlement
The Weinstock Fund
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
The Baker Charitable Trust
The Edward Gostling Foundation
The Thousandth Man- Richard Burns Charitable Trust
The G C Gibson Charitable Trust

- Restricted grants from charitable trusts totalling £37,240

With special thanks to:

The Norman Family Charitable Trust
The Ganzoni Charitable Trust
The David Gibbons Foundation
Northern Pharmacies Limited Trust Fund
The Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust
The James Tudor Foundation
The James Weir Foundation
The Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

*The Eveson Charitable Trust
The Ursula Keyes Trust
The Hugh Fraser Foundation*

- Restricted grants from other organisations totalling £13,834
With special thanks to:

<i>Innovate UK for Good Boost Project</i>	<i>£4,662</i>
<i>Lottery Awards for All for NASS Voices Newcastle</i>	<i>£9,172</i>

- Restricted Grants from pharmaceutical companies for specific projects totalling £485,331
With special thanks to:

<u>Abbvie Ltd</u>	
<i>Aspiring to Excellence</i>	<i>£30,000</i>

<u>UCB Pharma</u>	
<i>NASS APPG</i>	<i>£16,000</i>
<i>NASS Gold Standard Time to Diagnosis</i>	<i>£287,681</i>
<i>Aspiring to Excellence</i>	<i>£33,750</i>

<u>Biogen Idec Ltd</u>	
<i>Aspiring to Excellence</i>	<i>£30,000</i>

<u>Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd</u>	
<i>NASS All Party Parliamentary Group</i>	<i>£16,000</i>
<i>Policy Round Table meeting</i>	<i>£11,900</i>
<i>Aspiring to Excellence</i>	<i>£30,000</i>

<u>Eli Lilly and Company</u>	
<i>Aspiring to Excellence</i>	<i>£30,000</i>

- Unrestricted Grants from pharmaceutical companies
With special thanks to:

<u>Janssen-Cilag Ltd</u>	
<i>Core funding</i>	<i>£5,000</i>

d. Subscriptions

The charity charges subscriptions to its members at national level, and those attending NASS branches pay a local subscription fee which funds branch activities. At national level this income (£158,945) covers the benefits members receive (Forum, access to Members Area, free attendance at Members Day) and the support and administration of Subscriptions. The charity has approximately 4,100 members at national level and around 1000 attendees per week at branches. The Trustees actively encourage all those with axial SpA to join the society.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

4. Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

Free reserves, defined as the balance of unrestricted funds less tangible fixed assets, at the end of reporting period amount to £342,843 (2020 - £432,212).

The remaining funds are comprised of two properties (valued at £700,000) from which NASS derives rental income, other tangible assets of £6,619, investments of £54,000, branch funds of £298,771, other restricted grants totalling £319,442, and one statue gifted by Dame Elisabeth Frink.

Unrestricted cash reserves represent six months operating costs.

At present NASS does not have an endowment fund and therefore income must be raised each year from voluntary sources and total income is likely to fluctuate from year to year.

We aim to hold 6-9 months free reserves. This working capital protects the continuity of our core work, that is, work not funded through restricted income. Core work includes our information and support service, awareness raising, campaigning and policy influencing, and the work of our branches across the UK. We have chosen a reserves level of 6-9 months having considered the level of predictability/unreliability in our income sources and the extent to which our cost base is flexible or committed. Our largest income sources (legacies and grant funding from pharmaceutical companies) come at irregular intervals, and the majority of our costs are committed, principally in the form of the staff who deliver our charitable objectives.

In 2021 our unrestricted cash reserves fell below our policy minimum. This was a consequence of two factors: the impact of the Covid pandemic on community and events fundraising and a lower than average legacy income. We will continue to monitor this in 2022 and take action if necessary.

c. Investment policy and performance

NASS has adopted a policy of maximising liquidity and therefore funds available have been held in interest bearing bank accounts or equivalent short-term deposits at varying rates of interest placed with first tier banks. NASS's property investments comprise two residential apartments which are rented out on shorthold assured tenancies to generate income for NASS. NASS's investments also include one statuette gifted by Dame Elisabeth Frink. All investments are carried at market value.

d. Expenditure on: Ensure people with axial SpA receive timely diagnosis, effective treatment and care

The charity incurred total costs of £467,348 (2020 - £443,953) (on education activities with healthcare professionals, research, campaigning and running the Secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group on axial SpA. This included support costs of £52,945 (2020 - £76,004). This reflects the continuing emphasis placed by the Trustees on campaigning for wider recognition of the condition, speedier diagnosis and better

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4. Financial review (continued)

e. Expenditure on: Empower, inform and inspire people affected by axial SpA

The Charity incurred total costs of £247,627 (2020 - £172,208) on education and support activities which included support costs of £48,612 (2020 - £44,151).

f. Expenditure on: Foster a connected and supportive community, raising axial SpA awareness every day, everywhere

The Charity incurred total central costs of £273,536 (2020 - £334,172) on awareness raising and community building activities which included support costs of £61,982 (2020 - £58,070).

g. Summary of financial performance

As a whole, the Society reported an excess of income over expenditure of £44,366 (2020 - deficit of £293,905), mainly as a result of grants totalling £499,165 received in the year. A surplus of £41,769 (2020 - deficit of £329,530) arose centrally, a surplus of £2,597 (2020 - surplus of £35,625) arose at branch level and a surplus/deficit of £143,535 (2020 - £82,242) arose on other restricted funds.

5. Plans for future periods

Our four priority areas for 2022 are:

Reducing diagnostic delay: we will

- Introduce a primary care clinical champions programme
- Introduce a secondary care education programme
- Publish research on the full economic costs of diagnostic delay
- Publish a report on the work of the 11 *Aspiring to Excellence* sites to reduce delay
- Launch an integrated pilot in one area of the UK to test the impact of all four solutions in consort
- Introduce a third cohort of *Aspiring to Excellence* that will focus on delay and all three cohorts will work together, framed around the Gold Standard solutions
- Launch a new series of publications called *Spotlight* that draws attention to new peer reviewed journal articles about delay and best practice examples of work to improve time to diagnosis
- Review the current provision of axial SpA training to radiologists
- Create new collateral to promote the BRITSpA MRI guidelines.

Supporting the NHS to improve axial SpA care: we will

- Launch a third cohort of *Aspiring to Excellence*
- Capacitate rheumatology departments to provide supported self-management through co-designed sessions and an e-library of resources
- Launch a podcast series aimed at healthcare professionals showing how the use of quality improvement tools can improve patient care
- Continue to support the NHS Best MSK Health Collaborative; and work with BSR to encourage clinicians to enter axial SpA patients into the National Early Inflammatory Arthritis Audit
- Establish a programme of outreach to rheumatology departments to engage with our work and share our learning resources.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

5. Plans for future periods (continued)

Supporting people affected by axial SpA (including self-management): we will

- Seek to maintain our information and support service at current levels
- Continue developing free to access self-management resources
- Develop an online self-management education programme for patients with hospitals across the UK
- Develop an e-learning platform to support independent learning

Increasing awareness of axial SpA and of NASS: we will

- Continue to implement the *Act on Axial SpA* public awareness raising campaign across online media and PR but more sharply focused on communicating axial SpA symptoms, using the SPINE acronym
- Launch the findings of the research into the full economic costs of diagnostic delay, making this our major 'news' moment in 2022
- Test a local awareness campaign, to understand whether using a mix of marketing, communications and PR and corporate partnership can increase appropriate consultations at primary care and referrals from primary care through to rheumatology.
- Plan an integrated campaign – *Unseen* – for delivery in 2023.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- That Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

During the year, Berg Kaprow Lewis LLP acted as auditor to the charity until 31 March 2022. On 31 March 2022, Berg Kaprow Lewis LLP transferred its audit business to a new LLP, BKL Audit LLP. The trustees consented to treating the appointment of Berg Kaprow Lewis LLP as extending to BKL Audit LLP with effect from 1 April 2022.

The auditors, BKL Audit LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Rajeevendra Kumar Mahapatra

Date: 24 September 2022

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Enquiring of management around actual and potential litigation and claims;

Reviewing board meeting minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

BKL Audit LLP

BKL Audit LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

35 Ballards Lane

London

N3 1XW

Date: 30/09/2022

BKL Audit LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	478,342	393,047	871,389	573,744
Other trading activities	4	2,876	113,212	116,088	62,696
Other income	5	77,744	117,247	194,991	193,123
Total income		558,962	623,506	1,182,468	829,563
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	-	126,457	126,457	151,114
Charitable activities	8	412,830	598,815	1,011,645	972,354
Total expenditure		412,830	725,272	1,138,102	1,123,468
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains/(losses) on investments		146,132	(101,766)	44,366	(293,905)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	24,900	24,900	(43,140)
Net income/(expenditure)		146,132	(76,866)	69,266	(337,045)
Transfers between funds	18	(8,313)	8,313	-	-
Net movement in funds		137,819	(68,553)	69,266	(337,045)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		480,394	1,172,015	1,652,409	1,989,454
Net movement in funds		137,819	(68,553)	69,266	(337,045)
Total funds carried forward		618,213	1,103,462	1,721,675	1,652,409

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 21 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	6,619	10,703
Investments	15	54,000	29,100
Investment property	14	700,000	700,000
		<u>760,619</u>	<u>739,803</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	16	115,061	128,079
Cash at bank and in hand		894,766	988,429
		<u>1,009,827</u>	<u>1,116,508</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	(48,771)	(203,902)
Net current assets		<u>1,721,675</u>	<u>1,652,409</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,721,675</u>	<u>1,652,409</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>1,721,675</u></u>	<u><u>1,652,409</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	618,213	480,394
Unrestricted funds	18	1,103,462	1,172,015
Total funds		<u><u>1,721,675</u></u>	<u><u>1,652,409</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Rajeevendra Kumar Mahapatra

Date: 24 September 2022

The notes on pages 21 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	(117,374)	(216,151)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	25,029	26,434
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets	-	14,300
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,318)	(2,230)
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	28,900
Net cash provided by investing activities	23,711	67,404
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(93,663)	(148,747)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	988,429	1,137,176
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	894,766	988,429

The notes on pages 21 to 40 form part of these financial statements

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. General information

National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society is an organisation incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Charities Act 2011. The organisation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in England and Wales and in Scotland. The address of the registered office is 172 King Street, London, W6 0QU.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

National Axial Spondyloarthritis Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff remuneration is allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £NIL or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, .

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Office equipment	-	25% Straight line basis
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2.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Investments held as fixed assets are shown at cost less provision for impairment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.9 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.10 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.11 Pensions

Defined contribution pension plan

The Charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Charity has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in profit or loss when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Charity in independently administered funds.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	40,127	177,534	217,661
Legacies	-	154,563	154,563
Charity grants	438,215	60,950	499,165
	<u>478,342</u>	<u>393,047</u>	<u>871,389</u>

	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Donations	37,019	148,431	185,450
Legacies	-	120,567	120,567
Charity grants	267,727	-	267,727
	<u>304,746</u>	<u>268,998</u>	<u>573,744</u>

Included with donations are donated services totalling £nil (2020: £17,240).

The charity grants include Pharmaceutical Industry grants of £485,331 (2020: £251,450) and other grants of £13,834 (2020: £16,277).

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

4. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Fundraising events	2,876	113,212	116,088

	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Fundraising events	3,715	58,981	62,696

5. Other incoming resources

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Other income	2,884	8,133	11,017
Investment income	-	25,029	25,029
Membership subscriptions	74,860	84,085	158,945
	77,744	117,247	194,991

	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Other income	4,237	8,448	12,685
Investment income	-	26,434	26,434
Membership subscriptions	103,790	50,214	154,004
	108,027	85,096	193,123

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Raising funds		
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	8,571	8,571
Staging fundraising events	7,567	7,567
Fundraising for membership	2,164	2,164
General fundraising expenditure	16,682	16,682
Staff remuneration	71,372	71,372
Support costs		
Depreciation	679	679
Other staff costs	4,321	4,321
Premises costs	7,700	7,700
Travel expenses	273	273
IT and communications office costs	2,966	2,966
Conference costs	855	855
Accountancy	649	649
Insurance, legal & professional	1,606	1,606
Bank charges	137	137
Sundry expenses	915	915
	<hr/> 126,457 <hr/>	<hr/> 126,457 <hr/>

Included within expenditure on raising funds for the year are costs allocated to raising funds of £106,356 and supports costs of £20,101.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

6. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)
(continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Raising funds		
General fundraising expenditure	34,391	34,391
Staff remuneration	83,035	83,035
Support costs		
Depreciation	806	806
Other staff costs	12,035	12,035
Premises costs	10,026	10,026
Travel expenses	32	32
IT and communications office costs	4,831	4,831
Conference costs	535	535
Accountancy	477	477
Insurance, legal & professional	4,071	4,071
Sundry expenses	875	875
	<u>151,114</u>	<u>151,114</u>

Included within expenditure on raising funds for 2020 were costs allocated to raising funds of £117,426 and supports costs of £33,688.

7. Analysis of grants

	Grants to Institutions 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Grants, Every Patient Every Time	45,358	45,358
Grants, A Connected and Supportive Community	250	250
	<u>45,608</u>	<u>45,608</u>

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

7. Analysis of grants (continued)

	<i>Grants to Institutions 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Grants, Every Patient Every Time	20,192	20,192
Grants, A Connected and Supportive Community	2,008	2,008
	<u>22,200</u>	<u>22,200</u>

8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Every Patient, Every Time	281,505	185,843	467,348
A Connected and Supportive Community	120,919	152,617	273,536
Empower, Inform and Inspire	10,406	237,221	247,627
Governance costs	-	23,134	23,134
	<u>412,830</u>	<u>598,815</u>	<u>1,011,645</u>

	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Every Patient, Every Time	214,418	229,535	443,953
A Connected and Supportive Community	80,219	253,953	334,172
Empower, Inform and Inspire	3,984	168,224	172,208
Governance costs	-	22,020	22,020
	<u>298,621</u>	<u>673,732</u>	<u>972,353</u>

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Grant funding of activities 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Every Patient Every Time	369,045	45,358	52,945	467,348
A Connected and Supportive Community	211,304	250	61,982	273,536
Empower, Inform and Inspire	199,015	-	48,612	247,627
Governance costs	-	-	23,134	23,134
	<u>779,364</u>	<u>45,608</u>	<u>186,673</u>	<u>1,011,645</u>

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2020 £</i>	<i>Grant funding of activities 2020 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Every Patient Every Time	347,757	20,192	76,004	443,953
A Connected and Supportive Community	274,094	2,008	58,070	334,172
Empower, Inform and Inspire	128,057	-	44,151	172,208
Governance costs	-	-	22,020	22,020
	<u>749,908</u>	<u>22,200</u>	<u>200,245</u>	<u>972,353</u>

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Every Patient Every Time 2021 £	A Connected and Supportive Community 2021 £	Empower, Inform and Inspire 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff remuneration	249,721	137,553	123,638	510,912
Travel expenses	5,696	104	1,057	6,857
Office costs	339	897	931	2,167
Courier & distribution of materials	92	477	15	584
Literature, brochures & information	36,605	1,703	39,498	77,806
Hire of venue & facilities	22,838	35	15,377	38,250
Third party technical providers	53,754	3,483	18,499	75,736
Branches	-	67,052	-	67,052
	<u>369,045</u>	<u>211,304</u>	<u>199,015</u>	<u>779,364</u>

	Every Patient Every Time 2020 £	A Connected and Supportive Community 2020 £	Empower, Inform and Inspire 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Staff remuneration	187,336	143,132	108,821	439,289
Travel expenses	5,940	155	356	6,451
Office costs	-	1,603	268	1,871
Courier & distribution of materials	32	6,518	694	7,244
Literature, brochures & information	57,944	26,080	6,561	90,585
Treatment by healthcare professionals	-	56,378	-	56,378
Hire of venue & facilities	4,924	16,255	52	21,231
Other branch payments	-	8,742	-	8,742
Third party technical providers	91,581	15,231	11,305	118,117
	<u>347,757</u>	<u>274,094</u>	<u>128,057</u>	<u>749,908</u>

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Every Patient Every Time 2021 £	A Connected and Supportive Community 2021 £	Empower, Inform and Inspire 2021 £	Governance costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Staff remuneration	5,825	5,825	7,489	6,658	25,797
Depreciation	1,905	1,429	1,389	-	4,723
Other staff costs	12,122	9,092	8,839	-	30,053
Premises costs	21,483	16,201	15,751	-	53,435
Travel expenses	767	575	559	118	2,019
IT and Communications	8,320	6,241	6,068	-	20,629
Office costs	2,568	1,926	1,872	-	6,366
Conference costs	(3,754)	1,801	1,751	-	(202)
Audit fees	-	-	-	7,200	7,200
Accountancy	1,820	1,365	1,327	-	4,512
Insurance, legal & professional	1,501	3,378	3,284	-	8,163
Other support costs	-	13,858	-	9,158	23,016
Bank charges	388	291	283	-	962
	<u>52,945</u>	<u>61,982</u>	<u>48,612</u>	<u>23,134</u>	<u>186,673</u>

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs (continued)

	<i>Every Patient Every Time 2020 £</i>	<i>A Connected and Supportive Community 2020 £</i>	<i>Empower, Inform and Inspire 2020 £</i>	<i>Governance costs 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Staff remuneration	21,426	16,370	12,446	3,093	53,335
Depreciation	1,819	1,390	1,057	-	4,266
Other staff costs	5,723	4,373	3,324	-	13,420
Premises costs	22,620	17,282	13,140	-	53,042
Travel expenses	73	56	43	-	172
IT and communications	10,900	8,328	6,332	-	25,560
Office costs	1,974	1,509	1,147	-	4,630
Conference costs	1,207	922	701	-	2,830
Audit fees	-	-	-	6,540	6,540
Accountancy	1,076	822	625	-	2,523
Insurance, legal & professional	9,186	7,018	5,336	2,660	24,200
Other governance costs	-	-	-	9,727	9,727
	<u>76,004</u>	<u>58,070</u>	<u>44,151</u>	<u>22,020</u>	<u>200,245</u>

10. Auditors' remuneration

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £7,200 (2020 - £7,200), and a fee for the preparation of the accounts of £2,400 (2020 - £ -).

11. Staff remuneration

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	401,585	371,831
Social security costs	39,451	44,586
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	95,673	76,206
	<u>536,709</u>	<u>492,623</u>

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

11. Staff remuneration (continued)

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	<i>2020 No.</i>
Employees	13	12

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2021 No.	<i>2020 No.</i>
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	-
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	-	1

In 2021, the gross salary of the CEO was £100,000 (2020: £100,431).

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2020 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2021, expenses totalling £353 were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 Trustees (2020 - £NIL). These expenses were in relation to travel expenses.

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2021	20,291
Additions	1,318
At 31 December 2021	21,609
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2021	9,588
Charge for the year	5,402
At 31 December 2021	14,990

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

13. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Office equipment £
Net book value	
At 31 December 2021	6,619
<i>At 31 December 2020</i>	10,703

14. Investment property

	Long term leasehold investment property £
Valuation	
At 1 January 2021	700,000
At 31 December 2021	700,000

Investment property comprises residential flats let. The fair value of the investment property has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out by the trustees. The valuation was made on an open market value basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties.

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

15. Fixed asset investments

	Other fixed asset investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2021	29,100
Revaluations	24,900
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2021	54,000
	<hr/> <hr/>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2021	54,000
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2020	29,100
	<hr/> <hr/>

16. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	23,622	6,458
Other debtors	85,361	116,500
Prepayments and accrued income	6,078	5,121
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	115,061	128,079
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	12,985	76,929
Other taxation and social security	18,510	22,242
Other creditors	1,249	29,224
Accruals and deferred income	16,027	75,507
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	48,771	203,902
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

18. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds - all funds	1,172,015	623,506	(725,272)	8,313	24,900	1,103,462
Restricted funds						
Branch funds	304,487	83,507	(80,910)	(8,313)	-	298,771
Branch Development Fund	5,127	-	(535)	-	-	4,592
Fergus Rogers Fund	2,052	-	-	-	-	2,052
Aspiring to Excellence	123,620	134,531	(108,513)	-	-	149,638
Cimzia Select Programme	150	-	-	-	-	150
National Lottery Fund	5,037	-	(5,037)	-	-	-
Ophthalmology/ Gastroenterology project	9,205	-	-	-	-	9,205
Self management programme	13,962	32,240	(30,961)	-	-	15,241
COVID-19	3,541	-	(3,541)	-	-	-
Gold Standard	1,458	251,722	(132,596)	-	-	120,584
Good Boost	11,755	4,662	(16,252)	-	-	165
APPG	-	28,000	(24,078)	-	-	3,922
NASS Voices	-	12,400	(10,407)	-	-	1,993
Round Table	-	11,900	-	-	-	11,900
	480,394	558,962	(412,830)	(8,313)	-	618,213
Total of funds	1,652,409	1,182,468	(1,138,102)	-	24,900	1,721,675

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2020 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2020 £</i>
Unrestricted funds				
General Funds - all funds	1,626,927	413,075	(867,987)	1,172,015
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Restricted funds				
Branch Funds	268,862	115,844	(80,219)	304,487
Branch development fund	5,211	-	(84)	5,127
Fergus Rogers Fund	2,416	-	(364)	2,052
Aspiring to Excellence	86,038	122,500	(84,918)	123,620
APPG	-	12,272	(12,272)	-
Cimzia Select Programme	-	150	-	150
National Lottery Fund	-	9,750	(4,713)	5,037
Ophthalmology/ Gastroenterology project	-	9,205	-	9,205
Self Management Programme	-	13,962	-	13,962
COVID-19	-	17,828	(14,287)	3,541
Gold Standard	-	98,700	(97,242)	1,458
Good Boost	-	16,277	(4,522)	11,755
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	362,527	416,488	(298,621)	480,394
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total of funds	<hr/> <hr/> 1,989,454	<hr/> <hr/> 829,563	<hr/> <hr/> (1,166,608)	<hr/> <hr/> 1,652,409

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

19. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
General funds	1,172,015	623,506	(725,272)	8,313	24,900	1,103,462
Restricted funds	480,394	558,962	(412,830)	(8,313)	-	618,213
	<u>1,652,409</u>	<u>1,182,468</u>	<u>(1,138,102)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,900</u>	<u>1,721,675</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2020 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2020 £</i>
General funds	1,626,927	413,075	(867,987)	1,172,015
Restricted funds	362,527	416,488	(298,621)	480,394
	<u>1,989,454</u>	<u>829,563</u>	<u>(1,166,608)</u>	<u>1,652,409</u>

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	6,619	6,619
Fixed asset investments	-	54,000	54,000
Investment property	-	700,000	700,000
Current assets	618,213	391,614	1,009,827
Creditors due within one year	-	(48,771)	(48,771)
Total	<u>618,213</u>	<u>1,103,462</u>	<u>1,721,675</u>

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

20. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	10,703	10,703
Fixed asset investments	-	29,100	29,100
Investment property	-	700,000	700,000
Current assets	480,394	636,115	1,116,509
Creditors due within one year	-	(203,901)	(203,901)
Total	<u>480,394</u>	<u>1,172,017</u>	<u>1,652,411</u>

21. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	69,266	(337,045)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	5,402	5,073
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(24,900)	28,700
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(25,029)	(26,434)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	-	14,440
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	13,018	17,878
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(155,131)	109,977
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(117,374)</u>	<u>(187,411)</u>

22. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash in hand	894,766	988,429
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>894,766</u>	<u>988,429</u>

NATIONAL AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS SOCIETY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	988,429	(93,663)	894,766
	<u>988,429</u>	<u>(93,663)</u>	<u>894,766</u>

24. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £6,488 (2020 - £8,937) payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and is included in creditors.

25. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2020: £Nil).