

S.A.F.E. ESSEX

Charity registration number 1188739

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

S.A.F.E. ESSEX

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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S.A.F.E. ESSEX

TRUSTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Legal and Administrative

Charity Number:

1188739

Date of Registration:

24th March 2020

Trustees:

D Norman (Chairman)

S Evennett (Secretary)

T Rennie (Treasurer)

K Bancroft

P Neale

F Potter

C Sorrell

N Spalding

Registered Address:

43 Buttercup Way,

Southminster,

Essex,

CM0 7RY



SAFE Annual Review of Activities

SAFE provides support for individuals on the autistic spectrum without learning disabilities and their families throughout the County of Essex including the Unitary Boroughs of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock. During 2023/24, SAFE modified its name to remove the term 'Asperger' and added a strapline under its new logo stating, 'Supporting Difference'.

In Memory of Carolann Jackson, Founding Chair & President of SAFE

It was with great sadness that during this year, SAFE lost its Founding Chair & President, Carolann Jackson. Carolann had a major impact on our community when she set up SAFE in 1997, the year her 14-year-old daughter Nita was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome (then, the official diagnosis of what is now referred to as Autistic Spectrum Disabilities). She created SAFE in the hope of meeting other families affected by Asperger's as there were no other services available for our special group of people. During her more than 20 years of active involvement with SAFE, Carolann worked tirelessly, volunteering her time and energy to lobby government (local, county, and national) to push for support for people with Asperger's. After her daughter left school, and with no specialised services in sight for adults, she created ASAP – Asperger's Syndrome Adults and Parents, to specifically address issues adults on the spectrum were facing such as difficulties around finding employment, housing, and meaningful relationships. ASAP continues through the leadership of SAFE member Edgar Marshall and offers our community the chance to bridge the gap with activities for those who wish to socialise together and seek help. Carolann will be missed by all, and especially by her daughter Nita.

Membership

The SAFE membership stood at 66 families representing 74 people on the autistic spectrum disorder. Approximately 84% of those members were in the 18+ age group and 38% live in the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea or Thurrock.

Members are provided practical, emotional, and information-based support at regular meetings and enjoy monthly SAFE Newsletters and ad hoc emails specifically geared to pass on relevant items of interest to adults on the spectrum and families. SAFE advocates for the needs of people on the spectrum both at local and national levels. Monthly newsletters are produced for its members with vital information about its activities and other services on offer for our community group.

Ongoing activities and projects

SAFE STUFF continues to meet fortnightly with activities around the county. The core group during this year included a total of **87 children** attending. The age group increased to 11-16 with 3 members taking their GCSE's this year and finishing secondary school with the older participants, having been members of SAFE STUFF for many years. Over the year, the core group of SAFE STUFF members has been low with a couple of children attending on a trial basis throughout. A combination of exams as well as other social activities including theatre school have reduced attendance this year. There have been no new, younger children joining regularly. Parents and their children stay in touch via a WhatsApp group to offer each other support and advice and friendships also exist outside of SAFE STUFF. Those attending have enjoyed **20 sessions in total**, spread across Essex. This was Lyann's

last season with SAFE STUFF, having coordinated the group for 4 years. A new coordinator, Lesley Barnes will begin her Co-ordinating role in September 2024.

Activities enjoyed during the past year included:

- Walks with Essex Wildlife Trust: Bat Walk, Woodland Activities & South Hanningfield Nature Reserve
- Fairplay House - Canoeing on the Chelmer
- Ceramics on the Hop Writtle - Pottery painting
- Walks and Geocaching at Hylands Park
- Playing a range of Board games at Geek Retreat
- Playing 10 pin bowling at CJ Bowling
- Coffee & Cake, Music making & chilling at Time & Space
- Return visit to Rio Cinema Burnham to watch a Disney film
- Mini golf at Meadow Croft South Woodham Ferrers
- Walk around Old Leigh in Leigh on Sea

We are grateful to the Sir Alastair & Patricia Stewart Fund for supporting SAFE STUFF activities. Some memorable quotes from the outings included:

- *We really enjoyed this morning, Thanks (Belfairs EWT)*
- *Thanks, J & I had a lovely time (Belfairs EWT)*
- *It's so lovely to have a bit of warmth and sunshine! A lovely morning, kids had a great time (Hylands Park)*

SAFE Youth Club continued to meet monthly during 2023/24, with Katie Ringer taking up the voluntary role of leading the group in January 2024, following Clive Matthews stepping down after over 10 years of leading the group. The new group met twice between February and March 2024 and involved two families with a total of 3 young people participating in the activities booked: laser tag and augmented reality darts.

The Alpha Sigma Delta (ASD) Group supports autistic girls from Yr 6 up to 18 years and enables them and their parents to come together on a regular basis to make friends and form lasting relationships in a safe and friendly environment. The group was created at the request of parents who struggled to find an activity that was suited to their daughter, rather than the more boy-centric activity groups available. The group now includes in excess of 30 families with its reach extending beyond the girls and young women as it also includes their parents.

When meeting in person sessions vary in number of participants, but on average the group involves at least 12-15 attendees, girls and their parents attend different sessions according to their personal circumstances but stay in touch via a WhatsApp group. On Zoom there are a smaller number of regulars (around 4-6) who are unable to attend in person. Here is some feedback about this group:

- *I see the girls who struggle with communication & friendship become friends & how they change & grow into adults better able to manage, due to the support with education & navigating systems that have not been working for them.*
- *The group has been an absolute lifeline for me and E. When we first came to the group at Time & Space in Jan 22, E had been out of school for several months and had hardly spoken to anyone her own age. That evening she tentatively sat with two other girls, and they chatted and giggled for over an hour. Since then, we've tried to come whenever possible. For quite a while the group formed her only social life and she really appreciated the friendships she'd made at the group. The parents have got an active WhatsApp group and that too has been a lifeline for offloading or asking for advice. Without the group, I have no idea how we'd have met so many girls and parents in the same situation and it certainly meant that we both felt a lot less lonely, especially when E had to give up school.*

The **SAFE SPA** (Social Participation for Adults) group met virtually on a weekly basis via Zoom with a core number of around 6 adults who meet in person and in addition to these, a further 4-6 meet up via Zoom. The group is funded by the Southend Community Investment Board and Rosca.

The **SAFE Women's Group** also met weekly via Zoom and in person once a month in Great Baddow. This group has been running for around eight years and has a membership of 30 women. The in-person group regularly sees around 18 of these women attending at different times with an average of 12 per session; others prefer to meet up on Zoom or chat within the WhatsApp group.

ASAP - SAFE's regular support group meetings for parents of children and for parents and adult members aged 18+ continues to meet monthly at the Chapter House in Chelmsford. One of ASAP's Members Edgar Marchall has been instrumental in organising the relaunch and keeping in touch with members via a WhatsApp group.

SAFE 18+ was introduced as a social event for young adults wishing to meet monthly at an exclusive-use venue in Southend. Card games, chatting or just relaxing with a drink, members could meet others in the wider autistic community. Since launching, we have around 12-15 members taking part at Anke's Cafe in Westcliff. Some of these young people do not leave the home except for this group and have found a safe space in which they can be themselves and make friends.

SAFE Achievement Awards - Each year, with support from the Jack Petchey Foundation, SAFE awards two members with a diagnosis of autism without a learning disability, or are waiting for one, who has had a significant achievement during the year. Each Achievement Award given annually at our AGM, are given a cup, certificate and a cheque for £50. At last year's AGM, the winners were: Jamie Irwin for the Under 18 Award, and Alan Marriage for the 18+ Award.

Website and advocacy

SAFE has a new logo and website designed on a pro bono basis by Emily Hewitt from **I Am Emily** - <https://www.iamemily.co.uk/>. SAFE is grateful to Emily for providing this significant in-kind support. Once the website is finalised, SAFE will set out a campaign to advertise the launch of the new website, and the range of activities available to members, as a way of attracting new members. SAFE's presence on Facebook continues including posts concerning autism without a learning disability; there are now **1.5k people regularly 'following' the SAFE Facebook page**. Here is a selection of feedback received:

- *SAFE offered essential post-diagnosis support. SAFE was the first place that I found support following my daughter's late diagnosis of Autism. We had struggled with various difficulties over her lifetime & had invariably been dismissed.*
- *The support groups have also been invaluable to us as a family. Through these I have met other parents & people on similar journeys who have also become friends.*
- *We now have others to talk to and share our experiences My husband and I felt totally alone and thought we were the only ones facing such problems with our son. But having met so many lovely people at your meetings who are in the same situation, we now have others to talk to and share our experiences. (From parents of a 40-year-old man)*
- *SAFE is one of the few local groups able to help parents and young people. It is a real-life saver. The parents in the group form friendships that help them cope better with their young people and the pressures that they as adults have as a result of having a child with such need. It is a truly great group. (From a parent of a 15-year-old girl)*

Fundraising

The Trustees would like to thank our volunteers who have helped to run our activities and, also our generous donors, charitable bodies and corporate organisation who have given us the funds and resources to enable us to provide the activities for our members. We were delighted that during the year, two SAFE members ran Facebook fundraising campaigns in aid of SAFE: Fern Potter raised £548, and Rob Curly through his bungee jump raising £345. Other funders during the past year include:

- Community 360
- Easy Fundraising
- Give as You Live Ltd
- Essex Community Foundation
- Fowler, Smith, Jones
- Groundwork UK – TE GWUK
- Jack Petchey Foundation
- I Am Emily (pro-bono support for new website)
- Marconi
- The Masons - Essex Mark Province
- Pam Matthews ASD
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Provide Fund
- Rosca Trust
- Sir Alistair & Patricia Stewart Fund
- Southend Community Investment Board
- Tesco Community Grant

Future Development

During the past year, the Executive took on board comments from members about changing the name of our charity from SUPPORTING ASPERGER FAMILIES IN ESSEX to SAFE, with a strapline ‘Supporting Difference’ to reflect the fact that diagnoses of Aspergers Syndrome are no longer being made. The new name was launched with a new look logo and a promotional campaign about our work with be a priority to implement in the coming year. The Executive believes with greater profile, SAFE will be able to increase its membership to previous levels, particularly among those who have younger children diagnosed on the spectrum.

Alongside the promotional campaign, SAFE will focus on recruiting new members to its Executive, to ensure smooth running of the charity. Without a strong Executive, SAFE will be limited in what it can achieve. Members are strongly asked to consider whether they may be willing to join the Executive to safeguard the charity’s future.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

S.A.F.E. ESSEX (SUPPORTING ASPERGER FAMILIES IN ESSEX)

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1188739

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 31/03/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

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

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

Signed:

DA Robb

Date: 27/01/2025

Name:

David Robb

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

Associate of the Chartered Governance Institute
Affiliate member Association of Charity Independent Examiners
MBA

Address:

33 Clatterfield Gardens

Westcliff on Sea

SS0 0AU

S.A.F.E. ESSEX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £
Incoming resources				
Donations and legacies	2	114	-	114
Charitable activities	3	1,259	37,006	38,265
Total incoming resources		1,373	37,006	38,379
Resources expended				
Charitable activities	4	3,123	34,010	37,133
Expenditure on raising funds	5	523	-	523
Total resources expended		3,646	34,010	37,656
Net incoming (outgoing) resources		(2,273)	2,996	723
Transfer between funds		(152)	153	1
Net movement in funds		(2,425)	3,149	724
Total funds brought forward		16,400	13,053	29,453
Total funds carried forward		13,975	16,202	30,177

Notes on pages 6 to 9 form an integral part of these financial statements.

S.A.F.E. ESSEX

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	6	309
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		29,868
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		-
Net current assets/(liabilities)		30,177
Net assets		30,177
Funds of the charity		
Restricted funds		16,201
Unrestricted funds		13,976
Total funds		30,177

Approved by the trustees on 20/11/2024 and signed on their behalf by:



TIM RENNIE

TRUSTEE

S.A.F.E. ESSEX

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1.1 Basis of the preparation of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement on 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2011.

S.A.F.E. Essex (Supporting Asperger Families in Essex) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Cash Flow

The financial statements do not include a cash flow statement because the charity, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 1 "Cash flow statements".

1.2 Income recognition

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.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either; the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed as material.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the Friends is not recognised and refer to the Trustees' Annual Report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain these services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1.3 Expenditure recognition

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 benefit will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity.

1.4 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected life as follows:

Equipment -11 years

1.5 Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds:

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds:

These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

1.6 Merger

S.A.F.E Essex (Supporting Asperger Families in Essex) registered as a CIO in March 2020. In April 2020 the charity merged with S.A.F.E Essex (Supporting Asperger Families in Essex), charity number 1095075, in which month the operations, assets and liabilities of £10,882 were transferred to the Charity with no consideration paid. The assets and liabilities were included in incoming resources at their fair values at date of transfer. There has been no material fair value adjustments from book value.

2. Donations and legacies

Donations
Grants

Unrestricted	Restricted	2024
£	£	£
114	-	114
-	-	-
114	-	114

S.A.F.E. ESSEX

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024
	£	£	£
Membership fees	1,259	-	1,259
Grants		37,006	37,006
	1,259	37,006	38,265

Costs of charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024
	£	£	£
ASAP	-	1,922	1,922
SAFE SPA	-	3,500	3,500
Safe Womens Group	-	3,505	3,505
Safe 18+	-	882	882
SAFE STUFF (Activities)	-	2,868	2,868
SAFE STUFF (Facilitator Costs)	-	247	247
SAFE STUFF PLUS	-	247	247
Girls and Parents Group (ASD)	-	6,757	6,757
Hub Club 2 C	-	-	-
Face to Face	-	13,646	13,646
Achievement Awards	-	436	436
Advocacy	1,211	-	1,211
Admin (Ins., Post, Tel.)	995	-	995
Trustees/ Committee Expenditure	361	-	361
Volunteer Education & Training	281	-	281
Development	-	-	-
Misc. Expenses	198	-	198
Depreciation	77	-	77
	3,123	34,010	37,133

Governance costs:

Audit and accountancy	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	3,123	34,010	37,133

Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024
	£	£	£
Fundraising costs	523	-	523
	523	-	523

S.A.F.E. ESSEX

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. Tangible fixed assets

Equipment

Cost

As at 1st April 2023

£

1,350

Additions

-

As at 31st March 2024

1,350

Depreciation

As at 1st April 2023

964

Charge for the year

77

As at 31st March 2024

1,041

Net book value

As at 31st March 2024

309

As at 31st March 2023

386

7. Fund analysis

	Balance as at 01/04/2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance as at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
SAFE SPA	-		(3,500)	3,500	-
SAFE STUFF (Activities) Costs	-		(3,115)	3,115	-
Girls and Parents Group (ASD)	2,030	700	(6,757)	4,027	-
Hub Club 1 S	-				-
Hub Club 2 C	-				-
Safe Stuff Plus (SAFE South)	-		(247)	247	-
Safe Women's Group	-		(3,505)	3,505	-
Face to Face	-	500	(13,646)	13,146	-
ASAP	4,057	300	(1,923)	1	2,435
Safe 18+	-	8,194	(882)		7,312
Andrea - Southend Work	1,977	23,512		(24,178)	1,311
Achievement Awards	3,779	1,800	(436)		5,143
Unallocated	1,210	2,000		(3,210)	-
Total Restricted Funds	13,053	37,006	(34,011)	153	16,201
Unrestricted Funds	16,400	1,373	(3,645)	(152)	13,976
Total Funds	29,453	38,379	(37,656)	1	30,177