AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

England & Wales · Charity number 1191599

Details

Other names	ACE, AUTISM CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE, AUTISM ACTION
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	12435820
Registered	2020-10-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	NEC Charity Hub Byron House Cambridge Business Park Cowley Road Cambridge CB4 0WZ
Phone	01223603146
Email	info@autismcentreofexcellence.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY ARE TO PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING, AND ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF AUTISTIC PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES BY:2.1 PROVIDING OR ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF CLINICAL AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES FOR AUTISTIC PEOPLE OR PEOPLE WITH ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL OR BEHAVIOURAL CONDITIONS AND THEIR FAMILIES;2.2 ADVANCING THE EDUCATION, TRAINING OR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH PEOPLE AND ADVANCING THE EDUCATION OF OTHERS IN AUTISM, ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL OR BEHAVIOURAL CONDITIONS; AND 2.3 THE ENCOURAGEMENT, SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF RESEARCH INTO AUTISM AND RELATED SUBJECTS (AND THE PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH), IN PARTICULAR WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING NEW AND VALIDATED METHODS FOR ASSESSMENT, INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT.

Activities: We commission breakthrough research, working with the world's leading academics, and bring it together with the real-life experiences of autistic people to build evidence that can't be ignored. We involve autistic people at every step and undertake action to improve support for autistic people in the areas that matter most to them; mental health, quality of life, and health and wellbeing.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£262,970	£650,736	-	-
2024-06-30	£414,673	£1,493,438	-	-
2023-06-30	£886,127	£809,752	£2,440,063	5
2022-06-30	£911,175	£579,512	£2,363,688	3
2021-06-30	£2,066,366	£34,341	£2,032,025	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Fraser Hardie	Chair	2021-04-01
Andrew James Buisson		2020-01-01
Anna Maria Lewy		2020-01-01
Dr LEWIS OWENS		2020-01-01
Elias Sakellis		2020-10-30
Elizabeth Norah Binks		2020-01-01
Iain Vyvyan Pocock		2020-01-01
Prof Jason Atta Kwei Arday		2024-03-30

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AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

England & Wales - Charity number 1191599

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 12435820 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1191599

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

FOR

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRADING AS AUTISM ACTION

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
TRADING AS AUTISM ACTION

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
TRADING AS AUTISM ACTION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

This year marked the first steps of our journey under our new name and identity - Autism Action. We changed our name to reflect our purpose more clearly: to turn research and data into action that improves autistic people's lives. Under our new brand, we have made strong progress in making this ambition real.

Deep collaboration with the autism community is at the heart of our work. Across the year, we created more than 10,000 participation moments for autistic people and their families to directly shape our work, influence campaigns and contribute to research. This took the form of surveys and focus groups to shape our campaigns and other activities and participation in research. We have strengthened our commitment to transparency and genuine collaboration through investment in a Community Engagement Lead, ensuring every consultation is meaningful and that people receive clear feedback on how their input has shaped our work. Our Community Advisory Panel, which is comprised of autistic people and supporters who commit to inputting to our work on an ongoing basis, has now grown to over 1,200 members.

Our innovations in collaboration have driven several pieces of high-profile and important work. During the year the House of Lords organised a scrutiny committee to examine the Autism Act 2009 and its impact. Sixteen years on, many autistic people remain in significant need of support. Our CEO, Tom Purser, gave evidence on autism, mental health and suicide. We also ensured that Dr Rachel Moseley, one of our principal research partners, could present her research on autism and suicide prevention.

During the public consultation phase, we mobilised our community. 5,096 people contributed to our survey, more than contributed directly to the House of Lords' public consultation, ensuring autistic people's priorities were placed at the centre of the process. This included the views of 946 parents and carers of autistic people with a learning disability, a group of people often under-represented in public consultations.

We also supported the NHS consultation on its future plans. We held five "NHS Change" sessions, involving 59 autistic people, including an easy-read session to ensure accessibility for those who might otherwise struggle to take part. Our work in adapting the consultation materials will inform how we approach future consultations.

We presented evidence on autism and suicide at the United Nations in Geneva, contributing to the examination of the UK's obligations under the UN Convention on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights.

Our suicide prevention research programme, the largest of its kind in the UK, has begun to report important findings. Sharing these insights to shape policy and services is a core aim of the charity. To support this we held a major event in Parliament, attended by more than 100 organisations, including parliamentarians, researchers, bereaved families and people with lived experience. Chaired by Peter Swallow MP, the event featured Professor Sir Simon Baron-Cohen, Baroness Browning, Dr Rachel Moseley, Lisa Wolff (Mum and advocate for Abbi Smith, forever 26) and our CEO, Tom Purser. Together, they set out our research insights into autism and suicide and the urgent actions required.

Following this, we have begun to turn research into action in the following ways:

- Autism has been reconfirmed as a priority category within the new government's suicide prevention strategy.

- Autism Action has joined the refreshed National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group, meeting with the Minister responsible for suicide prevention.

- We continue to support the Office for National Statistics with its data harmonisation programme, ensuring national datasets capture autistic people's experiences appropriately.

- We have highlighted findings from the National Child Mortality Database, which reported that the most common category of death among autistic children without a learning disability is suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm, accounting for 35% of deaths. Our collaboration with NCMD is ongoing as we seek deeper insights from their vital dataset.

Alongside suicide prevention, we have turned our attention to other preventable deaths and to the systemic failures that continue to impede meaningful learning.

The Lampard Inquiry, the UK's first statutory investigation into inpatient mental health services, is examining more than 2,000 deaths in Essex over 25 years. We believe many of those who died were autistic, though official data is often inadequate. We have engaged closely with the inquiry, ensuring autism is addressed. As a result of our efforts, the Chair, Baroness Lampard, has appointed a neurodiversity lead. We have supported bereaved families preparing to give evidence, including enabling one parent to meet with the Secretary of State for Health, Wes Streeting.

We also conducted a full analysis of the LeDeR ("Learning from Lives and Deaths") process, the primary mechanism through which local and national systems are meant to learn from preventable deaths. Our findings prompted us to build a coalition calling for urgent reform. By June 2025, more than 250 organisations, bereaved parents and supporters had signed our letter to the Secretary of State for Health calling for publication of the delayed LeDeR report and a complete overhaul of the system.

Our work is not only about shaping government policy. Where we see gaps in support, we act. We partner with established organisations to achieve scale and impact in a short time.

This year we have strengthened the evidence base for support and interventions, developed existing supports to make them more accessible and started work to develop new support services. All of these will help provide support for autistic people in crisis who are experiencing suicidality. Our commitment is to saving lives.

- We contributed research to the NHS' "Staying Safe from Suicide" guidance, now being implemented across the NHS in England. This best practice guidance for safety assessment, formulation and management of care will be used by all mental health practitioners in England, working in both community and inpatient settings, and supporting people of all ages.

- We continued supporting Nottingham University's Autism Adapted Safety Plans, the only autism-specific suicide-prevention intervention with an evidence base. These plans have already been downloaded more than 10,000 times, a figure we will now be working to increase.

- We funded analysis and evaluation of the TellMi digital mental health support service to help them secure future growth. More than 6,000 young people use TellMi every month.

- We partnered with Brain in Hand to help grow and enhance their service and strengthen mental health support for autistic people. Brain in Hand is an innovative support service that helps autistic and ADHD people achieve more at work, in education and in life, managing anxiety, depression and other challenges. We have supported members of our Community Advisory Panel to guide the development of new features and content within the service.

A major milestone has been the development of Lifelines - a leading crisis-support project built with partners across the UK. No existing crisis service has been designed with autistic people's needs in mind. This leaves many people without appropriate support and service providers struggling to provide the right service. Lifelines will use research, expertise and extensive community insight to help national services improve what they deliver. Our first confirmed partner is PAPYRUS - Prevention of Young Suicide. We have already secured £50,000 to support the first partnership and are launching a fundraising campaign to build a £1,000,000 fund to enable long-term roll-out of the model.

In June we received notice, and in July formal confirmation, that Sport England would fund our project to increase autistic people's inclusion in sport, physical activity and leisure. Over the past two years we have built the Active Autism Alliance, a coalition of charities and major sporting bodies including British Cycling, the England and Wales Cricket Board, Parkwood Leisure, Neurodiverse Sport and State of Life. Through our partnership supported by Sport England, we will break down long-standing barriers to participation, aiming to improve inclusion for thousands of autistic and other neurodivergent people in the first two years, and then rolling out to reach millions of people in Phase 2.

The five-year programme is built on extensive consultation and co-production with autistic people. Phase 1 will map the problem and build the evidence base. Phase 2 will design and test solutions with autistic people and their families, ready for confident national rollout. We thank Sport England for their support and the many partners committed to delivering change with us.

We are building an evidence base, forging partnerships and developing new initiatives to increase job opportunities for autistic people. During the year we established our Autism Employment Network as an online space to support those organisations already employing autistic people. Through this we provided resources, signposted to funding opportunities and arranges a series of support webinars with experts on topics including crowdfunding, accessing social finance and influencing central government.

Over the course of the year we empowered autistic people to have their say on the Government's Green Paper 'Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working'. We hosted members of our Autism Employment Network and Lord Touhig, Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Autism, in an online session about Access to Work and other common challenges being faced by the supported employment sector.

We have communicated the challenges autistic people face in the workplace and the solutions to those. Our CEO chaired a conference with Westminster Insight which brought together employers and support organisations to explore workplace adaptations and was featured on Radio 4's Today Programme discussing the Government's review of the employment support system. To guide the next phase of our work we have begun to design a piece of research which will identify the barriers that autistic people and employers are facing around making reasonable adjustments in the workplace.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

We continue to maintain strong links to key universities who undertake research in the area of autism, including, but not limited to, the University of Cambridge, University of Nottingham and University of Bournemouth; I thank them for their support and work to advance knowledge and understanding of autism.

Donations this year totalled £215,981, up from £130,500 last year. These comprised:

Legacy donations	£97,500
Suicide Prevention (restricted donations)	£50,240
Corporate donations (unrestricted)	£47,426
Trusts and Foundations donations	£10,000
JustGiving donations	£2,929
Individual donations	£2,851
GC donations	£2,556
Grant donations	£1,113
Gift Aid and small donations	£1,366
Grant and donations income (SOFA)	£215,981

The majority of our expenditure has been on projects that create impact for autistic people's lives in line with the following:

Community Engagement	£122,893
Pathways to Employment	£102,200
Fundraising	£92,406
Suicide Prevention	£73,771
Governance	£48,588
Data & Lobbying	£44.338
Research	£15,037
Sport	£12,052
Lifelines	£10,537
Health and Well Being	£1,000
	£522,822

Finally, I want to thank our trustees, who give their expertise and commitment so generously, our donors who provide the funding we need to drive positive impacts and our community members and supporters, who live the reality of inadequate support for autistic people they inspire our work every day. We remain determined to fight for change and to deliver the progress autistic people deserve.

F M Hardie - Trustee

28 January 2026

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and wellbeing, and advance the education of autistic people and their families by:

- providing or assisting in the provision of clinical and social care services for autistic people or people with associated communication, social or behavioural conditions and their families.

- advancing the education, training or employment opportunities for such people and advancing the education of others in autism, associated communication, social or behavioural conditions; and

- the encouragement, support and promotion of research into autism and related subjects (and the publication and dissemination of the useful results of such research), in particular with a view to developing new and validated methods for assessment, intervention and treatment.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant-making policies for the charity.

Grantmaking

The charity publishes research funding opportunities as open calls via autismaction.org.uk. These are open to applicants at UK-based research institutions. Potential applicants are given at least three weeks from the date of the call to make an initial expression of interest. These are reviewed by a subgroup of Trustees who use the criteria specified in the published call to select those they would like to proceed to full applications. At least two weeks are then allowed for preparation of full applications, which must include the following:

- Details of research questions, methodology, expected analysis and type of results to be delivered.
- Rationale for how the research could be translated into relevant impact for autistic people. The translation itself will usually be outside of the remit of the research study, but applications should include a proposed pathway to impact.
- Details of lead applicant from a UK-based research institution and any other researcher(s) involved.
- At least two proposed scientific peer reviewers.
- Clear timescales and budget breakdown.
- Evidence or track-record of delivering similarly scaled projects on time and on budget.
- Evidence that the proposed research would be world-class, novel, timely, and good value for money.

Within approximately two weeks of the deadline, a subgroup of Trustees will review these applications and select a shortlist to proceed to scientific peer review. Peer reviewers are asked to declare any conflicts of interest. One independent peer reviewer is required for grants of £60,000 or under, and two for grants over this amount. Recommendations for making awards are made by the subgroup of Trustees and final decisions are at the discretion of the Board. Decisions will take into account scientific peer review, best use of funds, scientific quality of applications, potential to lead to impact, clarity of timescale, budget, deliverables and evidence of ability to deliver the proposed project.

Conflicted trustees are excluded from the approval process.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE
Charitable activities

Our Achievements this year

This year marked the first phase of our transition to our new identity, Autism Action. The change of name was a significant organisational milestone, reflecting a clearer purpose: to turn research and data into action that improves autistic people's lives. Under this new brand, the team has made meaningful progress in embedding this purpose across our work. I am grateful to trustees for their support, input and contributions through this process.

Strengthening Community Collaboration

Over the past year, more than 10,000 autistic people and family members engaged with our work - shaping programmes, informing campaigns and contributing to research. We continue to develop a culture of transparency and genuine collaboration, supported by the new Community Engagement Lead, who is ensuring every consultation provides clear feedback and measurable influence on our decisions. Our Community Advisory Panel has now grown to over 1,200 members, creating a long-term relationship for deeper, more representative collaboration.

We mobilised our community effectively during the House of Lords review of the Autism Act. More than 5,000 autistic people completed our survey - more than the rest of the consultation combined - ensuring our evidence was centred on lived experience. Our CEO provided oral evidence on autism, mental health and suicide, and we supported Dr Rachel Moseley to present her research on autism and suicide prevention.

We also worked closely with NHS England during its consultation on future plans, holding five "NHS Change" sessions with 59 autistic people, including an easy-read version to widen access.

Advancing National Influence and System Reform

Internationally, we presented evidence at the United Nations in Geneva on autism and suicide, contributing to scrutiny of the UK's obligations under the UN Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In Parliament, we convened a major event attended by parliamentarians, researchers, bereaved families and partners from across the sector. The event was chaired by Peter Swallow MP and featured Professor Sir Simon Baron-Cohen, Baroness Browning, Dr Rachel Moseley, Lisa Wolff and our CEO. This has strengthened our credibility as a national leader in autism and suicide prevention.

Following this work, we have begun to see our research translated into action:

- Autism reconfirmed as a priority category for suicide prevention within the new government strategy.
- Autism Action joining the refreshed National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Office for National Statistics on data harmonisation.

We also highlighted findings from the National Child Mortality Database showing that 35% of deaths among autistic children without a learning disability were due to suicide or self-inflicted harm - a stark figure that continues to drive our focus on preventable deaths.

In parallel, we have expanded our work to address other preventable deaths and systemic failures in learning. Our engagement with the Lampard Inquiry - examining mental health inpatient deaths in Essex - has ensured autism is properly considered. We secured the appointment of a neurodiversity lead within the Inquiry and supported bereaved families preparing to give evidence.

Our analysis of the LeDeR process led us to build a coalition for urgent reform. By June 2025, more than 250 organisations, bereaved parents and supporters had signed our call for publication of the delayed LeDeR report and a fundamental overhaul of the system. This work will continue.

Delivering Practical Support and Scaling Evidence-Based Interventions

Our work this year has focused not only on shaping government policy, but also on filling critical gaps in support. We have prioritised scalable, evidence-led interventions that can quickly improve frontline support for autistic people in crisis.

This included contributing research to the NHS's Staying Safe for Suicide guidance; supporting Nottingham University's Autism-Adapted Safety Plans, now downloaded over 10,000 times; funding analysis of the TellMi digital mental health service; and working with Brain in Hand to enhance their service.

A major milestone this year was the development of Lifelines, our crisis-support partnership model. We secured our first national partner - PAPYRUS - Preventing Young Suicide - and £50,000 in initial funding. We will shortly launch a fundraising campaign to build a £1 million fund to support long-term rollout.

We secured Sport England funding for our programme to increase autistic inclusion in sport, building on our Active Autism Alliance. Phase 1 will map the problem and build the evidence base; Phase 2 will design and test solutions for national rollout. Through our partnership supported by Sport England, we will break down long-standing barriers to participation, aiming to improve inclusion for thousands of autistic and other neurodivergent people in the first two years, and then rolling out to reach millions of people in Phase 2.

We also recruited an Employment Lead who is now developing our employment programme, strengthening the evidence base and forming new partnerships. During the year we established our Autism Employment Network through which we provided resources, signposted to funding opportunities and arranges a series of support webinars with experts on topics including crowdfunding, accessing social finance and influencing central government.

We have started to communicate the challenges autistic people face in the workplace and the solutions to those including Our CEO chaired a conference with Westminster Insight which brought together employers and support organisations to explore workplace adaptations and was featured on Radio 4's Today Programme discussing the Government's review of the employment support system. We have begun to design a piece of research which will identify the barriers that autistic people and employers are facing around making reasonable adjustments in the workplace to guide the next phase of this work.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

At 30 June 2025 the charity had total net assets of £973,532 made up of £199,807 restricted net assets and unrestricted net assets of £773,725.

During the financial period the charity reported a deficit of (£387,766) of which (£412,980) was the unrestricted deficit and £25,214 was the restricted surplus.

During the financial period, the charity received donations amounting to £215,981, some of which form part of the unrestricted reserves. This is up from £130,500 last year. These comprised:

Legacy donations	£97,500
Suicide Prevention (restricted donations)	£50,240
Corporate donations (unrestricted)	£47,426
Trusts and Foundations donations	£10,000
JustGiving donations	£2,929
Individual donations	£2,851
GC donations	£2,556
Grant donations	£1,113
Gift Aid and small donations	£1,366
Grant and donations income (SOFA)	£215,981

FINANCIAL REVIEW

What we funded

The majority of our expenditure has been on projects that create impact for autistic people's lives in line with the following:

Community Engagement	£122,893
Pathways to Employment	£102,200
Fundraising	£92,406
Suicide Prevention	£73,771
Governance	£48,588
Data & Lobbying	£44.338
Research	£15,037
Sport	£12,052
Lifelines	£10,537
Health and Well Being	£1,000
	£522,822

Investment policy and objectives

Reserves of the charity are invested in short term deposits in reputable UK financial institutions. These are held on a short-term basis as the trustees intend to access funds to ensure the agreed priority projects can be pursued as part of the strategic and business plan.

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in an unrestricted fund that covers support, operational and governance costs for twelve months.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees consider and assess the risks to which the charity is potentially exposed and have established systems and procedures to review and manage those risks. The Finance and Risk sub-Committee review and assess all risks and put in place suitable and sufficient measures to mitigate the risk. This information is then recorded on the Risk Register and reported to Trustees at quarterly board meetings for discussion and agreement.

The main risks facing the charity are considered to be:	Description	Management
Risk Financial: Failure to meet fundraising targets and identify long term funding streams	Failure to fundraise for all projects currently being planned could reduce the ambitious impact Autism Action is aiming to have.	- Review of Development Board to ensure effectiveness - Ongoing careful stewardship of existing prospects - Identification of potential funding sources for range of priority business plan projects - Ongoing funding requirements identified at start of projects - Prudent reserves policy to ensure nom activity halted in an unplanned manner - Staff team with appropriate skills and experience - Steps have been taken to reduce programmes staff headcount - Programme of events and pipeline of donors - Potential investment in additional income generation capacity
Risk External: Competition and distinctiveness	Risks that the charity would fail to differentiate itself from other autism charities and fail to attract support and income as a result	-Build structural distinctiveness, such as by being the most collaborative autism charity, to demonstrate difference - Focus on delivery to create clear track record of success - Focus on issues other autism charities are not, or from a distinctive angle - Maintain relationships with other autism charities to coordinate activity -Investment in strong new brand - Utilise connection to Cambridge Univ.and wider research community

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Main Risks	Description	Management
Risk Strategic: Strategic direction	The charity lacks an appropriate strategic direction or focus that is in tune with the evolving needs and business/operating environment	- Regular strategic input by the Board and individual - Informed by Community Advisory Plan - Strategic Priorities already established; will be delivered with focus - Post-rebrand will publish long term strategy
Risk Reputational: Reputational risks may arise through the delivery of our activities with our key audience	With the Autism Community	- Community Advisory Panel and collaboration - For any potentially controversial research, clear, transparent communication about how, why and what is funded - Learning from past events - Clear communication about how and when more controversial research was funded
Risk Reputational: Reputational risks may arise through the delivery of our activities with our key audiences	With existing funders and wider funding community, particularly given changes in direction. Some funders remain unclear on the relationship with University of Cambridge.	- Investment in Director of Fundraising to delivery regular communication through email, phone calls, reports and events, supported by the Head of Communications staff - CEO conversations with other recent funders to explain the changes in direction - Use rebrand to communicate changes and progress
Risk Reputational: Brand awareness	Risk that we will not grow our reputation and brand awareness as quickly as we want, or may experience negative PR	- New staff, trustees and partners will be briefed on the charity and guidance on communication will be given - Rebrand to ensure our reputation and profile can grow in the way we intend - Post-rebrand communications plan to ensure regular pipeline of content, media activity and activities - This has now led to a regular set of brand content and coverage - Investment in communications

FUTURE PLANS

Our Vision

A world where autistic people are understood, accepted and valued. A world where they can thrive, free from unnecessary hardship and discrimination.

Our Mission

To make life better for all autistic people by identifying and driving the big changes that are needed across society.

Our Approach

Evidence-based collaboration to drive change

There is no single or simple answer to a problem of this size. Our approach is to tackle the issues in carefully targeted ways, addressing the root causes wherever possible so that our actions have maximum impact.

Most importantly, we talk to community members and groups about the changes they want to see and how they can be part of driving those changes - we want to see our communities and our charity sector move past the current state of disempowerment. We need a strong community, and strong charities, working together on the many different aspects of the same underlying problem. None of us can do this alone.

We also work in partnership with those who can make change happen as quickly as possible. For example if evidence shows gaps in support, we identify organisations we can work with to fill those gaps faster, rather than waiting for others to act. We work to improve and scale up successful and promising approaches, squeezing maximum impact from the good practice already being done by so many.

And we campaign from a position of authority, working with autistic people and their families to mobilise action and send strong messages to those who have the power to make change happen, whether that's the Government, the NHS or the systems that impact autistic people's daily lives. We are unafraid to challenge the status quo and to push for action.

High quality evidence must underpin all of this work. By commissioning breakthrough research, working with the world's leading academics, including Cambridge University's Autism Research Centre, and bringing that together with the real-life experiences of autistic people, we're building evidence that empowers the community, guides our work, and - quite simply - can't be ignored.

We will continue to focus on five key areas under which projects will be developed and co-designed with autistic people, their allies and supporters:

Research

Suicide Prevention & Preventable Deaths

Sport & Physical Activity

Data & Lobbying

Pathways to Employment

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and wellbeing and advance the education of autistic people and their families.

Charity constitution

Autism Action is the working name for the Autism Centre of Excellence (ACE) which is a registered charity (charity no. 1191599). It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company no. 12435820), whose registered office is at Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, CB2 8AH. The charity was incorporated on 31st January 2020, and it was registered with the Charity Commission on 2nd October 2020. These financial statements are the financial statements for the third accounting period, during which the emphasis of the trustees has been to develop the charity further so that it can translate research excellence into transformational support for autistic people everywhere.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees via a Nominations Committee. The articles of association provide for a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of twelve. Trustees with a range of different skill sets are sought, to ensure the effective running of the charity.

Organisational structure and decision making

The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees, which met four times during the financial period. A scheme of delegation is in place; the Chief Executive, has overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organisation including ensuring that services are delivered in line with the operational policies.

Induction and training of new trustees

On appointment, new trustees sign a trustee declaration statement agreeing to give their time and expertise. The induction pack includes the memorandum and articles of association of the charity, the most recent financial statements and a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance 'The Essential Trustee Guide" and "Public Benefit: running a charity" and the "Charity Governance Code for larger charities".

Key management remuneration

The pay of the Charity's key management personnel is set by the Board and is reviewed annually by the Finance Committee, in line with both market conditions and affordability for the charity, and a proposal is submitted to the Board for their approval.

Related parties

All trustees give their time freely and no remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 20 to the financial statements. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the chief executive and, in accordance with the charity's conflicts of interest policy, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
12435820 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1191599

Registered office
Byron House
Cambridge Business Park
Cowley Road
Cambridge
CB4 0WZ

Trustees
F M Hardie - Chairman
Professor S P Baron-Cohen (resigned 13/11/25)
E N Binks
A J Buisson
Dr I S Hall (resigned 13/11/25)
A M Lewy
Dr L Owens
I V Pocock
E Sakellis
Dr J L Tobin
J H Penrose Buckley
Professor J A K Arday

Chief Executive Officer
Tom Purser

Independent Examiner
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Bankers
Barclays Bank Plc
Leicester
Leicestershire
LE87 2BB

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Maling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Autism Centre of Excellence for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

F M Hardie - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Autism Centre of Excellence ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

Jonathan Askew
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

3 February 2026

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
TRADING AS AUTISM ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	165,741	50,240	215,981	364,400
Other trading activities	4	11,867	-	11,867	35,316
Investment income	5	35,122	-	35,122	14,957
Total		212,730	50,240	262,970	414,673
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		92,406	-	92,406	18,905
Charitable activities					
Support and improve the lives of autistic people		496,803	25,026	521,829	1,374,823
Health and Wellbeing		1,000	-	1,000	15,225
Employment		35,501	-	35,501	84,485
Total		625,710	25,026	650,736	1,493,438
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(412,980)	25,214	(387,766)	(1,078,765)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		1,186,705	174,593	1,361,298	2,440,063
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		773,725	199,807	973,532	1,361,298

The notes form part of these financial statements

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 12435820)
TRADING AS AUTISM ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	12	1,080	-	1,080	2,001
Tangible assets	13	4,379	-	4,379	3,501
		5,459	-	5,459	5,502
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	16,061	-	16,061	20,498
Cash at bank		778,229	199,807	978,036	1,362,596
		794,290	199,807	994,097	1,383,094
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(26,024)	-	(26,024)	(27,298)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		768,266	199,807	968,073	1,355,796
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		773,725	199,807	973,532	1,361,298
NET ASSETS		773,725	199,807	973,532	1,361,298
FUNDS	16				
Unrestricted funds				773,725	1,186,705
Restricted funds				199,807	174,593
TOTAL FUNDS				973,532	1,361,298

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 January 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

F M Hardie - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The private charitable company is incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The address of its registered office is Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, United Kingdom, CB2 8AH . The registered number of the company is 12435820.The registered number of the charity 1191599

The financial information presented is for the year ended 30 June 2025. The financial information is presented in sterling.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

a) Going concern basis
The "Financial Review" section of the trustees' report sets out various considerations relative to the going concern position of the charity and explains why the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of these financial statements.

b) Significant judgements and estimates
The trustees consider that there are no areas of judgement or estimation which materially affect the financial statements.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from donations is recognised when receivable.

Legacies are recognised following the granting of probate when the administrator or executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

Sales from services provided are recognised over the period in which the service is provided.

Website sale income is recognised on point of sale.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Donated services are measured and valued at an estimate of the price the charity would have paid on the open market. An equivalent amount is recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Payments for compensation for loss of office are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to compensate an employee for loss of office.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Governance costs
Since there is no direct cost to holding Trustee Board meetings and no Trustee Board expenses are reimbursed, governance costs only include the independent examiner's fees and accountancy fees.

Intangible fixed assets
Intangible fixed assets acquired separately are initially recognised at cost and then amortised over the following periods:

Trademark costs - 5 years straight line
Website development costs - 5 years straight line

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds 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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies
Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the statement of financial position date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Cash at bank
Cash at bank includes bank deposit accounts 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.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors
Creditors are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount.

Impairment
Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	118,481	364,400
Legacies	97,500	-
	215,981	364,400

During the year the charity received the following donations:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Legacy donations	97,500	-
Pro Bono - Teneo	-	112,500
Pro Bono - Edmonds Elder	-	47,000
Unspent grants returned	-	74,400
Suicide Prevention Project	50,240	60,511
Individuals and corporate donors	67,128	69,989
Grants received	1,113	-
	215,981	364,400

The prior year pro bono data was provided be Selena Callas.

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Sales - services	5,500	30,000
Website sales	6,367	5,316
	11,867	35,316

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	35,122	14,957

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	465,582	2,394	48,588	516,564

6. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	2025 Support and improve the lives of autistic people £	2024 Total activities £
Wages	244,844	157,932
Social security	33,201	15,692
Pensions	24,680	11,590
Insurance	1,281	1,273
Telephone	1,150	963
CFO Support Service	28,387	27,374
IT Support and software costs	12,470	6,801
Other Office Costs	3,395	396
Website Costs	7,306	1,556
VAT Irrecoverable	23,957	25,249
Subscriptions	8,197	2,821
Professional Fees	38,365	2,538
Consultancy Fees	4,300	500
Regulatory and Filing Fees	-	13
Digital advertising / recruitment research participants	24,905	12,764
Hotel and accommodation costs	292	984
Travelling costs	5,152	2,143
Pro bono professional services (note 16)	-	112,500
Pro bono video content creation (note 16)	-	47,000
Staff activities	336	-
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	921	920
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	2,443	1,797
	465,582	432,806

Governance costs

	2025 Support and improve the lives of autistic people £	2024 Total activities £
Staff costs	23,469	12,228
Accountancy fees	22,369	23,585
Independent Examiner's fees	2,750	2,770
	48,588	38,583

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	2,443	1,797
Patents and licences amortisation	399	398
Development costs amortisation	522	522

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 June 2025 nor for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 June 2025 nor for the year ended 30 June 2024.

9. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Management and Administration	7	5

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

	2025	2024
£60,001 - £70,000	2	-
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
	3	-

Key management compensation for the year was £108,253 (2024 £41,050).

10. COMPARATIVES FROM 2024 FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	303,889	60,511	364,400
Other trading activities	35,316	-	35,316
Investment income	14,957	-	14,957
Total	354,162	60,511	414,673
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	18,905	-	18,905
Charitable activities			
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	1,041,490	333,333	1,374,823
Health and Wellbeing	15,225	-	15,225
Employment	84,485	-	84,485
Total	1,160,105	333,333	1,493,438
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(805,943)	(272,822)	(1,078,765)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	1,992,648	447,415	2,440,063
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,186,705	174,593	1,361,298

11. INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

The independent examiner's fee consisted of:

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent examination	1,125	1,125
Preparation of statutory financial statements	1,225	1,245
Corporation tax	400	400
	2,750	2,770

12. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Patents and licences £	Development costs £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025	2,621	2,133	4,754
AMORTISATION			
At 1 July 2024	1,144	1,609	2,753
Charge for year	399	522	921
At 30 June 2025	1,543	2,131	3,674
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 30 June 2025	1,078	2	1,080
At 30 June 2024	1,477	524	2,001

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 July 2024	9,154
Additions	3,321
At 30 June 2025	12,475
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 July 2024	5,653
Charge for year	2,443
At 30 June 2025	8,096
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 June 2025	4,379
At 30 June 2024	3,501

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	896	598
Accrued income	-	13,456
Prepayments	15,165	6,444
	16,061	20,498

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,053	12,199
Social security and other taxes	11,451	8,166
Other creditors	3,840	3,753
Accruals	3,680	3,180
	26,024	27,298

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/7/24	Net movement in funds	At 30/6/25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	506,705	(412,980)	93,725
Future Research Designated Fund	80,000	-	80,000
Capacity Building Designated Fund	360,000	-	360,000
Community Development Designated Fund	200,000	-	200,000
Digital Development Projects Designated Fund	40,000	-	40,000
	1,186,705	(412,980)	773,725
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	114,082	-	114,082
Suicide Prevention Project	60,511	25,214	85,725
	174,593	25,214	199,807
TOTAL FUNDS	1,361,298	(387,766)	973,532

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	212,730	(625,710)	(412,980)
Restricted funds			
Suicide Prevention Project	50,240	(25,026)	25,214
TOTAL FUNDS	262,970	(650,736)	(387,766)

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/7/23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30/6/24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,992,648	(805,943)	(680,000)	506,705
Future Research Designated Fund	-	-	80,000	80,000
Capacity Building Designated Fund	-	-	360,000	360,000
Community Development Designated Fund	-	-	200,000	200,000
Digital Development Projects Designated Fund	-	-	40,000	40,000
	1,992,648	(805,943)	-	1,186,705
Restricted funds				
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	447,415	(333,333)	-	114,082
Suicide Prevention Project	-	60,511	-	60,511
	447,415	(272,822)	-	174,593
TOTAL FUNDS	2,440,063	(1,078,765)	-	1,361,298

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	354,162	(1,160,105)	(805,943)
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	-	(333,333)	(333,333)
Suicide Prevention Project	60,511	-	60,511
	60,511	(333,333)	(272,822)
TOTAL FUNDS	414,673	(1,493,438)	(1,078,765)

Restricted Funds

John Lambton Trust Research Project - Restricted funding for the research of music therapy for autistic children and adults.

Suicide Prevention Project - Restricted funding from the David and Ruth Lewis Family Charitable Trust for the organisation of a one-day Suicide Prevention Summit to create a manifesto for change that will guide action for the next 3 - 5 years.

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

(i) Mark Hardie

During the year, the charity was charged consultancy fees of £1,108 (2024 £10,214) from Mark Hardie Associates Limited.

Mark is a consultant with significant experience in developing, funding and managing sports and physical inclusion programmes, having been CEO of Access Sport for over a decade. He was engaged to advise on the charity's activities in the sports area. Mark is the brother of Fraser Hardie, Chairman of ACE.

Mark's selection, work scope, and compensation were overseen by the Director of Workstreams and approved by the CEO, ensuring transparency and compliance with governance standards.

(ii) Simon Baron-Cohen

Professor Sir Simon Baron-Cohen is a Fellow at the University of Cambridge. He is a trustee of the charity and a director of the Autism Research Centre.

Simon does not participate in any decision making or voting on grant awards from the charity.

During the year the charity made the following grant payments to the Autism Research Centre:

	2025 £	2024 £
Suicide Prevention Grant	-	568,322
Music Therapy Grant	-	333,333
	-	901,655

(iii) Teneo

During the previous year, the charity worked with Teneo, who provided pro bono assistance from their Strategy and Communications division. The value of the support has been reliably estimated to be £nil (2024 £112,500) and is included in donations.

The support in the previous year had been in time and expertise, where Teneo campaigned and assisted the launch of the charity's suicide prevention programme.

Fraser Hardie is a Senior Adviser to Teneo and formerly Chairman of Teneo UK. He remains an adviser to senior leadership including the (global CEO) and also to several major clients. Teneo own a stake in Edmonds Elder. Data provided by Selena Callas.

(iv) Edmonds Elder

In the previous year Edmonds Elder provided pro bono support to the charity on video content creation. The support has been mainly in time and expertise around planning, creating and editing video content in support of the charity's suicide prevention programme. The value of the support has been reliably estimated to be £nil (2024 £47,000) and is included in donations.

Trustee donations

During the year the trustees made donations to the charity of £300 (2024 £175).

18. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member is determined by the Articles of the charity and shall not exceed £1.

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

England & Wales - Charity number 1191599

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 12435820 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1191599

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

FOR

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Research and insights tell us - irrespective of background, level of need or individual circumstances - that all autistic people face the same lifelong discrimination and injustices. They are repeatedly excluded and let down by those people and systems that are meant to support them.

Public data gathering is poor and where there is data, it spells out a consistent mistreatment of autistic people which is largely hidden from public view.

For too long a culture of inaction has been tolerated with the voice of autistic people routinely ignored. I am constantly shocked by the stories we are told - of people whose needs are unseen or misunderstood with simple requests for help unheeded by our public services, sometimes with the most tragic of consequences.

The struggle for change is a fight for social justice as well as progress. It calls for a different sort of autism charity, one I am pleased to say the Autism Centre of Excellence has made strong progress in becoming.

This year we took the decision to review our brand to reflect more urgency and our desire to be an evidence-based activist. The result of this review bears fruit in 2025 when we continue our science-led campaigning journey under the new banner of Autism Action.

We are accelerating our work with policy makers, researchers and partners to commission research, campaigns and collaborations for more effective support across health and wellbeing, employment, criminal justice, education and advocacy.

Autistic people must have a direct hand in all we do. We have made a commitment to be the most collaborative autism charity in the UK. We have and will continue to create meaningful opportunities for autistic people, parents, carers and their supporters to shape our work and to ensure their voice and needs are seen and heard by those with the power to effect change.

Our primary route for consultation is our 809-strong Community Advisory Panel (CAP). Monthly consultations have adapted and improved research objectives, methodologies and campaigns designed to shape government policy.

Alongside our panel we doubled the size of our engaged supporter database. We are now in regular dialogue with 2,576 people e-mailing on progress and encouraging feedback to influence what we do and how we do it.

Our approach to commissioning research is also driven by a commitment to work at scale. The research we have commissioned this year with the University of Cambridge and other collaborators is designed to marshal authoritative and persuasive evidence that reflects the experiences of tens of thousands of autistic people accessed directly through contact or indirectly via large datasets drawn from the NHS and others. In doing so we are building persuasive cases for change.

Our principal priority this year has been suicide prevention. Autistic people are at least seven times more likely to die by suicide than non-autistic people and suicide is the number one cause of death amongst autistic adults. A third of autistic people have experienced suicide ideation and nearly a quarter have attempted suicide. We are prioritising our work to focus specifically on suicide prevention in order to save the lives of autistic people.

By the year end we had:

- Commissioned the UK's largest ever autism and suicide research programme to be delivered between 2023 to 2026.

- Delivered the first phase of the largest autism community dialogue around mental health and suicide prevention, with more than a thousand people participating and sharing their experiences of suicidality and accessing services

- Raised public awareness of the high suicide rate that autistic people face through engaging with the media, most significantly around the inquest of a young autistic woman and via a high-profile interviews with national newspapers, TV and radio with trustee Professor Sir Simon Baron-Cohen and CEO, Tom Purser.

- Worked with NHS England to shape our approach to identify areas where research and insight is lacking to shape our ongoing research activities, ensuring they will be as relevant as possible when it comes to shaping NHS policy.

- Built our own coalition of charities leading autism service delivery and on the front line of suicide prevention in the UK alongside researchers and people with lived experience of autism and suicide to begin influencing government policy.

- Submitted research proposals to the largest national health dataset to identify and analyse data relating to the experiences of thousands of autistic people.

- Developed a relationship with a leading crisis support charity to analyse data they hold (which has permission for use in research) relating to thousands of people's experiences of suicidality.

- Partnered with pioneering organisations using technology to provide crisis mental health support services to the wider population, in order to identify models of support capable of being scaled.

- Established a relationship with the National Child Mortality Database to support their analysis of the 3,743 child deaths in the UK in 2023.

- Progressed dialogue with the Government and the implementation of its National Suicide Prevention Strategy, beginning the development of a national roundtable of all major stakeholders to support the delivery of the suicide prevention action plan.

We are also working more widely to address the underlying determinants of poor mental health. By seeking to shape society and services we will make sure that future poor mental health is reduced, and that autistic people are more able to access the same life opportunities as anyone else.

There is good evidence showing that participating in sport and physical activity has a significant, positive impact for all of us, and autistic people are no exception. We believe better access to community sport and leisure can be a positive and preventative driver of mental and physical health. There is potential to reduce current high risks from depression, anxiety, epilepsy, obesity, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, sleep disorders and more, through sport and activity. But autistic people are significantly less active than the general population. Exclusion from clubs and initiatives is a significant contributor to this problem.

In response, we established the Active Autism Alliance, a coalition of charities, and sporting and disability organisations. The Autism Centre of Excellence, British Cycling, the England and Wales Cricket Board, leading leisure provider Parkwood Leisure, Mencap, Neurodiverse Sport, Sporting Equals and the National Academy for Social Prescribing, have joined forces. Our joint mission is to break down barriers to inclusion and to increase participation for autistic people, particularly those less active and most in need.

The proposed 5-year programme of work has been informed by a period of extensive consultation, mapping, and planning. In keeping with our collaboration goals, it will be co-produced with the autism community to optimise impact. Phase 1 seeks to understand and quantify the problem by establishing a strong evidence base and engage with National Governing Bodies, clubs, locally trusted organisations, leisure centres and social prescribing networks. In phase 2 interventions and initiatives will be designed and tested with autistic people, their parents and carers to overcome specific barriers to access. The result will be a proven programme ready for nationwide roll-out, delivering UK-wide impact across community sport and leisure.

Today, only 29% of autistic people are in any form of employment according to the Government's official statistics and through the year we have progressed our work to tackle exclusion from the workplace.

We launched our Autism Employment Network which comprises more than 60 small and medium sized social enterprises and support charities already employing autistic people.

I have been inspired by the passion and commitment driving these social enterprises. By creating the network we can connect them to much-needed support, advice and financial opportunities, enabling each to grow the number of autistic people they are able to employ.

During the year we completed analysis of our State of Life survey. The results of this will be used to support our data and lobbying efforts as we focus on specific priority areas. It will also help us to make the case to Government, the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health, the National Child Mortality Database, Sport England, the Office of National Statistics, NHS England and many others, of the need to amend their own data collection processes to specifically include autistic people.

During the year we funded a total of £901,655.34 for two grant awards. £333,333.34 was the final tranche payment for the Music Therapy Project and the remaining £568,322 was in relation to our Suicide Prevention and Preventable Deaths research programme.

In the reported year our fundraising has been intentionally low, with the focus being on distributing existing funds to projects to progress our strategic priorities. We have also invested funds in the capacity and ability of our charity to make rapid progress and capitalise on the opportunities we are creating. To further support this, going into the next year we are investing in recruiting a specialist fundraiser.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

As part of our plans for 2025-2027 we intend to invest approximately half of our current cash reserves in new breakthrough research, building deeper community collaboration and increased delivery and impact capacity across our workstreams with emphasis initially on health and wellbeing and employment. We will invest in data analysis and campaigning capacity which will turn our critical research insights into strategic change programmes driving policy, legislative and institutional or system reforms.

Taking into account this decision, our uncommitted free cash reserves at the end of June 2024 stood at £506,705, a figure broadly in line with our reserves policy.

The majority of the £130,501 donations the charity received during the period came from individuals and corporate donors. ACE is incredibly grateful to our generous donors for their continued support.

Finally, I would like to thank our everyone who has given something to support our vital work. I thank our trustees, ambassadors and our growing community. Without you and your contributions we would have been unable to make the progress we have.

And I thank everyone who has shared their story and experiences with us across the year. With your help, we have commissioned, supported and grown projects and collaborations with the ability to impact positively the lives of autistic people.

In the coming year we will continue to be an evidence-based activist - representing autistic people, fighting for the improvements they deserve and the rights others take for granted.

F M Hardie - Trustee

31 January 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and wellbeing, and advance the education of autistic people and their families by:

- providing or assisting in the provision of clinical and social care services for autistic people or people with associated communication, social or behavioural conditions and their families.

- advancing the education, training or employment opportunities for such people and advancing the education of others in autism, associated communication, social or behavioural conditions; and

- the encouragement, support and promotion of research into autism and related subjects (and the publication and dissemination of the useful results of such research), in particular with a view to developing new and validated methods for assessment, intervention and treatment.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant-making policies for the charity.

Grantmaking

The charity publishes research funding opportunities as open calls via autismcentreofexcellence.org. These are open to applicants at UK-based research institutions. Potential applicants are given at least three weeks from the date of the call to make an initial expression of interest. These are reviewed by a subgroup of Trustees who use the criteria specified in the published call to select those they would like to proceed to full applications. At least two weeks are then allowed for preparation of full applications, which must include the following:

- Details of research questions, methodology, expected analysis and type of results to be delivered.
- Rationale for how the research could be translated into relevant impact for autistic people. The translation itself will usually be outside of the remit of the research study, but applications should include a proposed pathway to impact.
- Details of lead applicant from a UK-based research institution and any other researcher(s) involved.
- At least two proposed scientific peer reviewers.
- Clear timescales and budget breakdown.
- Evidence or track-record of delivering similarly scaled projects on time and on budget.
- Evidence that the proposed research would be world-class, novel, timely, and good value for money.

Within approximately two weeks of the deadline, a subgroup of Trustees will review these applications and select a shortlist to proceed to scientific peer review. Peer reviewers are asked to declare any conflicts of interest. One independent peer reviewer is required for grants of £60,000 or under, and two for grants over this amount. Recommendations for making awards are made by the subgroup of Trustees and final decisions are at the discretion of the Board. Decisions will take into account scientific peer review, best use of funds, scientific quality of applications, potential to lead to impact, clarity of timescale, budget, deliverables and evidence of ability to deliver the proposed project.

Conflicted trustees are excluded from the approval process.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Our Achievements this year

Health and Wellbeing

Our principal priority this year has been the health and wellbeing of autistic people and specifically, suicide prevention. Autistic people are at least seven times more likely to die by suicide than non-autistic people and suicide is the top cause of death amongst autistic adults. A third of autistic people have experienced suicide ideation and nearly a quarter have attempted suicide. We are prioritising our work to focus specifically on suicide prevention in order to save the lives of autistic people.

By the year end we had:

- Commissioned the UK's largest ever autism and suicide research programme to be delivered between 2023 to 2026

- Delivered the first phase of the largest autism community dialogue around mental health and suicide prevention, with more than a thousand people responding and sharing their experiences of suicidality and accessing services

- Raised public awareness of the high suicide rate that autistic people face through engaging with the media, most significantly around the inquest of a young autistic woman and via high-profile interviews in national newspapers, television and radio with Professor Simon Baron-Baron and CEO, Tom Purser

- Worked with NHS England to shape our approach to identify areas where research and insight is lacking to shape our ongoing research activities, ensuring they will be as relevant as possible when it comes to shaping NHS policy

- Built our own coalition of charities leading autism service delivery and on the front line of suicide prevention in the UK, researchers and people with lives experience of autism and suicide to begin influencing government policy.

- Submitted research proposals to the largest national health dataset to identify and analyse data relating to the experiences of thousands of autistic people

- Partnered with a crisis support charity to study data on suicidality provided by autistic individuals for research purposes.

- Partnered with pioneering organisations using technology to provide crisis mental health support services to the wider population, in order to identify models of support capable of being scaled

- Established a relationship with the National Child Mortality Database to support their analysis of the 3,743 child deaths in the UK in 2023

- Progressed dialogue with the Government and the implementation of its National Suicide Prevention Strategy, securing a national roundtable of all major stakeholders to support the delivery of the suicide prevention action plan (unfortunately postponed due to the General Election)

We are also working to address the underlining determinants of poor mental health. By seeking to shape society and services we will make sure that future poor mental health is prevented, and that autistic people can access the same life opportunities as anyone else.

One critical driver of mental and physical health is access to community sport and leisure. Autistic people live with increased risk of depression, anxiety, epilepsy, sleep disorders, obesity, hypertension, stroke, diabetes and more.

There is good evidence that participating in sport and physical activity has a significantly positive impact for all of us, and autistic people are no exception. Physical activity provides benefits across physical health, mental health and general wellbeing, but autistic people have been shown to be significantly less active than the general population. We believe that exclusion from sports and activity clubs and initiatives is a significant contributor to this problem but, crucially, one that will be amenable to change with the right efforts.

To this end we have established the Active Autism Alliance, a coalition of charities, and sporting and disability organisations, including British Cycling and the England and Wales Cricket Board, leading leisure provider Parkwood Leisure, Mencap, Neurodiverse Sport, Sporting Equals and the National Academy for Social Prescribing. Our joint mission is to break down barriers to inclusion and to increase participation for autistic people, particularly those who are less active and most in need.

The proposed 5-year programme of work has been informed by a period of extensive consultation, mapping, and planning, and will be co-produced with the autism community to ensure the best chance of success. This project will be produced in two phases. Phase 1 is to understand and quantify the current problem. This will involve the establishment of a strong evidence base and engagement with NGBs, clubs, locally trusted organisations, leisure centres and social prescribing networks. In phase 2 initiatives will be designed with autistic people and their parents and carers to overcome specific barriers to accessing community sport and leisure and tested ready for confident roll-out across the UK.

Across the year we have continued to work with our partners and progressed our project by engaging closely with Sport England, the UK's largest sports NGO. Through working with them to align our project with their strategic priorities we are creating sustainable foundations for the next five years. We want to ensure that our work has broad support across the sector and helps Sport England to deliver on their commitments in the National Autism Strategy.

Employment
Only 29% of autistic people are in any form of employment according to the Government's official statistics. This year we have progressed our programme of work to tackle this, beginning to deliver against our ambitious goal of creating 10,000 new jobs for autistic people in ten years. Our first step has been launching our Autism Employment Network which comprises more than 60 small and medium sized social enterprises and support charities who are already employing autistic people. We have been supporting them as a network and connecting them to much-needed support, advice and financial opportunities. The first phase is to create a more sustainable footing for them to grow the number of autistic people they are able to employ.

Data
During the year we completed analysis of our State of Life survey. The results of this will be used to support our data and lobbying efforts as we focus on specific priority areas, as well as helping us to make the case to Government, the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health, the National Child Mortality Database, Sport England, the Office of National Statistics NHS England and many others of the need to amend their own data collection processes to specifically include autistic people.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the financial period, the charity received donations amounting to £364,400, some of which form part of the unrestricted reserves. This is comprised as follows:

During the year the charity received the following donations:

	2024 £
Pro Bono - Teneo	112,500
Pro Bono - Edmonds Elder	47,000
Unspent grants returned	74,400
Suicide Prevention Project - D&R Charitable Trust donation £60,000	60,511
Individuals and corporate donors	69,989
	364,400

In the year ACE received £30,000 from Publicis London in relation to a training and education project and there were also sales of online learning resources of £5,316.

At 30 June 2024 the charity had cash at bank of £1,362,596 which is inclusive of restricted and designated reserves and net assets (restricted) of £174,593 and net assets (unrestricted) of £1,186,705. The total net assets at 30 June 2024 was £1,361,298.

Of the total £1,361,298, a portion has been designated to support future activities, including research, capacity building, community development, and digital development projects. Additionally, restricted cash balances are held for specific initiatives: £60,511 allocated to suicide prevention activities and £114,082 designated for the John Lambton Trust Research Project. After accounting for these designations and restricted funds, our uncommitted free cash reserves stand at £506,705.

What we funded

During the period, the trustees continued their commitment to funding the Music Therapy Project by paying the final instalment of £333,333 in October 2023. This final tranche concludes the original £1m funding commitment, but ACE will continue to monitor and support the project team.

Alongside the final instalment of funding provided for the Music Therapy Project, an additional sum of £568,322 was transferred to the University of Cambridge. This payment was specifically allocated to support the ongoing work on the Suicide Prevention Project. Planning for further charitable projects is underway, and several are expected to start during the next financial year.

Investment policy and objectives

Reserves of the charity are invested in short term deposits in reputable UK financial institutions. These are held on a short-term basis as the trustees intend to access funds to ensure the agreed priority projects can be pursued as part of the strategic and business plan.

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in an unrestricted fund that covers support, operational and governance costs for twelve months.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees consider and assess the risks to which the charity is potentially exposed and have established systems and procedures to review and manage those risks. The Finance and Risk sub-committee review and assess all risks and put in place suitable and sufficient measures to mitigate the risk. This information is then recorded on the Risk Register and reported to Trustee at quarterly board meetings for discussion and agreement.

The main risks facing the charity are considered to be:	Description	Management
Risk **Operational:** Inadequate engagement with the autistic community leading to a loss of reputation	Failure to adequately engage with autistic people and their families/representatives inthe co-design and co-production of ACE projects risks support not meeting people's needs, and reputational damage to ACE, amongst the community we are seeking to support.	- Creation of a Steering Group and Community Advisory Panel - Continue to seek views from autistic people and their families in the co-design of ACE projects - The charity aim to recruit a Community Engagement Manager to facilitate the above during 2023
Operational: Risk associated with developing partnerships with organisations and individuals.	Reputational risk associated with partnering with organisations and individuals to deliver ACE projects	- Due diligence and scrutiny of all new partnerships. - Only partner with reputable organisations and individuals who share ACE values. - MoU's to be in place with all partners - F&R Committee to review and discuss all new partnerships before bringing findings to the board of Trustees.
Operational: Not having the right people to match needs	The right skills mix and experience can be difficult to obtain, especially outside of London where much of the charity sector is focussed	- Values-based recruitment, aligning ourselves to messages reflecting that this is more than just a job - Use of specialist recruitment agencies where appropriate - Aligning salary rates to market benchmarks to attract talent - Communicate and celebrate wins and progress to create 'pull' factor - Retain existing staff by introducing staff benefits over time, as income allows

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The main risks facing the charity are considered to be:	Description	Management
Risk **Financial:** Failure to meet fundraising targets and identify long term funding streams	Failure to fundraise for all projects currently being planned could reduce the ambitious impact ACE is aiming to have.	- Pipeline of existing donor relationships - Review of Development Board to ensure effectiveness - Ongoing careful stewardship of existing prospects - Development of funding sources pipeline for range of priority business plan projects - Ongoing funding requirements identified at start of projects - Prudent reserves policy to ensure nom activity halted in an unplanned manner - Staff team with appropriate skills and experience - Director of Fundraising fully onboarded to boost fundraising efforts and pipeline
Financial: Increase of operating costs	Inflation has in recent years posed a operating threat to many charities, though largely those with a direct and inelastic service delivery	- Retaining 'light' model with service delivery through partners insulates us from most prices rises - Financial reporting to highlight variance of planned spend vs actual - Realistic budget planning and project budget development to take account for inflation and other likely cost increases

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The main risks facing the charity are considered to be:	Description	Management
Risk		
External: Competition and distinctiveness	Risks that the charity would fail to differentiate itself from other autism charities and fail to attract support and income as a result	- Build structural distinctiveness, such as by being the most collaborative autism charity, to demonstrate difference - Investment in strong brand - Focus on delivery to create clear track record of success - Focus on issues other autism charities are not, or from a distinctive angle - Maintain relationships with other autism charities to coordinate activity - Utilise connection to Cambridge University and wider research
Strategic: Not having a clear, consistent and aligned strategic direction	The charity lacks an appropriate strategic direction or focus that is in tune with theevolving needs and business /operating environment	- Regular strategic input by the Board and individual trustees - Informed by Community Advisory Panel - Strategic Priorities already established; will be delivered with focus - Post-rebrand will publish long term strategy

FUTURE PLANS

The Autism Centre of Excellence is a science-led campaigning charity, committed to increasing inclusion, acceptance and respect for autistic people. We work with autistic people, policy makers, researchers and other partners to fund and commission research, campaign and collaborate to improve support for autistic people in criminal justice, employment, education, and health and wellbeing. We take action to:

1. Increase inclusion, acceptance and respect for autistic people.

2. Improve support for autistic people in education, employment, health, wellbeing, and criminal justice.

We will continue to work with autistic people, parents/carers and partner organisations to commission. support and scale projects with the ability to positively impact the lives of autistic people at scale. This includes commissioning world-class academic research at the University of Cambridge, its international collaborators and others.

By aggregating data, building our community and creating compelling and powerful cases for change we will advance lobbying and campaigning efforts to influence Government policy, laws and guidance. We will highlight individual stories that increase public understanding of the challenges and injustices autistic people face, and publish data and research that gives insight into the systemic problems that drive these.
Following our brand review we expect to be launching changes to our brand in early 2025, and delivering activity to drive awareness of the new brand and support our strategic objectives and business plan.
We will continue to focus on five key workstreams under which projects will be developed and co-designed with autistic people, their allies and supporters:

Suicide Prevention/Preventable Deaths

Pathways to Employment

Sport

Data and Lobbying

Research

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and wellbeing and advance the education of autistic people and their families.

Charity constitution

The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge (ACE) is a registered charity (charity no. 1191599). It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company no. 12435820), whose registered office is at Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, CB2 8AH. The charity was incorporated on 31st January 2020, and it was registered with the Charity Commission on 2nd October 2020. These financial statements are the financial statements for the third accounting period, during which the emphasis of the trustees has been to develop the charity further so that it can translate research excellence into transformational support for autistic people everywhere.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees via a Nominations Committee. The articles of association provide for a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of twelve. Trustees with a range of different skill sets are sought, to ensure the effective running of the charity.

Organisational structure and decision making

The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees, which met four times during the financial period, in addition to the Annual General Meeting. A scheme of delegation is in place; the Chief Executive, has overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organisation including ensuring that services are delivered in line with the operational policies.

Induction and training of new trustees

On appointment, new trustees sign a trustee declaration statement agreeing to give their time and expertise. The induction pack includes the memorandum and articles of association of the charity, the most recent financial statements and a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance 'The Essential Trustee Guide" and "Public Benefit: running a charity" and the "Charity Governance Code for larger charities".

Key management remuneration

The pay of the Charity's key management personnel is set by the Board and is reviewed annually by the Finance & Risk Committee, in line with both market conditions and affordability for the charity, and a proposal is submitted to the Board for their approval.

Related parties

All trustees give their time freely and no remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the chief executive and, in accordance with the charity's conflicts of interest policy, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
12435820 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1191599

Registered office
Douglas House
18b Trumpington Road
Cambridge
CB2 8AH

Trustees
F M Hardie - Chairman
Professor S P Baron-Cohen
E N Binks
A J Buisson
Dr I S Hall
A M Lewy
Dr L Owens
I V Pocock
E Sakellis
Dr J L Tobin
J H Penrose Buckley (appointed 3/11/23)
Professor J A K Arday (appointed 30/3/24)

Chief Executive Officer
Tom Purser (appointed 29/1/24)

Independent Examiner
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Bankers
Barclays Bank Plc
Leicester
Leicestershire
LE87 2BB

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Maling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Autism Centre of Excellence for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 31 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

F M Hardie - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Autism Centre of Excellence ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

Jonathan Askew
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

31 January 2025

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	303,889	60,511	364,400	855,508
Other trading activities	4	35,316	-	35,316	30,619
Investment income	5	14,957	-	14,957	-
Total		354,162	60,511	414,673	886,127
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	6	512	-	512	447
Charitable activities	7				
Support and improve the lives of autistic people		1,059,883	333,333	1,393,216	783,830
Health and Wellbeing		15,225	-	15,225	10,475
Employment		84,485	-	84,485	15,000
Total		1,160,105	333,333	1,493,438	809,752
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(805,943)	(272,822)	(1,078,765)	76,375
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		1,992,648	447,415	2,440,063	2,363,688
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,186,705	174,593	1,361,298	2,440,063

The notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	15	2,001	-	2,001	2,921
Tangible assets	16	3,501	-	3,501	2,696
		5,502	-	5,502	5,617
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	17	20,498	-	20,498	13,952
Cash at bank		1,188,003	174,593	1,362,596	2,461,120
		1,208,501	174,593	1,383,094	2,475,072
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(27,298)	-	(27,298)	(40,626)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,181,203	174,593	1,355,796	2,434,446
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,186,705	174,593	1,361,298	2,440,063
NET ASSETS		1,186,705	174,593	1,361,298	2,440,063
FUNDS	19				
Unrestricted funds				1,186,705	1,992,648
Restricted funds				174,593	447,415
TOTAL FUNDS				1,361,298	2,440,063

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 31 January 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

F M Hardie - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(1,110,879)	94,399
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(1,110,879)	94,399
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,602)	(1,444)
Interest received		14,957	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		12,355	(1,444)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(1,098,524)	92,955
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,461,120	2,368,165
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		1,362,596	2,461,120

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(1,078,765)	76,375
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(14,957)	-
Depreciation and amortisation	2,717	2,980
Increase in debtors	(6,546)	(12,530)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(13,328)	27,574
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	(1,110,879)	94,399

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1/7/23 £	Cash flow £	At 30/6/24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	2,461,120	(1,098,524)	1,362,596
	2,461,120	(1,098,524)	1,362,596
Total	2,461,120	(1,098,524)	1,362,596

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The private charitable company is incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The address of its registered office is Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, United Kingdom, CB2 8AH . The registered number of the company is 12435820.The registered number of the charity 1191599

The financial information presented is for the year ended 30 June 2024. The financial information is presented in sterling.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

a) Going concern basis
The "Financial Review" section of the trustees' report sets out various considerations relative to the going concern position of the charity and explains why the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of these financial statements.

b) Significant judgements and estimates
The trustees consider that there are no areas of judgement or estimation which materially affect the financial statements.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from donations is recognised when receivable.

Legacies are recognised following the granting of probate when the administrator or executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date.

Sales from services provided are recognised over the period in which the service is provided.

Website sale income is recognised on point of sale.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Donated services are measured and valued at an estimate of the price the charity would have paid on the open market. An equivalent amount is recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Payments for compensation for loss of office are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to compensate an employee for loss of office.

Governance costs
Since there is no direct cost to holding Trustee Board meetings and no Trustee Board expenses are reimbursed, governance costs only include the independent examiner's fees and accountancy fees.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Intangible fixed assets
Intangible fixed assets acquired separately are initially recognised at cost and then amortised over the following periods:

Trademark costs - 5 years straight line
Website development costs - 5 years straight line

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds 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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies
Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the statement of financial position date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Cash at bank
Cash at bank includes bank deposit accounts 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.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors
Creditors are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount.

Impairment
Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	364,400	855,508

During the year the charity received the following donations:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Pro Bono - Teneo	112,500	12,500
Pro Bono - Edmonds Elder	47,000	-
Unspent grants returned	74,400	-
Suicide Prevention Project - D&R Charitable Trust donation £60,000	60,511	-
Individuals and corporate donors	69,989	393,407
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	-	114,081
Transfers from Autism Research Trust	-	335,520
	364,400	855,508

Pro Bono data was provided be Selena Callas.

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Sales - services	30,000	3,000
Website sales	5,316	27,619
	35,316	30,619

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	14,957	-

6. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fundraising expenses	512	447

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	Support costs (see note 9)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	1,034	901,655	490,527	1,393,216
Health and Wellbeing	15,225	-	-	15,225
Employment	84,485	-	-	84,485
	100,744	901,655	490,527	1,492,926

8. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2024	2023
	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	901,655	385,439

During the year the charity made the following grant payments to the Autism Research Centre:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Suicide Prevention Grant	568,322	-
Music Therapy Grant	333,333	333,333
Grant Writer Award	-	52,106
	901,655	385,439

9. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	463,427	745	26,355	490,527

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Management

	2024 Support and improve the lives of autistic people	2023 Total activities
	£	£
Wages	188,553	244,883
Social security	15,692	20,358
Pensions	11,590	13,170
Insurance	1,273	1,327
Carried forward	217,108	279,738

9. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Management - continued

	2024 Support and improve the lives of autistic people	2023 Total activities
	£	£
Brought forward	217,108	279,738
Telephone	963	1,237
CFO Support Service	27,374	34,008
IT Support and software costs	6,801	5,556
Other Office Costs	396	1,770
Website Costs	1,556	2,837
VAT Irrecoverable	25,249	16,757
Subscriptions	2,821	-
Professional Fees	2,538	14,733
Consultancy Fees	500	450
Regulatory and Filing Fees	13	198
Digital advertising / recruitment research participants	12,764	900
Hotel and accommodation costs	984	631
Travelling costs	2,143	3,961
Teachable charges	-	12,843
Pro bono professional services	112,500	12,500
Pro bono video content creation	47,000	-
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	920	920
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	1,797	2,060
	463,427	391,099

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	1,797	2,060
Patents and licences amortisation	398	398
Development costs amortisation	522	522

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 June 2024 nor for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 June 2024 nor for the year ended 30 June 2023.

12. STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	218,553	226,883
Social security costs	18,577	20,358
Pension costs	13,990	13,170
Compensation for loss of office	-	18,000
	251,120	278,411

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Management and Administration	5	5

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

	2024	2023
£150,001 - £160,000	-	1

Key management compensation for the year was £41,050 (2023 £168,925).

During the year the charity made a payment of £nil (2023 £18,000) for compensation for loss of office.

13. COMPARATIVES FROM 2023 FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	741,427	114,081	855,508
Other trading activities	30,619	-	30,619
Total	772,046	114,081	886,127
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	447	-	447
Charitable activities			
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	450,497	333,333	783,830
Health and Wellbeing	10,475	-	10,475
Employment	15,000	-	15,000
Total	476,419	333,333	809,752

13. COMPARATIVES FROM 2023 FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	295,627	(219,252)	76,375
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	1,697,021	666,667	2,363,688
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,992,648	447,415	2,440,063

14. INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

The independent examiner's fee consisted of:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent examination	1,125	1,000
Preparation of statutory financial statements	1,245	1,000
Corporation tax	400	-
	2,770	2,000

15. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Patents and licences	Development costs	Totals
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024	2,621	2,133	4,754
AMORTISATION			
At 1 July 2023	746	1,087	1,833
Charge for year	398	522	920
At 30 June 2024	1,144	1,609	2,753
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 30 June 2024	1,477	524	2,001
At 30 June 2023	1,875	1,046	2,921

16. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 July 2023	6,552
Additions	2,602
At 30 June 2024	9,154
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 July 2023	3,856
Charge for year	1,797
At 30 June 2024	5,653
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 June 2024	3,501
At 30 June 2023	2,696

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	598	427
Other debtors	-	11,813
Accrued income	13,456	-
Prepayments	6,444	1,712
	20,498	13,952

Accrued income includes £92,500 relating to legacy income.

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	12,199	4,661
Social security and other taxes	8,166	29,075
Other creditors	3,753	2,090
Accruals	3,180	4,800
	27,298	40,626

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	772,046	(476,419)	295,627
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	114,081	(333,333)	(219,252)
TOTAL FUNDS	886,127	(809,752)	76,375

Restricted Funds

John Lambton Trust Research Project - Restricted funding for the research of music therapy for autistic children and adults.

Suicide Prevention Project - Restricted funding from the David and Ruth Lewis Family Charitable Trust for the organisation of a one-day Suicide Prevention Summit to create a manifesto for change that will guide action for the next 3 - 5 years.

Transfers between funds

The charity has identified four designated funds and have transferred funds from the general funds into these designated funds

Future Research Designated Fund
Capacity Building Designated Fund
Community Development Designated Fund
Digital Development Projects Designated Fund

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

(i) Mark Hardie

During the year, the charity was charged consultancy fees of £10,214 (2023 £2,975) from Mark Hardie Associates Limited.

Mark is a consultant with significant experience in developing, funding and managing sports and physical inclusion programmes, having been CEO of Access Sport for over a decade. He was engaged to advise on the charity's activities in the sports area. Mark is the brother of Fraser Hardie, Chairman of ACE.

Mark's selection, work scope, and compensation were overseen by the Director of Workstreams and approved by the CEO, ensuring transparency and compliance with governance standards.

(ii) Simon Baron-Cohen

Professor Sir Simon Baron-Cohen is a Fellow at the University of Cambridge. He is a trustee of the charity and a director of the Autism Research Centre.

Simon does not participate in any decision making or voting on grant awards from the charity.

During the year the charity made the following grant payments to the Autism Research Centre:

	2024 £	2023 £

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/7/23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30/6/24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	1,992,648	(805,943)	(680,000)	506,705
Future Research Designated Fund	-	-	80,000	80,000
Capacity Building Designated Fund	-	-	360,000	360,000
Community Development Designated Fund	-	-	200,000	200,000
Digital Development Projects Designated Fund	-	-	40,000	40,000
	1,992,648	(805,943)	-	1,186,705
Restricted funds				
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	447,415	(333,333)	-	114,082
Suicide Prevention Project	-	60,511	-	60,511
	447,415	(272,822)	-	174,593
TOTAL FUNDS	2,440,063	(1,078,765)	-	1,361,298

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	354,162	(1,160,105)	(805,943)
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	-	(333,333)	(333,333)
Suicide Prevention Project	60,511	-	60,511
	60,511	(333,333)	(272,822)
TOTAL FUNDS	414,673	(1,493,438)	(1,078,765)

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/7/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/6/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,697,021	295,627	1,992,648
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	666,667	(219,252)	447,415
TOTAL FUNDS	2,363,688	76,375	2,440,063

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES - continued

Suicide Prevention Grant	568,322	-
Music Therapy Grant	333,333	333,333
Grant Writer Award	-	52,106
	901,655	385,439

(iii) Teneo

During the year, the charity worked with Teneo, who provided pro bono assistance from their Strategy and Communications division. The value of the support has been reliably estimated to be £112,500 (2023 £12,500) and is included in donations.

The support has been in time and expertise, where Teneo campaigned and assisted the launch of the charity's suicide prevention programme.

Fraser Hardie is a Senior Adviser to Teneo and formerly Chairman of Teneo UK. He remains an adviser to senior leadership including the (global CEO) and also to several major clients. Teneo own a stake in Edmonds Elder. Data provided by Selena Callas.

(iv) Edmonds Elder

Edmonds Elder provided pro bono support to the charity on video content creation. The support has been mainly in time and expertise around planning, creating and editing video content in support of the charity's suicide prevention programme. The value of the support has been reliably estimated to be £47,000 (2023 £nil) and is included in donations.

21. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

After the year end, in November 2024, the charity received a legacy of £92,500.

22. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member is determined by the Articles of the charity and shall not exceed £1.

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

England & Wales - Charity number 1191599

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 12435820 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1191599

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

FOR

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Latest research suggests that as many as 1 in 36 people could be autistic. Autistic people are our neighbours, living in virtually every street across the country. Unfortunately too many are unsupported. They face inequalities and too often their rights are not being met.

We have placed autistic people at the heart of what we do. We are committed to listening carefully to them and hearing what they need most. I would like to thank the thousands of autistic people who participated in surveys, consultations and panel discussions during the year. I would also like to thank those who represent autistic people who are non-verbal and struggle to have a voice. Parents, carers and loved ones have given us invaluable insights into what is needed. All of them are shaping our thinking and priorities. All of them are inspiring and challenging us to campaign and drive the change they so badly need.

Statistics paint an uncomfortable picture for our society with dramatic reductions in autistic people's life expectancy. There is no doubt that these early deaths are largely avoidable - they are the outcome of systemic failures. Diagnosis is slow - 2 or 3 years is not unusual and waiting lists have reached unacceptable levels. Interventions, support and care are poorly-evidenced, under-funded and inconsistently delivered. Many autistic people receive no support at all after their diagnosis. Inequalities in access to education and employment result in autistic people being isolated, stigmatised and discriminated against in all stages and walks of life.

We believe the life-long (and largely unseen) battle against inequality is an unnecessary fact of life for autistic people and their families. Basic rights, which the vast majority of citizens are able to take for granted, are not being met.

The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge (ACE) is a science-led campaigning charity working closely with Cambridge University's Autism Research Centre and other academic partners in the UK and around the world. Our aim is to remove barriers and stigma for autistic people. We commission breakthrough science, campaigns and partnerships to scale interventions, tools and adaptations to:

1. Improve inclusion, acceptance, respect and human rights of autistic people

2. Improve support for autistic people in health and wellbeing, education, employment and criminal justice

3. Reduce avoidable deaths caused by suicide, epilepsy or other health conditions

4. Reduce avoidable hardship in life caused by inequality, exclusion, isolation or maltreatment.

The order in which we tackle these four areas has been educated by evidence and by working to ensure that we maximise positive impact on the most autistic people in the shortest time while avoiding duplication where other charities can deliver better than we can.

Right now, autistic people are routinely excluded from official Government data, simply because people completing surveys are not asked if they are autistic. This data inequality means that the poor outcomes that autistic people experience are not reflected in official Government data. We have sought to change this by launching our own State of Life survey with questions that reflect a range of official Government data sources. This work will allow us to present the Government with directly comparable data specifically about autistic people's lives and outcomes.

From our work so far and previous research it is clear that there is a worsening mental health crisis in the community - autistic people suffer severe anxiety and depression with 8 in 10 reporting mental health problems. This is a crisis playing out in families, homes, schools, the NHS and hospitals, social care and residential settings all over the country.

The consequences are devastating - two thirds of autistic people responding to surveys have considered suicide. One third of autistic have planned or attempted to take their own life. These mental health problems have their roots in a society which routinely fails to understand or invest in meeting the needs of autistic people.

During the year over 800 autistic people fed into the development phase of a programme we have designed to respond directly to this crisis. With their insights as fuel, we have set a goal (which we cannot deliver alone) to reduce the incidence of mental health problems by half in 10 years. By the year end we had:

- Designed the largest autism community dialogue around mental health and suicide prevention

- Raised funds to enable the commissioning of the UK's largest ever autism and suicide science research programme to be commissioned and delivered between 2023 to 2026

- Opened up dialogue with Government and the implementation of its National Suicide Prevention Strategy

- Worked with NHS England to shape our approach to research methodology and priorities

- Consulted with charities leading autism service delivery and on the front line of suicide prevention in the UK

- Identified and partnered with pioneering organisations using technology to provide crisis mental health support services to the wider population, in order to analyse anonymised data from autistic people for the first time

It takes a great deal of courage for autistic people and families to speak up about their experiences. We have been both moved and motivated by what we have heard. We will not wait for every piece of research to conclude and report before we act - we are already feeding into Government's implementation plans. We are collaborating with partners to evidence effectiveness and to think through adaptations for tools, apps and interventions. We are also building a UK coalition of autism groups, academics, politicians and activists to campaign for system change across the NHS, education and social care. We believe this work can and will reduce avoidable hardship in life, improve responses to those in crisis and reduce avoidable deaths.

More widely on our health agenda, we have developed a flagship project to improve inclusion in sport and activity. We have convened partners including British Cycling and the England and Wales Cricket Board, leading leisure provider Parkwood Leisure, Mencap, Neurodiverse Sport, Sporting Equals and the National Academy for Social Prescribing. Our work will establish a 5-year programme which will build a strong evidence base and engagement with NGBs, clubs, locally trusted organisations, leisure centres and social prescribing networks. Initiatives will be designed with autistic people and their parents and carers to overcome specific barriers that currently exist within sport, physical activity and leisure.

During the year we funded £52,106.00 for a grant writer position at the Autism Research Centre - this was referenced last year but the funds were paid in the financial period to June 2023. The immediate priority for grant applications has been funding diagnosis research. The latest NHS figures show that 172,022 people in England were waiting for an autism assessment in December 2023; we have supported the efforts of the University of Cambridge to design and implement research which seeks to reduce the complexity and time taken to diagnose autism. The research will test if General Practitioners (GPs) can diagnose autism accurately. Patients (or parents) will be asked to complete a series of brief validated screening instruments online prior to the GP appointments. We will train GPs about what to look for in a patient presenting with concerns about autism. We aim to test the accuracy of GP diagnosis in 250 autistic individuals of any age across 25 GP practices. The resulting outcomes will be used to shape the national conversation about NHS diagnostic services and how to end the huge waits autistic people face when seeking what can be a life-changing diagnosis.

Recognising the critical role of employment as the bridge to inclusion and improved mental health, we will prioritise working inside companies to develop and codify best practice adaptations and training. We continue to partner with large-scale organisations to do that.

Current unemployment stands at around 80 per cent and during the year we took the decision to fund our employment workstream to conduct analysis into the most prospective areas for improving employment rates. This work has identified a clear opportunity to work with social enterprises to enable expansion in the heart of communities. Overall, we have set ourselves an ambitious goal of working with partners to increase autistic jobs by 10,000 in ten years.

We will continue to build on existing research into the adverse outcomes experienced by autistic people in contact with or within the criminal justice system. The research found that only half of autistic people (52%) were considered by the police to be vulnerable adults, even though the law recognises all autistic people as vulnerable. Only a quarter (25%) of autistic people were given 'reasonable adjustments', with 38% not given any even though lawyers stated that this would have been beneficial. This is despite all autistic people being entitled to reasonable adjustments under the law. This consistent lack of support throughout the criminal justice systems points to the need for Partnerships and projects to look at the improvements and adaptations needed to ensure fair and equal treatment for autistic people from street policing to stations, courts and prisons.

Strong governance and risk management has ensured that the charity remains in a strong financial position and able to invest in the best talent to deliver social value and impact. Trustees take a conservative view of reserves reflecting the current uncertain global economic outlook and we can report donations of for the year of £855,508. Total income for the year was marginally lower than 2022 at £886,127, while grants awarded increased by 16% to £385,000 including music therapy and funding a grant writer at the Autism Research Centre at the University of Cambridge.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Jason Arday is a British sociologist, writer and fundraiser best known for his research on race and racism. He was diagnosed as autistic aged 3 years old. He began an appointment as Professor of Sociology of Education at the University of Cambridge in 2023, becoming the youngest black person ever appointed to a professorship at Cambridge. The board unanimously agreed to appoint Jason to the Board of Trustees during the meeting on 26th March 2024. His duties will officially start once his paperwork has been finalised during March 2024.

It was with sadness that we announced the decision by Jon Cheyette to step down as CEO of the charity in June 2023. I am extremely grateful for the contribution Jon has made to this chapter of the Autism Centre of Excellence. He has worked with total commitment, integrity and dedication. Equally important, he cares deeply about the cause of autistic people and reversing the inequalities they face. His values are unwavering and he uses a strong sense of social justice as his fuel. As Chair of Trustees but also as a parent, I would like to thank him for his thoughtful and hard work on behalf of autistic people everywhere.

In the second half of 2023, the board formed a Nominations Committee (NomCo) and ran a robust process to select a new CEO. An independent adviser was appointed to work with the NomCo to craft the job specification and to design and manage an inclusive advertising, search and selection process. The Nomco reviewed 10 candidates in detail from around around 50 applicants and met with six before finalising a shortlist of four for panel interviews.

Tom Purser was appointed our new CEO in December 2023 and joined the charity in January 2024. Tom joins us from the National Autistic Society where he has spearheaded high profile and impactful campaigns to drive greater public understanding of autism and launch new support services. He has extensive experience working with Government, employers and funders, as well as autistic people and their families, to bring about positive change in people's lives. Tom is an energetic champion of rights and we look forward to his leadership as we seek to grow our impact significantly in the coming years.

Finally, I would like to thank our donors who support vital work; our dedicated trustees who guide the charity strategically and responsibly; and our ambassadors who put their weight and reputations behind everything we do.

Fraser Hardie

Chair of Trustees

26 March 2024

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statement of the charity for the year ending 30th June 2023. The financial statements comply with the governing document and Accounting and Reporting by 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects in the Governing Document

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and wellbeing, and advance the education of autistic people and their families by:

- providing or assisting in the provision of clinical and social care services for autistic people or people with associated communication, social or behavioural conditions and their families;

- advancing the education, training or employment opportunities for such people and advancing the education of others in autism, associated communication, social or behavioural conditions; and

- the encouragement, support and promotion of research into autism and related subjects (and the publication and dissemination of the useful results of such research), in particular with a view to developing new and validated methods for assessment, intervention and treatment.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant-making policies for the charity.

Grantmaking

The charity publishes research funding opportunities as open calls via autismcentreofexcellence.org. These are open to applicants at UK-based research institutions. Potential applicants are given at least three weeks from the date of the call to make an initial expression of interest. These are reviewed by a subgroup of Trustees who use the criteria specified in the published call to select those they would like to proceed to full applications. At least two weeks are then allowed for preparation of full applications, which must include the following:

- Details of research questions, methodology, expected analysis and type of results to be delivered.

- Rationale for how the research could be translated into relevant impact for autistic people. The translation itself will usually be outside of the remit of the research study, but applications should include a proposed pathway to impact.

- Details of lead applicant from a UK-based research institution and any other researcher(s) involved.

- At least two proposed scientific peer reviewers.

- Clear timescales and budget breakdown.

- Evidence or track-record of delivering similarly scaled projects on time and on budget.

- Evidence that the proposed research would be world-class, novel, timely, and good value for money.

Within approximately two weeks of the deadline, a subgroup of Trustees will review these applications and select a shortlist to proceed to scientific peer review. Peer reviewers are asked to declare any conflicts of interest. One independent peer reviewer is required for grants of £60,000 or under, and two for grants over this amount. Recommendations for making awards are made by the subgroup of Trustees and final decisions are at the discretion of the Board. Decisions will take into account scientific peer review, best use of funds, scientific quality of applications, potential to lead to impact, clarity of timescale, budget, deliverables and evidence of ability to deliver the proposed project.

Conflicted trustees are excluded from the approval process.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Our Achievements this year

From our work so far and previous research it is clear that there is a worsening mental health crisis in the community - autistic people suffer severe anxiety and depression with 8 in 10 reporting mental health problems. This is a crisis playing out in families, homes, schools, the NHS and hospitals, social care and residential settings all over the country.

During the year over 800 autistic people fed into the development phase of a programme we have designed to respond directly to this crisis. With their insights as fuel, we have set a goal (which we cannot deliver alone) to reduce the incidence of mental health problems by half in 10 years. By the year end we had:

- Designed the largest autism community dialogue around mental health and suicide prevention

- Raised funds to enable the commissioning of the UK's largest ever autism and suicide science research programme to be commissioned and delivered between 2023 to 2026

- Opened up dialogue with Government and the implementation of its National Suicide Prevention Strategy

- Worked with NHS England to shape our approach to research methodology and priorities

- Consulted with charities leading autism service delivery and on the front line of suicide prevention in the UK

- Identified and partnered with pioneering organisations using technology to provide crisis mental health support services to the wider population, in order to analyse anonymised data from autistic people for the first time

We have developed a flagship project to improve inclusion in sport and activity. We have convened partners including British Cycling and the England and Wales Cricket Board, leading leisure provider Parkwood Leisure, Mencap, Neurodiverse Sport, Sporting Equals and the National Academy for Social Prescribing. Our work will establish a 5-year programme which will build a strong evidence base and engagement with NGBs, clubs, locally trusted organisations, leisure centres and social prescribing networks. Initiatives will be designed with autistic people and their parents and carers to overcome specific barriers that currently exist within sport, physical activity and leisure.

During the year we funded £52,106.00 for a grant writer position at the Autism Research Centre - this was referenced last year but the funds were paid in the financial period to June 2023. The immediate priority for grant applications has been funding diagnosis research.

Current unemployment stands at around 80 per cent and during the year we took the decision to fund our employment workstream to conduct analysis into the most prospective areas for improving employment rates. This work has identified a clear opportunity to work with social enterprises to enable expansion in the heart of communities. Overall, we have set ourselves an ambitious goal of working with partners to increase autistic jobs by 10,000 in ten years.

We will continue to build on existing research into the adverse outcomes experienced by autistic people in contact with or within the criminal justice system. The research found that there is a consistent lack of support throughout the criminal justice systems. It points to the need for Partnerships and projects to look at the improvements and adaptations needed to ensure fair and equal treatment for autistic people from street policing to stations, courts and prisons.

Monitoring achievement and measuring impact

The success of our work will be determined by the positive impact experienced by autistic people. We will create a framework that objectively measures our impact and calculates the value of the outcomes achieved. Positive change that improves the lives of autistic people needs also to be measured and quantified so that we can contribute to the evidence base of best practice for wider dissemination and benefit.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the financial period, the charity received donations amounting to £855,508, some of which form part of the unrestricted reserves. £114,081 of the total donations received in the year were related to a restricted donation. There were also sales of online learning resources of £27,619. During the year charitable activity expenditure decreased in comparison to the previous year, however funds have been set aside for projects ACE are planning to undertake in the near future. These are discussed in more detail within the Chairman's statement.

The majority of the £855,508 donations received during the period came from individuals and corporate donors. ACE is incredibly grateful to our generous donors for their continued support.

At 30 June 2023 the charity had cash at bank of £2,461,120 and net assets (restricted) of £447,415 and net assets(unrestricted) of £1,992,648

What we funded

Having received over £850,000 of donations during the period, the trustees will continue their commitment to funding the Music Therapy Project whilst using any excess reserves to kick start other projects that are planned to start during the next financial year. ACE agreed and funded a grant writer position at the ARC for £52,106, within the University of Cambridge, in August 2022. Along with this, ACE also paid the second tranche of £333,333 relating to the grant for the Music Therapy Project in August 2022.

Shortly after year end, in October 2023, the final instalment for the Music Therapy Project was paid. This concluded the £1m funding commitment, but ACE will continue to monitor and support the project team. As the payment was made after year end, the amount is still within the restricted reserves figure within the report. ACE also made a grant payment of £568,322 for a suicide prevention project with the University of Cambridge.

Investment policy and objectives

Reserves of the charity are invested in short term deposits in reputable UK financial institutions. These are held on a short-term basis as the trustees intend to access funds to ensure the agreed priority projects can be pursued as part of the strategic and business plan.

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in an unrestricted fund that covers support, operational and governance costs for twelve months.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees consider and assess the risks to which the charity is potentially exposed and have established systems and procedures to review and manage those risks. The Finance and Risk sub-committee review and assess all risks and put in place suitable and sufficient measures to mitigate the risk. This information is then recorded on the Risk Register and reported to Trustee at quarterly board meetings for discussion and agreement.

The main risks facing the charity are considered to be:	Description	Management
Risk		
Operational: Key individual reliance	In a small team, there is a high degree of reliance on individuals which means that disengagement of key staff could have a disruptive impact on the planned projects.	- Engagement and wellbeing of employees is a key priority of senior management. - High level of communication to ensure any risks are identified and mitigated early. - Regular communication between the Chair of Trustees, Director and employed staff.
Operational: Failure to attract and hire new staff	It could be difficult to attract new employees, particularly considering the current job market.	- Good benchmarking to industry to ensure compensation is appropriate for the role. - To date the charity has not experienced any issue with hiring and typically receives a high number of applications for each role advertised.
Financial: Failure to identify long term funding streams	The charity aims to apply for funding for a range of projects to be delivered by partners. Funding for this needs to be identified.	- Ongoing funding requirements identified at start of projects. - Prudent reserves policy to ensure no service provision halted in an unplanned manner. - Feasibility of different options being explored. - The position of a grant writer at the Autism Research Centre (ARC) within the University of Cambridge has been in place since August 2022 to ensure adequate funding applications. -Active pipeline management and discussions around donation streams happens regularly. -Development of detailed fundraising plans.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The main risks facing the charity are considered to be:	Description	Management
Risk		
Financial: Failure to identify / construct projects to be funded.	Competition from other charities may make it more difficult for funding to be received.	- Our project development process includes extensive engagement with the autistic community and other stakeholders to ensure the most impactful projects are funded. - Regular planning meetings and monitoring of strategic direction to ensure we are funding the most promising projects which meet people's needs.
External: Poor financial health of local statutory services	Both the NHS and Local authorities are reporting annual deficits which limits their ability to give financial support to new projects. This issue will be exacerbated by the increased cost of living within the UK, caused partly by the high levels of inflation.	- Early recognition of this position and planning for alternative funding. - Positioning of offer to give clear benefit to local services so that funding is prioritised. - Development of evidence of local and national economic benefit. - Develop methodology to calculate ACE impact and value for all projects. - Capitalise on other sources of income including funding.
External: Loss of support from the autistic community and wider stakeholders	Significantly elapsed time from incorporation of the charity to projects starting risks losing engagement and support from: Donors, stakeholders, trustees and the autistic community.	- Regular senior leadership team meetings. - Project development process agreed with clear timeframes for delivery. - Regular engagement from established sub-committees, such as the Finance and Risk Committee - Director of Workstreams has been in post since May 2022 to oversee the implementation of agreed charity priorities. - Regular engagement with the Steering Group and Community Advisory panel.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The main risks facing the charity are considered to be:	Description	Management
Risk		
External: Loss of reputation	Failure to adequately engage with autistic people and their families / representatives in the co-design and co-production of ACE projects risks not meeting people's need, and reputational damage to ACE, amongst the community we are seeking to support.	- Creation of a Steering Group and Community Advisory panel. - The charity will continue to seek the views of autistic people and their families as we aim to co-design ACE projects. - Community Engagement Manager has been in post since May 2023 to oversee the charity's relationships.
Compliance: Failure to recognise all compliance requirements as the multiple projects develop.	As the projects start ACE may be subject to greater regulatory framework or compliance requirements. Failure to comply with this will lead to reputational issues and enforcement processes.	- Seek expert advice as required on compliance requirements. - Regular reports to Finance and Risk committee.

FUTURE PLANS

The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge has been established as a science-led campaigning charity working closely with Cambridge University's Autism Research Centre. Our aim is to remove barriers and stigma for autistic people. We commission breakthrough science, campaigns and partnerships to scale interventions, tools and adaptations to:

1. Improve inclusion, acceptance, respect, and human rights of autistic people.

2. Improve support for autistic people in education, employment, health, wellbeing, and criminal justice.

3. Reduce avoidable deaths caused by suicide, epilepsy or other health conditions.

4. Reduce avoidable hardship in life caused by inequality, exclusion, isolation or maltreatment.

We will work with autistic people, parents/carers and partner organisations to identify helpful approaches and ensure that they are adequately evaluated. This includes commissioning world-class academic research at the University of Cambridge and its international collaborators. Increasing the amount of evidence-based support that is available will be of great benefit to autistic people and their families.

But that isn't enough. We know that these approaches can only change lives if they are widely available. The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge will therefore also partner with organisations around the world with the ability to roll out new approaches at a large scale. We believe that high quality support should be available to all, and not be out of reach due to costs. We will always consider funding requirements and possibilities for support to be offered in existing pathways, such as within statutory health and social care provision.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and wellbeing and advance the education of autistic people and their families.

Charity constitution

The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge (ACE) is a registered charity (charity no. 1191599). It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company no. 12435820), whose registered office is at Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, CB2 8AH. The charity was incorporated on 31st January 2020, and it was registered with the Charity Commission on 2nd October 2020. These financial statements are the financial statements for the third accounting period, during which the emphasis of the trustees has been to establish the Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge as a science-led campaigning charity with the aim of removing barriers and stigma for autistic people.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees via a Nominations Committee. The articles of association provide for a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of twelve. Trustees with a range of different skill sets are sought, to ensure the effective running of the charity.

Organisational structure and decision making

The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees, which met four times during the financial period, in addition to the Annual General Meeting. A scheme of delegation is in place; the Chief Executive, has overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organisation including ensuring that services are delivered in line with the operational policies.

Induction and training of new trustees

On appointment, new trustees sign a trustee declaration statement agreeing to give their time and expertise. The induction pack includes the memorandum and articles of association of the charity, the most recent financial statements and a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance 'The Essential Trustee Guide" and "Public Benefit: running a charity" and the "Charity Governance Code for larger charities".

Key management remuneration

The pay of the Charity's key management personnel is set by the Board and is reviewed annually by the Finance Committee, in line with both market conditions and affordability for the charity, and a proposal is submitted to the Board for their approval.

Related parties

All trustees give their time freely and no remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the chief executive and, in accordance with the charity's conflicts of interest policy, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
12435820 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1191599

Registered office
Douglas House
18b Trumpington Road
Cambridge
CB2 8AH

Trustees
F M Hardie - Chairman
Professor S P Baron-Cohen
E N Binks
A J Buisson
Dr I S Hall
R A D Leeming (resigned 13/9/22)
A M Lewy
Dr L Owens
I V Pocock
E Sakellis
Dr J L Tobin
J H Penrose Buckley (appointed 3/11/23)

Chief Executive Officer
Tom Purser (appointed 29/1/24)
Jon Cheyette (resigned 16/6/23)

Independent Examiner
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Bankers
Barclays Bank Plc
Leicester
Leicestershire
LE87 2BB

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Maling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Autism Centre of Excellence for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

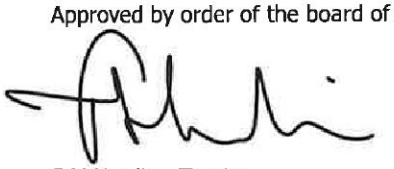
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 26 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



F M Hardie - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Autism Centre of Excellence ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

Jonathan Askew
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

26 March 2024

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	741,427	114,081	855,508	897,735
Other trading activities	4	30,619	-	30,619	13,440
Total		772,046	114,081	886,127	911,175
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	5	447	-	447	-
Charitable activities	6				
Support and improve the lives of autistic people		450,497	333,333	783,830	579,512
Health and Wellbeing		10,475	-	10,475	-
Employment		15,000	-	15,000	-
Total		476,419	333,333	809,752	579,512
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		295,627	(219,252)	76,375	331,663
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		1,697,021	666,667	2,363,688	2,032,025
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,992,648	447,415	2,440,063	2,363,688

The notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	14	2,921	-	2,921	3,841
Tangible assets	15	2,696	-	2,696	3,312
		5,617	-	5,617	7,153
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	13,952	-	13,952	1,422
Cash at bank		2,013,705	447,415	2,461,120	2,368,165
		2,027,657	447,415	2,475,072	2,369,587
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(40,626)	-	(40,626)	(13,052)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,987,031	447,415	2,434,446	2,356,535
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,992,648	447,415	2,440,063	2,363,688
NET ASSETS		1,992,648	447,415	2,440,063	2,363,688
FUNDS	18				
Unrestricted funds				1,992,648	1,697,021
Restricted funds				447,415	666,667
TOTAL FUNDS				2,440,063	2,363,688

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

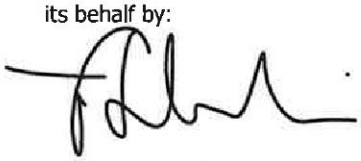
The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26 March 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



F M Hardie - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	94,399	610,265
Net cash provided by operating activities		94,399	610,265
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		-	(1,360)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,444)	(1,256)
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,444)	(2,616)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		92,955	607,649
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,368,165	1,760,516
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		2,461,120	2,368,165

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	76,375	331,663
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	2,980	2,524
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(12,530)	279,373
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	27,574	(3,295)
Net cash provided by operations	94,399	610,265

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1/7/22 £	Cash flow £	At 30/6/23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	2,368,165	92,955	2,461,120
	2,368,165	92,955	2,461,120
Total	2,368,165	92,955	2,461,120

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The private charitable company is incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The address of its registered office is Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, United Kingdom, CB2 8AH . The registered number of the company is 12435820.The registered number of the charity 1191599

The financial information presented is for the year ended 30 June 2023. The financial information is presented in sterling.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

a) Going concern basis
The "Financial Review" section of the trustees' report sets out various considerations relative to the going concern position of the charity and explains why the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of these financial statements.

b) Significant judgements and estimates
The trustees consider that there are no areas of judgement or estimation which materially affect the financial statements.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from donations is recognised when receivable.

Donated services are measured and valued at an estimate of the price the charity would have paid on the open market. An equivalent amount is recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Trading income is recognised on point of sale.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Payments for compensation for loss of office are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to compensate an employee for loss of office.

Governance costs
Since there is no direct cost to holding Trustee Board meetings and no Trustee Board expenses are reimbursed, governance costs only include the independent examiner's fees and accountancy fees.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Intangible fixed assets
Intangible fixed assets acquired separately are initially recognised at cost and then amortised over the following periods:

Trademark costs - 5 years straight line
Website development costs - 5 years straight line

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds 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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies
Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the statement of financial position date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Cash at bank
Cash at bank includes bank deposit accounts 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.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors
Creditors are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount.

Impairment
Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	855,508	897,735

During the year the charity received £114,081 (2022 £725,000) as a distribution from The Autism Research Trust.

Pro bono support is included within donations and is valued at £12,500 (2022 £nil).

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Sales - services	3,000	13,440
Website sales	27,619	-
	30,619	13,440

5. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fundraising expenses	447	-

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	-	385,439	398,391	783,830
Health and Wellbeing	10,475	-	-	10,475
Employment	15,000	-	-	15,000
	25,475	385,439	398,391	809,305

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2023	2022
	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	385,439	333,333

In August 2022 the charity paid the second tranche of the grant awarded to The Autism Research Centre in relation to the music therapy project alongside £52,106 relating to a grant writer award.

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	391,099	658	6,634	398,391

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	2,060	1,664
Patents and licences amortisation	398	338
Development costs amortisation	522	522

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 June 2023 nor for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 June 2023 nor for the year ended 30 June 2022.

11. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	226,883	125,422
Social security costs	20,358	10,736
Pension costs	13,170	9,391
Compensation for loss of office	18,000	-
	278,411	145,549

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Management and Administration	5	3

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

	2023	2022
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£150,001 - £160,000	1	-
	1	1

Key management compensation for the year was £168,925 (2022 £96,099).

During the year the charity made a payment of £18,000 (2022 £nil) for compensation for loss of office. This payment was approved by the Chair with unanimous support from the board of Trustees.

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	897,735	-	897,735
Other trading activities	13,440	-	13,440
Total	911,175	-	911,175
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	246,179	333,333	579,512
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	664,996	(333,333)	331,663
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	1,032,025	1,000,000	2,032,025
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,697,021	666,667	2,363,688

13. INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

The independent examiner's fee consisted of:

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent examination	1,000	1,000
Preparation of statutory financial statements	1,000	1,000
	2,000	2,000

14. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Patents and licences £	Development costs £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023	2,621	2,133	4,754
AMORTISATION			
At 1 July 2022	348	565	913
Charge for year	398	522	920
At 30 June 2023	746	1,087	1,833
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 30 June 2023	1,875	1,046	2,921
At 30 June 2022	2,273	1,568	3,841

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 July 2022	5,108
Additions	1,444
At 30 June 2023	6,552
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 July 2022	1,796
Charge for year	2,060
At 30 June 2023	3,856
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 June 2023	2,696
At 30 June 2022	3,312

16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	427	-
Other debtors	11,813	-
Prepayments	1,712	1,422
	13,952	1,422

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	4,661	4,275
Social security and other taxes	29,075	3,648
Other creditors	2,090	509
Accruals and deferred income	4,800	4,620
	40,626	13,052

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/7/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/6/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,697,021	295,627	1,992,648
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	666,667	(219,252)	447,415
TOTAL FUNDS	2,363,688	76,375	2,440,063

18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	772,046	(476,419)	295,627
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	114,081	(333,333)	(219,252)
TOTAL FUNDS	886,127	(809,752)	76,375

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/7/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/6/22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,032,025	664,996	1,697,021
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	1,000,000	(333,333)	666,667
TOTAL FUNDS	2,032,025	331,663	2,363,688

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	911,175	(246,179)	664,996
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	-	(333,333)	(333,333)
TOTAL FUNDS	911,175	(579,512)	331,663

Restricted Funds

John Lambton Trust Research Project

Restricted funding for the research of music therapy for autistic children and adults.

19. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The charity is committed to making more future grant payments to The Autism Research Centre.

	30/6/2024 £
Grant - music therapy project	333,333

20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

(i) Mark Hardie

During the year, the charity was charged consultancy fees of £2,975 (2022 £nil) from Mark Hardie Associates Limited.

Mark is a consultant with significant experience in sports and physical inclusion programs, who was engaged to develop an autism-inclusive cycling program aimed at enhancing wellbeing.

Mark, the brother of Fraser Hardie, Chairman of ACE, was selected to lead this initiative.

Mark's selection, work scope, and compensation were overseen by the Director of Workstreams and approved by the CEO, ensuring transparency and compliance with governance standards.

(ii) Simon Baron-Cohen

During the year, the charity made grants to the Autism Research Centre of £333,333 (2022 £333,333) - music therapy research grant and £52,106 (2022 £nil) grant writer award.

Professor Simon Baron-Cohen is a trustee of the charity and a director of the Autism Research Centre.

Simon does not participate in any decision making or voting on grant awards from the charity.

(iii) Teneo

During the year, the charity worked with Teneo, who provided pro bono assistance from their Strategy and Communications division. The value of the support has been reliably estimated to be £12,500 and is included in donations.

The support has been in time and expertise, where Teneo campaigned and assisted the launch of the charity's suicide prevention programme.

Fraser Hardie is a Senior Adviser to Teneo and formerly Chairman of Teneo UK. Fraser is also Chairman of ACE.

21. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

After the year end the charity made a grant payment of £568,322 for a suicide prevention project with the University of Cambridge.

22. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member is determined by the Articles of the charity and shall not exceed £1.

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

England & Wales - Charity number 1191599

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 12435820 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1191599

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

FOR

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

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AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

As ever, we are grateful to our trustees, advisory panels (including autistic people and parents), our development board, ambassadors, donors and supporters. Their contribution has been invaluable as The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge has focused its efforts on building out its organisation and funding workstreams across five priorities areas identified by autistic people. These are:

1. Health, wellbeing and diagnosis
2. Employment
3. Education and learning
4. Criminal Justice
5. Advice and advocacy

Our work will draw on and seek to develop the latest scientific research and evidence where need is greatest. New research will be carried out by the prestigious Autism Research Centre (ARC) at the University of Cambridge (where we have funded the endowment of a professorship, the Chair of Autism Research), and by our collaborators in other leading academic institutions.

We continue to work and co-locate with the University as we aim to leverage the Cambridge ecosystem which attracts talent, creates breakthrough thinking and forges collaborations which can accelerate progress for autistic people.

Our partnership with the University grew in the year as we committed £333,000 to continue the Autism Research Centre's randomised controlled trial exploring the impact of music therapy on the health and wellbeing of autistic people. A further award of £52,000 will fund the appointment of a dedicated grant writer. This post will play a vital role in developing application for grants and donations to fund research across all of our five priority areas.

As a charity, we are driven by the urgent need to address the injustices and inequalities autistic people face across our societies. The rights which the vast majority of citizens are able to take for granted are not being met. A life-long (and largely unseen) battle against inequality is an unnecessary fact of life for autistic people and their families.

Nowhere is this more stark than in statistics that record dramatic reductions in life expectancy. Early deaths are largely avoidable - they are the outcome of systemic and overlapping failures. Diagnosis is slow. Interventions, support and care are poorly-evidenced, under-funded and inconsistently delivered. Inequalities in access to education and employment result in autistic people being isolated, stigmatised and discriminated against in all stages and walks of life.

Many are left excluded and suffering poor mental health. The consequences can be devastating - we believe it is shameful and unacceptable that one in three autistic adults have either planned or attempted to take their own life. That is why we have established a Suicide Prevention project team, bringing together experts from a number of research institutes combining relevant experience in the field of autism, suicidality and suicide prevention.

Several waves of consultation with the autism community and stakeholders are now complete, framing our vital Suicide Prevention work which will continue in 2023 with the launch of several projects designed to step-change the understanding needed identify the most effective routes for suicide prevention. Cambridge University has developed an analytics project to harvest insights from existing NHS data sets and the Autism Centre of Excellence will launch of two important surveys seeking the opinion of autistic people, families and supporters of autistic people, who have experienced suicidal thoughts and/or planned suicide.

We are conscious that research does not create change by itself. Support needs to be delivered at scale to make a real difference. So, in line with our purpose - **translating research excellence into transformational support for autistic people everywhere** - we will seek to harness the power of this new knowledge by forging new ground-breaking partnerships with technology and service providers focusing their skills and capabilities on our suicide prevention agenda. We will also work with ambassadors to increase awareness and to make the case for changes to policy and public funding as appropriate.

Recognising the critical role of employment as the bridge to inclusion and improved mental health, we will prioritise working inside companies to develop and codify best practice adaptations and training.

We will also develop a project that seeks improve physical and mental health outcomes for and with autistic people by improving access and participation in physical activity and sport.

We will build on existing research into the adverse outcomes experienced by autistic people in contact with or within the criminal justice system. Partnerships and projects will look at the improvements and adaptations needed to ensure fair and equal treatment for autistic people from street policing to stations, courts and prisons.

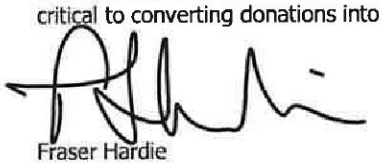
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Strong governance and risk management has ensured that the charity remains in a strong financial position and able to invest in the best talent to deliver social value and impact. Trustees take a conservative view of reserves reflecting the current uncertain global economic outlook and we can report new income for the year of £911,175.

We have appointed a key new member of our senior leadership team (Director of Workstreams) and, in the coming year, this will be followed by the appointment of Workstream Leads who will develop a portfolio of projects in each of our five priority areas. Project assistants will be recruited to ensure we harness learning from existing research and best practice while identifying gaps and potential partnerships.

A Community Engagement Manager will put autistic people at the centre of our project development. In all our work we remain committed to working collaboratively with the autism community and other autism charities to agree priorities, design and co-create everything we do. If we can find common ground to work together, we believe we can transform millions of lives for the better.

In April 2022 we commissioned State of Life to help us develop our impact and value framework which will be compliant with the UK Treasury 'Green Book' guidance. Being able to demonstrate and quantify our impact and social value is critical to converting donations into the progress and breakthroughs that autistic people so badly need.



Fraser Hardie

Chair of Trustees

Date: 25 April 2023

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statement of the charity for the period ending 30th June 2022. The financial statements comply with the governing document and Accounting and Reporting by 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects in the Governing Document

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and wellbeing, and advance the education of autistic people and their families by:

- providing or assisting in the provision of clinical and social care services for autistic people or people with associated communication, social or behavioural conditions and their families;

- advancing the education, training or employment opportunities for such people and advancing the education of others in autism, associated communication, social or behavioural conditions; and

- the encouragement, support and promotion of research into autism and related subjects (and the publication and dissemination of the useful results of such research), in particular with a view to developing new and validated methods for assessment, intervention and treatment.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant-making policies for the charity.

Grantmaking

Trustees release an open call for grants on the website https://www.autismcentreofexcellence.org/ for awards to be given to higher education institutions in Cambridgeshire. These applications are reviewed at the usual trustee quarterly meetings. Applications are subject to external peer review, who are checked for conflicts of interest prior to being asked to review the application. The trustees require recommendation from one independent scientific advisor for grants £60,000 or under. Two recommendations are required from independent experts before approval for grants over this amount.

Conflicted trustees are excluded from the approval process.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Our Achievements this year

- Continuing to fund and support the Music Therapy Project, in relation to the £1,000,000 grant previously awarded.

- Progressing the establishment of an endowed professorship through funding for a Chair of Autism Research at the University of Cambridge.

- Continued development of a clear strategic framework and business plan to ensure the 5 key areas of priority meet the needs of autistic people and their families.

- Developing partnerships with organisations to begin to implement our ambitious plans.

- Commencing work to create a better understanding of autistic people's life experiences so we can develop a framework to measure the impact and value of the charity's work using HM Treasury 'Green Book' guidance. The establishment of a Suicide Prevention project team, bringing together experts in the field of autism and suicidality from a number of research institutes and also including people with relevant experience in the field of autism and suicidality and suicide prevention. This will enable us to co-design with autistic people the most effective support strategies to reduce suicide rates.

- Undertaking our 'pathways to employment' project, that develops effective partnerships with employer organisations, aims for more autistic people to be welcomed and supported in the workplace and ultimately will reduce the inequitable unemployment rate amongst autistic adults.

Monitoring achievement and measuring impact
The success of our work will be determined by the positive impact experienced by autistic people. We will create a framework that objectively measures our impact and calculates the value of the outcomes achieved. Positive change that improves the lives of autistic people needs also to be measured and quantified so that we can contribute to the evidence base of best practice for wider dissemination and benefit.

FINANCIAL REVIEW
Financial position
During the financial period, the charity received donations amounting to £911,175, all of which form part of the unrestricted reserves. Furthermore, charitable activity expenditure has increased significantly when compared to last year. This is due to the June 2021 period only including one month of active trading for the charity.

The majority of the £911,175 donations received during the period came from individuals and corporate donors. ACE are incredibly grateful to our generous donors for their continued support.

At 30 June 2022 the charity had cash at bank of £2,368,165 and net assets (restricted) of £666,667 and net assets (unrestricted) of £1,697,021.

What we funded
Having received nearly £1m of donations during the period, the trustees will continue their commitment to funding the Music Therapy Project whilst using any excess reserves to kick start other projects that are planned to start during the next financial year. ACE also agreed and funded a grant writer position at the Autism Research Centre, within the University of Cambridge, this took place shortly after year end, during August 2022.

Investment policy and objectives
Reserves of the charity are invested in short term deposits in reputable UK financial institutions. These are held on a short-term basis as the trustees intend to access funds to ensure the agreed priority projects can be pursued as part of the strategic and business plan.

Reserves policy
The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in an unrestricted fund that covers support, operational and governance costs for 12 months.

The donations received during the period came from multiple sources as the charity has started to receive donations directly. A small amount of donations received during the year were restricted in nature and were included within restricted funds balance.

Our reserves did not include significant expenditure on operational or charitable activity as the charity only began operating in June 2021. A payment of £333,333 was made during August 2021, to the Autism Research Centre (ARC) relating to the Music Therapy Project. This was the first of three equal payments expected to be made to the ARC in respect of this project. The second payment was made during 2022 after year end. Planning for further charitable projects is underway and several are expected to start during 2023.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees consider and assess the risks to which the charity is potentially exposed and have established systems and procedures to review and manage those risks. The Finance and Risk sub-committee review and assess all risks and put in place suitable and sufficient measures to mitigate the risk. This information is then recorded on the Risk Register and reported to Trustee at quarterly board meetings for discussion and agreement.

The main risks facing the charity are considered to be:

Risk	Description	Management
Operational: Key individual reliance	In a small team, within a newly formed charity, there is a high degree of reliance on individuals which means that disengagement of key staff could have a disruptive impact on the planned projects.	- Engagement and wellbeing of employees is a key priority of senior management - High level of communication to ensure any risks identified and mitigated early - Regular communication between Chair of Trustees, Director and employed staff
Operational: Failure to attract and hire new staff	Within a newly formed charity it could be difficult to attract new employees, particularly considering the current job market.	- Good benchmarking to industry to ensure compensation is appropriate for the role - To date the charity has not experienced any issue with hiring and typically receives a high number of applications for each role advertised
Financial: Failure to identify long term funding streams	The charity aims to apply for funding for a range of projects to be delivered by partners. Funding for this needs to be identified.	- Ongoing funding requirements identified at start of projects - Prudent reserves policy to ensure no service provision halted in an unplanned manner - Feasibility of different options being explored - Engagement of fundraiser and grant/bid writer to ensure adequate funding applications
Financial: Failure to identify/construct projects to be funded	As the charity is newly formed, it may struggle to identify key projects to fund in a timely manner. Competition from other charities may make it more difficult for funding to be received.	- Our project development process includes extensive engagement with the autistic community and other stakeholders to ensure the most impactful projects are funded. - Regular planning meetings and monitoring of strategic direction to ensure we are funding the most promising projects which meet peoples needs

FINANCIAL REVIEW

External: Poor financial health of local statutory services	Both the NHS and Local authorities are reporting annual deficits which limits their ability to give financial support to new projects. This issue will be exacerbated by the increased cost of living within the UK, caused partly by the high levels of inflation.	- Early recognition of this position and planning for alternative funding - Positioning of offer to give clear benefit to local services so that funding is prioritised - Development of evidence of local and national economic benefit - Develop methodology to calculate ACE impact and value for all projects - Capitalise on other sources of income including funding
External: Loss of support from the autistic community and wider stakeholders	Significant elapsed time from incorporation of the charity to projects starting risks losing engagement and support from donors, stakeholders, trustees and the autistic community.	- Permanent CEO has been in post since April 2021 - Regular senior leadership team meetings - Project development process agreed with clear timeframes for delivery - Regular engagement from established sub-committees, such as the Finance and Risk Committee - Director of Workstreams has been in post since May 2022 to oversee the implementation of agreed charity priorities - Regular engagement with the Steering Group and Community Advisory panel
External: Loss of reputation	Failure to adequately engage with autistic people and their families/representatives in the co-design and co-production of ACE projects risks support not meeting people's needs, and reputational damage to ACE, amongst the community we are seeking to support.	- Creation of a Steering Group and Community Advisory panel - The charity will continue to seek the views of autistic people and their families as we aim to co-design ACE projects - The charity aim to recruit a Community Engagement Manaer during 2023 to oversee the charity's reationships
Compliance: Failure to recognise all compliance requirements as the multiple projects develop	As the projects start ACE may be subject to greater regulatory framework or compliance requirements. Failure to comply with this will lead to reputational issues and enforcement processes.	- Seek expert advice as required on compliance requirements - Regular reports to Finance and risk committee

FUTURE PLANS

The charity has developed a strategic framework and business plan to achieve its objectives for the public benefit, to improve the lives of autistic individuals and their families. Autism affects the lives of approximately one in every hundred people, yet support services and underpinning research have, to date, been heavily underfunded. Our purpose will address this by translating research excellence into transformational support, bringing evidence-based approaches to autistic people everywhere through our ground-breaking partnerships.

We will focus on five key workstreams under which projects will be developed and co-designed with autistic people, their allies and supporters:

Health, wellbeing and diagnosis

Education and learning

Employment

Criminal Justice

Advice and advocacy

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and wellbeing and advance the education of autistic people and their families.

Charity constitution

The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge (ACE) is a registered charity (charity no. 1191599). It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company no. 12435820), whose registered office is at Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, CB2 8AH. The charity was incorporated on 31st January 2020 and it was registered with the Charity Commission on 2nd October 2020. These financial statements are the financial statements for the third accounting period, during which the emphasis of the trustees has been to develop the charity further so that it can translate research excellence into transformational support for autistic people everywhere.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees via a Nominations Committee. The articles of association provide for a minimum of 3 trustees and a maximum of 12. Trustees with a range of different skill sets are sought, to ensure the effective running of the charity.

Organisational structure and decision making

The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees, which met 4 times during the financial period, in addition to the Annual General Meeting. A scheme of delegation is in place; the Chief Executive, has overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organisation including ensuring that services are delivered in line with the operational policies.

Induction and training of new trustees

On appointment, new trustees sign a trustee declaration statement agreeing to give their time and expertise. The induction pack includes the memorandum and articles of association of the charity, the most recent financial statements and a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance 'The Essential Trustee Guide" and "Public Benefit: running a charity" and the "Charity Governance Code for larger charities".

Key management remuneration

The pay of the Charity's key management personnel is set by the Board and is reviewed annually by the Finance Committee, in line with both market conditions and affordability for the charity, and a proposal is submitted to the Board for their approval.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Related parties

All trustees give their time freely and no remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 8 and 18 to the financial statements. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the chief executive and, in accordance with the charity's conflicts of interest policy, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

12435820 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1191599

Registered office

Douglas House
18b Trumpington Road
Cambridge
CB2 8AH

Trustees

Mr F M Hardie - Chairman
Professor S P Baron-Cohen
E N Binks
A J Buisson
Dr I S Hall
R A D Leeming
A M Lewy
Dr L Owens
I V Pocock
E Sakellis
Dr J L Tobin

Chief Executive Officer

Jon Cheyette

Independent Examiner

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
Leicester
Leicestershire
LE87 2BB

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Autism Centre of Excellence for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

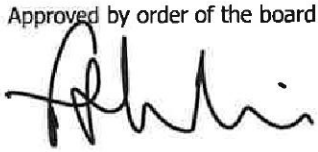
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr F M Hardie - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Autism Centre of Excellence ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of FCA which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

Jonathan Askew
FCA
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

25 April 2023

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Year Ended 30/6/22 Total funds £	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	897,735	-	897,735	2,066,366
Other income		13,440	-	13,440	-
Total		911,175	-	911,175	2,066,366
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4				
Support and improve the lives of autistic people		246,179	333,333	579,512	34,341
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		664,996	(333,333)	331,663	2,032,025
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		1,032,025	1,000,000	2,032,025	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,697,021	666,667	2,363,688	2,032,025

The notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	12	3,841	-	3,841	3,341
Tangible assets	13	3,312	-	3,312	3,720
		7,153	-	7,153	7,061
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	1,422	-	1,422	280,795
Cash at bank		1,701,498	666,667	2,368,165	1,760,516
		1,702,920	666,667	2,369,587	2,041,311
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(13,052)	-	(13,052)	(16,347)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,689,868	666,667	2,356,535	2,024,964
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,697,021	666,667	2,363,688	2,032,025
NET ASSETS		1,697,021	666,667	2,363,688	2,032,025
FUNDS	16				
Unrestricted funds				1,697,021	1,032,025
Restricted funds				666,667	1,000,000
TOTAL FUNDS				2,363,688	2,032,025

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 June 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

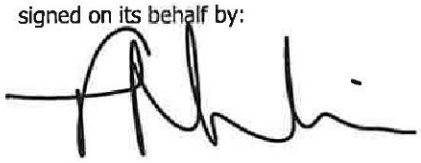
The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 25 April 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



Mr F M Hardie - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Notes	Year Ended 30/6/22 £	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	610,265	1,767,762
Net cash provided by operating activities		610,265	1,767,762
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		(1,360)	(3,394)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,256)	(4,152)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	300
Net cash used in investing activities		(2,616)	(7,246)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		607,649	1,760,516
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,760,516	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		2,368,165	1,760,516

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 30/6/22 £	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	331,663	2,032,025
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	2,524	185
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	279,373	(280,795)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(3,295)	16,347
Net cash provided by operations	610,265	1,767,762

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1/7/21 £	Cash flow £	At 30/6/22 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	1,760,516	607,649	2,368,165
	1,760,516	607,649	2,368,165
Total	1,760,516	607,649	2,368,165

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The private charitable company is incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The address of its registered office is Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, United Kingdom, CB2 8AH . The registered number of the company is 12435820.The registered number of the charity 1191599

The financial information presented is for the year ended 30 June 2022. The financial information is presented in sterling.

In the previous period the accounting reference date was changed to 30 June 2021 in order to align charities commission and companies house accounting reference dates. Comparative figures are for the 5 months from 1 February 2021 to 30 June 2021. Because of the different periods the current period figures are not wholly comparable to prior period figures.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

a) Going concern basis
The "Financial Review" section of the trustees' report sets out various considerations relative to the going concern position of the charity and explains why the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of these financial statements.

b) Significant judgements and estimates
The trustees consider that there are no areas of judgement or estimation which materially affect the financial statements.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Governance costs
Since there is no direct cost to holding Trustee Board meetings and no Trustee Board expenses are reimbursed, governance costs only include the independent examiner's fees and accountancy fees.

Intangible fixed assets
Intangible fixed assets acquired separately are initially recognised at cost and then amortised over the following periods:

Trademark costs - 5 years straight line
Website development costs - 5 years straight line

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds 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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Cash at bank
Cash at bank includes bank deposit accounts 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.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors
Creditors are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount.

Impairment
Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Year Ended 30/6/22	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21
	£	£
Donations	897,735	2,066,366

During the year the charity received £725,000 as a distribution from The Autism Research Trust.

During the previous period the charity received a restricted donation of £1,000,000 from The John Lambton Trust, and was donated funds of £1,061,366 from the Autism Research Trust. The balance was a smaller donation.

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Grant funding of activities (see note 5)	Support costs (see note 6)	Totals
	£	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	333,333	246,179	579,512

5. GRANTS PAYABLE

	Year Ended 30/6/22	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21
	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	333,333	-

In August 2021 the charity paid the first tranche of the grant awarded to The Autism Research Centre in relation to the music therapy project.

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	240,665	29	5,485	246,179

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	Year Ended 30/6/22	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	1,664	132
Patents and licences amortisation	338	10
Development costs amortisation	522	43

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 June 2022 nor for the period ended 30 June 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 June 2022 nor for the period ended 30 June 2021.

9. STAFF COSTS

	Year Ended 30/6/22	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21
	£	£
Wages and salaries	125,422	10,117
Social security costs	10,736	1,091
Other pension costs	9,391	180
	145,549	11,388

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	Year Ended 30/6/22	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21
Management and Administration	3	1

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

	Year Ended 30/6/22	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21
£70,001 - £80,000	1	-

Key management compensation for the year was £96,099 (2021 £7,485).

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	1,066,366	1,000,000	2,066,366
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	34,341	-	34,341
NET INCOME	1,032,025	1,000,000	2,032,025
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	1,032,025	1,000,000	2,032,025

11. INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

The independent examiner's fee consisted of:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Independent examination	1,000	750
Preparation of statutory financial statements	1,000	750
Preparation of corporation tax returns	-	350
	2,000	1,850

12. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Patents and licences	Development costs	Totals
	£	£	£
COST			
At 1 July 2021	1,261	2,133	3,394
Additions	1,360	-	1,360
At 30 June 2022	2,621	2,133	4,754
AMORTISATION			
At 1 July 2021	10	43	53
Charge for year	338	522	860
At 30 June 2022	348	565	913
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 30 June 2022	2,273	1,568	3,841
At 30 June 2021	1,251	2,090	3,341

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment
	£
COST	
At 1 July 2021	3,852
Additions	1,256
At 30 June 2022	5,108
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 July 2021	132
Charge for year	1,664
At 30 June 2022	1,796
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 June 2022	3,312
At 30 June 2021	3,720

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Autism Research Trust	-	280,795
Prepayments	1,422	-
	1,422	280,795

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,275	3,542
Social security and other taxes	3,648	2,845
Other creditors	509	180
Accruals and deferred income	4,620	9,780
	13,052	16,347

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/7/21	Net movement in funds	At 30/6/22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,032,025	664,996	1,697,021
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	1,000,000	(333,333)	666,667
TOTAL FUNDS	2,032,025	331,663	2,363,688

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	911,175	(246,179)	664,996
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	-	(333,333)	(333,333)
TOTAL FUNDS	911,175	(579,512)	331,663

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/2/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/6/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	-	1,032,025	1,032,025
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL FUNDS	-	2,032,025	2,032,025

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,066,366	(34,341)	1,032,025
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
TOTAL FUNDS	2,066,366	(34,341)	2,032,025

Restricted Funds

John Lambton Trust Research Project

Restricted funding for the research of music therapy for autistic children and adults.

17. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The charity is committed to making more future grant payments to The Autism Research Centre.

	30/6/2023 £	30/6/2024 £
Grant - music therapy project	333,333	333,333
Grant - grant writer	52,106	-
	385,439	333,333

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 June 2022.

19. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member is determined by the Articles of the charity and shall not exceed £1.

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

England & Wales - Charity number 1191599

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 12435820 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1191599

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

FOR

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

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AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

The year ending June 2021 marked a pivotal moment in the development of the Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge.

We are grateful to our trustees, advisory panels (including autistic people and parents), our development board, ambassadors, donors and supporters. Their contribution has been invaluable as we have used 2021, following the appointment of a new Chief Executive in April 2021, to shape a new strategic framework and plan focusing our work on the areas of most pressing need for autistic people and their families. 2022 will see intent turn into action.

By partnering with, and locating alongside the University of Cambridge, we aim to leverage an ecosystem which attracts talent, creates breakthrough thinking and forges collaborations which can accelerate progress at a critical time.

Today it is clear that our societies are failing to meet the fundamental human rights of autistic people. These include rights which the vast majority of citizens are able to take for granted: the right to live a long, fulfilling and healthy life; the right to be treated with dignity and respect; the right to access learning, education and opportunities to work.

The life-long (and largely unseen) battle against inequality is an unnecessary fact of life for autistic people and their families. Inadequate support and inequalities in health lead to avoidable and dramatic reductions in life expectancy. Diagnosis is slow and interventions, support and care are poorly-evidenced, under-funded and inconsistently delivered. Inequalities in access to education and employment result in autistic people being isolated, stigmatised and discriminated against in all walks of life.

Many are left isolated and suffering poor mental health. The consequences can be devastating - it is shameful and unacceptable that one in three autistic adults have either planned or attempted to take their own life.

Our work will draw on the latest scientific research and evidence wherever possible. New research will be carried out by the prestigious Autism Research Centre (ARC) at the University of Cambridge and our collaborators in other leading academic institutions. We are pleased therefore that a generous donation has allowed us to fund the creation of an endowed professorship; the Chair of Autism Research at the University of Cambridge.

We are conscious that research does not create change by itself. Discovery needs to be translated into proven approaches and interventions. Support needs to be delivered at scale to make a real difference. So, we will seek to harness the power of knowledge by forging ground-breaking partnerships with leaders in industry, health, education, and care.

The purpose of the Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge is now clearly defined as:

Translating research excellence into transformational support for autistic people everywhere.

The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge is currently focusing on workstreams across five priorities identified by autistic people:

1. Health, wellbeing and diagnosis
2. Education and learning
3. Employment
4. Criminal justice
5. Advice and advocacy

We have spent a good deal of time during the early phase of establishing the charity to ensure that the governance structure is robust and that we consult with autistic people as part of our aspiration to co-design all the projects to achieve maximum impact for and with autistic people.

Being able to demonstrate and quantify our impact and social value is critical. All our decisions and investments will be underpinned by an impact and value framework that will objectively determine the effectiveness of the outcomes of our agreed projects. Five bodies will ensure the excellence and integrity of our work.

1. **The Trustee Board** will have strategic oversight and will hold the executive team accountable for delivery against our purpose, strategy and plans.

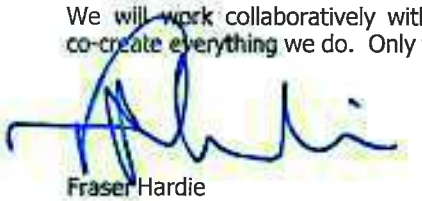
2. **Scientific and Clinical Advisory Panels** are made up of scientists and clinical, health and social care practitioners. They will review our research and partnerships hip projects to ensure they are robust, ethical and align with our principles.

3. **The Steering Group** is made up of autistic people and their families, alongside clinicians, educators, employers and researchers, for cons ultation and co-design.

4. **The Community Advisory Panel** is made up of autistic adults and parents of autistic children, for broader consultation on every project.

5. **The Development Board** will help to raise our profile and will assist with our fundraising efforts to ensure we can meet our charitable objec ts.

We will work collaboratively with the autism community and other autism charities to agree priorities, design and co-create everything we do. Only together can we change millions of lives.



Fraser Hardie
Chair of Trustees
29 July 2022

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

The Trustees present their report along with the financial statement of the charity for the period ending 30th June 2021. The financial statements comply with the governing document and Accounting and Reporting by 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects in the Governing Document

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and well being, and advance the education of autistic people and their families by:

o providing or assisting in the provision of clinical and social care services for autistic people or people with associated communication, social or behavioural conditions and their families;

o advancing the education, training or employment opportunities for such people and advancing the education of others in autism, associated communication, social or behavioural conditions; and

o the encouragement, support and promotion of research into autism and related subjects (and the publication and dissemination of the useful results of such research), in particular with a view to developing new and validated methods for assessment, intervention and treatment.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant-making policies for the charity.

Grantmaking

Trustees release an open call for grants on the website https://www.autismcentreofexcellence.org/ for awards to be given to higher education institutions in Cambridgeshire. These applications are reviewed at the usual trustee quarterly meetings. Applications are subject to external peer review, who are checked for conflicts of interest prior to being asked to review the application. The trustees require recommendation from one independent scientific advisor for grants £60,000 or under. Two recommendations are required from independent experts before approval for grants over this amount.

Conflicted trustees are excluded from the approval process.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Our Achievements this year

- Receiving the approval from the Autism Research Trust Trustees for their generous donation (note 3 of the financial statements).
- Receiving a restricted donation of £1,000,000 to fund the Music Therapy Project.
- Progressing the establishment of an endowed professorship through funding for a Chair of Autism Research at the University of Cambridge.
- Developing a clear strategic framework and business plan to ensure the 5 key areas of priority meet the needs of autistic people and their families.
- Developing partnerships with organisations to begin to implement our ambitious plans

Monitoring achievement and measuring impact

The success of our work will be determined by the positive impact experienced by autistic people. We will create a framework that objectively measures our impact and calculates the value of the outcomes achieved. Positive change that improves the lives of autistic people needs also to be measured and quantified so that we can contribute to the evidence base of best practice for wider dissemination and benefit.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

COVID-19

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation officially declared a global health pandemic due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Trustees have been continuously assessing the impact that this devastating pandemic may have on the charity to best ensure they remain operational. It is of great importance that the staff and stakeholders of the charity remain safe and that the work of the charity continues.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the financial period, the charity received donations amounting to £2,066,366, with £1,000,000 being restricted to a specific charitable project. Furthermore, charitable activity expenditure seems comparatively low as the charity was only active during June 2021.

The majority of the £2,066,366 donations received during the period came from Autism Research Trust who conducted fund raising efforts and donated the receipts to the Autism Centre of Excellence at the beginning of June 2021 as part of a formal transfer agreement.

What we funded

Having received over £2,000,000 of donations during the period, the trustees will continue their commitment to funding the Music Therapy Project whilst using any excess reserves to kick start other projects that are planned to start during the next financial year.

Investment policy and objectives

Reserves of the charity are invested in short term deposits in reputable UK financial institutions. These are held on a short-term basis as the trustees intend to access funds to ensure the agreed priority projects can be pursued as part of the strategic and business plan.

Reserves policy

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in an unrestricted fund that covers support, operational and governance costs for 12 months.

Almost all the donations received during the period came from the Autism Research Trust, who agreed to transfer their reserves to the Autism Centre of Excellence as part of a formal transfer agreement related to the winding up of the Autism Research Trust. The donation received from the Autism Research Trust included a restricted element which is detailed below.

- Music Therapy for Autistic Children - £1,000,000

Our reserves did not include significant expenditure on operational or charitable activity as the charity only began operating in June 2021. A payment of £333,333 was made shortly after the period end, in August 2021, to the Autism Research Centre relating to the Music Therapy Project. Two more payments of equal amounts are expected to be made in 2022 and 2023.

FUTURE PLANS

The charity has developed a strategic framework and business plan to achieve its objectives for the public benefit, to improve the lives of autistic individuals and their families. Autism affects the lives of approximately one in every hundred people, yet support services and underpinning research have, to date, been heavily underfunded. Our purpose aims to address this problem by translating research excellence into transformational support, bringing evidence-based approaches to autistic people around the world through our ground-breaking partnerships.

We will focus on five key areas:

Health, wellbeing and diagnosis

We're tackling poor health and wellbeing with immediate support to develop a project aiming to reduce the unacceptably high level of actual, attempted and planned suicides. Our suicide prevention project is being co-designed with autistic people to ensure we focus on the support and interventions that they identify as the most effective.

A timely autism diagnosis is often the key to getting the right support at the right time. However, waiting lists for diagnosis in the UK and many other countries are often at least two years and sometimes much longer. We are working with partner organisations to explore options to develop timely and effective diagnostic pathways which cut waiting times significantly.

A three year Music Therapy Randomised Controlled Trial has been commissioned at the University of Cambridge's Autism Research Centre. It is anticipated that this will have proven benefits for improvements to communication, mental health and well-being. The research will be important in determining effective therapy for autistic children and will enable us to use the findings to establish multiple partnerships to deliver music therapy to children across the world.

Education and learning

Autistic children and their families are often let down by a system that doesn't provide sufficient opportunities to engage in either mainstream schools or schools for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We aim to ensure every autistic child can fulfil their potential in an educational setting that is right for them. To achieve this, we will work in partnership with educationalists and education practitioners to contribute to a global evidence base by funding and commissioning research into promising educational approaches.

Initial work on our education workstream will seek to bring together exemplary schools to identify pioneering practices which unlock learning and progress in autistic children and young adults. We will collaborate with inspiring schools like Prior's Court and The Gesher School to capture methods, codify processes and experience, organising and publishing evidence (as necessary) and packaging best practices in order to move and scale elsewhere.

Employment

We recognise that to make a material difference to the employment prospects of the 85% of autistic adults currently unemployed, we need to forge partnerships with a group of vanguard employers. Whether large or small, we'll work inside companies. By mapping jobs, adapting pathways into work and improving the capacity for effective management and support of autistic people in the workplace, we will bring the latest science and evidence to collaborations with businesses to test, prove and package best practices ready for sharing at scale.

Our collaborations will create new thinking, practices and business cases required to break down barriers to employment and to make workplaces more inclusive.

Criminal Justice

In a 2022 study from the Autism Research Centre at the University of Cambridge, defence lawyers reported that half of their autistic clients were not treated as 'vulnerable adults' despite the law recognising them as such. In addition, half were not provided with the required 'appropriate adult' to safeguard their rights, and only 25% received reasonable adjustments. This research is the beginning of a process that will lead to improvements for autistic people across the criminal justice system. We will continue this vital project, working with partner organisations to apply these findings and develop best practice and reasonable adjustments to ensure the criminal justice system does not discriminate against autistic people.

Advice and advocacy

We hear directly from autistic people and their families that getting good quality information and advice both pre and post diagnosis is essential. Sadly this is often lacking and people are left confused about what their rights are and what support might be available. This in turn leads to unacceptable levels of anxiety and concern. Making sure that people get the right support at the right time depends on getting quality advice and information. We will develop a project to ensure autistic people and their families get the advice and information they need to make informed decisions about their future.

We also know that, as allies of autistic people, being part of a movement that promotes justice and equality for and with autistic people is important. We will work with autistic people and their families to ensure greater awareness and understanding of autism across societies so that people's human rights are upheld and barriers to acceptance and inclusion are broken down.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The objects of the charity are to promote the health and wellbeing and advance the education of autistic people and their families.

Charity constitution

The Autism Centre of Excellence at Cambridge (ACE) is a registered charity (charity no. 1191599). It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company no. 12435820), whose registered office is at Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, CB2 8AH. The charity was incorporated on 31st January 2020 and it was registered with the Charity Commission on 2nd October 2020. These financial statements are the financial statements for the second accounting period, during which the emphasis of the trustees has been to develop the charity further so that it can translate research excellence into transformational support for autistic people

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees via a Nominations Committee. The articles of association provide for a minimum of 3 trustees and a maximum of 12. Trustees with a range of different skill sets are sought, to ensure the effective running of the charity. On appointment, new trustees sign a trustee declaration statement agreeing to give their time and expertise. The induction pack includes the memorandum and articles of association of the charity, the most recent financial statements and a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance 'The Essential Trustee Guide" and "Public Benefit: running a charity" and the "Charity Governance Code for larger charities".

Key management remuneration

Details of key management remuneration are disclosed in note 8 of the financial statements.

Related parties

All trustees give their time freely and no remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 7 and 15 to the financial statements. Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests and register them with the chief executive and, in accordance with the charity's conflicts of interest policy, withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees consider and assess the risks to which the charity is potentially exposed and have established systems and procedures to review and manage those risks. The Finance and Risk sub-committee review and assess all risks and put in place suitable and sufficient measures to mitigate the risk. This information is then recorded on the Risk Register and reported to Trustee at quarterly board meetings for discussion and agreement.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

12435820 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1191599

Registered office

Douglas House
18b Trumpington Road
Cambridge
CB2 8AH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

Trustees
Mr F M Hardie - Chairman (appointed 1/4/21)
Professor S P Baron-Cohen
E N Binks
A J Buisson
Dr I S Hall
R A D Leeming
A M Lewy
Dr L Owens
I V Pocock
E Sakellis
Dr J L Tobin

Independent Examiner
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 29 July 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr F M Hardie - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Autism Centre of Excellence ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the period 1 February 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of FCA which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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

On 18 July 2022 the Charity Commission granted an audit dispensation under Regulation 34(3)(b) of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. This dispensation is for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 only and allows an independent examination in place of an audit for this year. This Independent Examiner's Report discloses that the examination has taken place instead of an audit (Regulation 31(f)).

Jonathan Askew
FCA
Hartley Fowler LLP
Chartered Accountants
4th Floor Tuition House
27-37 St George's Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 4EU

29 July 2022

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21 Total funds £	Period 31/1/20 to 31/1/21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	1,066,366	1,000,000	2,066,366	-
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable activity		34,341	-	34,341	-
NET INCOME		1,032,025	1,000,000	2,032,025	-
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,032,025	1,000,000	2,032,025	-

The notes form part of these financial statements

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 12435820)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	10	3,341	-	3,341	-
Tangible assets	11	3,720	-	3,720	-
		7,061	-	7,061	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	280,795	-	280,795	-
Cash at bank		760,516	1,000,000	1,760,516	-
		1,041,311	1,000,000	2,041,311	-
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(16,347)	-	(16,347)	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,024,964	1,000,000	2,024,964	-
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,032,025	1,000,000	2,032,025	-
NET ASSETS		1,032,025	1,000,000	2,032,025	-
FUNDS	14				
Unrestricted funds				1,032,025	-
Restricted funds				1,000,000	-
TOTAL FUNDS				2,032,025	-

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 30 June 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 29 July 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mr F M Hardie - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21 £	Period 31/1/20 to 31/1/21 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	1,767,762	-
Net cash provided by operating activities		1,767,762	-
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		(3,394)	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,152)	-
Sale of tangible fixed assets		300	-
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(7,246)	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		1,760,516	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		1,760,516	-

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 JUNE 2021

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21 £	Period 31/1/20 to 31/1/21 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	2,032,025	-
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	185	-
Increase in debtors	(280,795)	-
Increase in creditors	16,347	-
Net cash provided by operations	1,767,762	-

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1/2/21 £	Cash flow £	At 30/6/21 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	-	1,760,516	1,760,516
	-	1,760,516	1,760,516
Total	-	1,760,516	1,760,516

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The private charitable company is incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The address of its registered office is Douglas House, 18b Trumpington Road, Cambridge, United Kingdom, CB2 8AH . The registered number of the company is 12435820.The registered number of the charity 1191599

The financial information presented is for the period 1 February 2021 to 30 June 2021 and the year ended 31 January 2021. The financial information is presented in sterling.

Change in accounting reference date

The previous accounting reference date ended 31 January 2022 was shortened so as to end on 30 June 2021.

For the purposes of filing the financial statements with the charities commission for the year ended 30 June 2021 the results for the year and the year end balance sheet are identical to these financial statements since there were no transactions before February 2021.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

a) Going concern basis
The "Financial Review" section of the trustees' report sets out various considerations relative to the going concern position of the charity and explains why the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of these financial statements.

b) Significant judgements and estimates
The trustees consider that there are no areas of judgement or estimation which materially affect the financial statements.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs
Since there is no direct cost to holding Trustee Board meetings and no Trustee Board expenses are reimbursed, governance costs only include accountancy fees.

Intangible fixed assets
Intangible fixed assets acquired separately are initially recognised at cost and then amortised over the following periods:

Trademark costs - 5 years straight line
Website development costs - 5 years straight line

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds 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.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Cash at bank
Cash at bank includes bank deposit accounts 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.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are recognised at the invoiced cost prepaid.

Creditors
Creditors are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at the settlement amount.

Impairment
Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21	Period 31/1/20 to 31/1/21
	£	£
Donations	2,066,366	-

During the period the charity received a restricted donation of £1,000,000 from The John Lambton Trust, and was donated funds of £1,061,366 from the Autism Research Trust.

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Support costs (see note 5)
	£
Charitable activity	34,341

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activity	25,482	6	8,853	34,341

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21	Period 31/1/20 to 31/1/21
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	132	-
Patents and licences amortisation	10	-
Development costs amortisation	43	-

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 30 June 2021 nor for the period ended 31 January 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 30 June 2021 nor for the period ended 31 January 2021.

8. STAFF COSTS

	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21	Period 31/1/20 to 31/1/21
	£	£
Wages and salaries	10,117	-
Social security costs	1,091	-
Other pension costs	180	-
	11,388	-

The average monthly number of employees during the period was as follows:

	Period 1/2/21 to 30/6/21	Period 31/1/20 to 31/1/21
Management and Administration	1	-

8. STAFF COSTS - continued

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Key management compensation for the year was £7,485 (2020 £nil).

9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Total funds £
NET INCOME	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	-

10. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Patents and licences £	Development costs £	Totals £
COST			
Additions	1,261	2,133	3,394
AMORTISATION			
Charge for year	10	43	53
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 30 June 2021	1,251	2,090	3,341
At 31 January 2021	-	-	-

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
Additions	4,152
Disposals	(300)
At 30 June 2021	3,852
DEPRECIATION	
Charge for year	132
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30 June 2021	3,720
At 31 January 2021	-

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2021 £
Other debtors	280,795	-

Other debtors of £280,795 is the amount due from Autism Research Trust.

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	3,542	-
Social security and other taxes	2,845	-
Other creditors	180	-
Accruals and deferred income	9,780	-
	16,347	-

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/2/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/6/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	-	1,032,025	1,032,025
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL FUNDS	-	2,032,025	2,032,025

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,066,366	(34,341)	1,032,025
Restricted funds			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
TOTAL FUNDS	2,066,366	(34,341)	2,032,025

Restricted Funds

The John Lambton Trust Research Project for funding for the research of music therapy for autistic children and adults.

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 30 June 2021.

16. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member is determined by the Articles of the charity and shall not exceed £1.