

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
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AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

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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

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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- 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.

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

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 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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 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

Operational:

Key individual reliance

Description

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.

Management

- 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.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<p>Both the NHS and Local authorities are reporting annual deficits which limits their ability to give financial support to new projects.</p> <p>This issue will be exacerbated by the increased cost of living within the UK, caused partly by the high levels of inflation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<p>Significantly elapsed time from incorporation of the charity to projects starting risks losing engagement and support from:</p> <p>Donors, stakeholders, trustees and the autistic community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

**The main risks
facing the charity
are considered to be:**

Risk	Description	Management
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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.	<p>As the projects start ACE may be subject to greater regulatory framework or compliance requirements.</p> <p>Failure to comply with this will lead to reputational issues and enforcement processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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).

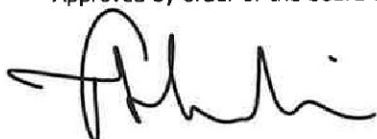
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that 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		<u>772,046</u>	<u>114,081</u>	<u>886,127</u>	<u>911,175</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	5	447	-	447	-
Charitable activities					
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	6	450,497	333,333	783,830	579,512
Health and Wellbeing		10,475	-	10,475	-
Employment		15,000	-	15,000	-
Total		<u>476,419</u>	<u>333,333</u>	<u>809,752</u>	<u>579,512</u>
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		<u>1,992,648</u>	<u>447,415</u>	<u>2,440,063</u>	<u>2,363,688</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 12435820)**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
		<u>5,617</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,617</u>	<u>7,153</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	13,952	-	13,952	1,422
Cash at bank		2,013,705	447,415	2,461,120	2,368,165
		<u>2,027,657</u>	<u>447,415</u>	<u>2,475,072</u>	<u>2,369,587</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(40,626)	-	(40,626)	(13,052)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,987,031</u>	<u>447,415</u>	<u>2,434,446</u>	<u>2,356,535</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,992,648</u>	<u>447,415</u>	<u>2,440,063</u>	<u>2,363,688</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,992,648</u>	<u>447,415</u>	<u>2,440,063</u>	<u>2,363,688</u>
FUNDS	18				
Unrestricted funds				1,992,648	1,697,021
Restricted funds				447,415	666,667
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>2,440,063</u>	<u>2,363,688</u>

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

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

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

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	<u>94,399</u>	<u>610,265</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

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

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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.

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Donations	<u>855,508</u>	<u>897,735</u>

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	<u>27,619</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>30,619</u>	<u>13,440</u>

5. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2023 £	2022 £
Fundraising expenses	<u>447</u>	<u>-</u>

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	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>
	<u>25,475</u>	<u>385,439</u>	<u>398,391</u>	<u>809,305</u>

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2023 £	2022 £
Support and improve the lives of autistic people	<u>385,439</u>	<u>333,333</u>

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.

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

8. SUPPORT COSTS

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

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	<u>522</u>	<u>522</u>

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	<u>18,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>278,411</u>	<u>145,549</u>

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

	2023	2022
Management and Administration	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>

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	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

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.

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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	<u>911,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>911,175</u>
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	<u>1,697,021</u>	<u>666,667</u>	<u>2,363,688</u>

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
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>

14. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

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

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
	<u>40,626</u>	<u>13,052</u>

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	<u>2,363,688</u>	<u>76,375</u>	<u>2,440,063</u>

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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	<u>886,127</u>	<u>(809,752)</u>	<u>76,375</u>

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	<u>2,032,025</u>	<u>331,663</u>	<u>2,363,688</u>

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	<u>911,175</u>	<u>(579,512)</u>	<u>331,663</u>

Restricted Funds

John Lambton Trust Research Project

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

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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	<u>333,333</u>

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.

AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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.