

**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  
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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**

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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.

## AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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- 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.

## **AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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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

## **AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 12435820)**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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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](https://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 2024**

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**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 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
- 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.

## **AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 12435820)**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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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.



## **AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 12435820)**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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#### **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
	<hr/>
	364,400
	<hr/>

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.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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**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:**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Management</b>
<b>Risk</b>		
<b>Operational:</b> Inadequate engagement with the autistic community leading to a 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Creation of a Steering Group and Community Advisory Panel</li><li>- Continue to seek views from autistic people and their families in the co-design of ACE projects</li><li>- The charity aim to recruit a Community Engagement Manager to facilitate the above during 2023</li></ul>
<b>Operational:</b> Risk associated with developing partnerships with organisations and individuals.	Reputational risk associated with partnering with organisations and individuals to deliver ACE projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Due diligence and scrutiny of all new partnerships.</li><li>- Only partner with reputable organisations and individuals who share ACE values.</li><li>- MoU's to be in place with all partners</li><li>- F&amp;R Committee to review and discuss all new partnerships before bringing findings to the board of Trustees.</li></ul>
<b>Operational:</b> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Values-based recruitment, aligning ourselves to messages reflecting that this is more than just a job</li><li>- Use of specialist recruitment agencies where appropriate</li><li>- Aligning salary rates to market benchmarks to attract talent</li><li>- Communicate and celebrate wins and progress to create 'pull' factor</li><li>- Retain existing staff by introducing staff benefits over time, as income allows</li></ul>

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

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

**Risk**

**Financial:**

Failure to meet fundraising targets and identify long term funding streams

**Description**

Failure to fundraise for all projects currently being planned could reduce the ambitious impact ACE is aiming to have.

**Management**

- 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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

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

**Risk**

**External:**

Competition  
and  
distinctiveness

**Description**

Risks that the charity would fail to differentiate itself from other autism charities and fail to attract support and income as a result

**Management**

- 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 the evolving 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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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**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**

## **AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 12435820)**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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#### **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.

**AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 12435820)**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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**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

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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**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

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### 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 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
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	-
<b>Total</b>		<u>354,162</u>	<u>60,511</u>	<u>414,673</u>	<u>886,127</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	6	512	-	512	447
<b>Charitable activities</b>	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
<b>Total</b>		<u>1,160,105</u>	<u>333,333</u>	<u>1,493,438</u>	<u>809,752</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		(805,943)	(272,822)	(1,078,765)	76,375
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		1,992,648	447,415	2,440,063	2,363,688
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>1,186,705</u>	<u>174,593</u>	<u>1,361,298</u>	<u>2,440,063</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 12435820)****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
30 JUNE 2024**

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

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

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

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 2024

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
	2024	2023	
	£	£	
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)</b>	(1,078,765)	76,375	
<b>Adjustments for:</b>			
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	
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operations</b>	<u>(1,110,879)</u>	<u>94,399</u>	
2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS			
	At 1/7/23	Cash flow	At 30/6/24
	£	£	£
<b>Net cash</b>			
Cash at bank	2,461,120	(1,098,524)	1,362,596
	<u>2,461,120</u>	<u>(1,098,524)</u>	<u>1,362,596</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>2,461,120</u>	<u>(1,098,524)</u>	<u>1,362,596</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

## AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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#### 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.

## AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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#### 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 2024****3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	2024 £	2023 £
Donations	<u>364,400</u>	<u>855,508</u>

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
	<u>364,400</u>	<u>855,508</u>

Pro Bono data was provided by Selena Callas.

**4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

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

**5. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2024 £	2023 £
Deposit account interest	<u>14,957</u>	<u>-</u>

**6. RAISING FUNDS****Raising donations and legacies**

	2024 £	2023 £
Fundraising expenses	<u>512</u>	<u>447</u>



# AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### 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
	<u>100,744</u>	<u>901,655</u>	<u>490,527</u>	<u>1,492,926</u>

### 8. GRANTS PAYABLE

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

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
	<u>901,655</u>	<u>385,439</u>

### 9. SUPPORT COSTS

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

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	<u>217,108</u>	<u>279,738</u>

**AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024****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
	<u>463,427</u>	<u>391,099</u>

**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
	<u></u>	<u></u>

## AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### 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
	<u>251,120</u>	<u>278,411</u>

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

	2024	2023
Management and Administration	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

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

	2024	2023
£150,001 - £160,000	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

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

# AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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

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

### 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	-
	<u>2,770</u>	<u>2,000</u>

### 15. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

# AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### 16. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 July 2023	6,552
Additions	2,602
At 30 June 2024	9,154
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 July 2023	3,856
Charge for year	1,797
At 30 June 2024	5,653
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
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
	<u>20,498</u>	<u>13,952</u>

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
	<u>27,298</u>	<u>40,626</u>

## AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### 19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

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

#### 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 £
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# **AUTISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

### **19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1/7/23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30/6/24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
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
	<u>1,992,648</u>	<u>(805,943)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,186,705</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	447,415	(333,333)	-	114,082
Suicide Prevention Project	-	60,511	-	60,511
	<u>447,415</u>	<u>(272,822)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>174,593</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>2,440,063</u>	<u>(1,078,765)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,361,298</u>

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

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

### **Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1/7/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/6/23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	1,697,021	295,627	1,992,648
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
The John Lambton Trust - Research Project	666,667	(219,252)	447,415
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<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 2024

#### 20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES - continued

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

##### (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.