

	<b>Trustees' Annual Report for the period</b>									
			Period start date					Period end date		
	<b>From</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>2023</b>		

## Section A Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	ASCape		
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	n/a		
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1197590		
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	3, Nordons		
	Bridport		
	Dorset		
	<b>Postcode</b>	DT6 4DU	

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Karen WRIGHT		Until April 2023	Board of Trustees
2	Emma-Jane HARRIS		Until April 2023	Board of Trustees
3	Kelly SHEPPARD		Until November 2023	Board of Trustees
4	Clare CAMERON		Until July 2023	Board of Trustees
5	Rebekah WEBB		Until July 2023	Board of Trustees
6	Sandra HUDSON-GREEN		Until July 2023	Board of Trustees
7	Stella WATERHOUSE		Until September 2023	Board of Trustees
8	Rebecca WATKINS	Chair of Trustees		Board of Trustees
9	Diane EVANS		From July 2023	Board of Trustees
10	Peter GLOCK		From July 2023	Board of Trustees
11	Sarah ORRITT		From July 2023	Board of Trustees
12	Mark SAMUEL		From July 2023	Board of Trustees

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Treasurer	Stephen HUNT	20 Osbourne Road, Bridport DT6 3AN

### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

n/a
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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Foundation Model
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by Board of Trustees

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Promoting wellbeing and social inclusion among children and young adults between the age of 4-25 years with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and/or social anxiety especially living in the county of Dorset who are socially excluded from society or parts of society as a result of their condition by:

- 1) helping such children and young adults become better socialised and less isolated through the facilitation of peer support and supported socialisation.
- 2) supporting carers and families, including siblings, of such young people by providing peer support via groups and family activities, encouraging sharing of ideas, resources and support within and between these groups.
- 3) promoting awareness about ASC and Social Anxiety and challenging fear and prejudice.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

ASCape grew significantly as a charity in 2023. Thanks to the awarding of core funding from the National Lottery and Children in Need, we hired our first paid staff and youth club leads. This enabled us to deliver over 114 activities and events throughout the year, doubling the number of children and young people we reach to over 200.

In addition to continuing our popular Tuesday youth club night and weekly after-school gardening club, we expanded our events for our youngest ASCapers aged 4-7 and added social outings for the over 18s. Family activity afternoons became a monthly fixture, as did our popular Parent and Carer Wellbeing afternoons.

Our second annual picnic took place in August and we took over the Sealife Centre in Weymouth for a very memorable evening of 'Sharks after Dark' in October.

In 2023 we also launched our new website [www.ascapegroup.org](http://www.ascapegroup.org), with a whole set of resources for parents and carers, as well as an events page and information about all the activities we offer. We received an average of 600 visitors to our website each month.

The Board of Trustees met regularly during 2023, providing the oversight and control necessary to ensure that the charity's new and existing activities were in line with the charitable purposes set out in the Constitution, thus ensuring that the Commission's public benefit guidance continued to be taken into account.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We have around 40 volunteers. They contribute to every aspect of ASCape's existence, from supporting activities, youth clubs, and days out for our young people, to running wellbeing sessions and workshops, to providing additional capacity to the small staff team by helping with communications, social media and fundraising, among other things.

Many of our volunteers are people who have experience of living with neurodiversity themselves and/or caring for neurodivergent children, so they come to ASCape with empathy and understanding. We hope their involvement with us also provides them with support and care from the ASCape community.

All our volunteers hold a DBS certificate, and are safeguarding-trained, with experience of autism and mental health challenges.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

Every time a child or young person attends one of our clubs or activities we consider it an achievement as our children are severely isolated and restricted in what they can engage in. We know from parent surveys and feedback from our young people themselves that our activities help them to socialise with their peers, give them more confidence, and have improved their mental health.

ASCape is becoming well-known in the local area and we are increasingly the first organisation that parents are referred to by services at diagnosis. The expansion of our parent and carer wellbeing sessions has enabled us to reach many more families this year. Our online presence via our facebook page and website is contributing to better awareness and understanding of autism in the community.

In 2023, we contributed towards meeting our key strategic goals by securing long-term funding and diversifying our funding sources. Community fundraising contributed over £4,000, while £141,590 was awarded in grants over next three years.



## Section E

## Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

10% of funds are held in reserve.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Section F

## Other optional information

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

**Full name(s)**

Rebecca Watkins

Diane Evans

**Position**

Chair of Board of Trustees

Trustee

**Date**

2/5/2024

02/05/2024



**ASCape Annual Receipts and Payments Accounts**  
**1 January - 31 December 2023**

	£	£	£
<b>Opening cash balance at bank - 1 January 2023</b>			<b>10,073.62</b>
<b>Income</b>			
<i>Restricted Funds</i>			
The National Lottery	32,923.00		
Children in Need	15,000.00		
Dorset Council Youth Fund	9,538.00		
Dorset Council West LAG Inclusion Fund	2,994.75		
Dorset Community Foundation Neighbourhood Fund	2,200.00		
Magdalen Hospital Trust	2,000.00		
Bridport Community Shed	1,600.00		
Bridport Town Council	500.00		
Johnnie Boden	500.00		
B Sharp	283.50		
Morrisons	100.00		
Higos Community Fund	100.00		
<i>Restricted funds sub-total</i>	<u>67,739.25</u>		
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>			
Fundraising	4,132.68		
Donations	2,407.32		
Ticket receipts	2,210.04		
Ring-fenced income (Hoodies)	1,045.00		
Ring-fenced income (Christmas meal)	309.50		
Bank compensation	175.00		
Miscellaneous	81.00		
<i>Unrestricted funds sub-total</i>	<u>10,360.54</u>		
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>78,099.79</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<i>Operating costs</i>			
Management and organisational planning	19,299.00	39.8%	
Admin services	2,025.00	4.2%	
HR services	1,705.00	3.5%	
Training	1,285.00	2.6%	
Comms services	1,260.00	2.6%	
Counselling/Advocacy	40.00	0.1%	
<i>Operating costs sub-total</i>	<u>25,614.00</u>	<u>52.8%</u>	
<i>Activity costs</i>			
Group leadership	3,362.00	6.9%	
Offsite activities	3,185.70	6.6%	
Room hire	2,891.25	6.0%	
Woodscape	2,520.00	5.2%	
Artscape	2,078.00	4.3%	
Gardenscape	1,135.00	2.3%	
Music	777.50	1.6%	
Refreshments	630.20	1.3%	
Misc. activities and sundries	336.79	0.7%	
Drama	270.00	0.6%	
<i>Activity costs sub-total</i>	<u>17,186.44</u>	<u>35.4%</u>	
<i>Other costs</i>			
Clothing (Hoodies)	1,014.14	2.1%	
Equipment	979.93	2.0%	
Website	906.40	1.9%	
Film	755.00	1.6%	
Bank, accountancy, insurance and subscription charges	638.83	1.3%	
Book	530.00	1.1%	
Christmas meal	522.05	1.1%	
Miscellaneous	354.52	0.7%	
<i>Other costs sub-total</i>	<u>5,700.87</u>	<u>11.8%</u>	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<b>48,501.31</b>
<b>Income against Expenditure (surplus/deficit)</b>			<b>29,598.48</b>
<b>Closing cash balance at bank - 31 December 2023</b>			<b>39,672.10</b>

**Notes**

Accounts are presented on a Receipts and Payments basis, ie. showing the movement of cash and cash equivalents into and out of the charity during the financial year

Expenditure percentage figures are shown as a percentage against total expenditure

S D Hunt  
9 February 2024