



AUTISM DOGS®  
CHARITY



# Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2025



Registered Charity number 1199343



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## Legal and Administrative Information

### Trustees

#### Trustees – 6

Tate Preston	Elected 31 December 2022 Outgoing Chair
Luke Stafford	Elected 30 April 2024
Matthew Salisbury	Elected 12 February 2025
Tom Wilde	Elected 12 February 2025 Chair appointed 2025
Jenifer Hamilton	Elected 3 April 2025
Janet Moore	Elected 3 April 2025

#### Principal Office

Millpool Farm  
Wards Lane  
Congleton  
Cheshire  
CW12 3LN

#### Bankers

HSBC Bank Plc  
P O Box 117  
60 Albert Road  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 1RS

#### Independent Examiner

Eileen Grigg

### Officers

Caroline Preston acted as Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Trustees.

The Trustees' present their Report for the year ended 31 December 2025

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission, number 1199343

### Objects, organisation and activities

Autism Dogs Charity trains assistance dogs for autistic children and adults in England, Scotland and Wales.

We are an Advanced Service accredited by the National Autistic Society.

Many of our team are autistic, including our CEO, which provides us with a unique insight when helping other autistic people.

Our Charity is recognised for working with some of the most challenging cases in the UK, providing hope for some of the most vulnerable autistic people. Our work successfully helps autistic children and adults to lower debilitating anxiety, reduce self-injurious behaviours,

improve poor sleeping and eating patterns and increase social skills which eventually leads to improved confidence and independence.

## **The Board of Trustees**

### **Governance - Trustee Board**

This year, the Charity welcomed new Trustees to the Board, bringing together diverse expertise and fresh perspectives. The Trustees have been highly active in guiding the organisation's strategy, meeting regularly with senior staff and the CEO, attending key external events, and ensuring that every decision supports the Charity's mission and objectives.

Their leadership has strengthened governance and reinforced a focus on delivering meaningful outcomes for clients.

### **Operations and Financial Management**

Our dedicated Operations team, though small, has achieved strong financial performance while keeping client needs at the heart of every decision. Through careful cost management and strategic planning, resources have been maximised efficiently, ensuring the Charity remains sustainable and able to invest in high-quality services for those who rely on us.

### **Impact for Clients**

The results of this work are clear in the experiences of our clients:

Families have received timely, tailored support when they needed it most.

Individuals have benefited from services designed to empower them to thrive.

Communities have seen initiatives that respond directly to their needs and priorities.

Every initiative, from boardroom strategy to frontline delivery, is guided by the goal of improving outcomes and making a tangible difference in people's lives.

### **Looking Ahead**

With a strong Trustee Board and committed Operations team, the Charity is well-positioned to continue growing, innovating, and delivering lasting, positive change for our clients.



## Statistics

Overview of Programme statistics over the year we received:

- 27937 enquiries
- 832 applications
- 42 programme places/enrolments
- 60 dogs assessed
- 26 Qualified
- 41 Placed
- 2 Successor Dogs Placed
- 15 Foundation Programme Dogs placed
- 2 dogs returned
- 3 dogs passed
- Volunteer hours 127

Working assistance dog teams from previous years: 85

Total number of teams at the end of the year: 123

## Volunteering and Work Experience

We continued to advocate and immerse ourselves in the autistic community by offering volunteer and work experience to the autistic community. These volunteering opportunities also provided us with the opportunity to educate the volunteers about the work that we do and the help that our assistance dogs provide for our beneficiaries.

We delivered a volunteer workshop where 14 young people attended and were awarded a certificate of contribution and provided 2 work placements across the year. All the young people who volunteered for the organisation were autistic.

## Finances

The costs of each Programme varied from £22,000-27,000 to the end of the first year of delivery.

Total income for the year £1,017,656 with costs of £796,813 leading to a net income of £220,843.

## CEO report

During the year Charity continued to develop and refine its service delivery in order to further its charitable objectives and improve outcomes for beneficiaries.

A new **Foundation Programme** was introduced that places puppies within carefully assessed and approved family households. This model enables early bonding between the assistance dog and the intended handler within a stable home environment, while ensuring appropriate safeguarding and animal welfare standards are maintained. The programme





operates under parental supervision, with regular monitoring through home visits carried out by Animal Welfare staff and qualified Trainers. This approach supports both the wellbeing of the dogs and the long-term success of placements, contributing directly to the Charity's public benefit objectives.

The Charity's Foundation Programme has been established across London, Oxfordshire, and the Northwest.

This geographic expansion has increased access to services for beneficiaries in these areas and represents a significant step in extending the Charity's reach. This development is an important contribution towards meeting unmet need and improving equity of access to our services.

To support growth and ensure the Charity remains effective and sustainable, a programme of organisational restructuring was undertaken during the year.

This focused on strengthening internal processes, improving clarity of roles and responsibilities, and enhancing consistency across service delivery. The restructuring was designed to improve the overall experience of beneficiaries and stakeholders, while ensuring the Charity has appropriate systems in place to manage its activities effectively and responsibly.

Decision making processes were strengthened through the establishment of a Directors' Board. This change was made to improve strategic oversight, accountability, and decision-making. The Board brings together a broader range of skills and experience, enabling more informed governance and supporting the Charity's long-term stability.

This development enhances the Charity's ability to manage risk, plan strategically, and respond effectively to future challenges and opportunities.

The Charity invested in workforce development through the recruitment of additional staff across several operational areas. This investment was accompanied by an increased focus on staff training and professional development. Enhanced training has contributed to improved capability, consistency, and organisational capacity, supporting effective service delivery and operational resilience.

During the year, the Charity continued to work with recognised external accrediting bodies, including the National Autistic Society and Assistance Dogs International. These organisations provide independent accreditation against established standards relevant to the Charity's activities. Ongoing engagement with these bodies supports continuous improvement, quality assurance, and adherence to best practice. Accreditation also provides reassurance to beneficiaries, families, and the wider autistic community regarding the Charity's commitment to high standards, professionalism, and ethical practice.

## Reserves policy

After providing sufficient funds to cover all management and administration the Trustees regard any remaining incoming resources as free reserves of the charity and available for the general purposes of training dogs in accordance with the stated objects of the charity. The Trustees regularly review the level of reserves to ensure that they are being maintained at an appropriate level.



## Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Under the Constitution of the Charity and trust law, the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its income and expenditure. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounts standards have been followed, subject to any material departures, disclose and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue.

The Trustees are required to act in accordance with the Constitution of the Charity and within the framework of trust law. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to safeguard the assets of the fund and to prevent and detect fraud and other regularities.

The attached financial statements show the current state of the finances.

On behalf of the Trustees

**Tom Wilde**  
**Chairperson**

Date 13th January 2026

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Congleton Town Trust

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025 set out on pages 9 to 10

## Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an Independent Examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

\*Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act

\*To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and

\*To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

## Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the Report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

## Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Eileen Grigg ACMA CTA  
EPG Accountants Ltd  
Congleton, Cheshire  
CW12 3JY

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026



# Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2025 £	2024 £
Income and expenditure				
Incoming resources				
Dog Training	938,680	-	938,680	682,404
Donations	30,807	-	30,807	37,712
Grants	27,375	-	27,375	43,560
Sundry income	20,794	-	20,794	27,150
Total incoming resources	1,017,656	-	1,017,656	790,826
Resources expended				
Direct charitable expenditure				
Animal Training Salaries	95,048	-	95,048	83,651
Animal Welfare Salaries	155,248	-	155,248	106,833
Vets Fees	28,679	-	28,679	24,455
Other direct costs	129,710	-	129,710	109,102
Administrative Costs				
Management, admin and consulting	144,498	-	144,498	120,412
Pension Costs	6,123	-	6,123	4,902
Rent and Rates	32,660	-	32,660	27,545
Light, power, heating	14,855	-	14,855	13,609
Fund Raising, Design and Marketing	73,331	-	73,331	37,961
Motor vehicle and travel	27,620	-	27,620	18,606
Legal fees	7,761	-	7,761	20,634
Accountancy	5,420	-	5,420	4,800
Repairs and Maintenance	26,962	-	26,962	25,594
Bank charges and Interest	8,650	-	8,650	3,784
Other costs	40,248	-	40,248	39,169
Total resources expended	796,813	-	796,813	640,567
Net(outgoing)/incoming for the year	220,843	-	220,843	150,259
Recognised gains (losses) on investments				
Unrealised	-	-	-	-
Realised	-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds	220,843	-	220,843	150,259
Fund balances brought forward	414,124	-	414,124	263,865
Fund balances carried forward	634,967	-	634,967	414,124

Balance Sheet  
At 31 December 2025

	Note	2025	2024
Fixed assets			
Buildings	3	23,914	-
Motor Vehicles		7,430	9,906
Computers		1,443	1,186
		<u>32,787</u>	<u>11,092</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank		48,154	22,732
Debtors	5	585,771	434,545
		633,925	457,277
Current liabilities:			
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	6	9,844	14,427
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Net current assets		624,081	442,851
Creditors: amount falling due after one year		21,901	39,818
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Net assets		<u>634,967</u>	<u>414,124</u>
Represented by:			
Funds			
Unrestricted income fund		634,967	414,124
Restricted capital fund		-	-
		<u>634,967</u>	<u>414,124</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

**Tom Wilde**  
Chairperson





# Notes to the Financial Statements

## 1. Reporting Standards

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015). Assets & Liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

## 2. Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.

## 3. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are included at cost less depreciation and impairment. Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives:

Buildings	No depreciation
Motor vehicles	25% on WDV
Computer equipment	25% on cost

	Buildings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation	At cost	At cost	At cost	
At 1 January 2025		19,440	1,961	21,401
Additions	23,914	-	996	24,910
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	23,914	19,440	2,957	46,311
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2025	-	9,534	775	10,309
Charge for the year	-	2,476	739	3,215
At 31 December 2025	-	12,010	1,514	13,524
Net book value				
At 1 January 2025	-	9,906	1,186	11,092
At 31 December 2025	23,914	7,430	1,443	32,787

## 4. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No remuneration directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity was paid or payable for the year to any Trustee or to any person or persons known to be connected with any of them.

No reimbursement of expenses has been made or is due to be made to any of the Trustees in respect of the year.

## 5. Debtors

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year		
Clients payments towards dog training	585,771	434,545
Other debtors	-	-
	<u>585,771</u>	<u>434,545</u>

## 6. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
Taxes and social security	8,985	9,307
Pension Contributions	859	1,364
Accruals	-	3,756
	<u>9,844</u>	<u>14,427</u>

## 7. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025	2024
Bank loans	<u>21,901</u>	<u>39,818</u>

## 8. Average number of employees

During the year, the average number of employees was 22.