

ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN

England & Wales · Charity number 801171

Details

Other names	THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH INTO STAMMERING IN CHILDHOOD, THE MICHAEL PALIN CENTRE FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN, A R S C
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02328627
Registered	1989-03-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Michael Palin Centre 13-15 Pine Street London EC1R 0JG
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Activities

Objects: (I) TO RELIEVE CHILDREN WHO SUFFER FROM STAMMERING AND (II) TO PROMOTE RESEARCH INTO THE MEANS BY WHICH STAMMERING MAY BE PREVENTED AND TREATED AND TO DISSEMINATE THE RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

Activities: We provide a free specialist assessment service to children and young adults who stammer from any part of the UK and a full training programme for therapists.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£309,767	£351,935	-	-
2024-03-31	£208,247	£311,935	-	-
2023-03-31	£388,275	£305,583	-	-
2022-03-31	£527,996	£324,039	£1,376,849	3
2021-03-31	£602,103	£428,866	£1,172,892	3

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dame Jane Roberts	Chair	2021-01-20
Alison Lowton		2022-05-23
Anya Paul		2021-10-19
Archna Rahulan		2023-01-21
Christopher David Smith		2024-11-14
Felicity Baker		2022-11-19
Joseph Allen		2022-07-29
Juliet Leach		2022-05-23
Natalie Carver		2023-01-21
Stephen McAteer		2023-01-21
Zain Ghani		2022-07-29

ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 801171

Accounts

**Action for
Stammering
Children**



Annual Report

2024/25

Charity no. 801171

Company no. 02328627



Action for Stammering Children is the UK charity for children and young people who stammer, their families, and the communities who support them.



We're here to make sure that every child who stammers has the support, respect and confidence to live the life they want to lead.

We support and empower parents, caregivers and professionals; facilitate and champion research; and campaign for changes in policy and societal attitudes.



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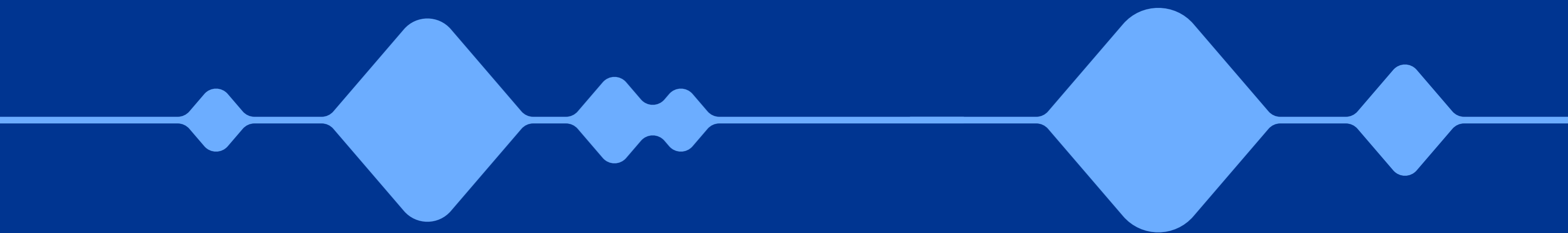
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The Year in Review



Message from the Chair

At Action for Stammering Children, we think carefully about what we need to do in line with our charitable objectives, how we are going to do it – and then we do it. And we challenge ourselves about impact. This is what you will see here in our Annual Report for 2024/25 that I am delighted to introduce.

2024/25 was a year full of activity. We really pack a punch in order to better support children and young people who stammer and their families.

With a robust, professional but still small organisation, we've been able cautiously to expand our capacity and projects in order to do more and to reach further across the country – all aligned with our strategic objectives.

Our **Stammering Support Hub** that provides information and support to young people, parents and professionals is now very well-established. The Support Hub has been



much informed by our **Service Mapping Project** that has enabled us to set up a comprehensive database of speech and language services for children who stammer across the UK, a hugely valuable resource. So too is our **Stammer Awareness Toolkit** that provides information, training and advice for educational professionals of how better to support pupils who stammer. It was launched in October 2024 to mark International Stammering Awareness Day. We know that many teachers have not felt confident in dealing with young people who stammer. We know that some pupils who stammer are reluctant to participate and speak out in class. But here is a practical toolkit, now in use, that seeks to bridge the gap.

I am particularly pleased at the strides we have made in championing research into stammering, so sorely needed. In partnership with the **James Lind Alliance**, we have identified the top ten research priorities in the field of childhood stammering, involving huge numbers of young people, parents, education and health professionals as well as academics in the field. The final Top 10 Research Priorities were launched this year, providing a sound basis on which key research needs can be addressed. Collaboration is the name of the game on research and ASC was pleased to become a collaborator on the NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research) £1.5m grant to develop a digital platform, Super Penguin, to support young people who stammer.

There is just a small flavour of what ASC has been doing over the year. There has been so much more, as you'll read in this report. Has our activity been impactful, always the key question any charity must ask itself? In short, yes – as we've detailed below. But there is so much more to do. I have confidence that ASC, with our partners, has been and will continue to be an effective part of that charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jane Roberts'.

Dame Jane Roberts
Chair of Board of Trustees

The Year in Numbers

Over
8,000

visitors accessed online
and in-person support
from the Stammering
Support Hub



Contributed evidence
to two government
consultations



The Stammer Awareness
Toolkit for schools
launched

79

young people & their families
accessed expert support
and therapy

150

professionals reached
with the Stammer
Awareness Toolkit



First UK-wide database of NHS
speech & language therapy
services for stammering



A Strategic Approach to Charity Activity

To achieve its mission, the Charity undertakes activities and projects across the following three key areas:

Information, community & support

Championing research

Changing policies & attitudes

The three key areas align with our six strategic goals:

1

To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer.

2

To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society.

3

To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their child.

4

To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer.

5

To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people.

6

To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people's lives, and to change public perceptions.

Our impact



Introduction

Action for Stammering Children has been a hive of activity in 2024/25; welcoming new members to the team, launching exciting new projects, and expanding our reach through UK-wide support, advocacy and research activities.

In the first quarter of the year, we welcomed three new members to the team who have been instrumental in helping us diversify our activities and outreach. We embedded the Stammering Support Hub, bringing in a dedicated Support Hub Advisor to handle enquiries from families, young people and professionals.



Over the summer, we followed up on our work mapping NHS service providers across England, by examining speech and language therapy services available to those living in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This information is integral to the work of our Support Hub Advisor and informs our public policy work. We reinvigorated our Stambassador Network with a special Networking Reception in Green Park, sponsored by one of our corporate partners.

In the autumn, we published the very first James Lind Alliance Top 10 Research Priorities in Developmental Childhood Stammering in the UK at University College London. To mark International Stammering Awareness Day, we launched the second of our UK-wide initiatives, the Stammer Awareness Toolkit, for primary and secondary schools. We rounded off the autumn welcoming mentees to cohort three of the ASC Mentoring Scheme, which ran until April 2025.

Alongside this work, we have been developing our policy influencing and advocacy activity. Notable milestones for us this year include contributing to the Commission for the Future of Oracy Education in England, and making our first submission to a UK Government Consultation.

Our annual report details the difference we make to the lives of children, young people and their families, and is organised around the four ways that we make an impact:

Access: opening doors to expertise

Support: information and resources

Change: research, policy and campaigns

Connection: community programmes

Thank you for your continued support of our work – we have big aspirations for 2025/26 and hope that you will help us to be bigger, bolder and ambitious in the year to come.

Key Area 1

Access: Opening doors to expertise

With the right support, every child and young person who stammers can unlock their potential. For some, that means choosing to seek expert guidance and therapy services. We work to provide access to these opportunities so that every child can get specialist help if they want it, no matter their background.

In partnership with leading organisations across the sector, we fund places on therapy courses, provide bursaries and run a 1:1 career mentoring programme – helping young people grow confidence, build connections and set their own path towards their future.

With over three decades of experience, we know what works, where the gaps are and how to make a real difference.

Project

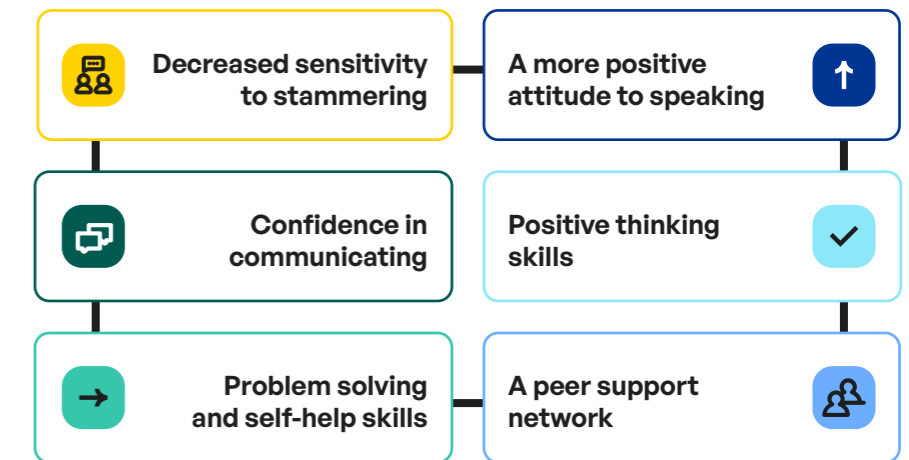
Talking Out Stammering Courses

Described by a number of participants as ‘life-changing’, we’re proud to fully fund courses for young people who stammer, delivered by non-profit speech and language therapy service, Talking Out Ltd. These in-person and online courses help young people to build confidence, grow resilience and connect with others who understand what it’s like to stammer.

The Talking Out programme provides six-months of therapeutic support encompassing a one-week online or residential course, online parent sessions, and two follow-up days at three- and six-months post-course to monitor longer-term impact of the therapy programme. In 2024/25, we funded four courses:

- A one-week online course for teenagers in April 2024.
- Two one-week residential courses for teenagers in May and October 2024.
- A one-week online course in February 2025.

Both online and residential courses aim to promote the following skills amongst participants:



“I now feel that I shouldn’t hide my stammer, and that I should say what I want to say, and not let my stammer hold me back.”

Young person attending the April 2024 residential

The week-long residential courses integrate dedicated therapy sessions with outdoor activities that encourage the young people to challenge themselves. In addition to the direct work with teenagers, the course offers support to parents/carers who attend online evening sessions throughout the week to promote carry-over of skills and help young people to maintain what they have learnt when they return home.

The stammering courses also provide an opportunity for student speech and language therapists to gain experience in working with young people who stammer, which not only contributes to their professional development but encourages them to consider specialising in this clinical area once qualified.



Beneficiaries accessing the Stammering Residential Course with specialist speech and language therapists, Ben and Teresa.



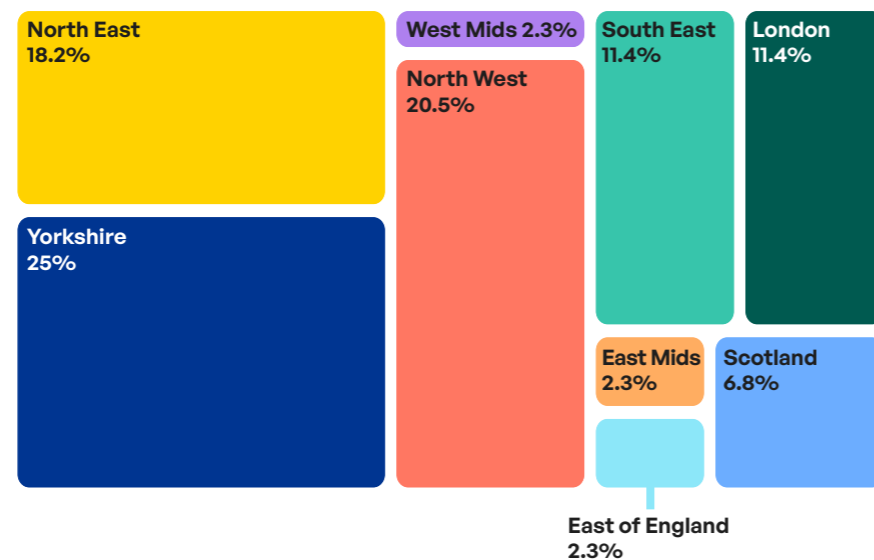
Young person participating in the speech & language therapy session on the Talking Out Residential Stammering Course (May 2024)

“I became braver, more confident and I believe in myself.”

Young person attending the May 2024 residential

Following ongoing discussions with our partners, we made the decision to open up more places for young people who had previously benefited from the programme this year. This decision was taken in recognition of the fluctuating nature of stammering and how stammering interacts with developmental transitions in adolescence. Working with our partners, families and young people, we are aware that the demands and pressures of adolescence can impact a young person’s experience of stammering, and that there is often an absence of publicly available support for this age group. We will continue to closely evaluate the impact of returning to the programme on beneficiaries’ outcomes.

Number of beneficiaries by location



“The course is an excellent opportunity to increase knowledge of the different presentations of stammering therapeutic techniques such as group therapy and CBT-influenced approaches, and to practice supporting young people who stammer.”

Student SLT

Impact

- 51 young people + their parent/carers accessed the programme
- 10 student speech and language therapists benefited from additional pre-qualification experience in stammering



Young people participating in the Talking Out Residential Stammering Course (May 2024)

Project

ASC Mentoring Programme

No one should feel that their stammer stands in the way of their future career. But we know that too many young people in this situation hold back from pursuing the jobs they dream of.

That's why we created our one-of-a-kind mentoring scheme. Run in partnership with Sam Simpson of Redefining Stammering, we match young people with mentors from their chosen fields who also stammer. People who've been there and who really get it. Together, they explore real-world strategies, build confidence and develop practical tools for navigating the world of work.

In October 2024, we welcomed a third cohort of young people (aged 18 – 25) to the ASC Mentoring Scheme. Over six months, they worked with their mentor on their personal career goals and had the opportunity to network with their peers on the programme through closed online forums and events. Our mentors benefited from regular supervision with Sam, helping them to develop their own skills in mentorship and coaching.

Impact



Eight young people received 1:1 career mentoring from a mentor



Eight adults who stammer accessed supervision, professional networking and joined the ASC community

“Taking part in the ASC mentoring programme really improved my confidence. The personalised matching service has been so beneficial in being mentored by someone with shared experiences, and experiences in industries/positions of interest.”

Mentee from cohort 3

“I think the programme offers a great opportunity to feel part of a community and to feel supported by people with the same lived experience. It has been a total privilege to not only build a relationship during the one-to-one mentor/mentee meetings, but to have met the wider cohort during the group sessions. For me, sharing experiences, resources, stories and tips is a really powerful way to aid self-development and to work towards acceptance of your stammer.”

Mentor from cohort 3

Project

Michael Palin Centre

We have a long-standing partnership with the Michael Palin Centre, a leading speech and language therapy service for children who stammer. We were instrumental in helping to establish the Centre and continue to support their incredible work through providing a home for the specialist service at our Pine Street Building. Where we can, we also fund access to clinical support for young people at the Centre, providing a pathway to access for families across the UK.

Our multi-year project with the Michael Palin Centre has enabled us to fund specialist assessments and therapy for children and young people living across London. In the final year of this project, we were pleased to be able to provide funding to 18 children and their families to access the specialist clinical service provided at the Michael Palin Centre.

Impact

This year, our partnership with the Michael Palin Centre saw us provide access for:



Two teenagers to participate in the two-week intensive therapy course



Three families to access the one-week children and parents intensive course



Four children to access one-to-one therapy



Nine children to access specialist assessments

Bursary Schemes

Our bursary schemes are part of our commitment to making sure every child can access specialist support if they want it, no matter their background.

City University Summer Intensive

We provide bursaries to young people (aged 13 – 17) wishing to participate in the intensive stammering course run by City St George’s University every summer. For families in London on low incomes, our bursary scheme helps make this opportunity possible.

The intensive stammering course is run by specialist speech and language therapists at City St George’s University and offers an opportunity for student speech and language therapists to gain practical experience in working with this population. Parent/carer sessions are offered throughout the week to support children in realisation of their goals.

The course is focused on developing confidence in communicating, resilience and self-esteem.



Over the course of the week, young people will:

 <p>Explore ways to experience more effective and enjoyable communication</p>	 <p>Increase their understanding of communication, speaking and stammering</p>
 <p>Meet other young people who stammer</p>	 <p>Explore ways to stammer with less struggle and tension</p>
 <p>Develop greater awareness of their communication strengths and skill</p>	 <p>Practice communication/ speaking goals that are important for them in their life</p>
 <p>Build more resiliency around communication</p>	

This year, we provided a bursary to two families, enabling their teenager to participate in the one-week summer intensive course. The bursary covers the course fee, travel costs for the young person and their parent/carer, and subsistence.

Forces Fund

We are aware that many service personnel families face unique challenges in accessing NHS speech and language therapy owing to short- and medium-term postings. In recognition of the needs of this community, we have introduced a dedicated fund available to children of Service Personnel enabling them to access any of our therapeutic programmes.

We have spoken with all of our project delivery partners to ensure that there is now a mechanism by which these families can be identified and the funding made available to them. In the year to come, we plan to proactively promote the availability of the Forces Fund to ensure that children of service personnel can access the expert support they need.

Key Area 2

Support: Information & Resources

With over 30 years' experience and the latest research behind us, we support families of children who stammer to feel more confident and informed. By sharing trustworthy guidance, we empower families with the understanding they need to access the right services and better support their children.

We also put our experience to work in supporting professional communities, sharing knowledge and practical tools to help them to help the children and young people they work alongside to truly thrive.

Project

Stammering Support Hub

Our Stammering Support Hub, launched in the autumn of 2023, is designed to cater for the unique needs of young people who stammer, their families and the professional communities who support them. Through 24/7 online support, we provide clear and accessible information on a range of topics.

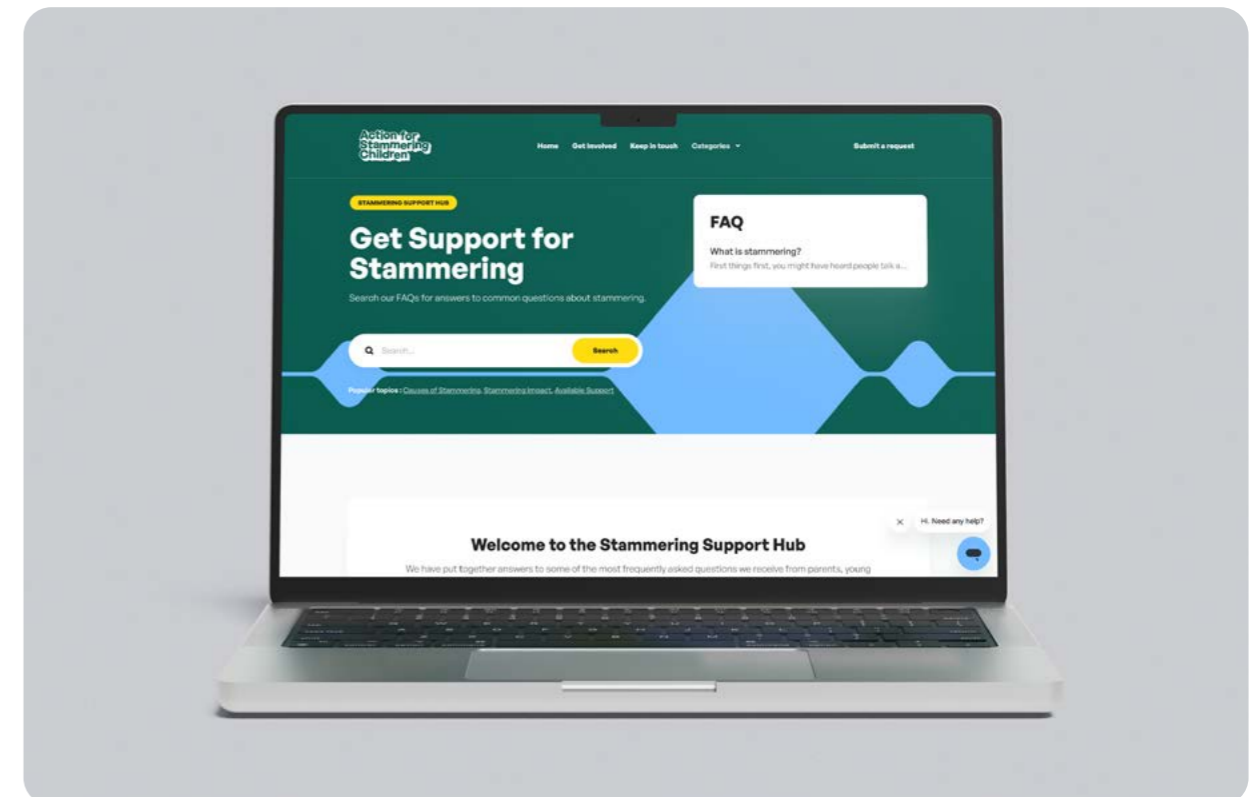
However, we recognise that every child or young person's experience of stammering is individual to them. For this reason, we welcomed a dedicated Support Hub Advisor to the team in April 2024, who is available on weekday mornings to offer tailored support and signposting to families, young people, and professionals. Working closely with our community means we understand the importance of offering a range of ways to get in touch with us, which is why the Stammering Support Hub is much more than a traditional helpline. For those who want it, they can contact us directly through the StammerBot, social media direct message, email or call us.

A key part of the Support Hub Advisor's role is signposting parents/carers and young people to speech and language

therapy services and other support available in their local area. In 2023/24, we undertook a major piece of research to understand the NHS speech and language therapy provision available across England. This year, we have complemented this work by examining the status of speech and language therapy services in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; resulting in a comprehensive database of publicly-funded speech and language therapy for childhood stammering that spans the UK.

Impact

- 7,924 Support Hub visits
- 348 enquiries handled by the Support Hub Advisor
- Completion of the UK-wide speech and language therapy provision database



ASC Stammering Support Hub

Project

Stammer Awareness Toolkit

Over the past year, we have been working on a transformational new resource that aims to bring about positive change to the school environment for pupils who stammer.

The Stammer Awareness Toolkit is an e-learning portal available to education professionals working in primary and secondary schools in the UK. It empowers education professionals with tools, strategies and insights to help them feel confident and comfortable supporting students who stammer.

Co-created with young people, families, teaching professionals and speech & language therapists, the toolkit draws on the latest research about stammering. It blends practical training, real-life stories and universal classroom strategies that improve the communication skills of all pupils while facilitating greater participation of pupils who stammer.



ASC Stammer Awareness Toolkit

A key objective of the Toolkit is to empower and educate about stammering in schools. We see the Toolkit as being instrumental in ensuring that pupils have the support they need to thrive, while also bringing about positive change in attitudes towards stammering. We are aware that many children who stammer face teasing and bullying in school. The Toolkit offers practical guidance, signposting and ideas for cultivating a more inclusive classroom environment.

The Stammer Awareness Toolkit launched with an online webinar to mark International Stammer Awareness Day in October 2024. Chaired by Youth Panel member, Ozair, over 40 attendees joined us for the launch. In March 2025, we unveiled the Community of Practice – an interactive community for Toolkit subscribers to connect, share best practice and resources.

Impact

- Launched a fully-funded universal resource for schools across the UK to promote understanding, awareness and inclusion
- 150 professionals have a charitably-funded 12-month subscription to the Stammer Awareness Toolkit

Key Area 3

Change: research, policy & campaigns

Research is how we understand what really works when it comes to therapy and improving outcomes. But it's also how we listen to the community, so that we can make sure we're asking the right questions to begin with. So that time, funding, energy and support go where they can have the greatest impact – both in our own work and across the wider sector.

We champion, facilitate and call for greater investment into childhood stammering research. We support it and help shape it, connecting it to real lives and real voices from our community. Voices that become the driving force behind future research, helping to make sure it focuses on what matters most.

Project

Top 10 Research Priorities

Over the past two and a half years, Action for Stammering Children spearheaded the very first James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership (PSP). Bringing together partners from across the sector and involving parents/carers, young people and professionals from all over the UK, we were proud to publish the final Top 10 research priorities this year.



Researchers attending a special academic seminar to launch the Top 10 Research Priorities at University College London (UCL)



Dr Ria Bernard (ASC CEO), Dr Phoebe Avbulimen (ASC Youth Panel) and Professor Kate Watkins (University of Oxford) at the launch of the Top 10 Research Priorities, UCL.

The Top 10 Research Priorities comprise a list of unanswered questions about childhood stammering that would have the most meaningful impact for those with lived experience. They form the foundations for shaping the research agenda – helping us to make sure that we are championing research that will plug the gaps, build the evidence base and ensure that research is addressing the questions that children and young people want answered.

On 18th September 2024 at University College London (UCL), we held an academic seminar for researchers in the field of stammering from across the UK. Our panel generated discussion and debate about how researchers can play their part in addressing the research gaps and promoting the Top 10.

Publication of the Top 10 is only the beginning. Our job now is to get these priorities in front of researchers and funders – securing the grant funding needed to pursue these research areas. We have already got started with disseminating the priorities, which we shared with conference delegates at STAMMAFest. We were also thrilled to see the first citation of the PSP in an NIHR grant application this year.

Project

UK-wide service mapping project

Last year, we completed the first ever mapping of children's NHS speech and language therapy services in England. This information has been integral to families through the Stammering Support Hub; giving us the capacity to share details about local NHS services with families seeking professional support.

To complete this body of work, our research and policy summer internship this year focused on gathering information about NHS speech and language therapy services in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

We are thrilled to say that we now have a UK-wide database comprising information relating to NHS speech and language therapy services for children who stammer. In addition to the practical benefits of this resource, we have been able to use this information to shape our policy recommendations.



ASC Research Policy Publications

Stammering Collaborations

A key part of influencing the research and policy agenda and running effective campaigns is collaboration. As the UK charity for children and young people who stammer, we play an active role in the stammering community and value opportunities to collaborate with individuals and organisations. In this section, we share some of the collaborations that got underway this year.

NIHR Research Grant: SuperPenguin App

We are delighted to be a named collaborator on a three-year £1.5million NIHR grant to develop the digital platform, SuperPenguin, which supports children who stammer and their families while they are waiting for speech and language therapy.

As part of this collaboration, we will be ensuring that the voices of young people and families are heard in the product development and contributing to research outputs. More on this next year!

Stammering Clinical Guidance

We are working with the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists (RCSLT) who are updating the clinical guidance for stammering and cluttering. A year long project, these guidelines will be informed by young people themselves through a series of focus groups. The guidelines will be published in the Autumn 2025.

Policy influencing

With a stronger evidence base, we can also push for policy change. We work with MPs, partners and our community to make sure speech and language therapy is available, accessible and the best it can be.

This year has seen us lay the groundwork for this strand of our activity. Through the work we do with young people, efforts to diversify our offer to families and professionals, and raising our public profile, we have been instrumental in ensuring that the needs of children who stammer are recognised in broader health and education policy.

In this section, we share some of our achievements over the last year.

Oracy Education Commission

The Commission for the Future of Oracy Education in England was convened in 2024 to put forward a series of recommendations around access to oracy education in England.



Youth Panel member, Phoebe, talking with one of our stakeholders at the Stambassador Network Reception

We believe that children who stammer should have the same opportunities as their peers and, for some, that may mean making simple adjustments to classroom activities and exams. Working with the RCSLT, Voice 21 and organisations in the sector, we shared evidence with the commissioners at a specially-convened roundtable.

The final report was launched at the Labour Party Conference in September 2024 and we were proud to see the recommendations made reference to childhood stammering and the importance of facilitating participation of pupils who stammer.

NHS 10 Year Plan

At the end of 2024, the Government opened a public consultation inviting individuals and organisations to share their views on the priorities for the NHS over the next ten years.

A milestone for us as an organisation, Action for Stammering Children made its first written submission to this Government consultation – making clear the need to safeguard and increase resources for specialist stammering provision.

Impact

- Published the first ever JLA Top 10 Research Priorities in Childhood Stammering
- Created a UK-wide database of publicly-funded speech and language therapy services to inform our policy offer
- Contributed evidence to two national consultations, ensuring stammering was recognised in broader health and education policy-making
- Became a charity partner on one of the largest NIHR grants in childhood stammering in the UK

Key Area 4

Connection: Community Programmes

Our community programmes – the Stambassador Network and Youth Panel – create space for shared support, connection and belonging. They also help to amplify our reach and ensure the voices of children and young people who stammer remain at the heart of everything we do. Here, we share an update on what our Stambassadors and members of our Youth Panel have been up to this year.



Stambassadors, Trustees and Youth Panel members attending our Networking Reception

ASC Youth Panel

The ASC Youth Panel brings together young people aged 15–25 who stammer. It's a place to connect and share experiences with others who have similar experiences. The panel plays a key role in shaping our organisational strategy and advocacy work, ensuring the experiences of those who stammer are heard where it matters most.

This year, members of our Youth Panel have continued to inform and shape new initiatives and raise awareness about stammering in the news and local communities. Highlights include:

- Ozair and Thomas hosted online public webinars about the Stammer Awareness Toolkit and Stammering Support Hub
- Mike led a team of new supporters to victory at our International Stammering Awareness Day Pub Quiz
- Phoebe spoke on the panel at our Research Priorities Seminar alongside academics from the University of Oxford and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)
- Georgie kicked off our #MyStammerStory campaign with her heartfelt blog piece
- Thomas shared his hopes for the Top 10 Research Priorities as someone involved in the PSP steering group

Stambassador Network

Our Stambassadors Network is made up of inspiring professionals who have experience of stammering. They raise awareness of what it's really like to stammer, helping to challenge stigmas and break down barriers in the workplace. They also give their time to support young people directly through our activities and events.

Introduced in 2018, the video interviews our Stambassadors record have become a highly valued and popular resource for young people looking ahead to their next steps post-16. With over 50 Stambassadors now working with us, it felt as though now was the time to take the programme to the next level; evolving this group of charismatic volunteers into a formal network.

In June 2024, we held an evening reception, officially launching the Stambassador Network. Courtesy of one of our corporate partners, the Stambassador Reception took place at a stunning location overlooking Green Park. Over the course of the evening, we heard from two members of the Stambassador Advisory Group, and brought together members of our Youth Panel and Board of Trustees.

From this point on, the Stambassador Network will play a more central role in the work we do as a charity; helping us to connect with employers, open doors to corporate partnerships and provide inspiration to the young people we support.

Advocacy: A few highlights from 2024/25



Sam Bagshaw on ITV Calendar
(December 2024)



Trustees at the Stambassador Network Reception (June 2024)



Sam, Mike & Samuel, Stambassador Network Reception (June 2024)



Research Priorities Workshop, STAMMAFest (August 2024)



Youth Panel review Wonder Boy
(September 2024)



Will Laven on ITV's First Dates
(February 2025)



SUPPORTING CHILDREN WHO STAMMER IN THE CLASSROOM

Dr Ria Bernard

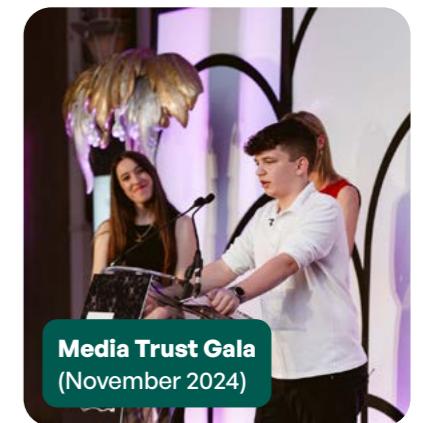
Access to Academic Learning Conference (October 2024)



Natalie, Elliott & Ria, Media Trust Gala (November 2024)



ISAD Pub Quiz (October 2024)



Media Trust Gala
(November 2024)



ISAD Pub Quiz (October 2024)



Ed Balls on Loose Women (October 2024)

Looking Ahead to 2025-26



Case Study

Thomas

Thomas is a member of the ASC Youth Panel, and one of the young people who sat on the steering group of the JLA Priority Setting Partnership.

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the launch of ASC's Top 10 research priorities at UCL. The event brought together an incredible mix of professors, clinicians, and young people from across the UK and Europe, celebrating over two and a half years of dedicated effort. As a member of the Steering Committee, I had the privilege of working alongside CEOs, professionals, as well as clinical and educational representatives from prestigious institutions such as the University of Oxford and UCL. It was particularly rewarding to collaborate closely with my fellow Youth Panellist, Phoebe, who brought invaluable insights to our discussions.

Witnessing the evolution of the project from its very first meetings to the distribution of the public questionnaire—where we received over 385 potential research questions from individuals across the UK—has been an unforgettable experience. Throughout this time, I had the chance to connect with other members of the Steering Committee, learning invaluable skills and gaining access to new resources that have enhanced my understanding of this field. Additionally, being able to speak directly with experts at the top of their profession in speech and language therapy was an amazing opportunity that provided me with a deeper perspective on the opportunities in this area of research.

Last November, we gathered volunteers from a wide variety of backgrounds

at the Coram Conference Centre in London, including SLTs (speech and language therapists), parents, and friends of people who stammer. Our mission was to narrow down the pool of 25 exceptional research questions to the final Top 10 that we believed would have the greatest potential impact. We were divided into four groups, each engaging in insightful and often personal conversations about our experiences and the perspectives we brought to the table. There was a powerful sense of community that formed as we shared our stories, and it was inspiring to meet so many passionate individuals from all walks of life, united by the same goal.

All 25 of the research questions submitted were of an incredibly high standard, which made the task of narrowing them down even more challenging. After several hours of deep discussion, and following a much-needed break with some delicious sandwiches and a slice

of Victoria sponge cake, we finally arrived at our consensus on the Top 10 research priorities. It was a fulfilling moment, knowing that the work we had done would guide future research in stammering, and hopefully bring meaningful change to the lives of those who stammer, both in the UK and around the world.

Looking back on the entire process, from the initial idea to this launch event, it's clear that the work we've done will hopefully pave the way for more focused and impactful research. I am incredibly proud to have been part of this journey and look forward to seeing the change these research priorities will inspire in the years to come.



Priorities for 2025-26

Looking ahead to the new financial year, we will continue to embed our newer initiatives; diversifying our offer to families to ensure we are providing the information, support and practical tools that children need to thrive.

Access: Opening the door to expertise

In 2025/26, we will continue funding access to specialist support for childhood stammering that would otherwise be unavailable to children and young people in the UK. This will include:

- Funding places for 50 young people on the residential stammering courses delivered by Talking Out Ltd in 2025/26. In line with our commitment to diversity, we are aiming for 25% of participating families to live outside Yorkshire and the Humber region.
- Fund 10 places for young people to access the online stammering course delivered by Talking Out Ltd, with 10% of places going to under-represented groups.
- Through our bursary schemes, we aim to offer five young people from service-personnel families access to one of our therapeutic programmes.
- Five young people will receive a bursary to access the City St George's University stammering course.
- Fund six months' of 1:1 career mentoring for 10 young people who stammer living in the UK. Half of applications from mentors will be 'new' volunteers.

Support: information & resources

- We plan to increase the number of visitors to the Stammering Support Hub to 10,000.
- We are aiming to sign up 200 schools to the Stammer Awareness Toolkit in 2025/26, with representation across all four nations of the UK.

Change: Research, policy and campaigns

- One of our JLA research priorities will be included in a funding call made by a major grant funder, such as NIHR.
- Two grant applications made by UK researchers that address one or more of the research priorities.
- Publication of a new policy publication pertaining to the accessibility of speech and language therapy support for children who stammer UK-wide.

Connection: Community programmes

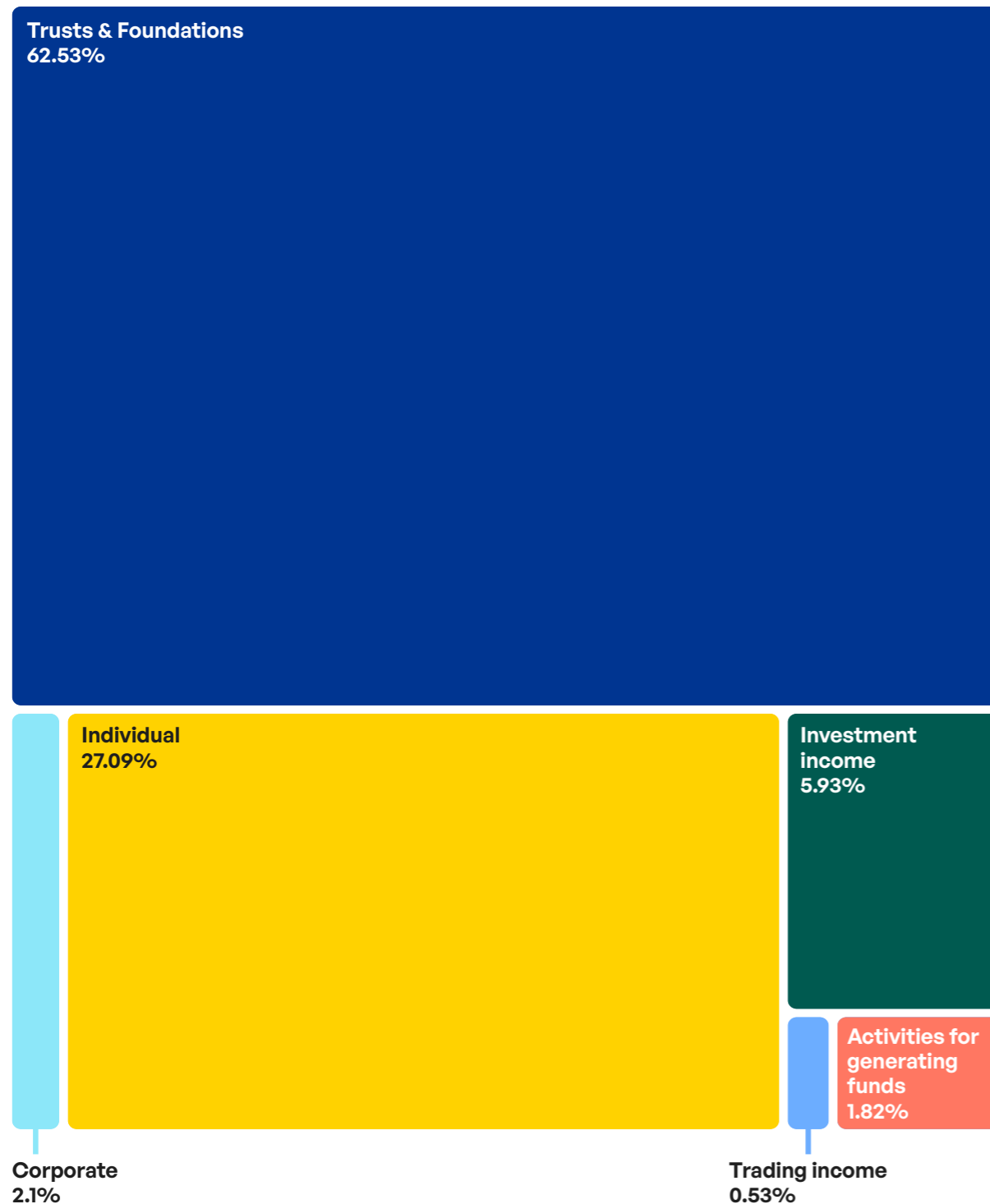
- Launch the recruitment drive for the new members of the Youth Panel.
- At least five Stambassadors involved in our activities with young people, representing us in their workplace or in the media.

Financial Review



Breakdown of Charitable Income

Sources of income 2024/25



Income

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities.

The year to 31 March 2025 has continued to be challenging and total income for the year to 31 March 2025 amounted to £309,767, up from £208,247 in the year ended March 2024. This was due largely to the charity securing increased Trust and Foundation income for core projects.

The Charity has complied with the relevant codes of practice. We have received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities (2024: none).

Reserves

Total general funds of £597,609 consists of £138,212 of designated funds and unrestricted free reserves of £459,397. Of these designated funds, £110,000 have been earmarked for expenditure on key strategic projects within 2025/26 to enable the charity to lay the foundations of the research and policy strand of the new strategy, whilst the charity actively seeks longer term funding.

Unrestricted free reserves of £459,397 represents approximately 11.9 months expenditure, in line with current policy.

Reserves policy & going concern

The Trustees have considered the desired level of unrestricted funds, not designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed (free reserves). Given the nature of the Charity's work, we have determined that the level of free reserves should be equivalent to nine to twelve months of expenditure. In our judgement, this provides sufficient flexibility to cover any temporary shortfalls in incoming resources and ensures that the Charity is able to continue its work, and also able to respond immediately to a reasonable range of unforeseen adverse circumstances, before remedial plans can be implemented. This policy will be kept under constant review.

Breakdown of Charitable Expenditure

Project expenditure 2024/25



Income

Following the unveiling of the charity’s new nationwide strategy, Trustees prioritised spending down restricted reserves and investing in new projects that underpin the national strategy.

Expenditure of £351, 935 in the year ended 31 March 2025 was marginally up from £311, 935 in the year ended 31 March 2024. The total expenditure of £351, 935 comprised the cost of raising funds (£64,442) and expenditure on charitable activity (£287,493).

Expenditure continued to be closely monitored, with much of the reported expenditure coming from restricted or designated funds. Key expenditure that reflects implementation of the charity’s UK-wide strategy include:

- Expenditure on development of the Stammer Awareness Toolkit (schools project) for primary and secondary schools in the UK. An e-learning portal aimed at education professionals providing the knowledge, tools and strategies to effectively support pupils who stammer in the classroom.
- Expenditure on the Support Hub increased due to employment of a dedicated Support Hub Advisor to manage enquiries received through the omni-channel service.
- Expenditure for the stammering courses delivered in partnership with Talking Out Ltd was up on prior years as we funded two residential and two online courses in this financial year.
- Expenditure on Project Elevator Pitch was necessary to more effectively communicate the impact of our work to funders and stakeholders.
- The ASC Mentoring Scheme is delivered in collaboration with existing partners and is a core activity in our offer to older adolescents.

Investment powers and policy

The Board of Trustees’ policy is to invest in low risk, liquid investments. Accordingly, Action for Stammering Children invests its funds in cash deposits.

Trustee's Report

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)".

Objectives and activities

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and Performance

At the beginning of the year, the charity set itself the following objectives, most of which have been achieved.

Strategy strand: Information, community and support

- Funded four courses delivered by Talking Out Ltd, which enabled 51 young people and their families to access a 6-month therapy programme.
- Eight young people accessed 6-months of 1:1 career mentoring.
- Eighteen children and their families accessed specialist assessments and therapy at the Michael Palin Centre.

- We appointed a dedicated Support Hub Advisor to provide in-person support and signposting to families, professionals and young people living in the UK.
- We set ourselves the objective of fleshing out our bursary schemes. Of the eight bursaries we had agreed to offer for the City University Stammering Intensive Course, we received only two applications, both of which were approved. We have agreed with each of our delivery partners that they will include a mechanism for identifying children of Service Personnel Families in their application process, enabling us to fund these places from our dedicated Forces Fund. No applications were received.
- We launched the Stammer Awareness Toolkit for schools – an evidence-based e-learning resource for education professionals that provides the knowledge, tools and strategies to effectively support pupils who stammer in the classroom.

Strategy strand: Championing Research

- We published the first James Lind Alliance Top 10 Research Priorities in Developmental Childhood Stammering in the UK
- Our Project Partnership Process provides a mechanism by which researchers and other stakeholders can collaborate on initiatives relevant to our strategic goals, while the research area of our website offers researchers the opportunity to share information about ongoing research studies that beneficiaries can participate in.
- We are in discussion with several UK academics about research collaboration, which we hope to progress in the coming year.

Strategy strand: Changing policies and attitudes

- We are due to release our report into barriers and facilitators to accessing local speech and language therapy services at the beginning of the new financial year. The launch was delayed by the General Election.

- We will be launching a recruitment campaign to onboard new members to our Youth Panel in 2025/26, following discussion with existing members.
- We have contributed evidence to the Commission into the Future of Oracy Education in England, and to the NHS 10 Year Plan Consultation.

Financial Review

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level between nine to twelve months of budgeted expenditure (£347k to £463k). Actual unrestricted free reserves of £459,397 at 31 March 2025 represented approximately 11.9 months of budgeted expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 15 December 1988, which was last revised in September 2014, and as a charity on 21 March 1989. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

The members of the charitable company include the Trustees. Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that the interests of children who stammer are appropriately represented in the Trustee body. Prospective board members are appointed by the board either after an external recruitment or, less often, having been nominated by a board member. The Trustees also aim to maintain a broad mix of backgrounds and business skills on the Board.

The Board of Trustees is committed to being a diverse and inclusive body. The skills and experience of Trustees are reviewed regularly, which also informs recruitment of new Trustees. New Trustees take part in a full induction programme covering all aspects of the work of the Charity, its governance and finances.

The Trustees are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Dame J E Roberts | • Zain Ghani |
| • Alison Lowton | • Natalie Carver |
| • Archana Rahulan | • Joseph Allen |
| • Anya Paul | • Felicity Baker |
| • Richard Murray | • Christopher Smith |
| • Stephen McAteer | • David Broom (until 20th March 2025) |
| • Juliet Leach | |

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The company's current policy concerning the payment of trade creditors is to follow the CBI's Prompt Payers Code (copies are available from the CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU).

Organisational Structure

The Charity's Board of Trustees meets in person or online, at least five times per annum. At the end of March 2025, the Board comprises 13 members from a variety of professional backgrounds, many of whom have experience of stammering, either personally or through a family member. Trustees retire by rotation after three years, but are eligible for re-election for up to three terms of office. The Chief Executive of the Charity implements the strategy set by the Trustees and has a prime responsibility for fundraising.

Relationship with Related Parties and cooperation with other organisations

The work of Action for Stammering Children is centred around three key action areas: (i) information, community and support; (ii) championing research; (iii) influencing societal attitudes and public policy. Direct work with beneficiaries is largely delivered through our partnership projects to ensure that children receive expert support that would not be available through the NHS, for example, specialist stammering courses. This year, we have collaborated with a number of project partners to deliver effective support to our beneficiaries, including Talking Out Ltd., the Michael Palin Centre (MPC), City University, and Redefining Stammering.

In addition, Action for Stammering Children has worked with the Hear in Hull team, the James Lind Alliance, the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists (RCSLT), and Bene Talk Ltd (SuperPenguin research team) to meet its strategic objectives around advocacy and promoting research.

The Charity has a strict conflict of interest policy and declarations are made at the start of every trustee meeting.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. The Board has overall responsibility for the pay policy and the salaries of staff. The Chair, Treasurer

and Company Secretary oversees the administration of the pay policy, evaluates employee performance and decides on any changes to pay.

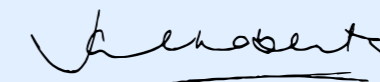
Our general principles are to pay our employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives.

Risk Policy

The Board of Trustees continues to review and evaluate the key risks faced by the charity at Board meetings throughout the year. A formal risk register is maintained to record ongoing risk assessments and track key mitigating activity. The key risks of the charity include risks associated with its governance, delivery of key strategic objectives, safeguarding of charitable assets and compliance with regulation.

The Board of Trustees ensures that robust policies, procedures, systems and financial controls are in place to mitigate key risks to protect the reputation of the charity. The risks to the Charity have been reviewed throughout the year and the Risk Register maintained, together with any risk mitigating plans. The key risks continue to be fundraising, due to the difficulties in obtaining large or multi-year grants and the recent loss of a key long term funder. Additionally, the current economic environment and limited operational capacity has been noted as contributing to fundraising issues. New risks include the changing relationship with Whittington Health NHS Trust in terms of communicating this new association and managing future funding arrangements.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Dame Jane Roberts
Chair of Board of Trustees

Dated:

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Action for Stammering Children

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Action for Stammering Children (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, 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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Katherine Wilkes FCA DChA



**Gravita Audit Oxford LLP
First Floor, Park Central
40-41 Park End Street
Oxford
OX1 1JD**

Dated:

Financial Statements



Statement of Financial Activities

(including income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025			2024			Total 2024	
		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		
		General	Designated	General	General	Designated			
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income from:									
Donations and legacies	3	191,862	-	97,206	289,068	133,960	-	60,922	194,882
Charitable activities	4	2,343	-	-	2,343	2,759	-	-	2,759
Investments	5	18,356	-	-	18,356	10,606	-	-	10,606
Total income		212,561	-	97,206	309,767	147,325	-	60,922	208,247
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	6	64,442	-	-	64,442	49,401	-	-	49,401
Charitable activities	7	101,451	111,788	74,254	287,493	92,605	65,527	104,402	262,534
Total expenditure		165,893	111,788	74,254	351,935	142,006	65,527	104,402	311,935
Net income/(expenditure)		46,668	(111,788)	22,952	(42,168)	5,319	(65,527)	(43,480)	(103,688)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	(15,527)	15,527	-	-
Net movement in funds	10	46,668	(111,788)	22,952	(42,168)	(10,208)	(50,000)	(43,480)	(103,688)
Reconciliation of funds									
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		412,729	250,000	693,124	1,355,853	422,937	300,000	736,604	1,459,541
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		459,397	138,212	716,076	1,313,685	412,729	250,000	693,124	1,355,853

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2025

		2025	2024
	Note	£	£
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	14	592,000	592,000
Current assets:			
Debtors	15	4,034	1,579
Cash at bank and in hand		768,698	822,160
		772,732	823,739
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(51,047)	(59,886)
Net current assets		721,685	763,853
Total assets less current liabilities		1,313,685	1,355,853
The funds of the charity			
Restricted income funds	19	716,076	693,124
Unrestricted funds - general	21	459,397	412,729
Unrestricted funds - designated	20	138,212	250,000
		1,313,685	1,355,853

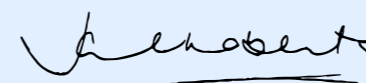
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on



Dame J E Roberts
Trustee

Company registration number 02328627 (England and Wales)

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

		2025	2024
	Note	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations</i>	24	(71,818)	(133,472)
Investing activities			
<i>Invested income received</i>		18,356	10,606
Net cash generated from investing activities		18,356	10,606
Net cash used in financing activities		-	-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(53,462)	(122,866)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		822,160	945,026
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		768,698	822,160

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

Charity information

Action for Stammering Children is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales.

The registered office is The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, 13 - 15 Pine Street, London, EC1R 0JG.

In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's articles of association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2. Going concern

The Trustees consider that the resources available to the Charity will be sufficient for it to be able to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would be required if the Charity were not able to continue as a going concern.

1.3. Charitable funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each

designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4. Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grant income is recognised when there is a firm commitment and certainty that the funds will be received.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.5. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the

Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6. Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 are capitalised. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

- Freehold land and buildings: Over 50 years to an estimated residual value of £592,000
- Office Equipment: 3 years on a straight line basis

1.7. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition of opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Fixed assets are recorded at depreciated historical cost.

Basic financial assets

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

Basic financial liabilities

Creditors are recognised as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay our resources.

1.9. Retirement benefits

The Charity operates a defined pension scheme for employees.

The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

The resulting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There are not deemed to be any estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Depreciation

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives. Expected useful life in this calculation is an estimate. A review is required annually to ensure no assets are being depreciated by more than cost, and that consumption is appropriate.

Deferred income

Income for projects is deferred where milestones have not been met by the year-end, which is entitlement and where project income is received in advance of contracted date.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Donations and gifts</i>	191,862	97,206	289,068	133,960	60,922	194,882

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024
	£	£
<i>Book and DVD sales</i>	1,656	1,742
<i>Raffle</i>	687	1,017
	2,343	2,759

5. Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024
	£	£
<i>Bank interest receivable</i>	18,356	10,606

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds 2024
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
<i>Events and fundraising</i>	2,659	3,770
<i>Voluntary income staff costs</i>	61,783	45,631
	64,442	49,401

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Direct costs		
Costs relating to Charitable Activities	71,326	29,165
Assessments/Clinical Work	39,168	39,117
'Talking Out' Residentials	64,826	58,095
JLA Research Project	983	11,885
ASC Stammering Support Hub	4,801	6,078
Youth Panel	187	142
Mentoring Project	8,604	6,198
Schools Project	24,546	1,234
Stammering Tap Project	400	-
ASC Elevator Pitch Project	6,115	29,987
Other Charitable Expenditure	1,158	336
	222,114	182,237
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	47,635	60,561
Governance	17,744	19,736
	287,493	262,534
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	101,451	92,605
Unrestricted funds - designated	111,788	65,527
Restricted funds	74,254	104,402
	287,493	262,534

8. Expenditure by Charitable Activity

	Unrestricted 2025	Designated 2025	Restricted 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
Michael Palin Centre (MPC)	7,102	-	39,168	46,270
'Talking Out' Residentials	10,145	64,826	-	74,971
ASC Elevator Pitch Project	5,072	-	6,115	11,187
JLA Research Project	15,218	-	983	16,201
Mentoring Project	15,218	8,604	-	23,822
ASC Stammering Support Hub	15,218	-	26,507	41,725
Schools Project	20,290	24,546	-	44,836
City University Course	5,072	13,812	894	19,778
Youth Panel	5,072	-	187	5,259
Other Charitable Expenditure	3,044	-	400	3,444
	101,451	111,788	74,254	287,493
Previous year	Unrestricted 2024	Designated 2024	Restricted 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Michael Palin Centre (MPC)	10,946	-	39,117	50,063
'Talking Out' Residentials	10,946	58,095	-	69,041
ASC Elevator Pitch Project	21,893	-	29,987	51,880
JLA Research Project	21,893	-	11,885	33,778
Stambition Mentoring Project	10,946	6,198	-	17,144
ASC Stammering Support Hub	16,419	523	5,556	22,498
Schools Project	7,662	1,234	-	8,896
Youth Panel	5,473	-	142	5,615
Other Charitable Expenditure	3,284	335	-	3,619
	109,462	66,385	86,687	262,534

9. Support costs allocated to activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	17,130	46,174
Staff expenses	7,190	3,022
Website costs	913	1,177
Miscellaneous	3,794	4,233
IT costs	6,033	2,955
Accountancy	12,575	3,000
Governance costs	17,744	19,736
	<u>65,379</u>	<u>80,297</u>
Governance costs comprise:		
Staff costs	10,852	13,263
Independent examination fees	4,860	4,500
Legal and professional	2,032	1,973
	<u>17,744</u>	<u>19,736</u>

10. Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
<i>The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):</i>		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	4,860	4,500
	<u>4,860</u>	<u>4,500</u>

11. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

Trustee expenses reimbursed in the year totalled £296 (2024: £142).

12. Employees

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
<i>The average monthly number of employees during the year was</i>	5	3
	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	2025	2024
	£	£
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	148,409	124,161
Social security costs	9,751	7,606
Other pension costs	2,931	2,466
	<u>161,091</u>	<u>134,233</u>
	2025	2024
	Number	Number
<i>The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:</i>		
£60,000 to £70,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Remuneration of key management personnel

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by the key management personnel for their services to the Charity was £76,625 (2024: £74,304).

13. Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	592,000	60,814	652,814
At 31 March 2025	592,000	60,814	652,814
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2024	-	60,814	60,814
At 31 March 2025	-	60,814	60,814
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	592,000	-	592,000
At 31 March 2024	592,000	-	592,000

15. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Prepayments and accrued income	4,034	1,579

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

		2025	2024
	Note	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year			
Other taxation and social security		4,982	4,111
Deferred income	17	-	10,668
Trade creditors		-	469
Other creditors		2,037	3,188
Accruals		44,028	41,450
		51,047	59,886

17. Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other deferred income	-	10,668

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income is included within		
Current liabilities	-	10,668
Movements in the year		
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	10,668	10,668
Released from previous periods	(10,668)	(10,668)
Resources deferred in the year	-	10,668
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	-	10,668

18. Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,931	2,466

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The amounts payable at the year end were £644 (2024: £481).

19. Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Freehold Pine Street (fixed asset)	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension (fixed asset)	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Assessments / clinical work	57,493	42,089	(40,983)	(38,000)	20,599
ASC Stammering Support Hub	15,612	35,117	(25,586)	-	25,143
JLA research project	10,579	-	(983)	-	9,596
ASC elevator pitch project	12,980	-	(6,115)	-	6,865
Stammering tap project	400	-	(400)	-	-
ASC youth panel	888	-	(187)	-	701
Michael Palin Centre	3,172	-	-	-	3,172
Talking out	-	20,000	-	30,000	50,000
Mentoring Scheme	-	-	-	8,000	8,000
	693,124	97,206	(74,254)	-	716,076

Previous year	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Freehold Pine Street (fixed asset)	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension (fixed asset)	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Assessments / clinical work	40,361	60,922	(43,790)	-	57,493
ASC Stammering Support Hub	34,210	-	(18,598)	-	15,612
JLA research project	22,464	-	(11,885)	-	10,579
ASC elevator pitch project	42,967	-	(29,987)	-	12,980
Stammering tap project	400	-	-	-	400
ASC youth panel	1,030	-	(142)	-	888
Michael Palin Centre	3,172	-	-	-	3,172
	736,604	60,922	(104,402)	-	693,124



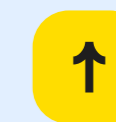
Specialist Assessments and Therapy

Funds are being used to provide access to specialist consultations provided by the Michael Palin Centre (MPC).



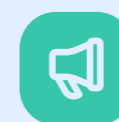
Stammering Tap Project

Funds were used to create a new animation film aimed at parents in partnership with Hear in Hull.



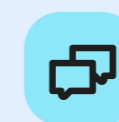
ASC Elevator Pitch Project

Funds are being used to refine and develop the charity's brand strategy and visual identity.



Talking Out Ltd.

Funds contribute towards the cost of delivering the residential stammering courses in North Yorkshire.



Youth Panel

Funds are being used to support the advocacy work of the ASC Youth Panel.



ASC Stammering Support Hub

Funds are used to run the Stammering Support Hub.



JLA Research Priorities Project

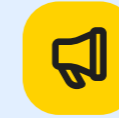
These funds are being used for the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership into Developmental Childhood Stammering.

20. Unrestricted funds - designated

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 April 2024	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
<i>'Talking Out' residential</i>	75,000	(64,826)	-	10,174
<i>Mentoring programme</i>	15,000	(8,604)	-	6,396
<i>ASC stammering support hub</i>	50,000	-	-	50,000
<i>Schools project</i>	50,000	(24,546)	-	25,454
<i>Capacity building</i>	50,000	(13,812)	-	36,188
<i>Forces fund</i>	10,000	-	-	10,000
	300,000	(111,788)	-	138,212

Previous year	At 1 April 2023	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Michael Palin Centre</i>	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
<i>'Talking Out' residential</i>	75,000	(58,095)	58,095	75,000
<i>Mentoring programme</i>	25,000	(6,198)	(3,802)	15,000
<i>ASC stammering support hub</i>	50,000	-	-	50,000
<i>Schools project</i>	50,000	(1,234)	1,234	50,000
<i>Capacity building</i>	50,000	-	-	50,000
<i>Forces fund</i>	-	-	10,000	10,000
	300,000	(65,527)	15,527	250,000



Talking Out Residential

Funds are designated to running two residential stammering courses and one online course for teenagers who stammer.



ASC Stammering Support Hub

Designated funds to continue to run the Stammering Support Hub for a further year



Schools Project

Funds will be used for promoting the Stammer Awareness Toolkit to education professionals and onboarding subscribing schools in the UK.



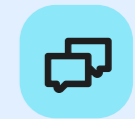
Capacity Building

Funds designated for an income-generating post for one-year.



Mentoring Programme

Designated for a fourth cohort of adolescents who stammer.



Forces Fund

Designated to fund places on our therapeutic programmes for children of service personnel families.

21. Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£		£
General funds	412,729	212,561	(165,893)	-	459,397
Previous year	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£		£
General funds	422,937	147,325	(142,006)	(15,527)	412,729

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025		Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2025				
Tangible assets	-	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets / (liabilities)	420,229	138,212	163,244	721,685
	420,229	138,212	755,244	1,313,685
Per balance sheet	459,397	138,212	716,076	1,313,685
Balance to allocate	39,168	-	(39,168)	-
	Unrestricted funds 2024		Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024				
Tangible assets	-	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets / (liabilities)	412,729	250,000	101,124	763,853
	412,729	250,000	693,124	1,355,853

23. Related party transactions

During the year the charity received donations of £375 (2024: £466) from Trustees and related parties of the charity.

24. Cash absorbed by operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deficit for the year	(42,168)	(103,688)
Adjustments for		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(18,356)	(10,606)
Movements in working capital		
(Increase) in debtors	(2,455)	(1,124)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,829	(18,054)
(Decrease) in deferred income	(10,668)	-
Cash absorbed by operations	(71,818)	(133,472)

25. Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

The Charity, Trustees and Advisers

For the year end 31 March 2025

Trustees

Dame Jane Roberts – Chair

Alison Lowton – Company Secretary

David Broom – Honorary Treasurer & Vice-Chair
(resigned 20th March 2025)

Christopher Smith – Treasurer (appointed 14th
November 2024)

Richard Murray – Vice-Chair (assumed - March
2025)

Anya Paul

Juliet Leach

Felicity Baker

Stephen McAteer

Natalie Carver

Archana Rahulan

Joe Allen

Zain Ghani

Independent Examiners

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP
First Floor, Park Central
40 – 41 Park End Street
Oxford
OX1 1JD

Company Registered Number

02328627

Charity Registered Number

801171

Company Status

A company limited by guarantee

Day-to-Day Management

The trustees delegated day-to-day management to the Charity's Chief Executive Ria Bernard

Registered Office

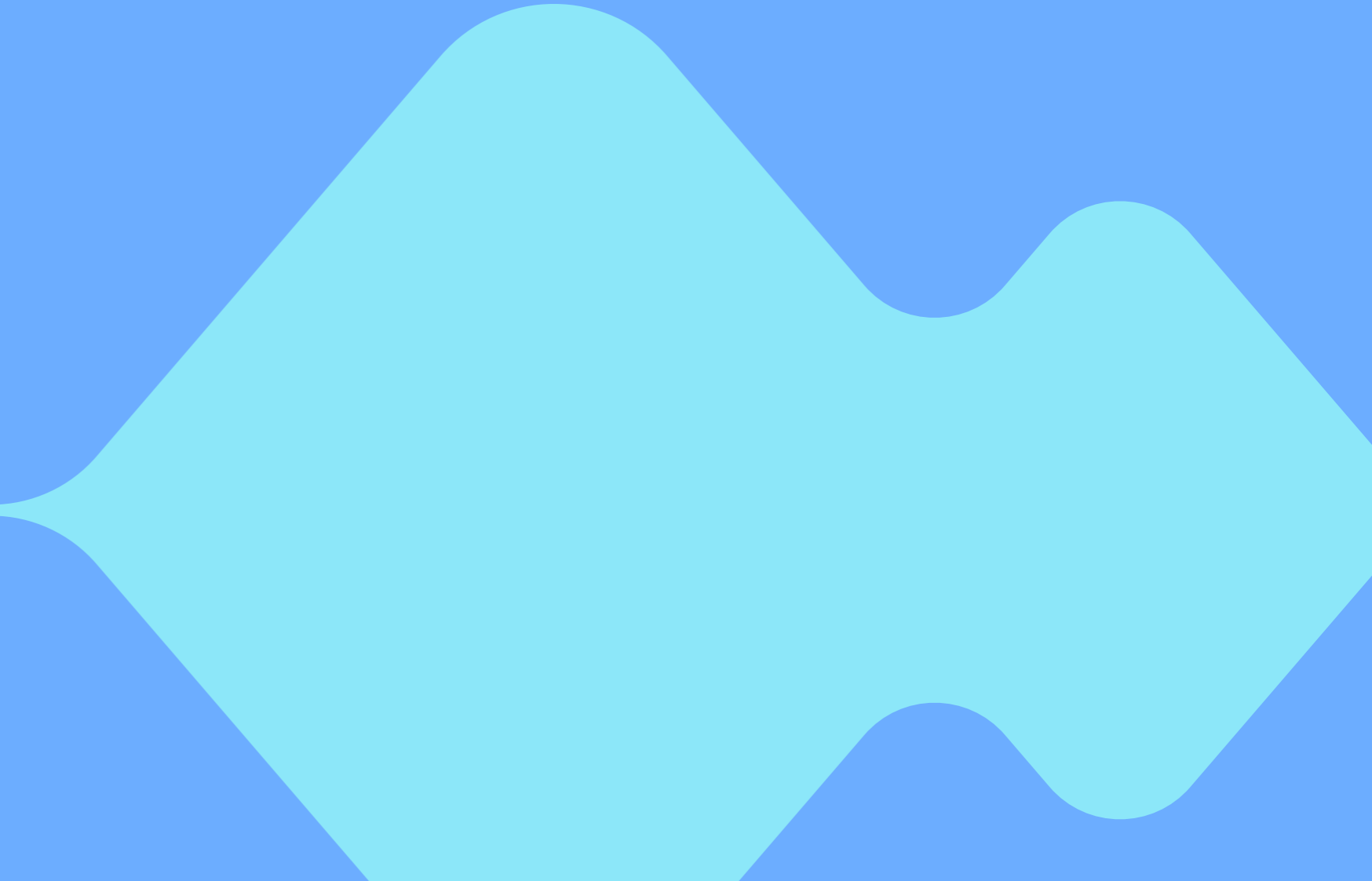
Action for Stammering Children
Michael Palin Centre for
Stammering Children
13-15 Pine Street
London EC1R 0JG

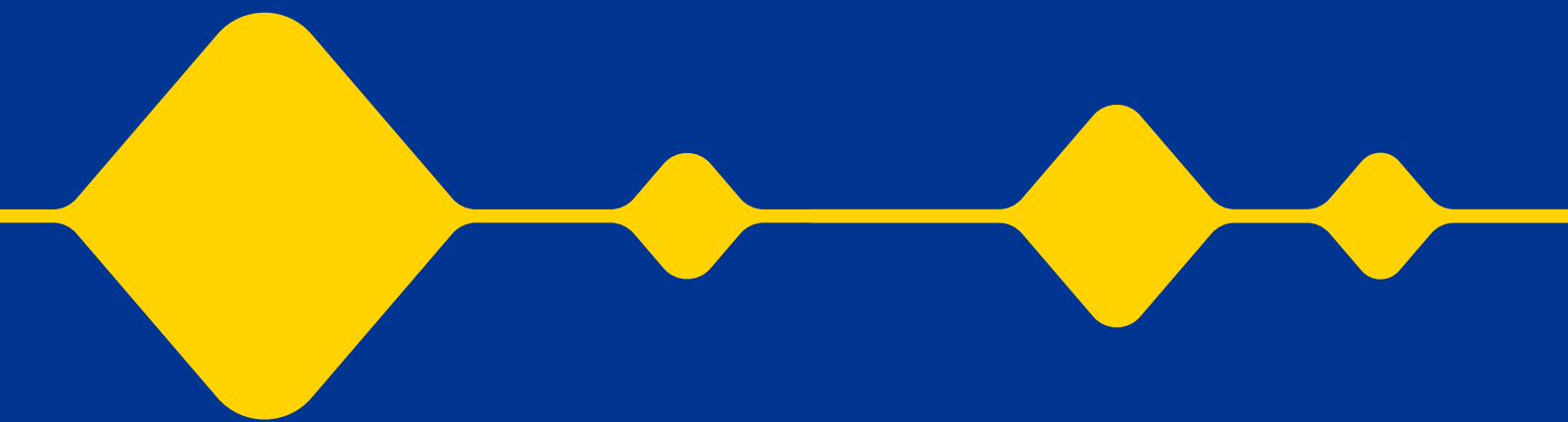
Bankers

Lloyds
Pall Mall St James's
London SW1Y 4BE



BainCapital
Phoebe Avbulimen
Action for Stepfamily Children





**Action for
Stammering
Children**

ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 801171

Accounts

**Action for
Stammering
Children**



Annual Report

2023/24

Charity no. 801171

Company no. 02328627

**Action for Stammering Children
is the UK charity for children and
young people who stammer, their
families, and the communities
who support them.**



**We're here to make sure that every
child who stammers has the support,
respect and confidence to live the
life they want to lead.**

**We support and empower parents,
caregivers and professionals;
facilitate and champion research;
and campaign for changes in
policy and societal attitudes.**



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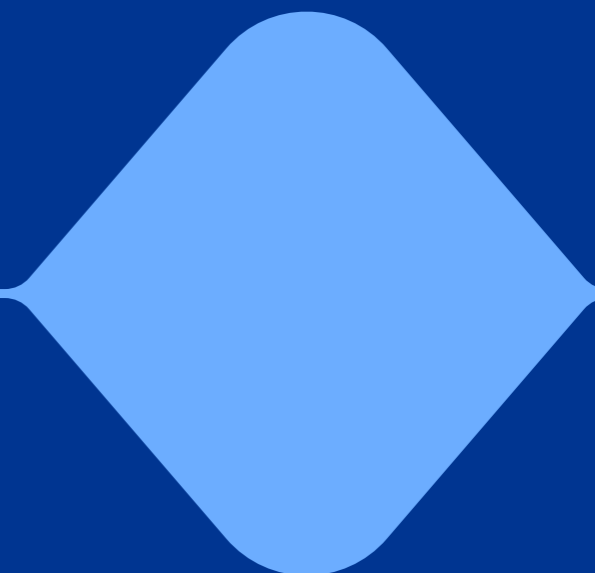
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The Year in Review



Message from the Chair

I am pleased to report that 2023/24 was a year of consolidation and strengthening of Action for Stammering Children's organisation so that we were in a position to accelerate progress on our ambitious plans.

We launched our new national strategy with its three strands: providing information, community and support; championing research; and changing policies and attitudes. A great deal of thought had gone into this strategy as a result which ASC made substantial progress in the year.



We exist in order to achieve our charitable objectives and with key projects in each of the three strands of the strategy, we did indeed go a considerable way towards those objectives. The Stammering Support Hub, laying the foundations for our ambitious Schools' Project, the Service Mapping Report, and the Research Priority Setting project with the James Lind Alliance are just some of the highlights of the year. There is plenty more, as you'll see in this report!

All of this activity was underpinned by a new visual identity and narrative, launched in October around International Stammering Awareness Day. October is always full of activity around this special day, but it was crowned in 2023 by Colin Firth, our Vice-President, presenting the BBC Lifeline Appeal on our behalf and the immense response to the appeal.

I am continually astonished by how much ASC, a small charity, does and the impact that it has. We have a long way still to go in order for childhood stammering to be recognised, understood and effectively supported but we are certainly on the right path. A great tribute to our tiny team led by Dr Ria Bernard. My thanks to them, to my fellow trustees, and to all of those who fund and support us. It would simply not be possible without you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jane Roberts'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Dame Jane Roberts
Chair of Board of Trustees

The Year in Numbers

3,000

contributors to the
Top 10 Research
Priorities in Childhood
Stammering



1 doctoral thesis
published

3,000

visitors to the Stammering
Support Hub

64

children and young people
accessed direct support



completion of the first Priority Setting
Partnership in Childhood Stammering

Two

research
publications in
international
journals



map of local stammering
services for children in
England

A Strategic Approach to Charity Activity

To achieve its mission, the Charity undertakes activities and projects across the following three key areas:

Information, community & support

Championing research

Changing policies & attitudes

The three key areas align with our six strategic goals:

1

To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer.

2

To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society.

3

To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their child.

4

To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer.

5

To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people.

6

To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people's lives, and to change public perceptions.

Our impact



Introduction

It has been a busy year at Action for Stammering Children as we unveiled our rebrand and laid the foundations for our new national strategy, which will help us to reach more of the 8% of children who stammer, and their families, living across the UK.

After ten months of working with beneficiaries and stakeholders, we were delighted to launch our national strategy and new visual identity in October to coincide with International Stammering Awareness Day and the release of our BBC Lifeline Appeal. Behind the scenes, the staff team have been busy putting in place the infrastructure to deliver on our ambitious plans as the national charity for children and young people who stammer, their families, and the communities who support them. This has meant that much of the team's time has been spent on preparing for the launch of two exciting nationwide initiatives that are at the core of ASC's new strategy: the Stammering Support Hub and the

Schools' Project. At the same time, we have continued to deliver for children and families through long-standing and new partnerships; offering access to therapy courses and support that would otherwise be unavailable through public funding.

There's plenty more to do but we are pleased to be in a position to expand on our offer for families in 2024/25 thanks to the continued support, collaboration and generosity of our funders, partners and families.



Key Area 1

Information, Community & Support

We provide resources, advice and guidance for children and young people who stammer, their families, and the professionals who support them.

Project

Stammering Support Hub

In the Autumn 2023, we launched our new Stammering Support Hub, one of the two key projects that underpin our nationwide strategy. While much of this year has been focused on getting the infrastructure in place, we were delighted to launch the Support Hub in October.

Over the summer, we offered two internships to undergraduate students who spearheaded a project to develop a database of speech and language therapy services available to families living in different regions of England. More about this in the next section. We have generated over 40 knowledge articles to answer some of the most frequently asked questions from parents/carers, health and education professionals and schools.

Since launching in October, we have already had 3,000 visitors to the Support Hub. Our new Support Hub Advisor will be joining us in April 2024 to handle enquiries in real time from our beneficiaries.

Key Outcomes



Stammering Support Hub launched



Over 3,000 visitors to the Hub since it's launch in October

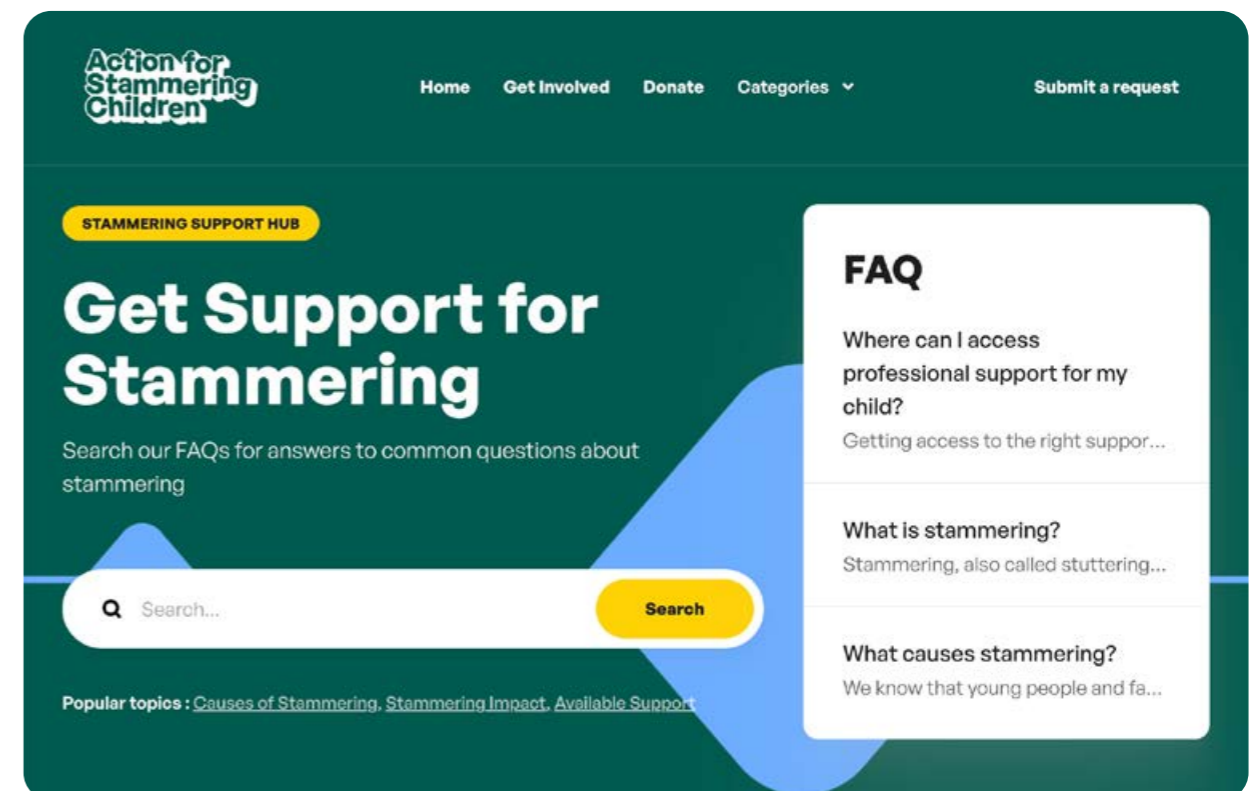
Project

Schools Project

The second project underpinning our nationwide strategy is an ambitious schools' project that aims to equip education professionals with the knowledge and resources to better support pupils who stammer in the classroom.

This year, we have been focusing on the scoping phase of this project and have been busy working with stakeholders to determine the most beneficial content for this initiative. Over the summer, we held a series of focus groups with young people, parents and teachers to find out how schools could better support pupils who stammer. Through this piece of work, we have developed the content for an exciting new resource for schools. We will be rolling out the project in 2024/5 and look forward to reporting back to supporters in our next annual review.

We have developed the content for an exciting new resource for schools



ASC Stammering Support Hub

Project

“It helped me not worry about the way I speak but pay attention to the message that I am delivering”

Talking Out

We continue to partner with non-profit speech and language therapy practice, Talking Out Ltd, to fund access to specialist courses for teenagers who stammer living anywhere in the UK. This year, we funded three courses:

- A one-week online course for teenagers in May-June 2023
- Two one-week residential courses for teenagers in July – August and October – November 2023.

Both online and residential courses aim to promote the following skills amongst participants:

- Confidence in communicating.
- A more positive attitude to speaking.
- Decreased sensitivity to stammering.
- Problem solving and self-help skills.
- Positive thinking skills.
- A peer support network.

The week-long residential courses integrate dedicated therapy sessions with outdoor activities that encourage the young people to challenge themselves.

In addition to the direct work with teenagers, the course offers support to parents/carers who attend online evening sessions throughout the week to promote carry-over of skills and help young people to maintain what they have learnt when they return home.

The Talking Out stammering courses also provide an opportunity for student speech and language therapists to gain experience in working with young people who stammer, which not only contributes to their professional development but encourages them to consider specialising in this clinical area once qualified.

In line with our commitment to achieving national reach as a charity, we were pleased to see that teenagers living across England were able to participate in the course. Of those participants who provided this information, half lived outside of the Yorkshire and Humber region where the residential course takes place.

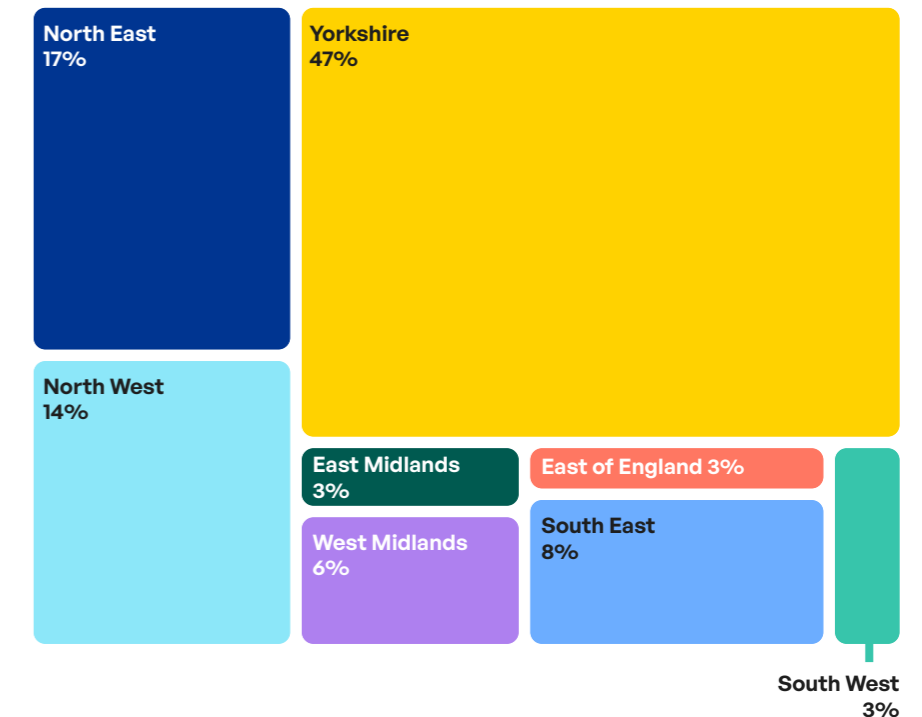
What has changed? “My overall mindset. I went from being anxious to being confident in groups”

What has changed? “I don’t think I’m as sensitive to stammering and I don’t feel alone with my stammer anymore.”



Funding permitting, we are intending to develop bursaries for those families who may struggle with the associated costs of attending the course, such as travel and luggage costs. This should encourage more families living outside of Yorkshire and the North East to refer to the course.

Beneficiaries attended the course from all over England



“It helped me to build my confidence to push myself beyond my limits to do what I wouldn’t normally do”

Key Outcomes

- 41 teenagers aged between 11 and 16 accessed specialist support
- 41 parents/carers accessed expert support and guidance from specialist speech and language therapists
- 8 student speech and language therapists gained experience in working with children who stammer

Project

ASC Mentoring Scheme

The ASC Mentoring Scheme ran from February to September 2023 in partnership with Iain Wilkie and Sam Simpson. A total of six mentee-mentor pairs were enrolled on the scheme. Although this was a smaller number than the year before, we were pleased to receive positive feedback from both mentees and mentors again this year.

Having taken on board feedback from this second cohort of mentees and mentors, we plan to run the programme again next year to offer young people entering that tricky transition into early adulthood the chance to receive 1-to-1 career mentoring from a professional with lived experience of stammering.

“I found my mentoring experience to be really beneficial and amazing. It allowed me a rare space in my life where I had someone who really properly understood the challenges and I was able to discuss pretty much anything with.”

Key Outcomes



Six young people benefited from one-to-one career mentoring



Six professionals with lived experience of stammering developed skills and experience in mentoring a young person

Project

City University intensive course

We have worked with the speech and language therapy team at City University for a number of years, providing financial assistance to those families who are unable to meet the costs of the week-long summer intensive course. Thanks to our supporters, we now offer a bursary scheme to a larger number of families living across London. The bursary scheme covers the cost of transport for the young person and their parent as well as the small course fee and subsistence.

We now offer a bursary scheme to a larger number of families living across London

Unfortunately, the course scheduled for July 2023 had to be cancelled due to a series of national rail strikes. We will continue to offer the bursary scheme next year and are in discussion with our partners about funding a higher number of bursaries.

Project

Michael Palin Centre

Although we now work with a diverse range of partners to fulfil our mission, we maintain the historic association with our longest-standing partners based at the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering. The speech and language therapy service provided by Whittington Health NHS Trust runs out of the Pine Street Building, which is owned by the charity. We are proud to be in a position to support the incredible work undertaken by the clinical team through this arrangement and by funding clinical activity not otherwise funded by the NHS.

This year, we have provided funding for 17 children and young people to access expert clinical services at the Michael Palin Centre for stammering children. Nine of these children received a specialist assessment and eight children benefited from therapy programmes delivered by the highly specialist speech and language therapists at the Centre. Due to the nature of the service provided at the Michael Palin Centre, our funding facilitates access to highly specialised therapy programmes. We are delighted that our funding has enabled children and young people to access the following therapy programmes:

- Two preschoolers accessed 20 sessions of Palin Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Three school-aged children accessed 30-sessions of Palin Stammering Therapy for School Children
- Two school-aged children accessed a one week intensive course with a one-year follow-up
- One teenager accessed the two-week intensive course involving a one-year follow-up

Key Outcomes

- 17 children and young people, and their parents/carers, accessed specialist assessments or therapy at the Michael Palin Centre

Event

The first time that many of our supporters heard directly from the young people we support

Desert Challenge Appeal launch

On 10th July, at the October Gallery in Central London, we launched our Desert Challenge Appeal. The appeal aimed to raise funds for future Talking Out courses through our partnership with the Nefud Expedition Team who plan to cross the harshest part of the Arabian Peninsula in Electric Vehicles. By partnering with us, they hope to attract sponsorship that can be used to support our projects and raise awareness about stammering.

The event was attended by over 60 guests who heard from four beneficiaries of previous Talking Out courses as well as the Nefud Expedition Team. It was the first time that many of our supporters heard directly from the young people we support and we are grateful to all those who spoke, attended and supported the Appeal. We will be sharing more updates about the Appeal next year.



Launch of the Desert Challenge Appeal at the October Gallery in London

Key Area 2

Championing Research

Project

JLA Research Priorities

We are proud to have led the very first Priority Setting Partnership into Developmental Childhood Stammering in partnership with the prestigious James Lind Alliance (JLA). Working with representatives from across the stammering community, this project aims to identify the most important questions to be addressed by future research as selected by those with lived experience of stammering.

In November, we held a one-day workshop at Coram with 22 participants, including children and young people who stammer, parents and caregivers and professionals. Through a series of small group workshops facilitated by JLA advisers, participants identified the Top Ten Priorities from a short-list of 25. The Top Ten will be released next year with the intention of influencing the research priorities of academics, institutions and funders moving forward.

Project

Doctoral Research Programme

The Doctoral Research Programme that we have co-funded with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) at University College London (UCL) was completed in September 2023. Over the course of the studentship, PhD researcher, Ria Bernard, undertook three projects to investigate risk for anxiety and depression in children who do and do not stammer.



JLA Research Priorities Workshop

In addition to her doctoral thesis, this research has been published in two highly reputed international journals in the field.

- Bernard, R., Hofslundsengen, H, & Norbury, C. F., (2022). Anxiety and Depression Symptoms in Children and Adolescents Who Stutter: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Speech, Language & Hearing Research*, 65(2), p624-644.
- Bernard, R. F. L., & Norbury, C. F., (2023). Factors associated with symptoms of anxiety and depression in children who stutter. *Language, Speech & Hearing Services in Schools*, 54(2), p535-549.
- Bernard, R. F. L., (2023). Investigating risk for elevated anxiety and depression symptoms in children who stutter relative to non-stuttering peers. Doctoral thesis (Ph.D), UCL (University College London).

Project

This project aimed to gather information about the local NHS speech and language therapy services available for children across England

Service Mapping Project

The ASC Team welcomed two interns over the summer to support our research and policy projects. Their primary responsibility was to complete the service mapping project, which aimed to gather information about the local NHS speech and language therapy services available for children who stammer living across England. The objectives of this project were two-fold; firstly we aimed to generate a database of local services that would inform the Stammering Support Hub; and secondly we wanted to better understand barriers and facilitators to families accessing local services.

Over the course of the three months they were with us, Charis and Maria executed a comprehensive research proposal that gathered information from NHS service providers (speech & language therapists) and users (parents/carers, young people). This project was delivered in collaboration with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) and the King's Fund. The report will be made available next year.



Event

Travers Reid Award

For many years, we have sponsored the Travers Reid Award in honour of our late President, Travers. The award recognises the contribution of research to the lives of children and young people who stammer and comprises a £300 prize for the winning entry. Usually, this would be awarded at the Oxford Dysfluency Conference, however this was not possible due to postponement of the conference this year.

Instead, we held a special online session permitting candidates to present their research to the Travers Reid sub-committee. We received nine nominations from early career researchers based in seven countries worldwide. We felt particularly fortunate that such an esteemed panel of academics agreed to sit on the sub-committee, including Professor Kari-Anne Bottegård Næss from the University of Oslo, Professor Peter Howell from UCL, and Dr Charlie Wiltshire from Bangor University.

The 2023 winner of the Travers Reid Award was Sarah Horton of the University of Melbourne for her research into executive function, stuttering severity and subjective impact on people who stutter.

Impact

- One Doctoral Thesis published
- Two publications accepted by international journals
- Map of speech and language therapy services available to families living in England
- Completion of the Priority Setting Partnership into Developmental Stammering

Key Area 3

Changing Policies & Attitudes

Project

About my Stammer Poster Campaign

This year, we teamed up with speech and language therapists at South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to create a series of school posters. The posters were designed by children who stammer and made freely available for schools to download with the aim of raising awareness about stammering in the classroom.



Phoebe and Thomas on the BBC Breakfast Sofa with Naga Munchetty and Charlie Stayt

Project

Youth Panel

The ASC Youth Panel comprises a group of 15 – 25 year olds who inform the charity’s strategy and work with the staff team to advocate for greater awareness of stammering in the UK. This year, the Youth Panel established a new committee structure with dedicated roles to help fulfil their mission of raising awareness about the impact of stammering and challenging common misconceptions.

Throughout the year, members of the Youth Panel have continued to feed into our projects and have been instrumental in development of our new initiatives, such as the Schools’ Project and Support Hub.

What have the Youth Panel been up to this year?

- ASC Ambassador and founder of *Stammer Stories* Podcast, William Laven invited youth panel members, Georgie, Thomas and Sam, to talk all things stammering on his podcast.
- In November, Thomas and Mike shared their experiences of stammering at a special UCL Giving Voice Society workshop for student speech and language therapists.
- Thomas was invited to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party to receive his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. As part of this award, Thomas volunteered with Action for Stammering Children, helping the staff team further the charity’s objectives.
- Thomas was amongst 100 winners globally of the Rise Challenge for his idea of creating a targeted app to provide speech and language therapy for young people living across the world with limited access to support.
- Phoebe continues to advocate and spread awareness about stammering through her social media activity.

International Stammering Awareness Day 2023

October is always a busy time of year for Action for Stammering Children and this year was no different! A key date in the calendar for the whole stammering community, we were thrilled to play our part in shining a light on childhood stammering.

This year, the main event was our BBC Lifeline Appeal, which broadcast on BBC1 on 15th October. Presented by Academy-Award winning actor and ASC Vice-President, Colin Firth, our Lifeline Appeal featured three of the young people we have supported through our projects. We were overwhelmed by the response to the Appeal and the local and national media engagement surrounding the broadcast. Two of the young people featured in the Appeal appeared on the BBC Breakfast sofa alongside Naga Munchetty and Charlie Stayt. Phoebe, a student at the University of Leicester appeared in Leicestershire Live, while Thomas' story was shared in local paper, Your Harrogate.



Colin Firth presented our BBC Lifeline Appeal in October

Advocacy

In addition to the direct work we do with families, we also raise awareness about the impact of stammering on children and young people. One of the ways we do this is by making sure stammering is part of the conversation.

This year, we had a number of opportunities to shine the spotlight on stammering – changing attitudes and challenging misconceptions by talking about the impact stammering can have on a child's development.

- ↑ In May, our Chief Executive chatted with co-producer of *A Blind Date with Knowledge* podcast, Steven Liggett, about the status of stammering research.
- ↑ To mark Mental Health Awareness Week, CEO, Ria Bernard, spoke at the City of London Corporation event about the association between childhood stammering and risk for adverse mental health.
- ↑ In November, Youth Panel members, Thomas and Mike, shared their experiences of stammering at a special UCL Giving Voice Society workshop for student speech and language therapists.
- ↑ Two beneficiaries from this year's mentoring scheme joined the South East and London Clinical Excellence Network to share their experiences of the ASC mentoring scheme as part of their Study Day focusing on transitions.

Awards & recognition

- ✗ Our Award Winning film, *Me & My Stammer*, was nominated for a Third Sector Award. Although we didn't win, we were thrilled to be shortlisted!
- ✗ ASC Stambassador, Megan Tomkies, won an RCSLT Giving Voice Award in recognition of her brilliant initiative of creating M&S name badges for employees with speech difficulties.

A few highlights from 2023/24



Looking Ahead to 2024-25



This year, we have been busy working behind the scenes to get new projects off the ground ready for launch in 2024/25. The two major initiatives we will be focusing on in the coming year are the **Stammering Support Hub** and our **Schools' Project**, which underscore our strategy to reach a greater number of families living across the four corners of the UK.

We intend to maintain and extend our existing partnerships to expand our offer to families. We are committed to reaching those families and communities who can often go unsupported, and we will be working with organisations in the stammering community and beyond to meet the needs of every family of a child who stammers.



Case Study

Elliot (mentee)

My name is Elliot and I have a stammer. I don't remember exactly when I realised it, but I do remember that as I became more conscious of my stammer, I withdrew from most social interactions and kept to myself more. My words became fewer. Instead, I focused on what I could do, draft short stories with characters who always felt out of place.

When I made a conscientious effort to understand my stammer, my journey to self-acceptance began. More so because at this point, I was in the university and had become tired of never expressing myself out of fear of the reactions of others.

I joined the Ghana Stammering Association, took part in online meetings and felt this barrier I had built slowly start to disintegrate. I moved out of my comfort zone and was able to speak without fear of reactions and talk about my stammer with my close friends and family. However, right after my undergraduate studies, I moved to the U.K for my PhD and here, it felt like all the progress I had made had vanished. My research required that I give weekly presentations, take part in networking events and the culture shock had an effect on me as well.

Looking back now, I am grateful for

these challenges because it was through my need to overcome them that I discovered the Action for Stammering Children (ASC) Mentoring Scheme. I was a bit hesitant when the scheme started and thought it would just be a generic meeting where we were told every week what to do and what not to do. However, when I was paired with Steven, a fellow individual with a stammer and with far more experience than I, we hit it right off. Steven became not just a mentor but a friend I could go to anytime and he would always listen to me. Through the Scheme, Steven and I planned our 6-month sessions and once every fortnight we met over zoom to discuss many topics including dealing with stammering in the workplace and social life, how stammering is

portrayed in the media, stammering pride movement and the future of stammering. It was even through our meetings that I got to know about the Stammering Flag! My mental health improved, and I found myself gradually be accepting of my new environment.

Each fortnight, I looked forward to our chat and even though the scheme has ended, we still have our catchups. I am now able to speak freely about my stammering with new friends here and have added the STAMMA logo to my email signatures. I entered this scheme looking for a way to just overcome a challenge, however, now I understand myself so much more and look for any opportunity to spread stammering awareness.

Priorities for 2024-25

Information, Community & Support

We will continue to fund access to expert therapy and support that would otherwise be unavailable via the NHS. Over the next year we intend to:

- Fund three one-week stammering courses delivered by our partners at Talking Out Ltd for 60 teenagers who stammer living in the UK;
- Provide 6-month mentorships to at least eight young people who stammer in collaboration with our partner, Sam Simpson;
- Fund specialist assessments and therapy programmes for 14 London families through our partnership with the Michael Palin Centre.
- Provide bursaries for up to 8 children who stammer and their families to access stammering courses run by City University.
- Establish a dedicated fund for children of service personnel to access our tangible therapy projects.
- Appoint a dedicated Support Hub Advisor to handle enquiries from beneficiaries and manage the Stammering Support Hub.
- Launch the Schools' Project resource.

Championing Research

A priority next year will be establishing relationships with research and policy stakeholders to encourage more robust research into childhood stammering and influence policymakers. We plan to do this by:

- Launching the Top Ten Research Priorities as identified by the stammering community through our James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership.
- Collaborating with at least one academic or institution on a research project.
- Launching a new process for promoting ongoing research studies within the ASC community and communicating the findings of recent research studies.

Changing Policies & Attitudes

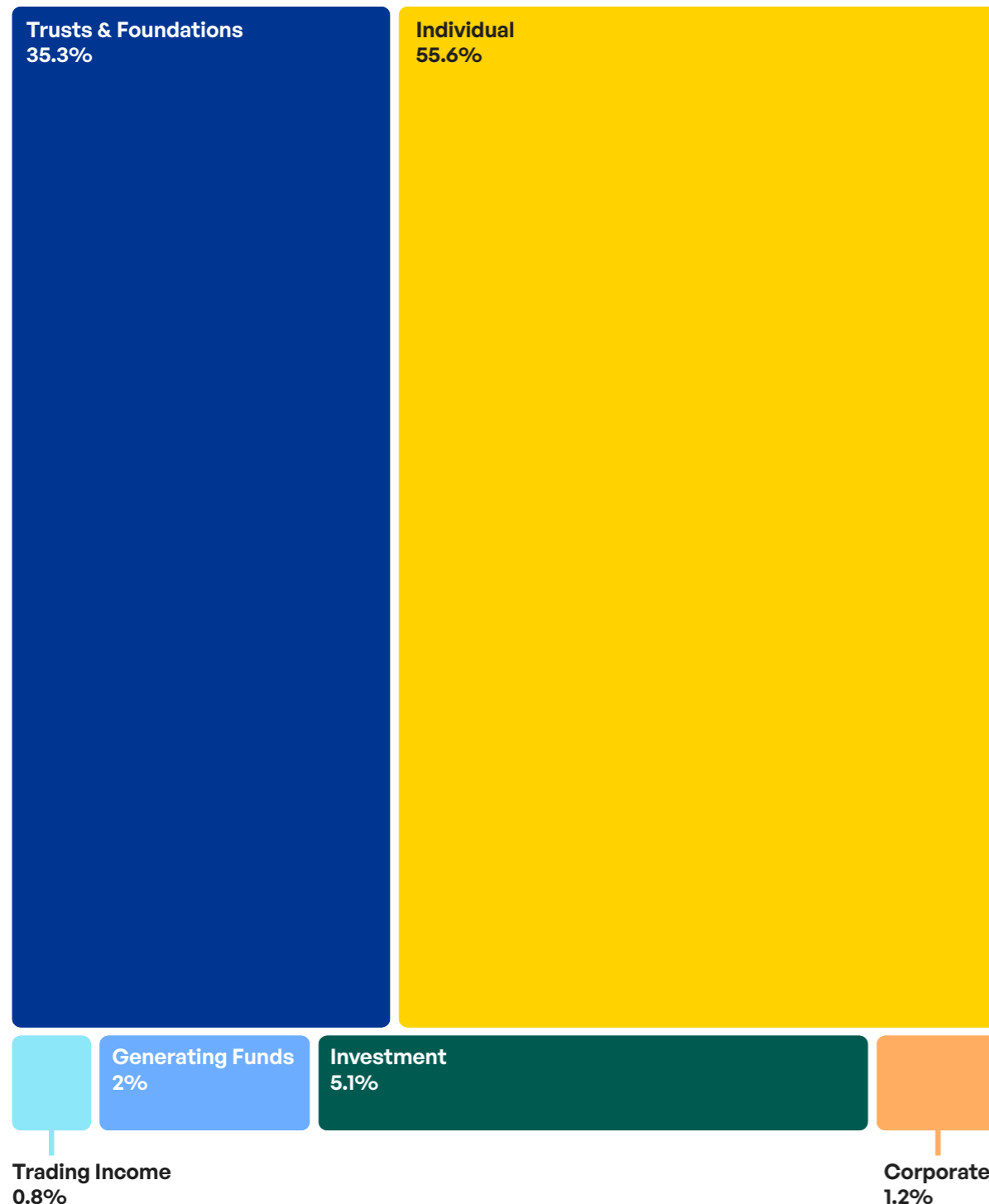
- Release our report into the barriers and facilitators to accessing local speech and language therapy services.
- Work with our Youth Panel to recruit more young people to the panel and drive forward campaigns.
- Contribute evidence and/or recommendations to at least one policy process.

Financial Review



Breakdown of Charitable Income

Sources of income 2023/24



Income

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities.

The year to 31 March 2024 has continued to be challenging and total income for the year to 31 March 2024 amounted to £208,248, down from £388,275 in the year ended March 2023. This was due largely to the charity focusing on spending restricted and designated funding received in prior years to get new projects and initiatives off the ground.

The Charity has complied with the relevant codes of practice. We have received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities. (2023: none)

Reserves

Total general funds of £662,729 consists of £250,000 designated funds and unrestricted free reserves of £412,729. Designated funds of £250,000 have been earmarked for expenditure on key strategic projects in 2024/25 to enable the charity to evidence the impact for beneficiaries, whilst the charity actively seeks longer term funding.

Unrestricted free reserves of £412,729 represents approximately 11 months of budgeted expenditure, in line with current policy.

Reserves policy & going concern

The Trustees have considered the desired level of unrestricted funds, not designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed (free reserves). Given the nature of the Charity's work, we have determined that the level of free reserves should be equivalent to nine to twelve months of budgeted expenditure. In our judgement, this provides sufficient flexibility to cover any temporary shortfalls in incoming resources and ensures that the Charity is able to continue its work, and also able to respond immediately to a reasonable range of unforeseen adverse circumstances, before remedial plans can be implemented. This policy will be kept under constant review.

Breakdown of Charitable Expenditure

Project expenditure 2023/24



Expenditure

Following the unveiling of the charity’s new nationwide strategy, Trustees made the decision to invest in the implementation of this ambitious new strategy by designating funding to core projects underpinning it.

Expenditure of £311,935 in the year ended 31 March 2024 was marginally up from £305,583 in the year ended 31 March 2023. The total expenditure of £311,935 comprised the cost of raising funds (£49,401) and expenditure on charitable activity (£262,534). Expenditure on our long-term partnership with the Whittington Health NHS Trust was higher than last year as this reflects accrued funding related to previous activity.

Expenditure continued to be closely monitored, with much of the reported expenditure coming from restricted or designated funds. Key expenditure that reflects implementation of the charity’s UK-wide strategy include:

- ➔ Expenditure on Project Elevator Pitch was necessary to permit redevelopment of the charity’s visual identity, reflecting the ambitious national strategy agreed by the Board of Trustees.
- ➔ Expenditure on the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) enabled this project to reach it’s conclusion and identify the very first Top 10 priorities in future stammering research informed by those with lived experience.
- ➔ The Stammering Support Hub is one of two flagship projects underpinning this new strategy, which will enable us to provide support and signposting to hundreds of families, young people, professionals and schools nationwide.
- ➔ Talking Out and the ASC Mentoring Scheme are two projects delivered in collaboration with existing partners, which are core to our tangible offer to families.

Investment powers and policy

The Board of Trustees’ policy is to invest in low risk, liquid investments. Accordingly, Action for Stammering Children invests its funds in cash deposits.

Trustee's Report

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Article of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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)".

Objectives and activities

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements during 2023/24 include:

- Launching the UK Stammering Support Hub to empower families with the information and knowledge to choose the most appropriate support for their child.
- Scoping out of the second UK-wide initiative aimed at raising awareness of stammering amongst educators working with pupils.
- Completing the first Priority Setting Partnership into Developmental Childhood Stammering to inform the future research agenda.
- A comprehensive investigation into the availability of NHS speech and language therapy services for children who stammer in England.

Financial review

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level between nine to twelve months of budgeted expenditure (£347k to £462k). Actual unrestricted free reserves of £412,729 at 31 March 2024 represented approximately 11 months of budgeted expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 15 December 1988, which was last revised in September 2014, and as a charity on 21 March 1989. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

The members of the charitable company include the Trustees. Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that the interests of children who stammer are appropriately represented in the Trustee body. Prospective board members are appointed by the board either after an external recruitment or, less often, having been nominated by a board member. The Trustees also aim to maintain a broad mix of backgrounds and business skills on the Board.

The Board of Trustees is committed to being a diverse and inclusive body. The skills and experience of Trustees are reviewed regularly, which also informs recruitment of new Trustees. New Trustees take part in a full induction programme covering all aspects of the work of the Charity, its governance and finances.

The Trustees are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

- Dame J E Roberts
- Archana Rahulan
- Anya Paul
- Richard Murray
- Stephen Mcateer
- Juliet Leach
- Zain Ghani
- Natalie Carver
- David Broom
- Joseph Allen
- Felicity Baker

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The company's current policy concerning the payment of trade creditors is to follow the CBI's Prompt Payers Code (copies are available from the CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU).

Organisational Structure

The Charity's Board of Trustees meets in person or online, at least five times per annum. At the end of March 2024, the Board comprises 13 members from a variety of professional backgrounds, many of whom have experience of stammering, either personally or through a family member. Trustees retire by rotation after three years, but are eligible for re-election for up to three terms of office. The Chief Executive of the Charity implements the strategy set by the Trustees and has a prime responsibility for fundraising.

Relationship with Related Parties and cooperation with other organisations

The work of Action for Stammering Children is centred around three key action areas: (i) information, community and support; (ii) championing research; (iii) influencing societal attitudes and public policy. Direct work with beneficiaries is largely delivered through our partnership projects to ensure that children receive expert support that would not be available through the NHS, for example, specialist stammering courses. This year, we have collaborated with a number of project partners to deliver effective support to our beneficiaries, including Talking Out Ltd., the Michael Palin Centre, City University, 50 Million Voices, and Redefining Stammering.

In addition, Action for Stammering Children has worked with the Hear in Hull team, the James Lind Alliance, South Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, UCL Giving Voice Society, and the Stammer Stories Podcast to meet its strategic objectives around advocacy and promoting research.

The Charity has a strict conflict of interest policy and declarations are made at the start of every trustee meeting.

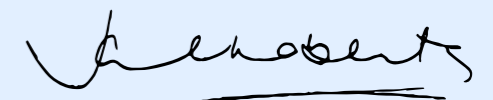
Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. The Board has overall responsibility for the pay policy and the salaries of staff. The Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary oversees the administration of the pay policy, evaluates employee performance and decides on any changes to pay.

Our general principles are to pay our employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Dame Jane Roberts
Chair of Board of Trustees



19th September 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Action for Stammering Children

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Action for Stammering Children (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Katherine Wilkes FCA DChA

**Critchleys Audit LLP
First Floor, Park Central
40-41 Park End Street
Oxford
OX1 1JD**

Dated:

Financial Statements



Statement of Financial Activities

(including income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024			Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2023			Total 2023
		General Designated	Restricted Funds 2024	General		General Designated	Restricted Funds 2023	General	
Income from:		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:									
Donations and legacies	3	133,960	-	60,922	194,882	285,183	-	97,980	383,163
Charitable activities	4	2,759	-	-	2,759	1,689	-	-	1,689
Investments	5	10,606	-	-	10,606	3,423	-	-	3,423
Total income		147,325	-	60,922	208,247	290,295	-	97,980	388,275
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	6	49,401	-	-	49,401	71,435	-	-	71,435
Charitable activities	7	92,605	65,527	104,402	262,534	125,239	-	108,909	234,148
Total expenditure		142,006	65,527	104,402	311,935	196,674	-	108,909	305,583
Net income/(expenditure)		5,319	(65,527)	(43,480)	(103,688)	93,621	-	(10,929)	82,692
Transfer between funds		(15,527)	15,527	-	-	(150,200)	150,000	200	-
Net movement in funds	10	(10,208)	(50,000)	(43,480)	(103,688)	(56,579)	150,000	(10,729)	82,692
Reconciliation of funds									
Fund balances at April 1 2023		422,937	300,000	736,604	1,459,541	479,516	150,000	747,333	1,376,849
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		412,729	250,000	693,124	1,355,853	422,937	300,000	736,604	1,459,541

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	£	£	£	£
			2024	2023	
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	14		592,000		592,000
Current assets:					
Debtors	15	1,579		455	
Cash at bank and in hand		822,160		945,026	
			823,739		945,481
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(59,886)		(77,940)	
Net current assets			763,853		867,541
Total assets less current liabilities			1,355,853		1,459,541
Net assets excluding pension liability			1,355,853		1,459,541
Funds					
Unrestricted funds - designated	20		250,000		300,000
Unrestricted funds free reserves			412,729		422,937
Restricted fixed asset funds	19		592,000		592,000
Restricted funds	19		101,124		144,604
			1,355,853		1,459,541

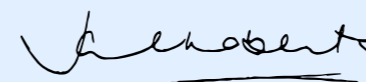
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 19th September 2024.



Dame J E Roberts

Trustee

Company registration number 02328627 (England and Wales)

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
<i>Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations</i>	24		(133,472)		153,864
Investing activities					
<i>Invested income received</i>		10,606		3,423	
Net cash generated from investing activities			10,606		3,423
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(122,866)		157,287
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			945,026		787,739
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			822,160		945,026

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

Charity information

Action for Stammering Children is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales.

The registered office is The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, 13 - 15 Pine Street, London, EC1R 0JG.

In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's articles of association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in

sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2. Going concern

The Trustees consider that the resources available to the Charity will be sufficient for it to be able to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would be required if the Charity were not able to continue as a going concern.

1.3. Charitable funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each

designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4. Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grant income is recognised when there is a firm commitment and certainty that the funds will be received.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.5. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly

in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.6. Tangible fixed assets

All assets costing more than £1,500 are capitalised. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

- Freehold land and buildings: Over 50 years to an estimated residual value of £592,000
- Office Equipment: 3 years on a straight line basis

1.7. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash 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.

1.8. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Fixed assets are recorded at depreciated historical cost.

Basic financial assets

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

Basic financial liabilities

Creditors are recognised as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay our resources.

1.9. Retirement benefits

The Charity operates a defined pension scheme for employees.

The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

The resulting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There are not deemed to

be any estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Depreciation

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives. Expected useful life in this calculation is an estimate. A review is required annually to ensure no assets are being depreciated by more than cost, and that consumption is appropriate.

Deferred income

Income for projects is deferred where milestones have not been met by the year-end, which is entitlement and where project income is received in advance of contracted date.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Donations and gifts</i>	133,960	60,922	194,882	261,620	97,980	359,600
<i>Legacies receivable</i>	-	-	-	23,563	-	23,563
	133,960	60,922	194,882	285,183	97,980	383,163

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2023
	£	£
<i>Book and DVD sales</i>	1,742	1,689
<i>Raffle</i>	1,017	-
	2,759	1,689

5. Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2023
	£	£
<i>Bank interest receivable</i>	10,606	3,423

6. Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds 2023
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
Events and fundraising	3,770	10,125
Voluntary income staff costs	45,631	61,310
	<u>49,401</u>	<u>71,435</u>

7. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Direct costs		
Costs relating to charitable projects	29,165	45,851
Assessments / clinical work	39,117	52,374
Returners	-	6,215
'Talking Out' residentials	58,095	53,102
JLA research project	11,885	3,435
ASC stammering support hub	6,078	-
Youth panel	142	-
Stambition mentoring project	6,198	6,084
Schools project	1,234	-
Stammering tap project	-	3,955
ASC elevator pitch project	29,987	26,533
Other charitable expenditure	336	1,023
	<u>182,237</u>	<u>198,572</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	60,561	29,904
Governance	19,736	5,672
	<u>262,534</u>	<u>234,148</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	92,605	125,239
Unrestricted funds - designated	65,527	-
Restricted funds	104,402	108,909
	<u>262,534</u>	<u>234,148</u>

8. Expenditure by charitable activity

	Unrestricted 2024	Designated 2024	Restricted 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Michael Palin Centre (MPC)	10,946	-	39,117	50,063
'Talking Out' residentials	10,946	58,095	-	69,041
ASC elevator pitch project	21,893	-	29,987	51,880
JLA research project	21,893	-	11,885	33,778
Stambition mentoring project	10,946	6,198	-	17,144
ASC stammering support hub	16,419	523	5,556	22,498
Schools project	7,662	1,234	-	8,896
Youth panel	5,473	-	142	5,615
Other charitable expenditure	3,284	335	-	3,619
	<u>109,462</u>	<u>66,385</u>	<u>86,687</u>	<u>262,534</u>

Previous year	Unrestricted 2023	Designated 2023	Restricted 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Michael Palin Centre (MPC)	21,455	-	67,937	89,392
JLA research project	10,728	-	3,435	14,163
Stambition mentoring project	13,236	-	-	13,236
ASC elevator pitch project	14,304	-	26,533	40,837
'Talking Out' residentials	57,296	-	6,534	63,830
Stammering tap project	3,631	-	3,900	7,531
Other charitable expenditure	4,589	-	570	5,159
	<u>125,239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,909</u>	<u>234,148</u>

9. Support costs allocated to activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs	46,174	18,421
Staff expenses	3,022	3,013
Website costs	1,177	1,296
Youth panel	-	1,097
Miscellaneous	4,233	5,396
IT costs	2,955	681
Accountancy	3,000	-
Governance costs	19,736	5,672
	<u>80,297</u>	<u>35,576</u>
Governance costs comprise:		
Staff costs	13,263	-
Audit fees	4,500	4,794
Legal and professional	1,973	878
	<u>19,736</u>	<u>5,672</u>

10. Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):</i>		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	4,500	4,794

11. Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

Trustee expenses reimbursed in the year totalled £142 (2023: £Nil)

12. Employees

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
<i>The average monthly number of employees during the year was</i>	3	3
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	2024	2023
	£	£
Employment costs		
Wages and salaries	124,161	115,430
Social security costs	7,606	7,676
Other pension costs	2,466	2,476
	<u>134,233</u>	<u>125,582</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
£60,000 to £70,000	1	1

Remuneration of key management personnel

The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by the key management personnel for their services to the Charity was £74,034 (2023: £76,598)

13. Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	592,000	60,814	652,814
At March 2024	592,000	60,814	652,814
Depreciation and impairment			
At April 2023	-	60,814	60,814
At 31 March 2024	-	60,814	60,814
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2024	592,000	-	592,000
At 31 March 2023	592,000	-	592,000

15. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Prepayments and accrued income	1,579	455

16. Creditors

		2024	2023
	Note	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year			
Other taxation and social security		4,111	1,864
Deferred income	17	10,668	10,668
Trade creditors		469	-
Other creditors		3,188	726
Accruals		41,450	64,682
		59,886	77,940

17. Deferred income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other deferred income	10,668	10,668

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deferred income is included within		
Current liabilities	10,668	10,668
Movements in the year		
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	10,668	10,668
Released from previous periods	(10,668)	-
Resources deferred in the year	10,668	-
Deferred income at 31 March 2024	10,668	10,668

18. Retirement benefit schemes

	2024	2023
	£	£
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	2,466	2,476

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The amounts payable at the year end were £481 (£2023: £Nil)

19. Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Freehold Pine Street (fixed asset)	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension (fixed asset)	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Assessments / clinical work	40,361	60,922	(43,790)	-	57,493
ASC stammering support hub	34,210	-	(18,598)	-	15,612
JLA research project	22,464	-	(11,885)	-	10,579
ASC elevator pitch project	42,967	-	(29,987)	-	12,980
Stammering tap project	400	-	-	-	400
ASC youth panel	1,030	-	(142)	-	888
Michael Palin Centre	3,172	-	-	-	3,172
	736,604	60,922	(104,402)	-	693,124

Previous year	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Freehold Pine Street (fixed asset)	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension (fixed asset)	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Assessments / clinical work	48,426	93,882	(67,937)	200	74,571
'Talking Out' residential	2,534	4,000	(6,534)	-	-
JLA research project	25,899	-	(3,435)	-	22,464
ASC elevator pitch project	69,500	-	(26,533)	-	42,967
Stammering tap project	4,300	-	(3,900)	-	400
ASC youth panel	1,600	-	(570)	-	1,030
Michael Palin Centre	3,074	98	-	-	3,172
	747,333	97,980	(108,909)	200	736,604

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

Specialist Assessments and Therapy →

Funds are being used to provide access to specialist consultations provided by the Michael Palin Centre (MPC).

Stammering Tap Project 🎬

Funds were used to create a new animation film aimed at parents in partnership with Hear in Hull.

ASC Elevator Pitch Project ↑

Funds are being used to refine and develop the charity's brand strategy and visual identity.

Talking Out Ltd. 📣

Funds contributed towards the cost of delivering the residential stammering courses in North Yorkshire.

Youth Panel 🗣️

Funds are being used to support the advocacy work of the ASC Youth Panel.

ASC Stammering Support Hub 🔍

Funds are being used to establish a new omni-channel support service.

JLA Research Priorities Project 📄

These funds are being used for the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership into Developmental Childhood Stammering.

20. Unrestricted funds - designated

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 April 2023	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Michael Palin Centre	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
'Talking Out' residential	75,000	(58,095)	58,095	75,000
Mentoring programme	25,000	(6,198)	(3,802)	15,000
ASC stammering support hub	50,000	-	-	50,000
Schools project	50,000	(1,234)	1234	50,000
Capacity building	50,000	-	-	50,000
Forces fund	-	-	10,000	10,000
	300,000	(65,527)	15,527	250,000

Previous year	At 1 April 2022	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Michael Palin Centre	150,000	-	(100,000)	50,000
'Talking Out' residential	-	-	75,000	75,000
Mentoring programme	-	-	25,000	25,000
ASC stammering support hub	-	-	50,000	50,000
Schools project	-	-	50,000	50,000
Capacity building	-	-	50,000	50,000
	150,000	-	150,000	300,000

Talking Out Residential



Funds are designated to running two residential stammering courses and one online course for teenagers who stammer.

ASC Stammering Support Hub



Designated funds will be used to support the first year of the new omni-channel support service.

Schools Project



Funds will be used for the scoping and design phases of the schools project.

Capacity Building



Funds designated for an income-generating post for one-year.

Mentoring Programme



Designated for a third cohort of adolescents who stammer

Michael Palin Centre



Designated for activity not otherwise funded by the NHS

21. Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£		£
General funds	422,937	147,325	(142,006)	(15,527)	412,729

Previous year	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£		£
General funds	479,516	290,295	(196,674)	(150,200)	422,937

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024		Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024				
Tangible assets	-	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets / (liabilities)	412,729	250,000	101,124	763,853
	412,729	250,000	693,124	1,355,853

	Unrestricted funds 2023		Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2023				
Tangible assets	-	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets / (liabilities)	422,937	300,000	144,604	867,541
	422,937	300,000	736,604	1,459,541

23. Related party transactions

During the year the charity received donations of £466 (2023: £7,644) from Trustees and related parties of the charity.

24. Cash generated from operations

	2024	2023
	£	£
(Defecit) / surplus for the year	(103,688)	82,692
Adjustments for		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(10,606)	(3,423)
Movements in working capital		
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(1,124)	13,814
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	(18,054)	60,781
Cash (absorbed by) / generated from operations	(133,472)	153,864

25. Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

The Charity, Trustees and Advisers

For the year end 31 March 2024

Trustees

Dame Jane Roberts – Chair

David Broom – Honorary Treasurer & Vice-Chair

Alison Lowton – Company Secretary

Anya Paul

Archana Rahulan

Felicity Baker

Joe Allen

Juliet Leach

Natalie Carver

Richard Murray

Stephen McAteer

Vicky Slonims (retired – March 2024)

Zain Ghani

Independent Examiners

Critchleys

First Floor, Park Central

40-41 Park End Street

Oxford

OX1 1JD

Company Registered Number

02328627

Charity Registered Number

801171

Company Status

A company limited by guarantee

Day-to-Day Management

The trustees delegated day-to-day management to the Charity's Chief Executive Ria Bernard

Registered Office

Action for Stammering Children

Michael Palin Centre for

Stammering Children

13-15 Pine Street

London EC1R 0JG

Bankers

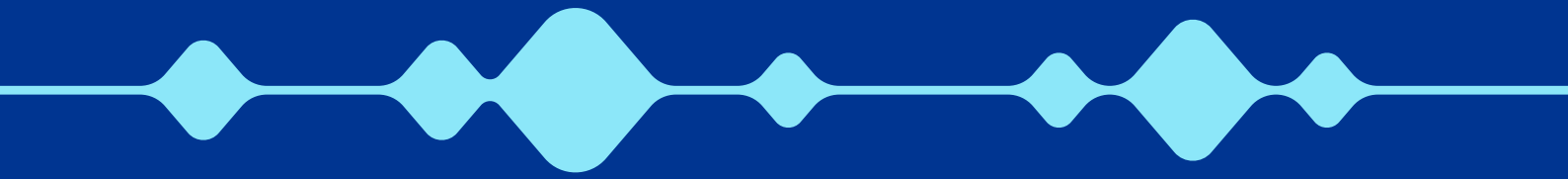
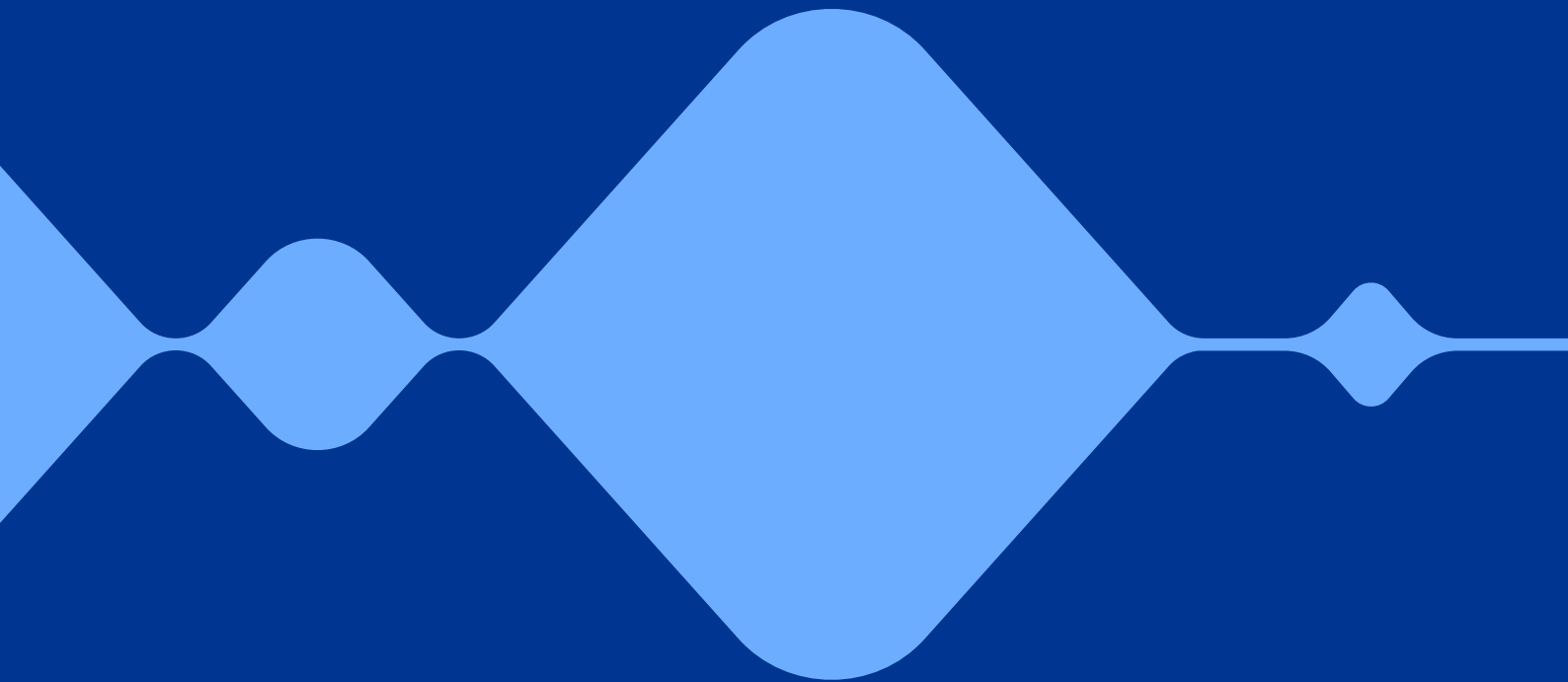
Lloyds

Pall Mall St James's

London SW1Y 4BE







**Action for
Stammering
Children**

ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 801171

Accounts

**Action for
Stammering
Children**



Annual Report

2022/23

Charity no. 801171

Company no. 02328627

(Right) Young people take part in a group speaking activity during an ASC-funded Talking Out residential stammering course.



Action for Stammering Children is the UK charity for children and young people who stammer, their families, and the communities who support them.

(Left) Members of our Youth Panel meet in London to discuss their strategy for the year ahead



We're here to make sure that every child who stammers has the support, respect and confidence to live the life they want to lead.

We support and empower parents, caregivers and professionals; facilitate and champion research; and campaign for changes in policy and societal attitudes.



(Left) Elliott appears in our award-winning short film 'Me & My Stammer'. **Read his story on Page 25.**

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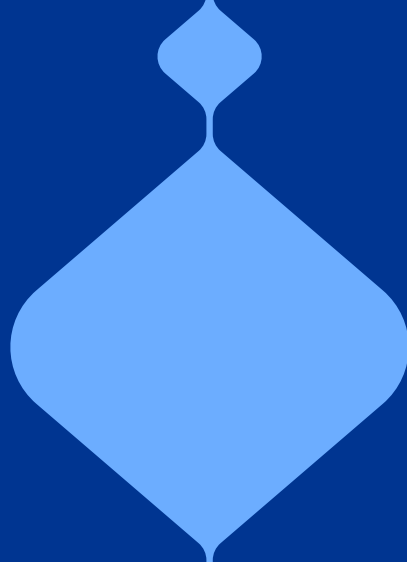
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Message from the Chair of Trustees

It's been quite a year! Action for Stammering Children may be a small charity but we have big ambitions. And we have definitively begun to realise those ambitions over the last year.

With a relatively new Chair and a new Chief Executive, Dr Ria Bernard, we have refreshed our strategic direction and organised ourselves more systematically. The three key elements of our strategy – supporting and empowering children and young people who stammer and their families, research and policy, and influencing and lobbying – steer all our activities.

We have indeed been very active. As you'll see from the Annual Report of Trustees below, it's been a very busy year for our small but dynamic team of three. It is extraordinary what they have managed to do. One of the highlights of the year was our short film, 'Me and My Stammer', starring 11-year old Elliott and Ed Balls, ASC Vice-President, that was premiered at the Prince Charles Cinema in Leicester Square with the BBC's Felicity Baker as host.

We were delighted that the film won a Gold People's Choice Award and even more importantly, that it has been seen by over 27,000 people and received countless positive feedback from young people who stammer, enabling us to raise awareness about stammering in children.

The charity has spread our wings and we have developed our partnerships with City University, Talking Out Ltd residential courses, Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust, The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, and the James Lind Alliance, in addition to our long-standing partnership with The Michael Palin Centre, with its internationally renowned provision for stammering children. Our awesome Youth Panel have continued to be central to our work, informing all that we do as well as organising their own projects. I was particularly delighted to welcome Zain Ghani and Joe Allen, two former members of the Youth Panel on to the Trustee Board. Meanwhile, the ASC Mentoring project and our network of Stambassadors continue to thrive. Enormous thanks to our mentors and Stambassadors who do so much to support young people who stammer as they journey through education and the workplace.

In addition to Zain and Joe, we have welcomed Alison Lowton, Juliet Leach, Felicity Baker, Natalie Carver, Archana Mathur and Stephen McAteer to our Trustee Board as we bade a grateful farewell to retiring trustees Samira Ahmed and Anne Whateley. Our new trustees bring a very wide range of experience to what had been a relatively small board.

A heartfelt thank you to those who speak up for us, who fund us and who have donated to us. Without you, of course, ASC would be unable to achieve what we do.

I look forward to the next year, enthused by our plans for the future to ensure that every child who stammers has the support, respect and confidence to lead the lives they want to lead.



Dame Jane Roberts

Chair of Board of Trustees



Chair of Board of Trustees
Dame Jane Roberts

The Year in Numbers: Adaptation, Innovation and Resilience

27,000

Views of 'Me & My Stammer'

2

Award winning films
to raise awareness
about stammering

12

Beneficiaries participated in
our mentoring scheme

200

Individuals contributed to development of our
research priorities

1

New research
publication

1m+

People engaged via social
media

53

Children accessed specialists assessment
and therapy through our partnership
projects

A Strategic Approach to Charity Activity

To achieve its mission, the Charity undertakes activities and projects across the following three key areas:

Supporting and empowering

Research and policy

Lobbying and influencing

The three key areas align with our six strategic goals:

1

To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer.

2

To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society.

3

To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their child.

4

To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer.

5

To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people.

6

To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people's lives, and to change public perceptions.

Our Impact

In this section, we share the impact our work has had on families across the UK. Our activity is centred around three action areas that ensure we are meeting the needs of the 8% of children who stammer.

(Below) Youth Panel members attend our Parliamentary reception to celebrate the success of our ASC mentoring programme for young people who stammer. Photo by David Madden



Key Area 1

Supporting and Empowering

We provide resources, advice and guidance for children and young people who stammer, their families, and the professionals who support them.

“It’s made me realise that my stammering isn’t a bad thing and I do not need to change it.”

Project: Residential Stammering Courses

We have partnered with speech and language therapy practice, Talking Out, to deliver three week-long stammering courses to young people living in the UK each year. A core part of our offer to families, we fund one online course and two residential stammering courses, which take place at Beverley Park in North Yorkshire. These courses promote self-confidence, resilience and acceptance of stammering. As well as offering a unique opportunity to meet other young people who stammer and talk about the impact stammering has on their lives.

The residential courses comprise an active programme of speech and language therapy sessions integrated with outdoor team building activities. The online courses comprise the same therapeutic elements in the absence of the outdoor activities.

We worked with our partners to develop an online version of the course during the pandemic to allow us to continue to provide support to young people who stammer safely. During the evaluation, we noted that the online courses were reaching a different demographic to the residential, helping us to meet our objective of improving access to effective intervention, regardless of background.

Combined with their success and popularity, we have resolved to retain the online courses as part of our offer to families.

This year, we funded two residential stammering courses that took place in the May and October half terms. We fully-funded places for 37 young people who stammer aged between 12 and 17 years of age who came from across the UK.

When outcomes following the course were compared to baseline (scores before the course started), beneficiaries showed a reduction in the negative impact of stammering on their quality of life, and improved self-perception. These positive gains were still evident 3- and 6-months later.

The online course was moved from February 2023 to May 2023, and we will report on the outcomes from that course in our next annual review. By the end of the course, we aim for young people to have achieved:

- Confidence in communicating.
- A more positive attitude to speaking.
- Decreased sensitivity to stammering.
- Problem solving and self-help skills.
- Positive thinking skills.

“It helped with confidence, [my daughter] wasn’t alone and could relate to the other children.”

(Below) A participant at a recent Talking Out residential stammering course funded by ASC



Project: Summer stammering course

We continue to work with our partners at City University, who run an intensive stammering course every summer for children across the UK. For several years, we have provided funding that enables lower income families to access the course in line with our objective to ensure equal access to services. This year was no exception but we do intend to scale up our offer to facilitate access for a larger number of low income families through a dedicated bursary scheme.

The course is run by specialist speech and language therapists, with the support of speech and language therapy students. Consequently, this course increases the number of soon-to-be speech and language therapists qualifying with additional experience of working with children who stammer.

Project: Specialist assessments and therapy at MPC

We continue to work with our long-standing partners at the internationally recognised Michael Palin Centre (MPC) for stammering. For more than 30 years, we have funded assessments, therapy, training, research and other activities that were not otherwise funded by the NHS. In 2011, we purchased the MPC building helping to ensure that the stammering service run by Whittington Health NHS Trust could continue to flourish on its own premises, and we continue to lease the building to the Trust as part of our charitable activity.

We are proud of our long history with the MPC and the positive impact this has resulted in for thousands of families. We look forward to continuing to fund services and activities for children and families who would not otherwise be able to access this expert support.

Each year, we work with our partners to determine the level of funding required for the new year. Compared to previous years, we funded a smaller amount of activity in 2022/23. This was due to changes in the funding mechanisms supporting the MPC, and the fact that less funding from the charity was requested on this occasion. Nevertheless, we were pleased to fund specialist assessments and therapy places for children and young people who stammer, and their families, living in London. We look forward to continuing to work closely with our partners in the years to

Parent feedback: “After experience of local SALT services in my borough, we were getting very frustrated at the lack of help and support my son had been receiving, and his stammer was becoming more severe and he was going backwards. So as a last resort, we contacted MPC where my son had received care previously. Staff were very helpful and I finally feel my son is getting the service, treatment and support he needs.”

Project: ASC Mentoring Programme

This year saw the second cohort of young people who stammer embark on the 6-month mentoring programme that we offer in collaboration with our partners, Iain Wilkie and Sam Simpson.

The programme offers an opportunity for adolescents aged between 18 and 25 to be paired with a professional who has a stammer, to support them with the transition into higher education or the workplace. We are especially grateful to the mentors who volunteer to take part in this programme, sharing their insights and experience in navigating the often challenging transition between adolescence and young adulthood, with a stammer.

In June, we celebrated the achievements of the first cohort of our mentoring scheme at a Parliamentary Reception hosted by George Freeman MP, and generously sponsored by INHouse Communications.

Following the success of the first cohort, which was generously funded by a legacy donation, we decided to offer another group of young people the chance to enrol in the mentoring scheme. Six young people were paired with a mentor for the 6-month programme, which kicked off in February 2023. Outcomes from the second cohort will be included in our next annual review. It is hoped that we will be able to offer this opportunity to many more young people in the years to come, and we are therefore busy trying to secure sustainable funding for this project.

“It was life changing.”

(Below) Members of our Youth Panel at our Stambition celebration event in Parliament with George Freeman MP



Resources and advice for families

We provide resources, advice and guidance for children and young people who stammer, their families, and the professionals who support them. We do this through our website, social media and collaboration with our stakeholders.

Social media offers us the opportunity to reach families across the country and engage with young people to ensure they can feed into our work. This year, we reached nearly 1 million users on Twitter, in addition to our presence on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

We are increasingly taking part in events up and down the country, to raise our profile and reach hundreds more families. In August, we were delighted to sponsor the Family Day at STAMMAFest in Liverpool, where we had the chance to speak to parents about the work that we do and the ways we can offer support. We will continue to develop our relationships with speech and language therapy services, schools and charities to raise our profile.



Above: Youth Panel member Michael gives a presentation to a group at STAMMA Fest about the past, present and future of the Action for Stammering Children Youth Panel.

Stambassador Project

Stambassadors are professionals who have a stammer and who provide inspiration to young people by sharing their own journeys of navigating their career trajectory. Our network of Stambassadors has now reached 62 members, the majority of whom are from outside London.

Our current Stambassadors represent a broad array of industries from media and engineering to medicine and politics. Our Stambassadors are important advocates of the charity who often volunteer to support young people through some of our other programmes, such as the ASC mentoring scheme.

Impact

We have a proud history of funding specialist assessments and therapy, not otherwise funded by the NHS, to children and young people who stammer in the UK. Over the course of 2022/23, we have continued to work with our partners to offer places on stammering therapy courses nationwide:

- 37 teenagers attended the Talking Out residential stammering courses, with recruitment under way for the online course in May 2023.
- 16 children and young people who stammer, and their families, accessed specialist assessments and/or therapy with our partners at MPC or City University
- 12 adolescents and adults who stammer participated in a 6-month mentoring scheme.
- Hundreds of young people, families and professionals reached through our online resources and advocacy projects.

Key Area 2

Championing Research

At Action for Stammering Children we support and promote research into childhood stammering. This builds understanding and feeds into our advocacy work, informing positive changes in policy and practice.

Doctoral Research Programme

Since 2018, we have co-funded doctoral research into the association between stammering and risk for anxiety and depression in children. The timescales for this research were affected by the pandemic. However, despite the challenges, the second study in this PhD project was published in February 2023. The study examined the factors associated with anxiety and depression symptoms in a group of school-aged children who stammer living across the UK.

Bernard, R. F. L., & Norbury, C. F., (2023). Factors associated with symptoms of anxiety and depression in children who stutter. *Language, Speech & Hearing Services in Schools*, 45(2), 5353 – 549.

Priority Setting Partnership: Childhood Stammering

Over the last 18 months, we have been busy leading the very first priority setting partnership (PSP) into developmental childhood stammering in the UK, in collaboration with the

James Lind Alliance. Through engagement with young people who stammer, their families, and clinicians who routinely work with them, we are seeking to determine the key priorities for future research into childhood stammering as identified by those with experience of stammering.

This will provide the foundations to lobby for much-needed funding into stammering research and promote the voice of lived experience in future research studies. We will be launching the final Top Ten in Autumn 2023.

Impact

- We brought together 14 representatives from across the stammering community to drive forward the priority setting partnership project.
- Over 200 individuals with experience of stammering have contributed to the research priorities project – ensuring the experiences of young people who stammer, parents and clinicians are represented in future research.
- One publication in an international, high impact academic journal.

(Below) ASC Chief Executive Dr. Ria Bernard talks to families about our priority setting partnership with The James Lind Alliance during our ASC-sponsored 'Family Day' at 'STAMMAFEST' 2022.



Key Area 3

Changing policies and attitudes

We have been working to make sure the voices of children and young people who stammer are heard. Through our work with the wider community, we challenge prejudices and misconceptions, seeking to change how society treats stammering and promote acceptance.

ASC Youth Panel

A key driver of this work is our Youth Panel, comprising a group of enthusiastic young people (aged 15 – 25) who advocate and raise awareness about stammering in their local communities, and nationally. Members of the youth panel continue to contribute to our existing projects, from sitting on the steering group of our JLA research priorities project, to representing the charity in the media.

“By speaking openly about my own experiences, I hope to encourage others with stammers to be more open and to feel less alone.”

In March 2023, we held a strategy day in Westminster to determine the next steps for the Youth Panel, and how we encourage more young people to get involved. Tucked away just around the corner from the Houses of Parliament, our Youth Panel members spent an afternoon strategizing for the year ahead – forming the first Youth Panel Committee. Elections are set to take place next financial year, and we have ambitions to expand the Youth Panel further, ensuring representation from across the UK.

International Stammering Awareness Day (ISAD) 2022

In October, we ran a special programme of events to mark International Stammering Awareness Day (ISAD). Highlights included:

- Release of our new short film, *Me & My Stammer*;
- Storytime and Q&A event with author of *How to be more Hedgehog*, Anne-Marie Conway;
- Live recording of the 40th episode of the *Stammer Stories* podcast with founder, Will Laven, and influencer, Jessie Davies, at PG One;
- Launch of *My Stammering* Child film at Hull Minster.



(Above) Jessie Yendle (Mimi Darling Beauty) joins William Laven for a live podcast recording sponsored by ASC.

Short film: Me & My Stammer

A particular highlight for us this year was the production of our new short film, *Me & My Stammer*, featuring 10-year old Elliott, and our Vice-President, Ed Balls. The film follows Elliott's journey with his stammer, and aims to both raise awareness about the impact of stammering on children and the need to change public attitudes towards stammering.

We welcomed our supporters to a special film screening at the Prince Charles Cinema in Leicester Square, hosted by BBC producer, Felicity Baker. Following the film's release to mark International Stammering Awareness Day, it has been viewed over 27,000 times, and engaged parents, young people, teachers and speech and language therapists. Elliott has been busy visiting schools to talk about the film and speaking on the local radio about stammering.

In March, we were thrilled to receive a Gold People's Choice Award at the Smiley Charity Film Awards. We plan to help generate awareness about the impact of stammering on children within schools and health services.

We are grateful to the Media Trust for the opportunity to make the film, and have been overwhelmed with the response from the wider community.

Feedback: *"As a girl who grew up with a stammer, films like these are priceless! So much of my therapy was about accepting and learning to live with it. Consequently, it also made me want to become an SLT due to the impact the profession had on my own life!"*



(Above left) Elliott & ASC Vice President Ed Balls (Right) Elliott talking about our short film to BBC Radio Wiltshire

Animation film: My Stammering Child

We partnered with speech and language therapists from Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust, Hear in Hull, to fund the production and distribution of animated film, *My Stammering Child*, aimed at parents of children who stammer. The film talks about the ways that parents can support their children, and is voiced by young people who stammer. The two speech and language therapists behind the film, Stobhan and Ruth, organised an impressive event at Hull Minster, bringing together families, speech and language therapists and stakeholders across the stammering community.

The film has already been viewed over 3,500 times; translated into Italian; and is being used as a resource by speech and language therapy services and UK universities. It has been entered for three film festivals.

Impact

- Our Youth Panel now comprises 13 young people from across England, the majority of whom live outside of London.
- Release of award-winning film, *Me & My Stammer*, allowed us to reach thousands on social media.
- Second film in the *Hear in Hull* animation series released.



(Above) Characters from the 'My Stammering Child' animated film

Planning for the future

(Left) Young people having fun alongside Talking Out facilitator Ben Bolton-Grant during a confidence-building outdoor activity at an ASC-funded Talking Out residential stammering course.



Looking ahead to 2023/24

For those who have been involved with Action for Stammering Children for some time, you may have noticed we look a little different this year. With a refreshed strategy and vision – developed in consultation with our key stakeholders – we have ambitious plans to build on the strong foundations developed over the last 30 or so years.

As the national charity for children and young people who stammer, and their families, we have several new initiatives planned to fulfil our mission of providing much-needed support, guidance and advice to families of children who stammer across the UK. This means that in addition to our long-standing partnership with the Michael Palin Centre, we will be working with a variety of organisational partners to increase the diversity of the activities and projects we offer.

This is an exciting time for our charity. We are grateful to all those who have supported our work over the past year through donations, fundraising activity and advocating for greater awareness about the impact of stammering. We could not do what we do without your generous support, and we hope that you will continue to support us in our efforts to reach the hundreds of families in need.

In order to get several of our ambitious new projects off the ground, the board has taken the decision to designate some of the charity's reserves to specific projects in 2023/24. These new projects include a national stammering support service for young people who stammer, families and professionals and an England-wide schools project. Funds have also been designated to develop capacity within the small operational team, with the purpose of generating income and expanding our activity.

Ultimately, we're here to make sure that every child who stammers has the support, respect and confidence to live the life they want to lead. In this section, we offer a glimpse of how we intend to achieve this and the exciting activities to keep an eye out for in 2023/24.

Case Study

Elliott's Story

My name is Elliott, I am 11 years old and I have a stammer. I have learned that a stammer can't be cured and it is just part of who you are – it can be annoying, but it's nothing to be ashamed of.

My journey started by talking about having a stammer on my TikTok account and my followers grew quickly. One day my Mum posted about what I was doing online, and then Action for Stammering Children asked me if I wanted to be involved with the charity. First, I did a 'Top Tip' and then they asked if I would like to be involved in a small film about stammering.

Of course I said yes. I auditioned for the role and I got it and from that moment everything just got better and better.

I was really proud when I saw the film for the first time and hoped it would help lots and lots of children.

A few months later 'Me & My Stammer' won Gold People's Choice at the Smiley Charity Film Awards and that day I was happier than ever.

Since then I have talked about my experience at my school and at some other schools too. Children ask me questions about the film, about stammering and I explain why I am not ashamed to have a stammer and I am proud to be different.

Stammer awareness is very important to me. I want to carry on raising awareness and talking about accepting what makes you unique – and one day I might even be a national radio presenter!



"We were incredibly lucky to be joined by Elliott who talked to all of the children about his mission to ensure people with a stammer are seen in the public eye and feel comfortable and proud of their stammer. He is a fantastic advocate for celebrating what makes us all 'unique', which is of course a big part of our vision."

- **Whiteshill Primary School**

Above: Elliott appearing in our award-winning short film

Key Area 1

Supporting & empowering

- We intend to work with our partners, including the Michael Palin Centre, Talking Out Ltd, and City University, to fund access to specialist assessment and therapy that would otherwise be unavailable via the NHS.
- We are planning to make the mentoring programme a permanent component of our offer to young people who stammer. In doing so, young people who want it can access advice and guidance from a mentor who understands the challenges that living with a stammer can pose when taking the next step in their academic or career journey.
- Launching a new nationwide support service for young people, families and professionals.
- Working closely with our current Youth Panel, we are planning to recruit new members who will get involved in our projects and support our advocacy work.

KPI Targets

- Provide 100 families access to one of our partnership projects.
- Extend the number and representation of the Youth Panel, and develop plans to engage young people from all four UK nations.

Key Area 2

Research & policy

- We are aiming to wrap up the research priorities project next year, which will see us launch the Top 10 priorities for future research into childhood stammering.
- The doctoral programme that we have been funding is due to be completed in 2023, and we are looking forward to sharing insights from this research thesis.
- We will be attending the Oxford Dysfluency Conference to talk about the research activities that our charity has been involved in and networking with others in the field to ensure we continue to promote the most robust and meaningful research into childhood stammering.
- We plan to develop our understanding of the state of speech and language therapy provision for stammering across England to inform our policy work.

KPI Targets

- 1 completed doctoral thesis
- Publication of the Top Ten research priorities
- A new service mapping project to understand the services available locally in England.

Key Area 3

Lobbying & influencing

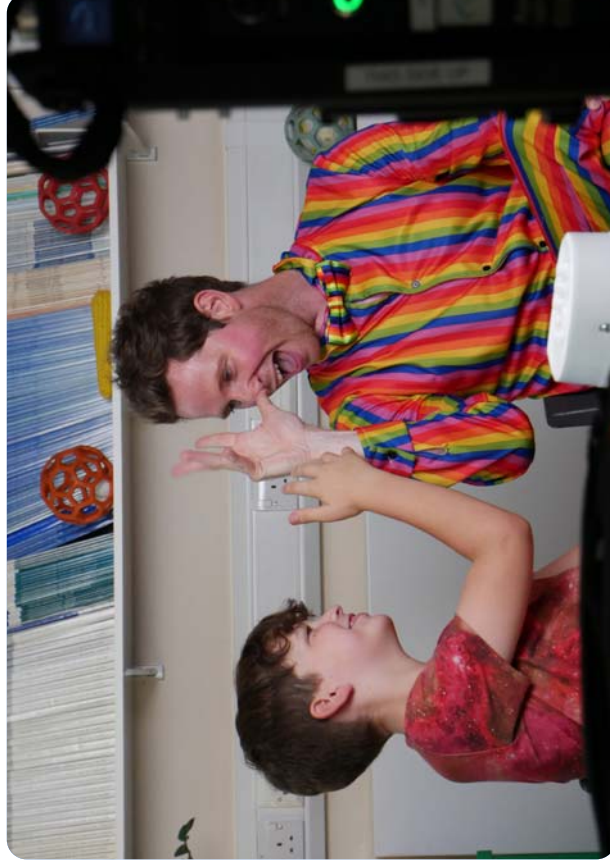
KPI Targets

- Hold a special event to officially launch the Stambassador Network.
- Run at least one online campaign that aims to change attitudes and raise awareness about stammering impact in society.

- We will continue to invite adults who stammer to become part of our Stambassador Programme, and intend to develop this into a network that is beneficial both to those who are part of it and to the charity in terms of outreach.
- We intend to develop a new England-wide schools project to ensure that children who stammer are better supported in the classroom.
- We will continue to work with key organisations in this space, such as the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists, to ensure children and young people who stammer and their families have access to the support they need.
- We are planning to run more campaigns informed by our Youth Panel and the families we support to raise awareness about the impact of stammering on children, and the ways society can better support them.



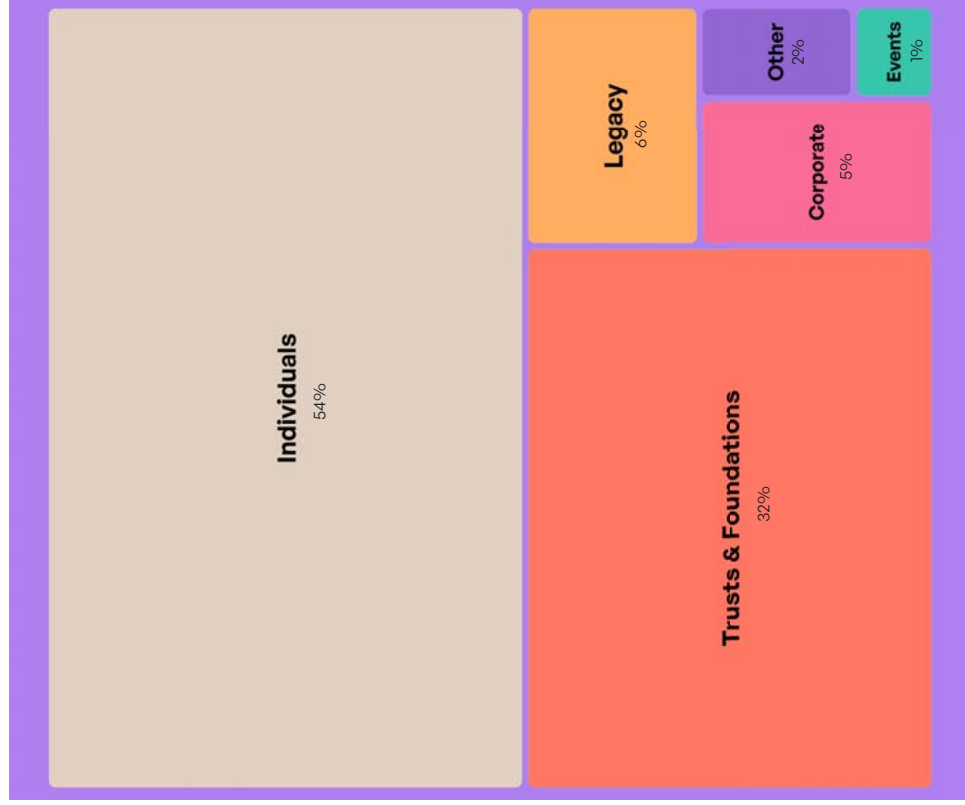
Behind the scenes shots from our award-winning short film 'Me & My Stammer': (Above) Simon Matthews directs comedian Ed Elliott as the character of 'Elliott's Stammer'. (Below) Elliott and Ed having fun between takes.



Financial Review

Breakdown of Charitable Income

Sources of Income 2022/23



Income

Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities.

The year to 31 March 2023 has continued to be challenging and total income for the year to 31 March 2023 amounted to £388,275, down from £527,966 in the year ended 31 March 2022. This was due largely to the loss of a major fundraiser at the beginning of the year.

The Charity has complied with the relevant codes of practice. We have received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities. (2022: none)

Reserves

Total general funds, shown in note 15 of £722,937 comprises designated funds of £300,00 and unrestricted free reserves of £422,937.

Designated funds of £300,000 have been earmarked for expenditure on key strategic projects in 2024 to enable these to commence, whilst longer term funding is being secured.

Unrestricted free reserves of £422,937 represents approximately 10 months expenditure, in line with current policy.

Reserves Policy and Going Concern

The Trustees have considered the desired level of unrestricted funds, not designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed (free reserves). Given the nature of the Charity's work, we have determined that the level of free reserves should be equivalent to nine to twelve months of expenditure. In our judgement, this provides sufficient flexibility to cover any temporary shortfalls in incoming resources and ensures that the Charity is able to continue its work, and also able to respond immediately to a reasonable range of unforeseen adverse circumstances, before remedial plans can be implemented. This policy will be kept under constant review.

Breakdown of Charitable Expenditure

Project Expenditure 2022-23



Expenditure

Given the challenges in raising funds this year, expenditure has been closely monitored throughout the year to protect reserves and enable the Charity to continue its work. Expenditure of £305,583 was spent on charitable activity in the year ended 31 March 2023, down from £324,039 in the year ended 31 March 2022.

Key changes in expenditure during the year were as follows:

- Expenditure on the Michael Palin Centre (MPC) was significantly lower due to a reduction in requests for charitable funding.
- Expenditure was increased with our following partners to enable the delivery of some of our key strategic objectives:
 - » Talking Out Ltd: to deliver two week-long stammering courses to young people (page 10)
 - » James Lind Alliance: to deliver the very first Top 10 research priorities informed by the stammering community next year (pg. 16)
- Expenditure was increased on the ASC Elevator Pitch project to refine our brand strategy, enabling us to ultimately reach thousands more families.

Investment Powers and Policy

The Board of Trustees' policy is to invest in low risk, liquid investments. Accordingly, Action for Stammering Children invests its funds in cash deposits.

Constitution

The Charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 15 December 1988, which was last revised in September 2014, and as a charity on 21 March 1989.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

The Charity's Board of Trustees meets in person or online, at least five times per annum. At the end of March 2023, the Board comprises 13 members from a variety of professional backgrounds, many of whom have experience of stammering, either personally or through a family member. Trustees retire by rotation after three years, but are eligible for re-election for up to three terms of office.

The Chief Executive of the Charity implements the strategy set by the Trustees and has a prime responsibility for fundraising.

Trustees Recruitment and Induction

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that the interests of children who stammer are appropriately represented in the Trustee body. Prospective board members are appointed by the board either after an external recruitment or, less often, having been nominated by a board member. The Trustees also aim to maintain a broad mix of backgrounds and business skills on the Board.

The Board of Trustees is committed to being a diverse and inclusive body. The skills and experience of Trustees are reviewed regularly, which also informs recruitment of new Trustees. New Trustees take part in a full induction programme covering all aspects of the work of the Charity, its governance and finances.

Board of Trustees

The Trustees are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 55.

The members of the charitable company include the Trustees. Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up.

Method of Appointment or Election of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Relationship with Related Parties and co-operation with other organisations

The work of Action for Stammering Children is centred around three key action areas: (i) support and information; (ii) championing research; (iii) influencing societal attitudes and public policy. Direct work with beneficiaries is largely delivered through our partnership projects to ensure that children receive expert support that would not be available through the NHS. For example, specialist stammering courses. This year, we have collaborated with a number of project partners to deliver effective support to our beneficiaries, including Talking Out Ltd., the Michael Palin Centre, City University, 50 Million Voices, and Redefining Stammering.

In addition, Action for Stammering Children has worked with the Hear in Hull team, the Media Trust, and the James Lind Alliance, to meet its strategic objectives around advocacy and promoting research.

The Charity has a strict conflict of interest policy and declarations are made at the start of every trustee meeting.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year.

The Board has overall responsibility for the pay policy and the salaries of staff. The Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary oversee the administration of the pay policy, evaluates employee performance and decides on any changes to pay.

Our general principles are to pay our employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives.

Risk Policy

The Board of Trustees continues to review and evaluate the key risks faced by the charity at Board meetings throughout the year. A formal risk register is maintained to record ongoing risk assessments and track key mitigating activity. The key risks of the charity include risks associated with its governance, delivery of key strategic objectives, safeguarding of charitable assets and compliance with regulation.

The Board of Trustees ensures that robust policies, procedures, systems and financial controls are in place to mitigate key risks to protect the reputation of the charity.

The risks to the Charity have been reviewed throughout the year and the Risk Register maintained, together with any risk mitigating plans.

The key risks continue to be fundraising, due to the difficulties in obtaining large or multi-year grants and the recent loss of a key long term funder. Additionally, the current economic environment and limited operational capacity has been noted as contributing to fundraising issues. New risks include the changing relationship with Whittington Health NHS Trust in terms of communicating this new association and managing future funding arrangements.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have taken in to account the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The Trustees' report demonstrates our commitment to providing public benefit.

Trustee's Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also directors of Action for Stammering Children for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statement 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. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Trustees on the 16th November 2023 and signed on their behalf, by:



Dame Jane Roberts
Chair of Board of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Action for Stammering Children

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 40 to 53.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity 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 company'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 the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I 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 that in any material respect:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 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
- 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.

Date: 20 December 2023



Michael Cooper-Davis ACA FCCA

For and on behalf of Price Bailey LLP
Chartered Accountants
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 3BT

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating expenditure and income accounts)
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds General	Designated	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure						
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	97,980	285,183	-	383,163	523,515
Other trading activities	3	-	1,689	-	1,689	3,408
Investments	4	-	3,423	-	3,423	1,073
Total Income		97,980	290,295	-	388,275	527,996
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	5	-	71,435	-	71,435	61,194
Charitable activities	6	108,909	125,239	-	234,148	262,845
Total expenditure		108,909	196,674	-	305,583	324,039
(Loss)/gain on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income		(10,929)	93,621	-	82,692	203,957
Transfer between funds		200	(150,200)	150,000	-	-
Net movement in funds		(10,729)	(56,579)	150,000	82,692	203,957
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		747,333	479,516	150,000	1,376,849	1,172,892
Total funds carried forward	15	736,604	422,937	300,000	1,459,541	1,376,849

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 43 to 55 form part of these financial accounts.

Balance Sheet

Company no. 02328627
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	11	592,000	592,000
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	455	14,269
Cash at bank and in hand		945,026	787,739
		945,481	802,008
Creditors	13	(77,940)	(17,159)
Net Current Assets		867,541	784,849
Total Net Assets		1,459,541	1,376,849
Funds			
Designated funds	15	300,000	150,000
Unrestricted funds free reserves	15	422,937	479,516
Restricted fixed asset funds	15	592,000	592,000
Restricted funds	15	144,604	155,333
Total funds and reserves		1,459,541	1,376,849

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' Responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 16th November 2023 and signed on their behalf on 4th December by:



Dame Jane Roberts

Chair of Trustees

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
<i>(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year</i>	82,692	203,957
Adjustments for:		
<i>Depreciation of tangible assets</i>	-	-
<i>Investment income</i>	(3,423)	(1,073)
<i>Decrease/(increase) in debtors</i>	13,814	(11,040)
<i>(Decrease)/increase in creditors</i>	60,781	(58,276)
Net cash generated from operating activities	<u>153,864</u>	<u>133,568</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
<i>Income from investments</i>	3,423	1,073
Net cash from investing activities	<u>3,423</u>	<u>1,073</u>
<i>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>	157,287	134,641
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>	787,739	653,098
Cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>945,026</u>	<u>787,739</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>945,026</u>	<u>787,739</u>
Net debt reconciliation:		
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>	787,739	653,098
<i>Net cash outflow in the year</i>	157,287	134,641
Cash and cash equivalents at the year end	<u>945,026</u>	<u>787,739</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The Financial Statements 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 October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Action for Stammering Children meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. The functional and presentational currency used in the financial statement is Pounds Sterling.

1.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and domiciled in England. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 55. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity. The Charity's registered office is The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, 13-15 Pine Street, London, EC1R 0JG.

1.4 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

1.3 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements (page 54).

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

The resulting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There are not deemed to be any estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.5 Going concern

The Trustees consider that the resources available to the Charity will be sufficient for it to be able to continue as a going concern. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would be required if the Charity were not able to continue as a going concern.

1.6 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grant income is recognised when there is a firm commitment and certainty that the funds will be received.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.7 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Governance costs are those incurred

in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets and appreciation

All assets costing more than £1,500 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Computer and other equipment – 3 years on a straight line basis

Freehold Property – over 50 years to an estimated residual value of £592,000

1.9 Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

1.11 Creditors

Creditors are recognised as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

1.12 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Fixed assets are recorded at depreciated historical cost.

1.13 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash 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.

1.14 Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees.

The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities.

1.15 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part II of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Restricted Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Grants and donations	97,980	261,620	359,600	456,515
Legacies	-	23,563	23,563	67,000
Total donations	97,980	285,183	383,163	523,515

Income from donations in 2022 included £250,400 of unrestricted income and £273,115 of restricted fund income.

3. Trading Activities

	Restricted Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Charity trading income	-	1,689	1,689	3,408
Books and DVD sales	-	1,689	1,689	3,408
Net income from trading activities	-	1,689	1,689	3,408

Income from charitable activities in 2022 was all unrestricted.

4. Investment Income

	Restricted Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest received	-	3,423	3,423	1,073

Income from charitable activities in 2022 was all unrestricted.

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Restricted Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Events and fundraising	-	10,125	10,125	5,394
Voluntary income staff costs	-	61,310	61,310	55,800
		71,435	71,435	61,194

Of the 2022 costs of raising funds £61,194 was unrestricted.

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activity

	Restricted Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Summary by Fund Type			
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	67,937	21,455	89,392
Stambition Mentoring project	-	13,236	13,236
Stammering Tap project	3,900	3,631	7,531
ASC Elevator Pitch project	26,633	14,304	40,937
'Talking Out' residencies	6,534	57,296	63,830
JLA Research Project	3,435	10,728	14,163
Other charitable expenditure	570	4,589	5,159
Total	108,909	125,239	234,148

Prior Year - Summary By Fund Type

	Restricted Funds 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	178,773	44,098	222,871
Stambition Mentoring project	5,000	1,245	6,245
Stammering Tap project	-	34	34
Residential programmes	22,456	9,613	32,069
Research programmes	1,626	-	1,626
Total	207,855	54,990	262,845

7. Expenditure By Charitable Activity

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Direct costs:		
Assessments	8,726	100,000
Clinical Work	43,648	15,188
Returners	6,215	4,000
"Talking Out" Residentials	53,102	32,069
JLA Research Project	3,435	6,626
Stambition Mentoring Project	6,084	1,521
Stammering Tap Project	3,955	34
ASC Elevator Pitch Project	26,533	-
ASC Support Hub	-	17,500
Education and Training	-	7,500
Other Charitable Expenditure	1,023	-
Costs Relating to Charitable Projects	45,851	46,717
Support costs (note 8)	198,572	231,155
Total	234,148	31,690
	234,148	262,845

8. Support Costs

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Staff costs	18,421	12,402
Staff expenses	3,013	1,557
Website costs	1,296	1,154
Youth Panel	1,097	1,827
Miscellaneous	5,396	2,313
Governance Costs	5,672	7,583
IT Costs	681	4,854
Total	35,576	31,690

9. Net (Expenditure)/Income For The Year

Total 2023	Total 2022
£	£
4,794	3,600

This is stated after charging:
Independent Examiner's Fee

Trustees did not receive remuneration or benefits in kind. Trustees expenses reimbursement in the year totalled £Nil (2022: £517)

10. Staff Costs

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	115,430	103,467
Social Security Costs	7,676	6,617
Pension Costs	2,476	2,515
Total Staff Costs	125,582	112,599

Average monthly number of employees during the year

Total 2023	Total 2022
No.	No.
3	3

Average number of staff

1 employee received emoluments amounting to more than £60,000 (2022: 0)

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees and management teams as listed on page 55. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by the key management personnel for their services to the Charity was £76,598 (2022: £58,366)

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property	Office Equipment	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	592,000	60,814	652,814
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	592,000	60,814	652,814
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	-	60,814	60,814
Charged	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	-	60,814	60,814
Net Book Value	592,000	-	592,000
At 31 March 2023	592,000	-	592,000
At 31 March 2022	592,000	-	592,000

12. Debtors

	Total 2023	Total 2022
Other debtors	£	£
	455	14,269
Total	455	14,269

13. Creditors

	Total 2023	Total 2022
Accruals and Deferred Income	£	£
Social Security	75,350	14,712
Other Creditors	1,864	2,416
	726	31
Total	77,940	17,159

Deferred income at 1 April 2022

Resources deferred during the year

Amounts released from previous periods

	10,668	43,826
	-	10,668
	-	(43,826)
Total	10,668	10,668

Deferred income relates to grant funding received in advance of the 2023/24 financial year.

14. Pension Commitments

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The total contributions for the year amounted to £2,476 (2022: £2,515). No amounts were payable to the fund at the year end (2022: ENil)

15. Statement of Funds

	1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Michael Palin Centre	150,000	-	-	(100,000)	50,000
Talking Out Residentials	-	-	-	75,000	75,000
Mentoring Programme	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
ASC Stammering Support Hub	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Schools Project	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Capacity Building	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
General funds	150,000	-	-	150,000	300,000
	479,516	290,295	(196,674)	(150,200)	422,937
General funds	629,516	290,295	(196,674)	(200)	722,937

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training Room Extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
	592,000	-	-	-	592,000

Restricted Funds

Assessments / Clinical Work	48,426	93,882	(67,937)	200	74,571
Talking Out Residentials	2,534	4,000	(6,534)	-	-
J.L.A Research Project	25,899	-	(3,435)	-	22,464
ASC Elevator Pitch Project	69,500	-	(26,533)	-	42,967
Stammering Tap Project	4,300	-	(3,900)	-	400
ASC Youth Panel	1,600	-	(570)	-	1,030
Michael Palin Centre	3,074	98	-	-	3,172
	155,333	97,980	(108,909)	200	144,604

Total Funds

	1,376,849	388,275	(305,583)	-	1,459,541
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Summary of Funds

	1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	150,000	-	-	150,000	300,000
General funds	479,516	290,295	(196,674)	(150,200)	422,937
	629,516	290,295	(196,674)	(200)	722,937
Restricted fixed asset funds	592,000	-	-	-	592,000
Restricted funds	155,333	97,980	(108,909)	200	144,604
	1,376,849	388,275	(305,583)	-	1,459,541

The transfer of funds reflects an adjustment to the balance carried forward incorrectly from a previous grant which had been utilised in the previous year.

Prior Year - Statement of Funds

	1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Michael Palin Centre	124,000	-	-	26,000	150,000
	124,000	-	-	26,000	150,000
General funds					
General funds - all funds	366,819	254,881	(116,184)	(26,000)	479,516
	490,819	254,881	(116,184)	-	629,516

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds

	£	£	£	£	£
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training Room Extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
	592,000	-	-	-	592,000

Restricted Funds

	£	£	£	£	£
Assessments	1,215	-	-	-	1,215
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	-	28,000	(28,000)	-	-
City Bridge Trust	-	42,672	(7,461)	-	35,211
Harrison Frank Foundation	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Peter Sowerby Foundation	-	24,990	(22,456)	-	2,543
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	-	27,525	(1,626)	-	25,899
The Weinstock Fund	2,373	-	(773)	-	1,600
Other Trusts & Foundations Restricted	2,800	1,500	-	-	4,300
PIMCO	69,500	-	-	-	69,500
Mentoring Project	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Bain Capital	9,185	-	(9,185)	-	-
Stuttering Foundation of America	-	133,354	(133,354)	-	-
Pat Bartle Charitable Trust	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Income from MPC Carol Concert	-	3,074	-	-	3,074
	90,073	273,111	(207,855)	-	155,333
Total Funds	1,172,892	527,996	(324,039)	-	1,376,849

Prior Year - Summary of Funds

	1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
General funds	124,000	-	-	26,000	150,000
	366,819	254,881	(116,184)	(26,000)	479,516
	490,819	254,881	(116,184)	-	629,516
Restricted Fixed Asset Funds					
Restricted Funds	592,000	-	-	-	592,000
	90,073	273,115	(207,855)	-	155,333
	1,172,892	527,996	(324,039)	-	1,376,849

The prior year funds have been restated to classify the charity's property of £592,000 from designated funds to restricted fixed assets to better classify their true nature.

16. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Restricted Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	592,000	-	592,000
Current Assets	155,292	790,189	945,481
Creditors Due Within One Year	(10,688)	(67,252)	(77,940)
	736,604	722,937	1,459,541

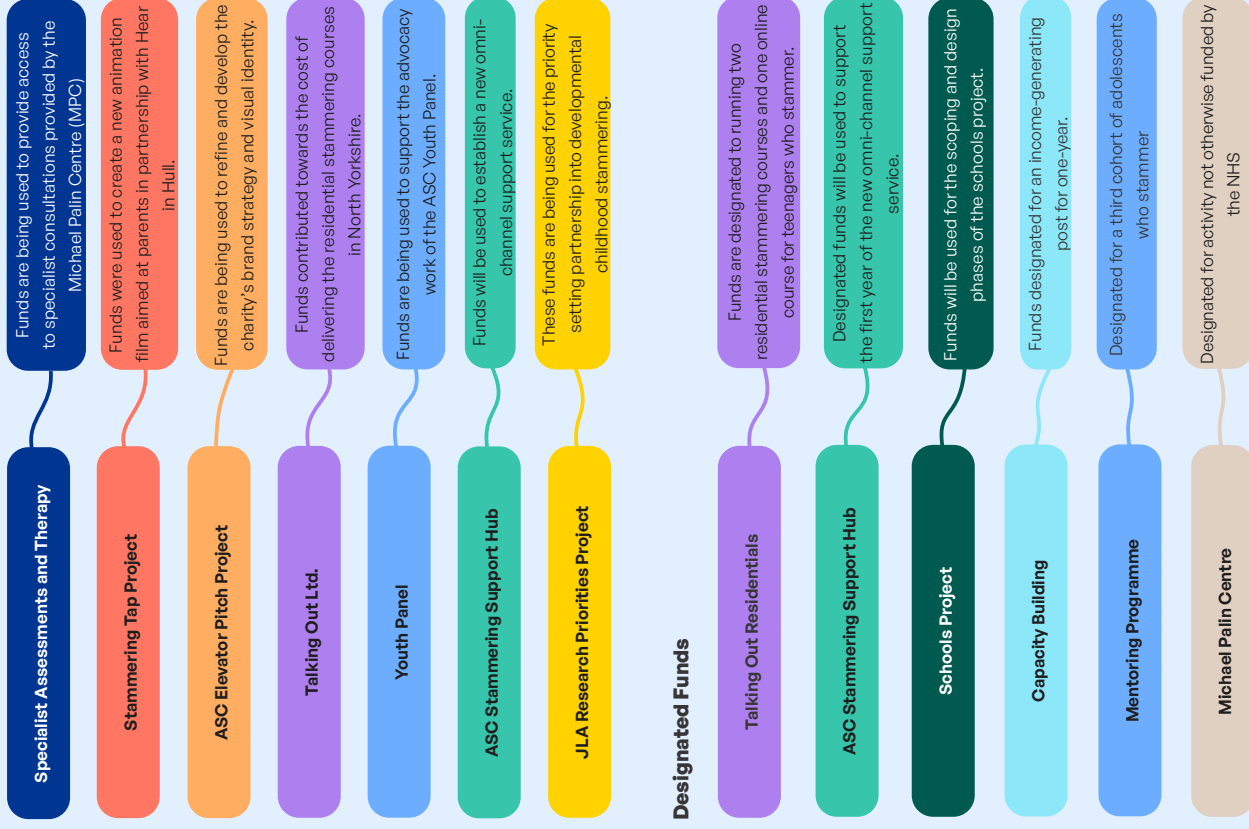
Prior Year - Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Restricted Funds 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	592,000	-	592,000
Current Assets	166,021	635,987	802,008
Creditors Due Within One Year	(10,688)	(6,471)	(17,159)
	747,333	629,516	1,376,849

17. Related Parties

During the year the charity received donations of £7,644 (2022: £5,155) from Trustees and related parties of the charity, there were no other related party transactions in the year.

Purpose of Restricted Funds



The Charity, Its Trustees And Advisers

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Trustees

Jane Roberts (Chair)
 David Broom (Honorary Treasurer & Vice-Chair)
 Alison Lowton (Company Secretary - April 2022)
 Richard Murray
 Vicky Slonims
 Anya Paul
 Samira Ahmed (retired November 2022)
 Anne Whateley (retired November 2022)
 Balshen Izzet (retired January 2023)
 Juliet Leach (joined April 2022)
 Felicity Baker (joined November 2022)
 Zain Ghani (joined June 2022)
 Joe Allen (joined June 2022)
 Natalie Carver (joined January 2023)
 Archana Rahul (joined January 2023)
 Stephen McAteer (joined January 2023)

Company Registered Number
02328627

Charity Registered Number
801171

Company Status
A company limited by guarantee

Day-to-Day Management
The trustees delegated day-to-day management to the Charity's Chief Executive Ria Bernard

Registered Office
Action for Stammering Children
Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children
13-15 Pine Street,
London EC1R 0JG

Bankers
Lloyds
Pall Mall St James
London SW1Y 4BE

Independent Examiners

Price Bailey LLP
 Chartered Accountants
 Causeway House
 1 Dane Street
 Bishop's Stortford
 Hertfordshire CM23 3BT

(Left) ASC Youth Panel member Thomas receives his Duke of Edinburgh award at Buckingham Palace. He completed his volunteering requirement through our charity.

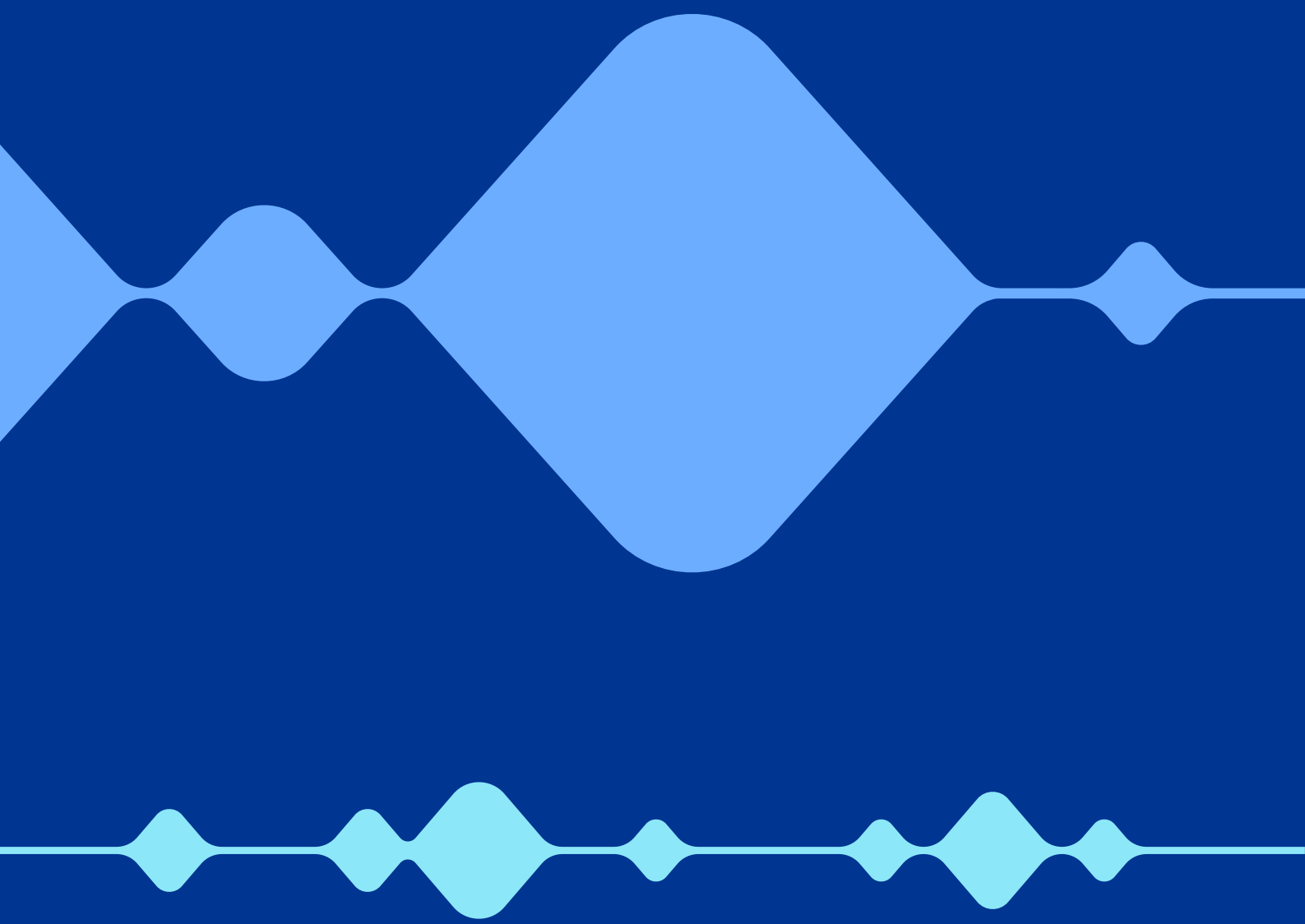


(Left) ASC supporter Rob Newbery completed the Ford Ride London cycling challenge, raising over £1,200 for our charity



(Left) Elliott accepts the Gold People's Choice award at the Smiley Charity Film Awards alongside ASC Chief Executive Ria Bernard





**Action for
Stammering
Children**

ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 801171

Accounts



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changing lives forever

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022



Ben Bolton-Grant in action at the Talking Out residential.

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Dame Jane Roberts is the Chair of Trustees at Action for Stammering Children.

Message from the Chair of Trustees

What a first year as Chair of Action for Stammering Children! In spite of all the challenges and obstacles posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the charity did not let up in its determination to provide advice and support to children and young people who stammer and their families. This saw us continue to:

- Raise awareness about stammering;
- Seek to improve access to effective speech and language therapy;
- Promote robust research into stammering in childhood.

Our wonderful Youth Panel have maintained their energy and enthusiasm for a variety of projects including Stambition, our now firmly established mentoring project, that pairs professionals who stammer working across a number of industries with younger adults who also stammer, and a media training scheme. Youth Panel members, so central to our work as a charity, were able to meet in person to plan their activities – and improve their punting skills – at Corpus Christi College in Oxford. We have continued to support the wonderful work of The Michael Palin Centre, a centre of international renown in the stammering world.

In addition, we were delighted that our residential group, Talking Out, could once again take place in North Yorkshire.

It is widely acknowledged that there is limited research into stammering, especially given stammering affects around 8% of children, and that many questions remain about childhood stammering that parents would like answered. Hence our eagerness to identify the key research priorities in stammering in conjunction with the James Lind Alliance - a process now well underway.

Over the last year, we have raised our game still further on social media to raise awareness about stammering and how best it can be managed. Big thanks both to Steph, in our small but energetic staff team of three, and to Connor, who took over from Steph as Projects and Communications Co-ordinator in January 2022 – and hit the ground running. Action for Stammering Children has now joined the conversation on TikTok, in addition to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn! This has meant that we can reach, engage with and inspire more children and young people of all ages.

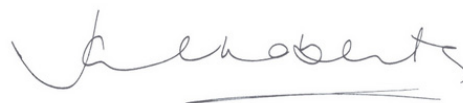
As well as our virtual presence, we were happily able to return to some in-person events as restrictions eased, permitting us to continue to raise awareness of stammering and to raise much needed funds. One such highlight took place in November 2021 (our first face-to-face event for nearly two years) with our Vice-President and great friend of ASC, Ed Balls, in conversation with ASC trustee, Samira Ahmed. With his book, *Appetite*, having recently been published, Ed cooked live for our guests (including those tuning in from home!) as he reminisced about food and home cooking in conversation with Samira. Ed was ably assisted by his sous-chef and Youth Panel member, Thomas Grattoni-May. It was a lovely evening, full of warmth, moving stories and fun - and of course, delicious food.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have relentlessly pressed forward with fundraising, and we are very grateful to our funders over the year, including the Stuttering Foundation of America (SFA), the Julia & Hans Rausing Trust, the Woodroffe Benton Foundation, the Peter Sowerby Foundation, City Bridge, Mr and Mrs Turnill, as well as a number

of individual donors, some of whom wish to remain anonymous. An enormous thank you to the late Mr Graham Jeffrey for having left a generous legacy in his will to ASC, and to Betchworth Golf Club who chose Action for Stammering Children as their charity to support for the year.

A warm welcome to Anya Paul as a trustee on the ASC Board. Anya works at a senior level in digital marketing and technology and has a stammer herself.

We ended the year about to say farewell to our Chief Executive, Steven Gauge. Steven decided to take early retirement for family health reasons after nearly four very successful years with ASC. We shall miss hugely his creative ideas and elegant way with words and wish him and his family all the very best. With the appointment of a new Chief Executive, Ria Bernard, we look forward to an exciting future.



Dame Jane Roberts

Chair of Board of Trustees

2021/22

The year in numbers:



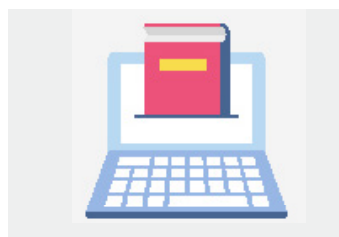
264

children received direct clinical support at the Michael Palin Centre



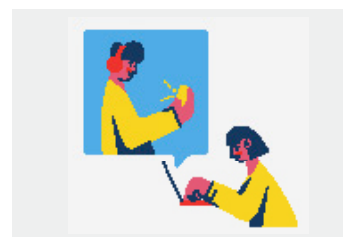
1,750

helpline calls answered



341

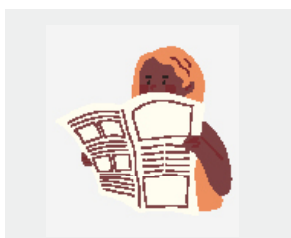
therapists trained to support 3,410 children and young people



22

children and young people accessed our Talking Out residential

Plus



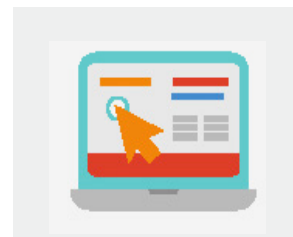
34

positive media mentions



7,324

social media follows



87,638

website page views

Living with a stammer doesn't have to hold any child back in life.

Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for The Year Ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of Action for Stammering Children (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and with the FRS102.

Purpose and Activities

The Charity's vision is a society where children and young people who stammer have the same opportunities and quality of life as their peers.

The Charity's mission is to ensure that every child and young person across the United Kingdom who stammers has access to effective services and support to help them meet the challenges created by their stammer.

To achieve its mission, the Charity undertakes activities and services across the following six key strategic goals:

- 1. To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer**
- 2. To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society**
- 3. To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their children**
- 4. To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer**
- 5. To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people**
- 6. To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people's lives, and to change public perceptions**

Our Impact in 2021/22

The summary below sets out the impact of the Charity in 2021/2022 against its key objectives and performance indicators which are set at the beginning of each financial year and monitors the difference the Charity has made to its beneficiaries, children and young people who stammer, and to the wider society using qualitative and quantitative measures. These are reviewed at each board meeting.

This year has been an unusual year in terms of our partnership with the NHS Whittington. Following the funding challenges faced by the charity in the light of the pandemic, additional one-off funding by Whittington Health NHS Trust allowed for all commissioned charitable activity to be delivered at a much reduced cost to the Charity. As a result the valuable work the Charity supports at the Michael Palin Centre has continued unhindered, throughout the pandemic.

In partnership with the NHS Whittington, we have been able to support thousands more children who stammer. Compared with the exceptionally high numbers last year, there has been a fall in the number of speech and language therapists attending training courses run by the Michael Palin Centre (MPC). Although it should be borne in mind that last year, 923 therapists accessed training subsidised by the Charity, meaning that these skills remain in the local community in addition to those trained this year. Each newly trained speech and language therapist supports an average of 10 children each over the following year. Training of an additional 341 therapists will have helped 3,410 children.

We end the year, having achieved most of our strategic objectives.

1. To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer

Assessments and therapy at the Michael Palin Centre

The Charity commissions specialist assessments and therapy from the Whittington NHS Trust, which are not otherwise be funded by the NHS. These services are delivered by the team of specialist speech and language therapists based at the Michael Palin Centre. This is delivered through a commissioning agreement with Whittington Health NHS Trust. While assessments continued to take place throughout the pandemic, these are now returning to being delivered face to face at the Centre.

Receiving an early assessment and identifying the most appropriate form of therapy is crucial to children and their families in managing their stammer and enabling them to fulfil their potential. Specialised assessments for children and young people (aged 2-18 years) in the UK remains an

important component of the work of the Charity. Two hundred and fifty children and their families from across the UK benefited from a specialist assessment for stammering at the Michael Palin Centre over the last year, funded by Action for Stammering Children.

In their feedback forms, the parents have told us how much they appreciate the very thorough assessments that take place .

“Thorough, thoughtful, thought-provoking. Kind, helpful, considerate. Caring and explained everything. Very comprehensive and better than anything we have been offered so far. I now feel so much more hopeful for our son. I have full confidence in Sarah and the MPC based on our session.”



Youth Panel members Thomas, Ozair, Michael and Grace having fun in Oxford

Following the assessment, children and their families receive a tailored treatment programme delivered either by their local NHS Trust or at the Michael Palin Centre. For those children otherwise unable to access treatment via the NHS, the Charity has continued to support courses of therapy for children of all ages at the Michael Palin Centre.

The Charity also funds places on intensive courses at the Michael Palin Centre, followed by year-long on-going support for children and their families. This year the Charity directly funded an intensive programme for three teenagers and a further three children aged 10-14 and their families.

Returners Programme

The Charity supports a returners' programme for young people who may need to return for additional support following earlier engagement with the Michael Palin Centre team or who may be encountering a particularly significant life event, such as starting college, university or their first job. This year eight young people benefited from follow-up support, which was funded by the Charity.

“Reflecting on the last couple of years, I owe a massive thank you to you for the times you found time to have follow-up sessions with me throughout crucial times. Not only did it have such significance in getting me over the finishing line with uni but it also gave me confidence and belief while applying for jobs. So, thank you so much for this!”

Outcomes

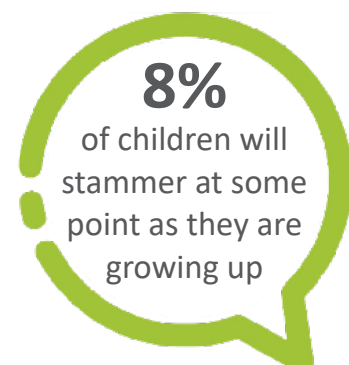
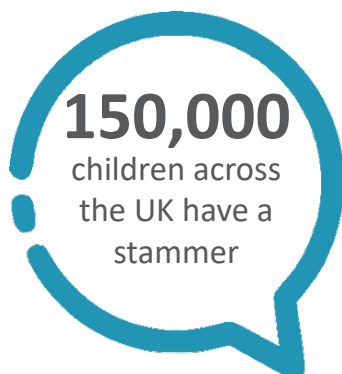
Various measuring tools were used to ascertain the impact of therapy on each child's stammer, including Parent Palin Rating Scales and the OASES scoring system. Additionally, the Michael Palin Centre measures the child's and parents' experience of this assessment process. Over the past year, reflections from parents and children have been overwhelmingly positive in terms of increased understanding of stammering, feeling more confident about the future, experiencing less worry and feeling more hopeful.

"When we were first referred to MPC, we were an absolute mess and really worried about our son's future and wellbeing. By the end of the very first call with Rosie and Victoria, I genuinely felt like we were in the best hands and that everything was going to be okay.

Rosie provided a Rolls Royce Service every step of the way and was able to explain things in layman terms and provide guidance to help navigate our concerns and issues.

It was amazing how Rosie was able to retain and recall particular details about character and behaviour about our son even as the months went by. The sessions were challenging and really pushed us to change our behaviour and way of dealing with things in order to help our son with his stammering: they really enabled us to communicate openly about stammering with our son, where before we were reluctant to label it in front of him.

We'll always remember the excellent care that we received and are forever grateful to MPC!"



Talking Out Residential

The easing of the pandemic meant that we were able to run our residential course this year. The residential programme for teenagers who stammer took place from 24th to 29th October 2021. It was delivered by Talking Out Ltd, an independent Speech and Language Therapy practice run by Specialist Speech and Language Therapists based in Yorkshire. Twenty-two young people aged between 11 and 16 took part, staying at Bewerley Park near Harrogate. This was generously funded by the Sowerby Foundation.

The purpose of the programme was to promote acceptance and resilience, enabling participants to feel more confident about their stammer. The aims of the group were to develop:


- Confidence in communicating;
- A more positive attitude to speaking;
- To decrease sensitivity to stammering;
- Problem solving and self help skills;
- Positive thinking skills;
- A peer support network.

These aims were targeted through an active programme which integrated outdoor activities, team building activities and speech and language therapy sessions.

Young people had the opportunity to learn about how thoughts and feelings can affect how we approach a situation and to challenge themselves beyond their comfort zones in a safe and supportive environment. This was achieved through both outdoor active challenges and through speaking challenges.

In addition, the young people had the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about stammering, whilst engaging in new experiences

KPI Targets

- 285 children and young people directly helped with assessments and therapy at the Michael Palin Centre. **Result:** This KPI was revised during the year. In total, 264 children and young people benefited from direct support from the Michael Palin Centre.
- 20 children attending our Talking Out residential programme - **Result:** 22 

with other people who stammer.

Comments from participants:

"In this one week I feel like I've become a new person and I don't know how to say thank you to the staff."

"I didn't talk much to people before I came on the Residential, then I found it easy to talk to a lot of strangers ... I thought what is this magic? This strange thing that has happened? Now I talk to people."

"I've found it easier to talk in front of groups of people. I've changed a lot. I'm talking more in class; asking and answering questions. I used to be terrified of the register now it's ok."

Outcomes

The outcomes of the programme were evaluated using OASES and Best Hopes measures. The results showed that participants experienced a significant degree of positive change by the end of the week. These positive changes resulted in participants feeling more confident, less worried about stammering, and more accepting of stammering.

Since the residential finished the team have had contact with parents. Common themes from these conversations were:

- Young people excited to share positive experiences and how much they had enjoyed the week
- Notable increase in amount of talking from young people
- Marked increase in confidence and positive attitude towards challenges
- Young people talking about importance of friendships formed during the week
- Engaging in new ways in school.

2. To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society

Our objectives in this area for 2021-2022 were to:

- Provide media training for our Youth Panel
- Continue to support Youth Panel members interviewing researchers for social media videos and podcasts.
- Support Youth Panel to create and deliver an awareness campaign with Timebank UK
- Launch and grow our Northern Youth Panel.
- Look to secure further funding to support the Stambition mentoring programme for a second year.
- Consider new ways to involve Youth Panel members in developing the strategy for the Charity.

Most of these objectives have been achieved.

Empowering our Youth Panel

Our Youth Panel met in Corpus Christi College, Oxford, to agree their priorities and plans for the year. They were keen to raise awareness about stammering to as wide an audience as possible. Youth Panel members were also keen to take advantage of an offer of pro-bono media training from leading communications consultants Blaydonmore. Participants were particularly engaged by the suggested use of a “Power pose” and enjoyed the practical exercises to develop their media skills.

The Youth Panel developed an awareness raising campaign with support and funding from Timebank. They met every month to agree the messaging and designs for the campaign. Their posts and videos reached over 26,900 people across social media and all had positive feedback and comments.

Our Northern Youth Panel has also met regularly under the voluntary leadership of Youth Panel graduate and volunteer, Zain Ghani. Through their social media activities on International Stammering Awareness Day they have established a link with the Halifax Piece Hall and are looking at opportunities for future awareness raising events.

“What a great idea. Well done Youth Panel!”

“You speak so incredibly beautifully, I’m a parent who has been taught so many techniques, calm, patience, kindness is always key. My daughter struggles so much with ‘H’, she knows to do soft starts but resists and doesn’t like to be reminded. So hard. Thank you for this wonderful video”

“I felt like this ALL the time in school.”



Members of our Youth Panel planning the year ahead in Oxford

Stambition



We were delighted to be able to complete our first mentoring project, 'Stambition'. The project recruited, trained and supervised mentors for 11 young people who stammer at the start of their careers. The mentors were selected from our group of Stambassadors, adults in successful careers who stammer. The project provided practical, tailored support and advice for young people, aged 18 – 25, who stammer, at a crucial time of transition in their lives. The Stambassadors drew on their own experiences to provide practical and applicable advice as well as encouragement to the young adults they were supporting. The young people and their mentors all attended an online training event before embarking on a 7 month series of mentoring sessions.

The first year of the Stambition project was made possible by a generous donation from the family of Stan Taylor, in his memory. We are actively pursuing funding opportunities to run the project again for a new cohort of young people who stammer.

Youth Panel Trustees

The Youth Panel was established to ensure that young people who stammer help shape the strategic direction of the Charity. To that end, it was agreed that two Youth Panel members should be appointed as Charity Trustees and a recruitment process was initiated towards the end of the financial year.

KPI Targets

- 20 Youth Panel Members from across the UK actively engaged in the Charity's work - **Achieved: 15 (2020-21: 15)**
- Timebank awareness campaign launched - **campaign successfully launched.** 
- 10 more Young People linked up with mentors – **mentoring programme completed and funding being actively sort for another cohort.** 

3. To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their children

The objectives for the year were:

- Continue to support The Parents Online Forum.
- Agree with MPC and Talking Out the best ways to measure and support the help given to parents of children who stammer.

These objectives were mostly achieved.

One of the highlights of the year was a parents' forum online event featuring a discussion between comedian, Lucy Porter, and journalist and ASC trustee, Samira Ahmed. Both shared their experience of being a parent of a child with a stammer and the support their families received from the Michael Palin Centre. Thirty one people viewed the live stream and a further 180 watched the recorded version online. A short clip of the discussion reached over 3,000 views on social media.

Parents of young people who stammer have always been supported by the team at the Michael Palin Centre. Indeed, parents play a very active role in the Palin Parent Child Interaction therapy that the Centre uses. Parents are active participants in the intensive sessions that the Centre runs and the Centre always makes every effort that both parents attend.

Talking Out, who run our residential courses, also take active steps to engage and support parents of young people who stammer. Alongside the programme for young people the residential programme has been developed this year to include daily online parent groups. The purpose of the parent group is to allow parents the opportunity to meet other parents of young people who stammer, explore their own reactions to stammering in order to support their children after the residential week and therefore reduce the chances of the positive changes experienced during the week reversing once the children return home.



Stammering Helpline

The National Helpline, funded by Action for Stammering Children, is one of the best ways for parents to find out more about stammering and the support available to them. This continues to see high levels of demand.

The National Helpline is available five days a week, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm. It provides a first port of call to parents, teachers, therapists, GPs and other professionals who need expert advice on how to respond to a child's stammer.



Results

- 211 people viewed an online Parents Forum event
(Target: 50) 
- 556 parents supported by The Michael Palin Centre
(Target: 500)
- ASC helped fund 1,750 helpline calls (Target: 1,000) 



Youth Panel members Thomas and Phoebe presenting to our Board of Trustees

4. To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer

Supporting the training of speech and language therapists has long been an important strategic priority of the Charity. Each speech and language therapist will, as a result of our training, support at least 10 children and young people who stammer over the following year. That is why the Charity has supported the training programme delivered by the Michael Palin Centre and continued to contribute towards the training programme costs this year.

A total of 341 therapists undertook training with the Michael Palin Centre online compared to 923 in the peak of the pandemic last year. The high levels of demand for training in the pandemic were not sustained at quite the same level. However, the funding provided by

the Charity facilitated training for SLTs across the UK, including Belfast and Lancashire.

Our training courses are helping to improve confidence in managing children and young people who stammer referred locally.

"I will completely change the way that I manage my caseload of children who stammer and also feedback best practice to my team."



Young people who stammer having fun at the Talking Out residential.

KPI Targets

- 1,000 therapists trained supporting 10,000 children who stammer
- **Result: 341 therapists trained supporting 3,410 children who stammer**

5. To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people

James Lind Alliance – Research Priority Setting Project

The Charity has supported research into stammering for over 30 years. Indeed, its original name was the Association for Research into Stammering in Childhood. This year we wanted to work with the wider stammering community to agree what should be the priorities for research into developmental stammering into the future. We were delighted to secure funding from Woodroffe Benton to support a priority setting project, using the well-established methodology promoted by the James Lind Alliance.

We have convened a steering group that includes representatives from STAMMA, the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, The Michael Palin Centre, City Lit, our Youth Panel and the

STAMMA Youth Panel, as well as parents, teachers and researchers with a particular interest in stammering. With the support of a consultant from the James Lind Alliance we are following the methodology and hope to have an agreed set of priorities for research agreed by the end of the next financial year.

PhD Programme – Stammering and Mental Health

We are delighted to be supporting Speech and Language Therapist, Ria Bernard, as she completes her PhD in Psychology, through a collaborative studentship with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) at University College London (UCL). This research aims to investigate whether there is any association between anxiety, depression and stammering in children, and whether children who stammer are at increased risk of adverse mental health relative to children who do not stammer. The first study in her PhD, a systematic review and meta-analysis of existing studies comparing anxiety

and depression symptoms in children who do and do not stammer, was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Speech, Hearing & Language Research*. Two further papers have been submitted for publication based on data obtained through an online questionnaire. The final project underway explores anxiety and depression symptom trajectories over the course of development in a cohort of children who stammer, and investigates factors that may increase risk for elevated symptoms.

Research at the Michael Palin Centre

Action for Stammering Children continued to support research activities carried out at the Michael Palin Centre. MPC staff members were engaged in a number of research-related activities. Three City University of London students are completing MSc projects at MPC using the clinical database. They are exploring outcomes for children under the age of 8 years who have received therapy during the pandemic using telehealth. Ali Berquez, Elaine Kelman and student John Breitenbach presented a

poster on the John Lyons Charity funded Stammer Aware campaign at the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists online conference.

6. To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people's lives, and to change public perceptions

The Charity continues to play a leading role in promoting awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people – through our website www.actionforstammeringchildren.org, through our social media channels and through our monthly e-newsletter.

Raised Media Profile

Youth Panel Member, Thomas Grattoni May, has been particularly successful at securing positive media mentions for the Charity. He has received huge recognition for winning membership of a global competition to fund development of an app to support people who stammer. After volunteering as a sous chef to our Vice President Ed Balls in a fundraising event for the charity, Thomas invited Ed to come and speak to his school. He managed to secure coverage for both events in his local papers.

Our Stambassador Will Laven is another media champion for the Charity. This year he has secured coverage on BBC News and GB News talking about the support he had from the Charity.

Website and Social Media

Through utilising social media platforms we are able to reach and connect with young people who stammer and their families. We added TikTok to our list of platforms on which we now have a strong presence, alongside LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

This year has seen steady growth across all of our social media platforms with March 2022 being our most engaged month of all-time. Twitter has proven to be our main platform for user engagement and sites such as Facebook and Instagram have been utilized better to reach niche groups such as parents of children who stammer and UK teacher support groups.

Comedian Lucy Porter, who is the parent of a child supported by the Michael Palin Centre has also appeared on game shows such as Pointless Celebrities, donating her winnings to the Charity. Our Vice President, Michael Palin, was interviewed live by ITV London in front of the Michael Palin Centre, highlighting the wonderful carol singing event featuring children who had been supported by the centre and their families.

The Charity has been successful in securing media coverage to raise awareness about stammering, securing 34 pieces of positive media coverage, close to the figure of 39 in the previous year.

Our website remains our primary platform for sharing information about stammering. We had a total of 87,638 page views in the year. Our most popular pages include tips, facts about stammering and support for parents.

In March, while using a new, more personable approach on our Twitter profile, we sent out a tweet to Luke Ayling, the Leeds United defender. He has a stammer and is a confident post-match interviewee. The tweet became our most-liked tweet ever - reaching 5,000 likes in the space of a weekend. This led to Luke following us on Twitter, and ASC Youth Panel member Thomas connecting with him - the two are planning to create some social media content for ASC.

Fundraising Highlights

This year the charity secured a highly sought-after place in the London Marathon which was taken up by Michael Palin Centre graduate Harry Marsh. Harry began training and fundraising straight away and has so far raised over £3,500. Unfortunately, an injury meant that he had to postpone his run until October 2022 but he has carried on fundraising for us in the meantime.

We also secured 6 charity places in the London Landmarks half-marathon. These were speedily taken up by some of our Stambassadors and

one Michael Palin Centre speech and language therapist, Martha Jeffery. This was the first time that the Charity has taken so many places in an event so we were delighted when between them the team raised £5,410.85.



Martha Jeffery, Speech & Language Therapist at The Michael Palin Centre, raising funds for our charity at the London Landmarks Half Marathon

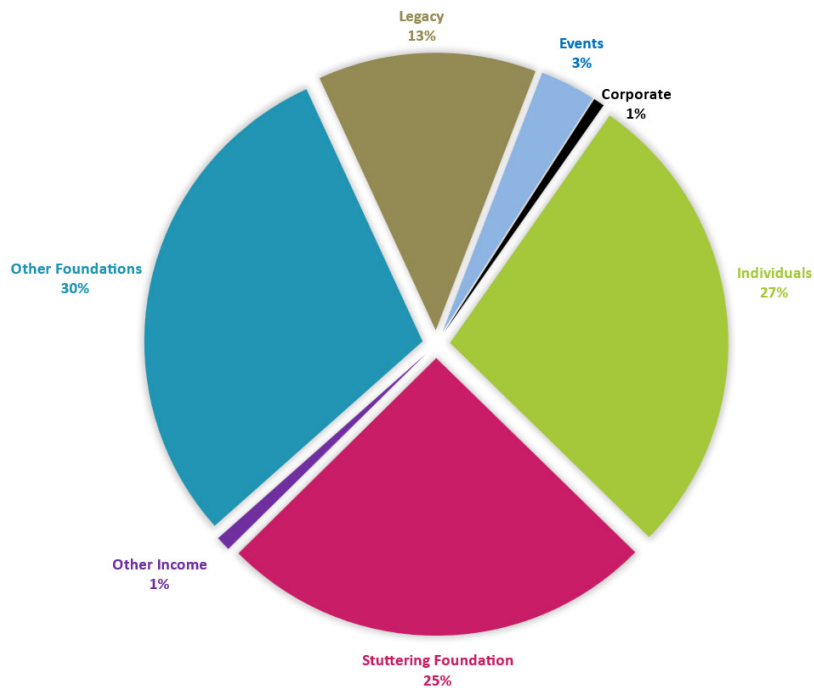
KPI Targets

- 50 Positive media mentions of the Charity (39 in 2020-21) – 34 media mentions secured
- Increase website page views (66,638 in 2020-21) – achieved 87,638 page views
- Increase social media following (6,564 in 2020-21) - 7,324 followers secured



Financial Review

Income



Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities.

The year to 31 March 2022 has continued to be challenging given the ongoing impact of the Covid pandemic on the fundraising environment. Total income for the year to 31 March 2022 amounted to £527,996, down from £602,103 in the year ended 31 March 2021.

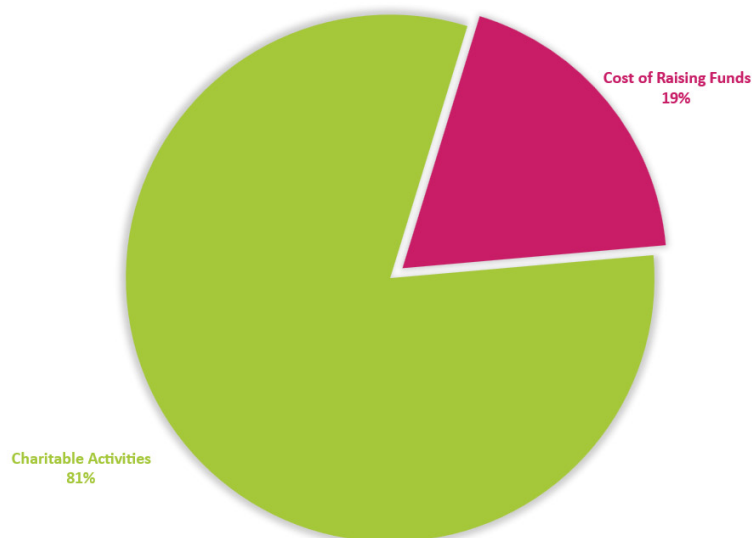
We are extremely grateful for the support from the Stuttering Foundation of America but note that the income was lower this year (£133k) due to a change in the funding arrangements at the end of the financial year.

In the year to 31 March 2022, we benefited from the following income:

- Multiyear funding from the City Bridge Trust (£43k);
- Ongoing emergency funding from the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust (£28k);
- Ongoing support from the Harrison-Frank Family Foundation (£10k);
- Funding from the Woodroffe Benton Foundation (£27.5k) for a research project;
- Ongoing funding from the Peter Sowerby Foundation (£25K) for a 'Talking Out' outward-bound residential.

The Charity has complied with the relevant codes of practice. We have received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities. (2021: none)

Expenditure



Given the ongoing impact of the Covid pandemic on the fundraising environment, expenditure was closely monitored during the year to protect reserves and enable the Charity to continue its work. Expenditure of £324,039 was spent on charitable activity in the year ended 31 March 2022, down from £428,866 in the year ending 31 March 2021.

Key changes in expenditure during the year were as follows:

- Expenditure on the Michael Palin Centre (MPC) was significantly lower (£150k rather than the £300k budget) as Whittington Health NHS Trust were able to provide additional one-off funding for this financial year. This enabled the delivery of all commissioned charitable activity at a much reduced cost to the Charity;
- Expenditure on residential programmes increased due to the successful delivery of one “Talking Out” outward-bound residential and one “Talking Out” online course for teenagers;
- Expenditure continued on the “Stambition Mentoring Project” to train and supervise a group of volunteer mentors to support young people who stammer at the start of their careers.

Summary of Charitable Expenditure



Some of our brilliant Youth Panel members coming together

Reserves

Total unrestricted reserves, shown in note 15 of £1,221,516 includes the following:

- Designated illiquid funds of £592,000, which comprises freehold property and the net book value of fixed assets;
- Designated funds of £150,000 for the Michael Palin Centre (increased from £124k in 2021).

The remainder of £479,516 comprises unrestricted free reserves and represents approximately twelve months expenditure, in line with our revised reserving policy.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Trustees have considered the desired level of unrestricted funds not designated for specific purpose or otherwise committed (free reserves). Given the ongoing uncertainty in the funding environment and the reduction in multi-year funding arrangements, the Trustees revised the reserving policy in the year from six to nine months expenditure to nine to twelve months expenditure. In our judgement, this provides sufficient flexibility to cover any temporary shortfalls in incoming resources and ensures that the Charity is able to continue its work, and also able to respond immediately to a reasonable range of unforeseen adverse circumstances, before remedial plans can be implemented. This policy will be kept under constant review.

Investment powers and policy

The Board of Trustees' policy is to invest in low risk, liquid investments. Accordingly, Action for Stammering Children invests its funds in cash deposits.

Looking Ahead to 2022-23

In June 2022, the Board of Trustees appointed a new CEO of Action for Stammering Children to take the charity forward. The charity is in the process of implementing a new strategic direction that sees charitable activity organised under three broad areas aligned to our strategic goals.

Work Stream	Strategic goals
Supporting & empowering	<p>2 – To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organization and in society.</p> <p>3 – To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their children.</p>
Research & Policy	<p>1 – To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer.</p> <p>5 – To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people.</p>
Lobbying & influencing	<p>1 – To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer.</p> <p>4 – To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer.</p> <p>6 – To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people’s lives, and to change public perceptions.</p>

The overarching objective of this new strategy is to increase the profile and reach of the charity in order to support many more children who stammer and their families across the UK. Here we provide an outline of some of the plans for Action for Stammering Children over the coming year.

1. Supporting & Empowering

- We plan to continue our working relationship with the Speech and Language Therapy team at the Michael Palin Centre to ensure that children who stammer can access specialist support that would otherwise be unavailable to them.
- For a number of years, we have funded the Talking Out Therapy Courses in North Yorkshire, enabling dozens of young people from across the country to access specialist support for managing their stammer. This partnership will continue and we hope to expand to other parts of the country in years to come.
- We intend to recruit a second cohort of young people who stammer to our Mentoring Programme, ensuring there is an opportunity for these young people to develop the confidence and skills to negotiate the next transition in their education or career.
- A review of the ASC Youth Panel is planned and we will be working closely with the committed members of the Youth Panel to help us expand the representation of the panel in the years ahead.

KPI Targets

- 50 children to have accessed the Talking Out Therapy Course in 2022-23
- A second cohort of young people (12) who stammer enrolled on the Mentoring Programme
- 50% of Youth Panel members will live outside of London

2. Research & Policy

- The Research Priorities Project, in collaboration with the James Lind Alliance, is scheduled to reach its conclusion in the Spring 2023. We will continue to work with the Steering Group for this project to ensure that the Top Ten Research Priorities identified by our stakeholders are distributed effectively and have an impact on future research.
- We will be releasing the findings of the PhD study that we co-funded with the ESRC.
- We plan to support and promote high quality research in the field of developmental stammering, and will be reviewing how we engage with academia and increase research into childhood stammering.

KPI Targets

- To publish the Top Ten Priorities for research into Developmental Childhood Stammering
- 1 research proposal from an academic institution will address one of the priority areas of research, citing the Top Ten.
- 1 completed PhD Thesis

3. Lobbying & Influencing

- Part of our advocacy work will involve completion of a short film project that will be of benefit to future work with schools
- We will be launching our Top Ten Research Priorities into Developmental Stammering, with the intention of influencing funders and academics in applying for grants that answer the questions prioritised by our stakeholders.
- The Stambassadors Programme will continue to be a source of support for families, but also crucially a way of influencing opinions about stammering and lobbying for change.

KPI Targets

- 1 event to launch the top ten research priorities
- Involvement of 5 Stambassadors in charitable activity outside the Stambassador Project
- Engagement of 20 schools in our stammering awareness film

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 15 December 1988, which was last revised in September 2014, and as a charity on 21 March 1989.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

The Charity's Board of Trustees meets in person or online, at least five times per annum. At present the Board has nine members from a variety of professional backgrounds, many of whom have experience of stammering, either personally or through a family member. Trustees retire by rotation after three years, but are eligible for re-election for up to three terms of office.

The Chief Executive of the Charity implements the strategy set by the Trustees, acts as the key interface with the NHS, and has a prime responsibility for fundraising.

Trustees Recruitment and Induction

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that the interests of children who stammer are appropriately represented in the Trustee body. Trustees are recruited through informal methods, both through a network of parents and adults who stammer and through the body of professionals working in the field of childhood stammering. The Trustees also aim to maintain a broad mix of backgrounds and business skills on the Board. The Board of Trustees is committed to being a diverse and inclusive body. The skills and experience of Trustees are reviewed regularly, which also informs recruitment of new Trustees. New Trustees take part in a full induction programme covering all aspects of the work of the Charity, its governance and finances.

Board of Trustees

The Trustees are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 40.

The members of the charitable company include the Trustees and three founding members. Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up.

Method of Appointment or Election of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Relationship with Related Parties and co-operation with other organisations

The work of ASC is, at present, largely achieved through its relationship with Whittington Health NHS Trust and its Speech and Language Therapy Department in London. ASC commissions the provision of specific services from the Michael Palin Centre, part of Whittington Health NHS Trust. Specifically, ASC commissions expert assessments, consultations, treatments, training and research not otherwise funded by the National Health Service. The Charity's funding also provides specialist advisory and helpline services to health professionals and families.

The Charity has a strict conflict of interest policy and declarations are made at the start of every trustee meeting.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year.

The Board has overall responsibility for the pay policy and the salaries of staff. The Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary oversees the administration of the pay policy, evaluates employee performance and decides on any changes to pay.

Our general principles are to pay our employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives.

Risk Policy

The Board of Trustees continues to review and evaluate the key risks faced by the charity at Board meeting throughout the year. A formal risk register is maintained to record ongoing risk assessments and track key mitigating activity. The key risks of the charity include risks associated with its governance, delivery of key strategic objectives, safeguarding of charitable assets and compliance with regulation.

The Board of Trustees ensures that robust policies, procedures, systems and financial controls are in place to mitigate key risks to protect the reputation of the charity.

The risks to the Charity have been reviewed throughout the year and the Risk Register maintained, together with any risk mitigating plans. The key risks continue to be fundraising, due to the difficulties in obtaining large or multi-year grants and the recent loss of a key long term funder. New risks on the radar relate to governance (as a number of trustees are due to retire soon) and the relationship with the Michael Palin Centre (due to funding constraints and a change in future funding arrangements).

Public Benefit

The Trustees have taken into account the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The Trustees' report demonstrates our commitment to providing public benefit.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees' (who are also directors of Action for Stammering Children for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statement 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. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

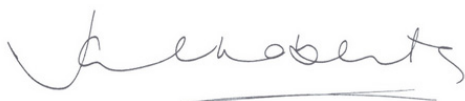
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding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

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 19th November 2022 signed on their behalf, by:



Dame Jane Roberts
Chair of Board of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Action for Stammering Children

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 29 to 41.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 company'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 the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I 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 that in any material respect:

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.

Date: 8 December 2022



Michael Cooper-Davis FCCA ACA

For and on behalf of
Price Bailey LLP
Chartered Accountants
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 3BT

Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating expenditure and income accounts)

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Income and Expenditure	Note	Unrestricted Funds			Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
		Restricted Funds £	General £	Designated		
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>	2	273,115	250,400	-	523,515	598,283
<i>Other trading activities</i>	3	-	3,408	-	3,408	2,011
Investments	4	-	1,073	-	1,073	1,809
Total Income		<u>273,115</u>	<u>254,881</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>527,996</u>	<u>602,103</u>
Expenditure on:						
<i>Raising funds</i>	5	-	61,194	-	61,194	51,619
<i>Charitable activities</i>	6	207,855	54,990	-	262,845	377,247
Total expenditure		<u>207,855</u>	<u>116,184</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>324,039</u>	<u>428,866</u>
(Loss)/gain on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>65,260</u>	<u>138,697</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>203,957</u>	<u>173,237</u>
Transfer between funds			(26,000)	26,000	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>65,260</u>	<u>112,697</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>203,957</u>	<u>173,237</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		90,073	366,819	716,000	1,172,892	999,655
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>155,333</u>	<u>479,516</u>	<u>742,000</u>	<u>1,376,849</u>	<u>1,172,892</u>

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Company No: 2328627

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
<i>Tangible Assets</i>	11	592,000	592,000
Current Assets			
<i>Debtors</i>	12	14,269	3,229
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>		<u>787,739</u>	<u>653,098</u>
		802,008	656,327
Creditors	13	<u>(17,159)</u>	<u>(75,435)</u>
Net current assets		784,849	580,892
Total Net Assets		<u><u>1,376,849</u></u>	<u><u>1,172,892</u></u>
Funds			
<i>Designated funds - fixed assets</i>	15	592,000	592,000
<i>Designated funds - Michael Palin Centre</i>		150,000	124,000
<i>Unrestricted funds free reserves</i>	15	479,516	366,819
<i>Restricted funds</i>	15	155,333	90,073
Total funds and reserves		<u><u>1,376,849</u></u>	<u><u>1,172,892</u></u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 19th November 2022 and signed on their behalf on 7th December 2022 by:



Dame Jane Roberts
Chair of Trustees

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
<i>(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year</i>	203,957	173,237
Adjustments for:		
<i>Depreciation of tangible assets</i>	-	-
<i>Investment income</i>	(1,073)	(1,809)
<i>Decrease/(increase) in debtors</i>	(11,040)	3,820
<i>(Decrease)/increase in creditors</i>	(58,276)	(26,425)
Net cash generated from operating activities	133,568	148,823
Cash flows from investing activities		
<i>Income from investments</i>	1,073	1,809
Net cash from investing activities	1,073	1,809
<i>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>	134,641	150,632
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>	653,098	502,466
Cash equivalents at the end of the year	787,739	653,098
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year comprise:		
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	787,739	653,098
Net debt reconciliation:		
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>	653,098	502,466
<i>Net cash outflow in the year</i>	134,641	150,632
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the year end</i>	787,739	653,098

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The Financial Statements 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 October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Action for Stammering Children meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. The functional and presentational currency used in the financial statement is Pounds Sterling.

1.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and domiciled in England. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 42. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity. The Charity's registered office is The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, 13-15 Pine Street, London, EC1R 0JG.

1.3. Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.4. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There are not deemed to be any estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.5. Going concern

Following the year end the Charity has been affected by restrictions imposed by the UK Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways, but not limited to:

1 - Social distancing measures and restrictions on groups meeting will have a significant impact on funds previously raised through Charity evenings and sponsored events.

2 - An expected funding gap between funding which is considered to be reasonably certain and anticipated costs.

The funding gap will be managed by continued applications to Trusts and Foundations who might be interested in supporting Action for Stammering Children in the future.

The Trustees consider that the resources available to the Charity will be sufficient for it to be able to continue as a going concern during the restrictions and once the restrictions are lifted. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would be required if the Charity were not able to continue as a going concern.

1.6. Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grant income is recognised when there is a firm commitment and certainty that the funds will be received.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.7. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8. Tangible fixed assets and appreciation

All assets costing more than £1,500 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Computer and other equipment – 3 years on a straight line basis

Freehold Property – over 50 years to an estimated residual value of £592,000

1.9. Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction. Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

1.11 Creditors

Creditors are recognised as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

1.12 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Fixed assets are recorded at depreciated historical cost.

1.13 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash 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.

1.14 Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities.

1.15 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Grants and donations	273,115	183,400	456,515	588,284
Legacies	-	67,000	67,000	10,000
Total donations	273,115	250,400	523,515	598,284

Income from donations in 2021 included £203,849 of unrestricted income and £394,435 of restricted fund income.

3. Trading Activities

	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Charity trading income				
Books and DVD sales	-	3,408	3,408	2,011
Net income from trading activities	-	3,408	3,408	2,011

Income from charitable activities in 2021 was all unrestricted.

4. Investment Income

	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest received	-	1,073	1,073	1,809

Income from investment income in 2021 was all unrestricted.

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Events and fundraising	-	5,394	5,394	3,743
Voluntary income staff costs	-	55,800	55,800	47,876
	-	61,194	61,194	51,619

Of the 2021 costs of raising funds, £1,865 was restricted and £49,754 unrestricted.

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

SUMMARY BY FUND TYPE

	Restricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	178,773	44,098	222,871
Stambition Mentoring project	5,000	1,245	6,245
Stamback in Time project	-	34	34
Residential programmes	22,456	9,613	32,069
Research programme	1,626	-	1,626
	<u>207,855</u>	<u>54,990</u>	<u>262,845</u>

PRIOR YEAR - SUMMARY BY FUND TYPE

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	343,796	-	343,796
Stambition Mentoring Project	7,590	-	7,590
Stamback in Time project	3,873	-	3,873
Residential programmes	9,988	-	9,988
Research programme	12,000	-	12,000
	<u>377,247</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>377,247</u>

7. Expenditure by Charitable Activity

	2022 £	2021 £
Direct costs:		
Assessments	100,000	200,000
Clinical work	15,188	30,000
Residential programme	32,069	9,988
Returners	4,000	9,000
Research programme	6,626	17,000
Advisory services	17,500	16,000
Education and training	7,500	17,590
Other commissioning costs	1,521	3,249
Innovation Awards	-	336
Stamback in Time project	34	3,873
Costs relating to charitable projects	46,717	41,740
	<u>231,155</u>	<u>348,776</u>
Support costs (note 8)	31,690	28,471
Total	<u>262,845</u>	<u>377,247</u>

8. Support Costs

	Total 2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	12,402	14,221
Staff expenses	1,557	1,037
Website costs	1,154	678
Youth Panel	1,827	149
Miscellaneous	2,313	7,578
Governance costs	7,583	3,744
IT costs	4,854	1,064
	31,690	28,471

9. Net (Expenditure)/Income for the Year

	Total 2022	2021
	£	£
This is stated after charging: Independent Examiner's Fee	3,600	3,744

Trustees did not receive remuneration or benefits in kind. Trustees expenses reimbursement in the year totalled £NIL (2021: £NIL)

10. Staff Costs

	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	103,467	95,910
Social security costs	6,617	5,625
Pension Costs	2,515	2,301
Total Staff Costs	112,599	103,836

Average monthly number of employees during the year

	Total 2022	Total 2021
	No.	No.
Average number of staff	3	3

No employee received emoluments amounting to more than £60,000 (2021: £Nil).

£60,000 - £70,000 - NIL

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees and management teams as listed on page 42. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by the key management personnel for their services to the Charity was £58,366 (2021: £47,524)

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold property £	Office equipment £	Total 2022 £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	592,000	61,720	653,720
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	- -	906 -	906
At 31 March 2022	<u>592,000</u>	<u>60,814</u>	<u>652,814</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	-	61,720	61,720
Charged	-	-	-
Disposals	- -	906 -	906
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>60,814</u>	<u>60,814</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	<u>592,000</u>		<u>592,000</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>592,000</u>		<u>592,000</u>

12. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	14,269	3,229
Donations receivable	-	-
	<u>14,269</u>	<u>3,229</u>

13. Creditors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	14,712	71,719
Accruals and deferred income	2,416	2,587
Social Security	31	468
Other creditors	<u>17,159</u>	<u>75,435</u>
Deferred income at 1 April 2021	43,826	-
Resources deferred during the year	10,668	54,494
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(43,826)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>10,668</u>	<u>54,494</u>

Deferred income relates to grant funding received in advance of the 2022/23 financial year

14. Pension Commitments

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The total contributions for the year amounted to £2,515 (2021: £2,301). No amounts were payable to the fund at the year end (2021: £Nil)

15. Statement of Funds

	1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 March 2022 £
Designated funds					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Michael Palin Centre	124,000	-	-	26,000	150,000
Net Book Value Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-
	716,000	-	-	26,000	742,000
General funds					
General funds	366,819	254,881	(116,184)	(26,000)	479,516
	1,082,819	254,881	(116,184)	-	1,221,516
Restricted funds					
Assessments	1,215	-	-	-	1,215
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	-	28,000	(28,000)	-	-
City Bridge Trust	-	42,672	(7,461)	-	35,211
Harrison Frank Foundation	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Peter Sowerby Foundation	-	24,990	(22,456)	-	2,534
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	-	27,525	(1,626)	-	25,899
The Weinstock Fund	2,373	-	(773)	-	1,600
Trusts and Foundations Restricted less than 5,000	2,800	1,500	-	-	4,300
PIMCO	69,500	-	-	-	69,500
Mentoring project	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Bain Capital	9,185	-	(9,185)	-	-
Stuttering Foundation of America	-	133,354	(133,354)	-	-
Pat Bartle Charitable Trust	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Income from MPC Carol Concert	-	3,074	-	-	3,074
	90,073	273,115	(207,855)	-	155,333
Total funds	1,172,892	527,996	(324,039)	-	1,376,849

Summary of Funds

	1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 March 2022 £
Designated funds	716,000	-	-	26,000	742,000
General funds	366,819	254,881	(116,184)	(26,000)	479,516
	1,082,819	254,881	(116,184)	-	1,221,516
Restricted funds	90,073	273,115	(207,855)	-	155,333
	1,172,892	527,996	(324,039)	-	1,376,849

Prior Year - Statement of Funds

	1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Michael Palin Centre	-	-	-	124,000	124,000
Net Book Value Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-
	592,000	-	-	124,000	716,000
General funds					
General funds - all funds	332,905	207,668	(49,754)	(124,000)	366,819
	924,905	207,668	(49,754)	-	1,082,819
Restricted funds					
Assessments	2,015	-	(800)	-	1,215
Stuttering Foundation	-	141,382	(141,382)	-	-
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	-	51,939	(51,939)	-	-
City Bridge Trust	-	32,004	(32,004)	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	8,509	(8,509)	-	-
Harrison Frank Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
John Lyons Foundation	30,000	-	(30,000)	-	-
John Lyons Foundation - Emergency	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-
Peter Sowerby Foundation	3,096	-	(3,096)	-	-
Children In Need 19/20	2,581	-	(2,581)	-	-
Children In Need 20/21	-	11,300	(11,300)	-	-
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	-	16,666	(16,666)	-	-
The Weinstock Fund	2,373	-	-	-	2,373
Trusts and Foundations Restricted less than £5,000	500	10,200	(7,900)	-	2,800
PIMCO	-	69,500	-	-	69,500
Mentoring Project	-	12,500	(7,500)	-	5,000
Bain Capital	34,185	-	(25,000)	-	9,185
Furlough income	-	5,435	(5,435)	-	-
	74,750	394,435	(379,112)	-	90,073
	999,655	602,103	(428,866)	-	1,172,892

Prior Year- Summary of Funds

	1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	592,000	-	-	124,000	716,000
General funds	332,905	207,668	(49,754)	(124,000)	366,819
	924,905	207,668	(49,754)	-	1,082,819
Restricted funds	74,750	394,435	(379,112)	-	90,073
	999,655	602,103	(428,866)	-	1,172,892

16. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets	166,021	635,987	802,008
Creditors due within one year	(10,688)	(6,471)	(17,159)
	155,333	1,221,516	1,376,849
	Restricted funds 2021	Unrestricted funds 2021	Total funds 2021
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets	144,567	511,760	656,327
Creditors due within one year	-	(20,941)	(20,941)
	90,073	1,082,819	1,172,892

Purpose of Restricted Funds

Assessments	These funds were used for specialist consultations at the Michael Palin Centre.
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	These funds were used for the core costs and overheads of the Charity
City Bridge Trust	These funds are being used for specialist consultations at the Michael Palin Centre and for the core costs of the Charity
Harrison Frank Foundation	These funds are being used for specialist consultations at the Michael Palin Centre.
Peter Sowerby Foundation	These funds were used for a “Talking Out” outward-bound residential in the year.
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	These funds are being used for a research priority setting project with the James Lind Alliance.
The Weinstock Fund	These funds are being used for the development of a Northern Youth Panel.
PIMCO	These funds will be used for the Elevator Pitch project, strategic work that refines the charity’s messaging and visual representation in the broader stammering community.
Stambition Mentoring Project	These funds were used to train and supervise a group of volunteer mentors to support young people who stammer and are at the start of their careers.
Bain Capital	These funds were used to support the helpline, residential and intensive courses for children who stammer.
Stuttering Foundation of America	These funds were used for specialist clinical, research and training activities at the Michael Palin Centre.
Pat Bartle Charitable Trust	These funds are being used for specialist consultations at the Michael Palin Centre.
MPC Carol Concert	These funds will be used to support the services provided by the MPC in line with our charitable objectives

17. Financial Commitments

NHS Whittington Health

£	£
-	-

The Charity commissions an expert speech and language service for children and young people from NHS Whittington Health. Whilst there is no commitment as at 31 March 2022, there is an agreement to pay up to £120,000 for the year ended 31 March 2023 should finances allow.

18. Related Parties

During the year the charity received donations of £5,155 (2021: £Nil) from Trustees of the charity.

Reference and Administrative Details of The Charity, its Trustees and Advisers

For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Trustees	Jane Roberts (appointed Chair 1st April 2021) David Broom (Honorary Treasurer) Jessica Robinson (Company Secretary – retired 7th September 2021) Samira Ahmed Balshen Izzet Vicky Slonims Anne Whateley Richard Murray Anya Paul (joined September 2021)
Company Registered Number	2328627
Charity Registered Number	801171
Company Status	A company limited by guarantee
Day-to-Day Management	The trustees delegated day-to-day management to the Charity's Chief Executive Steven Gauge during this financial year. Following retirement in June 2022, the charity delegated day to day management to Ria Bernard.
Registered Office	Action for Stammering Children Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children 13-15 Pine Street London EC1R 0JG
Independent Examiners	Price Bailey LLP Chartered Accountants Causeway House 1 Dane Street Bishop's Stortford Hertfordshire CM23 3BT
Bankers	Lloyds Pall Mall St James's London SW1Y 4BE



Action for Stammering Children
c/o The Michael Palin Centre
13-15 Pine Street
London, EC1R 0JG

020 3316 8113

@ascstammering

www.actionforstammeringchildren.org

Charity Number: 801171

ACTION FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN

England & Wales - Charity number 801171

Accounts

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021





Sam Wiggins, on the front cover and above, has done a fantastic job this year raising awareness of stammering. He wrote two poems to express how he felt about his stammering and was awarded a Blue Peter badge for them.

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Jane Roberts is the Chair of Trustees at Action for Stammering Children.

Message from the Chair of Trustees

It has been a huge honour to have been appointed as the Chair of Action for Stammering Children, stepping into the very elegant shoes of Joanna Hunter, who stepped down at the end of March 2021. Jo joined the board of Action for Stammering Children in 2008 as Treasurer and was elected Chair of the Charity in 2014. Joanna brought with her years of experience in the business and charity sector and, under her leadership, the Charity raised just under £8 million and supported over 50,000 children and young people who stammer.

During the period of her tenure, she played a pivotal role in purchasing the freehold to premises

for the Charity in Clerkenwell, London securing the permanent home and future of the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children. She was a keen advocate of the Michael Palin Centre supporting them in thriving and growing into the internationally renowned Centre it now is. Jo drove new programmes such as the establishment of the Youth Panel, ensuring that young people are at the heart of everything the Charity does, and the successful Stambassadors programme which has provided role models to young people. She has expanded the reach of support across the country through the outward-bound residential programmes, training and research. The Charity is

hugely grateful to Jo for her leadership and energy over the period and we are delighted that she accepted our offer of becoming a Vice President of the Charity.

The long list of successes, supporting children who stammer, reported in this annual review have been delivered under Jo's excellent guidance. The responsibility for overseeing the next chapter in the Charity's story falls to me.

COVID-19 had a huge impact on our ability to fundraise and deliver support for children who stammer. We have been fortunate enough to have secured the support of some generous trusts and foundations. Many have made available emergency funds to help charities such as ours to navigate through very rough and unpredictable seas. The Trustees, our colleagues in the Michael Palin Centre and our Youth Panel all enthusiastically threw themselves into fundraising activities. In April 2020 they took on a challenge, running, cycling, stilt-walking and aerobicizing in various multiples of 2.6, in an on-line sponsored event run by the organisers of the London Marathon.

As a new chair it has been wonderful to meet (albeit virtually) the many long-standing supporters of the Charity. The Stuttering Foundation continues to provide very generous support specifically for the work of the Michael Palin Centre, for which we are very grateful. We are also grateful to Michael Palin himself for his ongoing and generous support for the Centre that bears his name. We also thank The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, John Lyons Charity, City Bridge Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation and the London employees of PIMCO for their substantial support. Indeed, we are grateful to all our supporters, large and small, for their generosity during these challenging times.

I have been enormously impressed, as the incoming chair of the Charity to have seen the innovation and creativity of the team. Throughout the pandemic services for children who stammer had continued to be delivered on-line by the excellent speech and language therapists we support at the Michael Palin Centre. The Talking Out team also adapted and managed to deliver content from our residential courses, to children and their families at home via Zoom. A new parents forum has met on-line and a mentoring programme has been established for young people who stammer and are at the start of their careers.

We enter a new financial year with the cloud of the pandemic still hanging over us. We will still be dealing with the impact of the pandemic, both economic and social, for many months and perhaps years to come. Fortunately, we have a determined and dedicated team that is more than ready for the challenge. I look forward to helping the charity support many more children who stammer as we embark on the next stage of the Charity's journey.



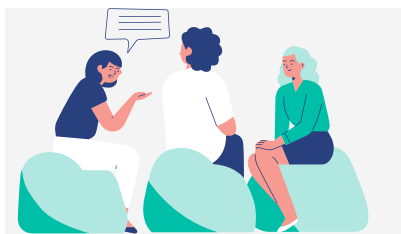
Dame Jane Roberts
Chair of Board of Trustees

2020/21

Adaptation, Innovation and Resilience:

10,893

Children and young people supported by Action for Stammering Children
(compared to 4,730 last year)



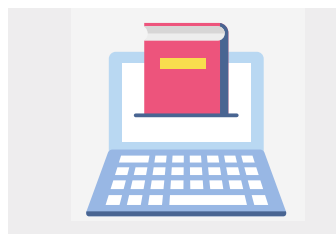
286

through direct clinical support at the Michael Palin Centre



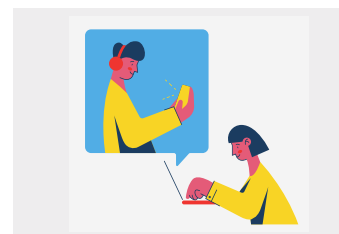
1,367

helpline calls answered



923

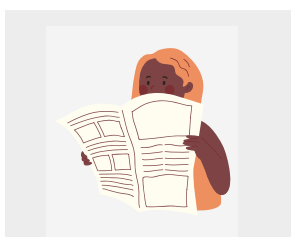
therapists trained to support 9,230 children and young people



10

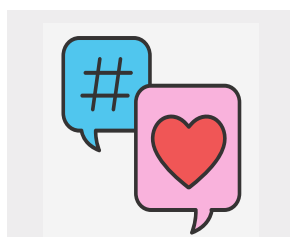
through our Talking Out Online course

Plus



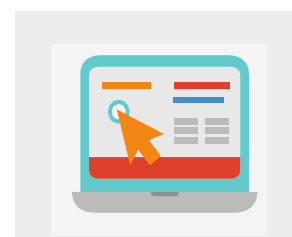
39

positive media mentions



6,564

social media follows



66,638

website page views

Living with a pandemic doesn't stop us from supporting children who stammer.

Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for The Year Ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their Annual Report together with the financial statements of Action for Stammering Children (the Charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and with the FRS 102.

Purpose and Activities

The Charity's vision is a society where children and young people who stammer have the same opportunities and quality of life as their peers.

The Charity's mission is to ensure that every child and young person across the United Kingdom who stammers has access to effective services and support to help them meet the challenges created by their stammer.

To achieve its mission, the Charity undertakes activities and services across the following six key strategic goals:

1. To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer

2. To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society

3. To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their children

4. To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer

5. To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people

6. To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people's lives, and to change public perceptions

Our Impact in 2020/21

The summary below sets out the impact of the Charity in 2020/2021 against its key objectives and performance indicators which are set at the beginning of each financial year. It sets out the difference the Charity has made to its beneficiaries, children and young people who stammer, and to the wider society using qualitative and quantitative measures. These are reviewed at each board meeting.

This year we have supported 10,893 children and young people, a huge increase on our figure of 4,730 from last year. This is due to a massive increase in the number of speech and language therapists being able to attend training courses run by the Michael Palin Centre (MPC). Prompted by the pandemic lockdown, the MPC team adapted to deliver all of their courses for speech and language therapists online. This has led directly to a surge in numbers of speech and language therapists keen to take part. We also know, from previous research, that each newly trained speech and language therapist, supports an average of 10 children each over the following year. 923 newly trained therapists will have helped and additional 9,230 children.

Across the whole range of our activities, the Charity has had to adapt and innovate this year. Many of the changes we have made, will help us as we emerge from the pandemic. We are pleased to be able to report that we have been able to achieve almost everything we set out to do at the beginning of the year, in spite of the pandemic.

1. To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer

Assessments and therapy at the Michael Palin Centre

The Charity funds the provision of assessments and therapy by the Michael Palin Centre team of specialist speech and language therapists. This is delivered through a commissioning agreement with Whittington Health NHS Trust. Assessments have continued throughout the pandemic, mostly being delivered on-line. Where families have requested face-to-face assessments, and the regulations have allowed, the team have adapted to carry out assessments in a COVID secure manner at the Centre.

For many children, young people and their families, receiving an early assessment and identifying the most appropriate form of therapy is key to managing their stammer and enabling them to

fulfil their potential. Specialised assessments for aged 2-18 years in the UK who stammer remain core to the work of the Charity. 278 children and their families from across the UK benefitting from a specialist assessment for stammering at the Michael Palin Centre over the last year funded by Action for Stammering Children.

In their feedback forms, parents have told us how much they appreciate the very thorough assessments that take place.

“The assessment itself was very in-depth and thorough. It touched on areas that we as a family find difficult to talk about, which was good to touch on and open up on. The honesty and the advice at the end of the session was also really really helped.”



Dame Jane Roberts (left), Chair of Trustees at Action for Stammering Children and Elaine Kelman, Head of the Michael Palin Centre, standing outside the Centre in London.

Outcomes

The Michael Palin Centre measures the child's and parents' experience of this assessment process and in the past year:

- **100%** reported that they better understood the stammer.
- **100%** reported that they felt more confident about the future.
- **100%** reported that they felt more hopeful that they could be helped.
- **100%** of parents reported that they were less worried.
- **100%** of parents reported that they knew more about what to do and felt more able to help their child.

Various measuring tools were used to ascertain the impact of therapy on each child's stammer, including Parent Palin Rating Scales and the OASES scoring system.

Following the assessment, children and their families were able to receive a tailored treatment programme delivered either by their local NHS Trust or at the Michael Palin Centre. The Charity has continued to support courses of therapy for children of all ages at the Michael Palin Centre, who have been unable to access treatment through the NHS.

This year we funded packages of 30 therapy sessions of Palin Stammering Therapy for four school children aged 8 to 14 and their parents.

The Charity also funds places on intensive courses at the Michael Palin Centre, followed by year-long

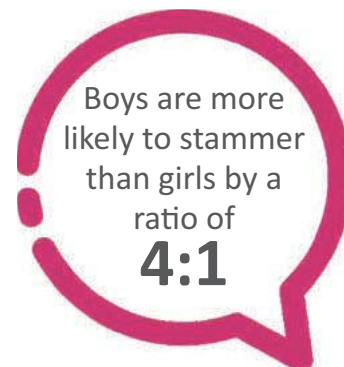
on-going support for children and their families. This year the intensive courses were delivered on-line, and the Charity funded 14 places.

The Charity supports a returners' programme for young people who have either suffered a relapse in their stammer or were undertaking a particularly big event in their lives, whether that's starting college, university or their first job. This year nine young people benefited from follow-up support.

"Thank you so much for all your help over the past year or more. We're really delighted that A is doing so well, and that we've learned so much about how to manage stammering should it arise again for him. Our experience with the Michael Palin Centre and with you was wonderful, from beginning to end. As you could see, A loved it and doesn't want it to be over! We really appreciate the help you've given us."

Returners Programme

The Charity supports a returners' programme for young people who have either suffered a relapse in their stammer or were undertaking a particularly big event in their lives, whether that's starting college, university or their first job. This year nine young people benefited from follow-up support. The feedback from this service remains very positive:



Boys are more likely to stammer than girls by a ratio of **4:1**



150,000 children across the UK have a stammer

"In April/May I was struggling to see how I would finish university. Never in a million years did I think I would be in this position (two job offers) come January. It really is a testament to your help and thoughtfulness, so thank you so much."

Talking Out Residential

The pandemic meant that we were not able to run our Talking Out residential courses this year. However, the Talking Out team were keen to ensure that they were still able to support young people who stammer through this particularly challenging time. The team adapted and created an online version of their residential course and, in October 2020, 10 young people, aged between 12 and 16, took part.

The teenagers had the opportunity to learn about how thoughts and feelings can affect how we approach a situation and to challenge themselves in a safe and supportive online environment. In addition, the young people had the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about stammering, whilst engaging in new experiences with other people who stammer. The online nature of the course meant that participants were able to experiment with change during the group sessions, but then move this straight into a real-life situation as they logged off each day.

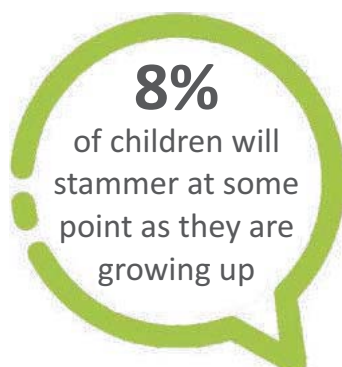
Parent sessions held at the end of each day allowed the speech and language therapists to meet with the parents, discuss the content of the group from the day and explore parents' thoughts, feeling and reactions to their child's stammer.

Comments from participants:

"I have become more confident in myself, and I feel less anxious speaking in front of people."

"I have learned about the stretch zone and the panic zone."

"I'm now a lot more confident in my stammer and I also feel a lot less alone with my stammer. My stammer doesn't feel like a burden anymore."



Outcomes

Outcome measures for the course, both qualitative and quantitative, were obtained from participants and their families before, during and at set periods following the course.

The results suggested that participants' attitudes towards stammering changed, with participants viewing stammering as having a less significant negative effect on their wellbeing and ability to participate in school and social situations.

The feedback they provided at the end of the week demonstrated that the young people felt that they had the tools needed to deal with the challenges borne of stammering and that they were already using these and thinking more positively about talking and stammering.

KPI Targets

- 285 children and young people directly helped with assessments and therapy at the Michael Palin Centre - **Achieved 286**
- 40 children attending our Talking Out residential programme - **Result:** Prevented by pandemic but adapted so that 10 children attended on-line version

2. To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society

Our objectives in this area for 2020-2021 were to:

- Empower and encourage Youth Panel members to train and inspire the new cohort of members from across the UK, to build on their successes so far and extend our reach.
- Actively engage Youth Panel members in developing our future projects and funding proposals and evaluating our activities.
- Create a mentoring scheme for young people who stammer, working with our Stambassadors.
- Complete our Stamback in Time project looking at people of influence who have stammered over the last 100 years in partnership with the London Metropolitan Archives and launch an online game.

All of these objectives have been achieved.

Empowering our Youth Panel

The pandemic failed to stop our Youth Panel. Quite the reverse. Our inspirational group of 15 young people, aged between 15 and 25, were able to get together virtually a total of 16 times during the course of the year. Created in 2015, our Youth Panel aims to empower young people who stammer and give them the opportunity to have their say about the Charity's direction. The panel continues to work hard to inform our work and raise awareness of stammering around the country.

This year members of the Youth Panel launched their online game, Stamback in Time on the 9th September 2020. Stamback in Time was a Heritage Lottery funded project with the Youth Panel that started in July 2018 working in partnership with the London Metropolitan Archives. The project aimed to bring the history of stammering to life. The panel researched great figures of the past and present who stammered and what their stories can teach young people today.

Because of the pandemic it was not possible to launch the game as had been originally planned with a live event at the London Metropolitan Archive. Instead, the team adapted and had an online launch, and used social media to reach a wide audience. Youth Panel members posted videos on social media to promote the game and received hugely positive feedback:

"It's great how you are framing this showing young people with role models. Seriously 50 years ago as a six-year-old with a stammer you were considered a bit daft. No role models then, except comedians on TV telling jokes about it."

We were also delighted to formally launch our Northern Youth Panel on the 23rd April 2021, extending our reach more widely across the country. The team are looking forward to recruiting more members and raising awareness about stammering with regional and local media outlets in the North of England.



The Stambition mentors meeting for a training event in February 2021 with Sam Simpson and Iain Wilkie.

Stambition

We were delighted to be able to launch a brand-new mentoring project, called ‘Stambition’ on the 4th November 2020. The project has recruited, trained and supervised mentors for 11 young people who stammer and are at the start of their careers. The mentors have been selected from our group of Stambassadors, adults in successful careers who stammer. The project provides practical, tailored support and advice for young people, aged 18 – 25, who stammer, at a crucial time of transition in their lives. The Stambassadors draw on their own experiences to provide practical and applicable advice as well as encouragement to the young adults they are supporting. The young people and their mentors all attended an online training event on the 19th February 2021 before embarking on a seven-month series of mentoring sessions.

The Stambition project was made possible by a generous donation from the family of Stan Taylor, in his memory. Stan had a life-long stammer and in 1945, he was part of the team that transmitted

news of Germany’s unconditional surrender to all allied units. He worked in commercial conveyancing and intellectual property, and for the American company, IBM. His family felt that the Stambition project would be a fitting tribute to his achievements and we are hugely grateful for their support.

Outcomes KPI Targets

- 20 Youth Panel Members from across the UK actively engaged in the Charity’s work - **Achieved: 15 (2019-20: 14)** 
- 10 Young people mentored by one of our Stambassadors - **Achieved: 11** 
- Stamback in Time game successfully launched - **Achieved: Launched online on 9th September 2020** 

3. To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their children

Our objectives for the year were to launch an on-line parents' forum, to continue to fund the national helpline and to increase the page views of our website.

These were all achieved.

Stammering Helpline

The National Helpline, funded by Action for Stammering Children, has seen a huge surge in demand during the pandemic. The disruption to family routines and increased pressure on children to adapt to new ways of learning has led to more people calling for help and advice. Speech and language services in some local areas have been disrupted by the pandemic and this also may have contributed to the growing number of calls to our team of specialist speech and language therapists at the Michael Palin Centre.

“Really impressed with all phone contact I had with members of your team; their time and understanding and general advice was so helpful and assuring at what was a really worrying time with what seemed to be a sudden onset of a significant stammer for our young daughter (during lockdown).”

Rosie, a speech therapist at the Michael Palin Centre, answering a helpline call.

The National Helpline is available five days a week, Mondays to Fridays, from 9am to 5pm. It provides a first port of call to parents, teachers, therapists, GPs and other professionals who need expert advice on how to respond to a child's stammer.

“Really impressed with all phone contact I had with members of your team; their time and understanding and general advice was so helpful and assuring at what was a really worrying time with what seemed to be a sudden onset of a significant stammer for our young daughter (during lockdown).”



Parents Forum

It has long been an ambition of the charity to arrange a support group for parents of children who stammer. The increased acceptance of online meetings, during the pandemic, suddenly has made bringing parents together so much easier. In November 2020 we launched a series

of online support groups for parents. Guest speakers presented on subjects such as resilience and working with schools. Parents from all over the country were able to share experiences and support each other. In total five forums were held and attended by a total of 37 parents.

Website and Social Media

Social media continues to be a powerful mechanism for supporting parents as well as increasing awareness about stammering in children and driving people to our website. We now have a strong presence on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Our website remains our primary platform for sharing information about stammering particularly with parents of children who stammer. We had a total of 66,638 page views in the year. Our most popular pages include tips, facts about stammering and support for parents.

Our Stambassador videos, shared widely via YouTube, have become a sought-after aide for speech and language therapists working with children who stammer. In the videos our Stambassadors demonstrate that it is perfectly possible to have a successful career with a stammer. They share their work experiences and help young people who stammer to realise that their stammer need not hold them back. In total, our YouTube videos have now been viewed 69,706 times.

“We have had so much positive feedback from our families as they report back on a wide range of Stambassadors they have listened to; and each time we notice the messages that they take away and the difference this makes.”

Elaine Kelman, Head of the Michael Palin Centre

Outcomes

KPI Targets

- 50 parents joining online support programme events (New project for 2021)
- Increase the number of page views of our website (63,534 in 2019-20)
- Increase our social media following to 10,000 (5,038 – 31st March 2020)
- 1,500 helpline calls answered (1,075 in 2019-20)

Results

- 37 parents joined our new online parents’ forum
- Website page views increased to 66,638
- Social media following increased to 6,564
- 1,367 helpline calls answered



4. To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer

Training has been one of the surprise successes of the pandemic. The decision to move all the training courses run by the Michael Palin Centre online, has seen a huge upturn in participants. Speech and language therapists have been able to learn more about supporting children who stammer without having to travel to London or even leave their homes.

A total of 923 therapists undertook training with the Michael Palin Centre online compared to 333 in the previous financial year. Our research indicates that each speech and language therapist will, as a result of the training at the Michael Palin Centre, support at least 10 children and young people who stammer over the following

year. We estimate therefore that more than 9,230 children and young people will, once the pandemic restrictions are fully relaxed, be able to receive locally delivered, high quality therapy to help manage their stammer.

We believe that training at the Michael Palin Centre is changing the way speech and language therapy is delivered all around the country. In the normal course of events, speech and language therapists receive very limited training in stammering. Often, they are reluctant to take on stammering cases as they don't feel that they have the skills to provide the support needed. Our training courses are helping to close this skills gap.

"I started the course with little confidence and overwhelmed at the thought of the younger children who stammer who are on my caseload (I've only been working since September!) I now feel like I'm equipped with much more knowledge and skills to support and facilitate those children and their families. Thanks so much."

"I was concerned that due to this being an online course it may be one-sided, not interactive and not as good as face to face. On the contrary, the course was structured with enough opportunities to contribute as well as the break-out rooms with different mix ups of people. It was just as good and interactive as the face-to-face sessions I've previously attended."

"I really enjoyed it and to be honest preferred it to attending in person. It was much more comfortable and made it easier for me to learn and engage."

Outcomes

KPI Targets

- 500 therapists trained supporting 5,000 children who stammer - **Achieved: 923 therapists trained supporting 9,230 children who stammer**



5. To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people

PhD Programme – Stammering and Mental Health

This year saw the continuation of our PhD research project. We are proud to be supporting Speech and Language Therapist, Ria Bernard as she undertakes a PhD study investigating the relationship between stammering and anxiety and depression in children.

She is now in the final year of her three-year research project supervised by University College

London. She has completed a systematic review of existing literature and has launched a national questionnaire and a comparative study of children who stammer, children with a language disorder and non-stammering children. Ria shared her findings so far as a poster presentation at the Oxford Dysfluency Conference in January 2021.

Research at the Michael Palin Centre

Action for Stammering Children continued to work in partnership with the Michael Palin Centre to support and promote research into effective treatment for stammering in children and young people. MPC staff members were engaged in a number of research-related activities, including presentations at national and international conferences, preparing publications and data management.

In addition, they have contributed to the wider scholarly and scientific community by: reviewing research papers; participating in scientific committees; collaborating in international research groups; advising and supervising a range

of undergraduate and post graduate projects; and acting as internal examiners for UK universities.

We were also delighted to see that the paper on ‘Temperament and the Impact of Stammering’ co-authored by the MPC’s Dr Sharon Millard and Elaine Kelman, and funded by Action for Stammering Children, was published in the Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research. The paper examines possible associations between childhood temperament and stuttering severity.

Oxford Dysfluency Conference

Action for Stammering Children was delighted to be able to support the Oxford Dysfluency Conference, which was run online in January 2021. We sponsored the Keynote speaker, Prof Kate Watkins, who leads the research team at Oxford University using MRI to study the neural correlates of developmental stuttering revealing differences in brain structure and function in the brains of people who stutter. Her recent work uses brain stimulation to promote fluency enhancing techniques in people who stutter.

Our Trustee, Samira Ahmed opened the conference, along with Youth Panel member Grace Cronshaw and the Charity’s chief executive, Steven Gauge. 600 international delegates attended and the conference was co-chaired by the MPC’s head of research, Dr Sharon Millard. Conference proceedings will be published in the Journal of Communication Disorders and MPC staff are submitting papers for review.

Travers Reid Award



Rakesh Chowkalli Veerabhadrappe, a doctoral student at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, India was the winner of this years Travers Reid Award.

The Charity's chief executive Steven Gauge presented the Travers Reid Award in the closing ceremony of the Oxford Dysfluency Conference. The award was given, virtually, to Rakesh Chowkalli Veerabhadrappe, a doctoral student at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, India. He was recognised for his work on the adaptation of the Speech Situation Checklist-Emotional Reaction (SSC-ER) for Kannada-speaking school-age children who do and do not stutter. Kannada is spoken by 68 million people in southern India.

Rakesh's research will help speech and language therapists in Southern India have a comprehensive understanding of a child's experience – their internal experience of stuttering – and to direct therapy in line with this.

The award is presented in memory of the Charity's co-founder Travers Reid. Travers was driven by a desire to see more research into stammering and so it is fitting that part of his huge legacy will continue to be the Travers Reid Award. This annual award, funded by the Charity, is made to researchers in the field who are making a real difference to our understanding of this developmental disorder.

Outcomes

KPI Targets

- 1 PhD Student supported – **Achieved**
- 1 paper published in an academic peer-reviewed journal – **Achieved**
- Secure funding for Research Priorities Project – **Achieved (but not in this financial year)**



6. To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people’s lives, and to change public perceptions

The aim for the year was to increase the number of media mentions of the Charity and to generate more Stammer Aware Schools. Both of these objectives have been achieved.

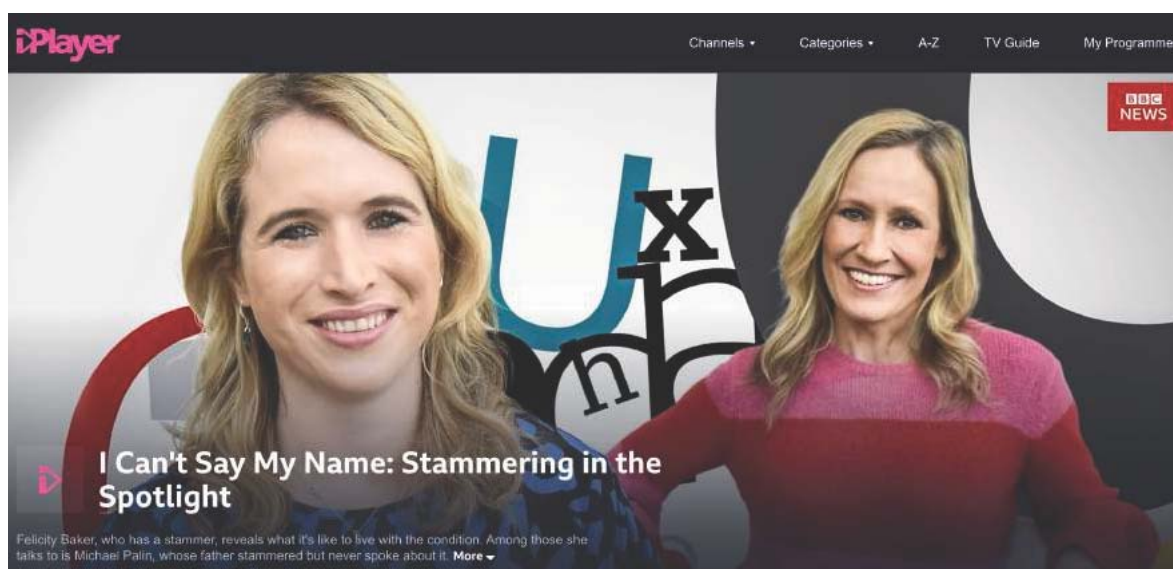
The Charity also continues to play a leading role in promoting awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people – through our website www.actionforstammeringchildren.org, through our social media channels and through our monthly e-newsletter.

Raised Media Profile

This year the Charity has been even more successful in securing media coverage to raise awareness about stammering, securing 39 pieces of positive media coverage, compared to 33 in the previous year. We were particularly pleased to have been able to support BBC producer Felicity Baker, who also stammers, to secure participants in broadcast news features and a very successful documentary, *I Can't Say My Name: Stammering in the Spotlight*, which aired on the 10th March 2021. Youth Panel

member Grace Cronshaw was interviewed along with the Head of the Michael Palin Centre, Elaine Kelman and Shelby Grant who has been supported by the Centre.

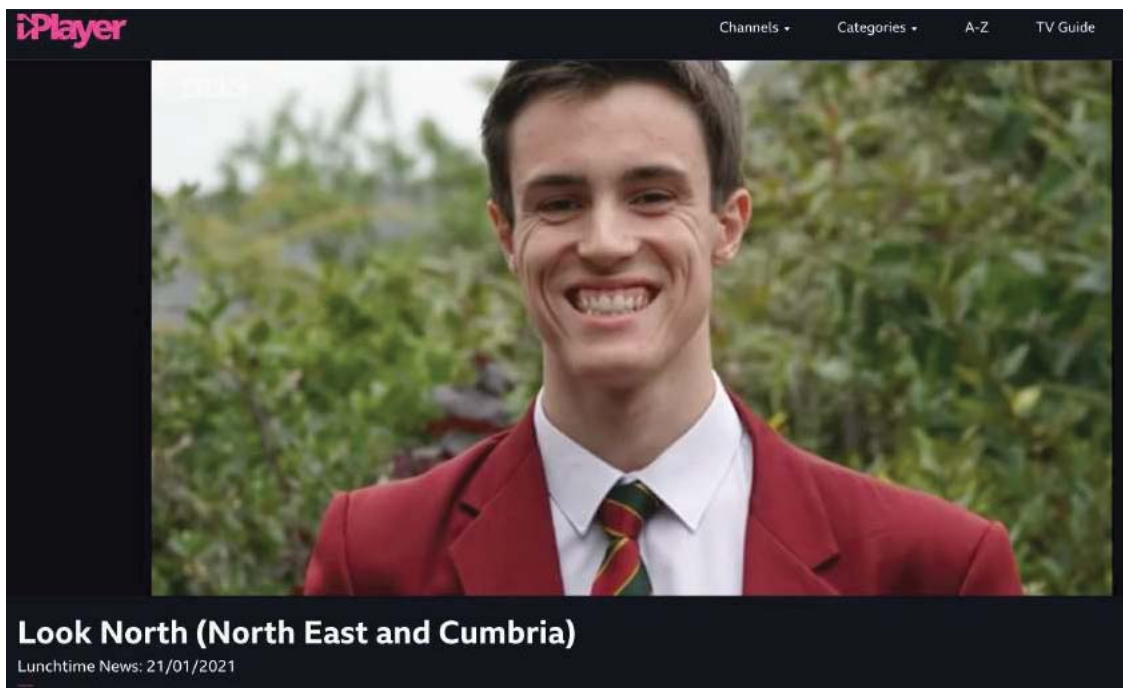
Our Vice President Michael Palin also featured in the documentary talking about his father’s stammer.



Felicity Baker’s BBC documentary, I Can’t Say My Name: Stammering in the Spotlight which aired on the 10th March 2021, featuring Shelby (pictured on page 21, filming)

Our Vice President Ed Balls has also been brilliant at securing media mentions for the charity, sharing stories about his stammer and his fundraising success for the Charity as he won BBC One's Celebrity Best Home Cook. Youth Panel member Thomas Grattoni-May has secured coverage on BBC Look North and in his local newspapers sharing his experience of home and online schooling with a stammer. One of our Stamabassadors, Will Laven has been prolific in securing coverage in publications as diverse as the Metro, the Telegraph, Close Up and Pick

Me Up magazines as well as ITV London. We are hugely grateful to our team of media stars for sharing their stories and raising awareness about stammering and the work of the Charity.



There have been media appearances on BBC News and in the Metro newspaper from the Youth Panel, Stambassadors and supporters of the Charity throughout the year.

Stammer Aware Celebration Event

On 21st April 2021 we hosted an event to celebrate and reflect on the three-year project with supporters from education, health and the charity sector.

This project, supported by John Lyon's Charity and delivered by the team at the Michael Palin Centre, created and disseminated a webinar for schools in a selection of London boroughs. The webinar equipped teachers with the information and advice they needed to best support their pupils who stammer. In year two, nine schools

were awarded Stammer Aware Certification. In year three, another 22 schools have become Stammer Aware, taking the total to 31.

We are hugely grateful to all those schools who have prioritised their pupils who stammer, alongside dealing with the significant impact of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdowns. We are committed to helping schools become Stammer Aware throughout the whole UK, using this project as the model.

Outcomes

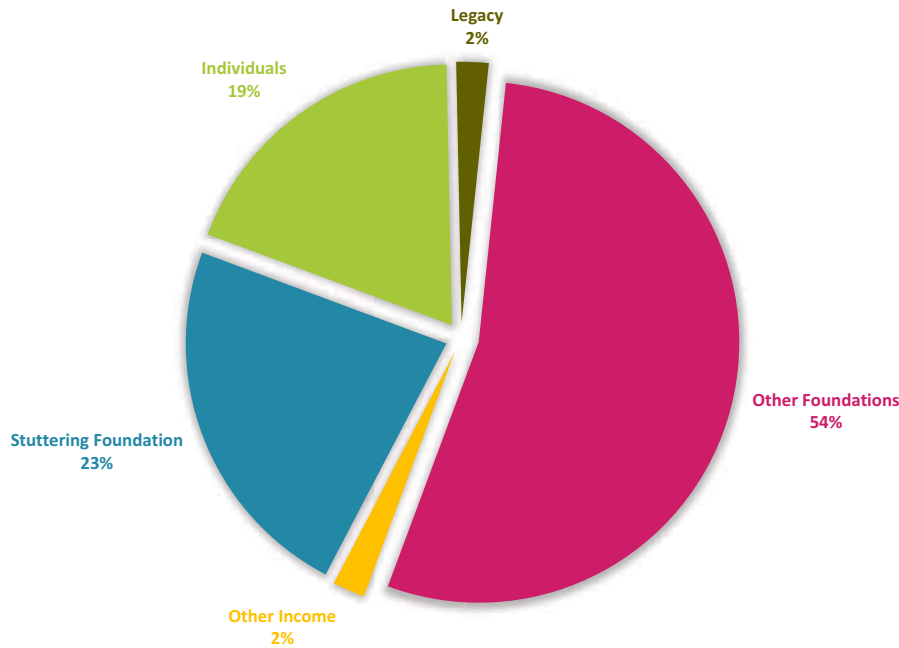
KPI Targets

- Positive media mentions of the Charity – **Achieved 39**
- Schools becoming “Stammer Aware” – **Achieved 22**



Financial Review

Income



Section 162a of the Charities Act 2011 requires charities to make a statement regarding fundraising activities.

The year to 31 March 2021 has been very challenging given the impact of the Covid pandemic on the fundraising environment. Total income for the year to 31 March 2021 amounted to £602,103, down from £618,942 in the year ended 31 March 2020.

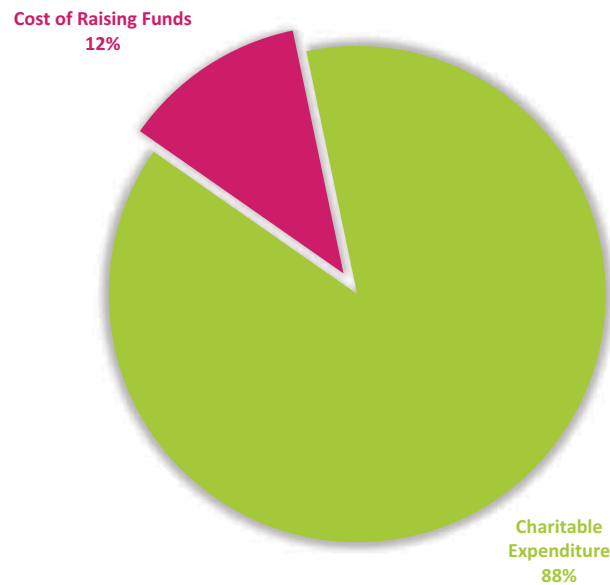
We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support from the Stuttering Foundation but note that the income was lower this year (\$187.5k) due to a change in the schedule of funding (now paid quarterly on a calendar year basis).

We have benefited from the following:

- Emergency Covid funding, provided by John Lyon’s Charity (£30k) and the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust (£51.9k);
- New multi-year funding from the City Bridge Trust (£32k);
- Ongoing support from the Woodroffe Benton Foundation (£16.67k) and Children in Need (£11.3k);
- An Employees’ Choice Award from PIMCO (£69.5k) for a community therapist pilot project;
- New funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation (£50k);
- New funding from John Taylor (£12.5k) for the Stambition Mentoring Projects;
- New funding from The Harrison-Frank Family Foundation (UK) Ltd. (£5k);
- £26.2k raised by Trustees, the Youth Panel and Staff at the Michael Palin Centre as part of the “2.6 Challenge”.

The Charity has complied with the relevant codes of practice. We have received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities. (2020: none).

Expenditure



Given the impact of the Covid pandemic on the fundraising environment, expenditure was closely monitored during the year to protect reserves and enable the Charity to continue its work.

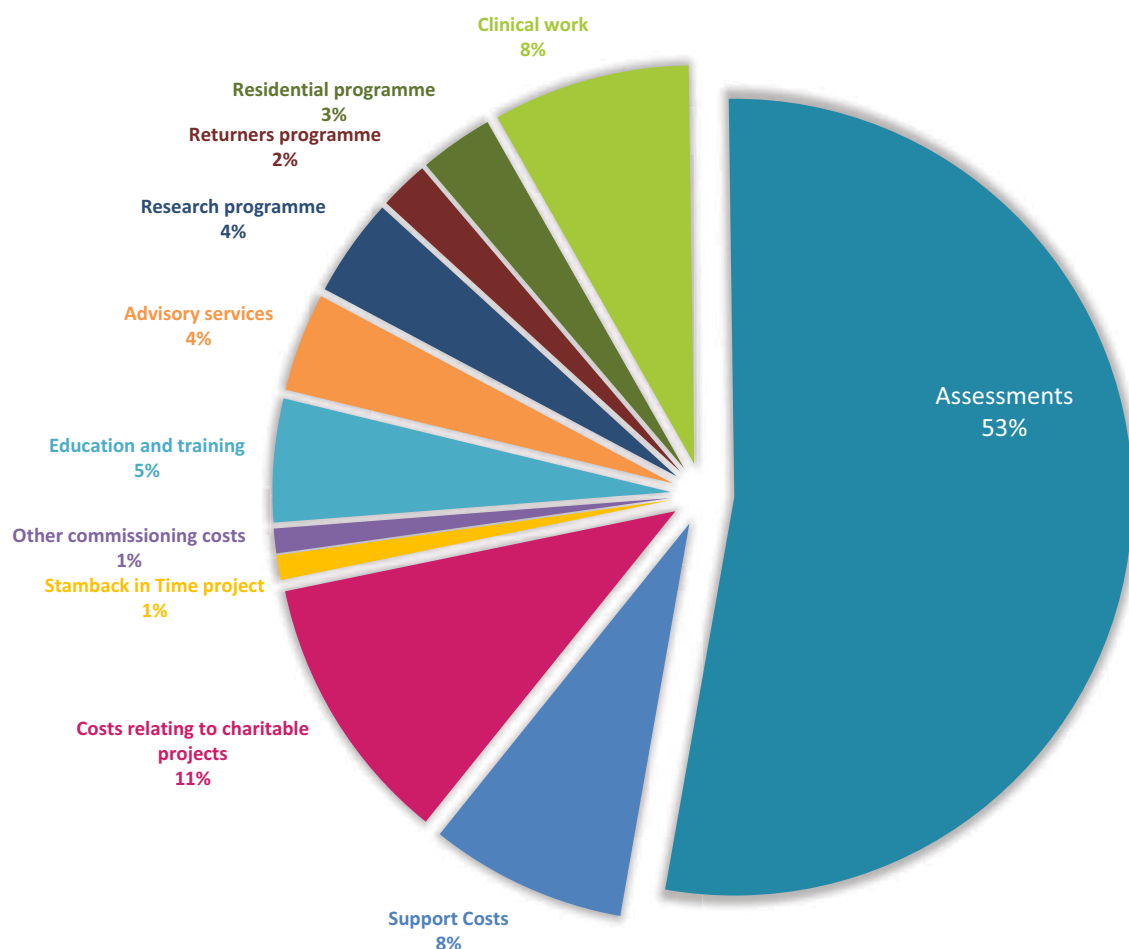
Expenditure of £428,866, down from £600,285 in the year ending 31 March 2020, was spent on charitable activity during the year.

Expenditure was lower in the following areas:

- Fundraising events: as no events were held due to Covid restrictions;
- Residential: as it was only possible to deliver one online residential during the year. We had two face to face residential in the previous year;
- Staff costs: as some ASC staff were furloughed for part of the year;
- Michael Palin Centre (MPC): to protect the Charity's reserves and enable the continued funding of the MPC in the future, this did not impact on the activity delivered.

Despite the above reductions in expenditure, £344,000 was used to deliver charitable activity at the Michael Palin Centre (see notes 6 and 7) and the remainder to fund other activities including one "Talking Out" online course for teenagers, a PhD research project, a Mentoring Project and Youth Panel "Stamback in Time" project.

Summary of Charitable Expenditure



Reserves

Total unrestricted reserves, shown in note 15 of £1,082,819 includes designated illiquid funds of £592,000 (which comprises freehold property and the net book value of fixed assets) and designated funds of £124,000 for the Michael Palin Centre. The remainder of £366,819 comprises unrestricted free reserves and represents approximately 7.5 months of budgeted expenditure for 2021 to 2022, in line with current policy.

Reserves policy and going concern

The Trustees have considered the desired level of unrestricted funds not designated for specific purpose or otherwise committed (free reserves). Given the nature of the Charity's work, we have determined that the level of free reserves should be equivalent to six to nine months of annual expenditure. In our judgement, this provides sufficient flexibility to cover any temporary shortfalls in incoming resources and ensures that the Charity is able to continue its work, and also able to respond immediately to a reasonable range of unforeseen adverse circumstances, before remedial plans can be implemented. This policy will be kept under constant review, particularly in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Investment powers and policy

The Board of Trustees' policy is to invest in low risk, liquid investments. Accordingly, Action for Stammering Children invests its funds in cash deposits.

Looking Ahead to 2021/2022

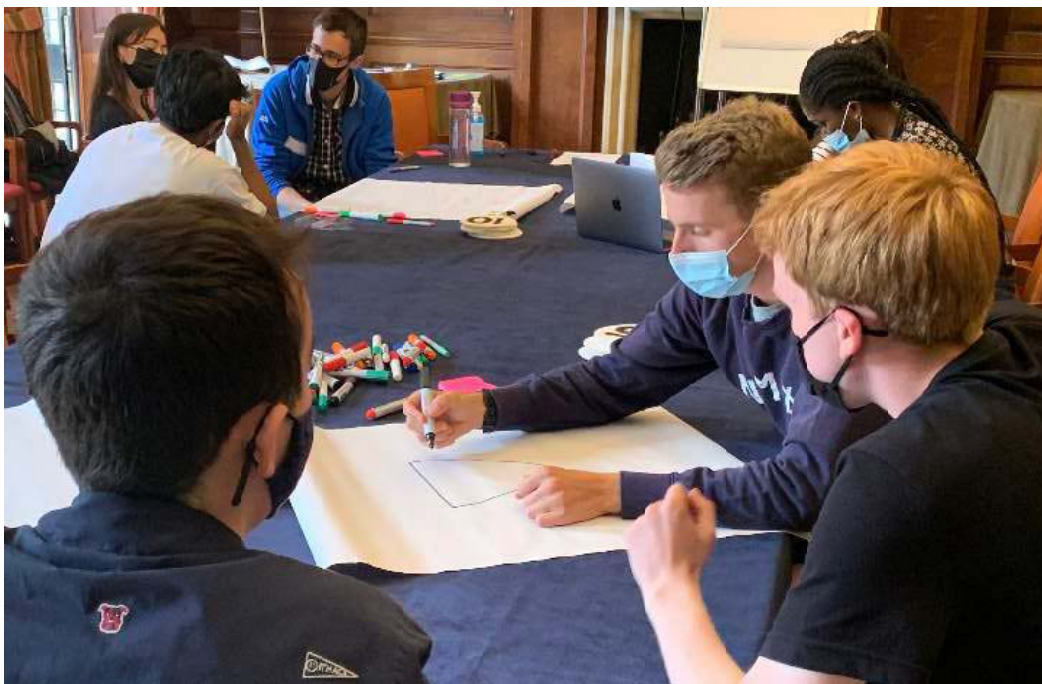
The coming financial year is likely to be as challenging and uncertain as the last. As this report is being written, it is still hard to predict with any degree of confidence how and when we will fully emerge from the pandemic and how the economy and public services will look when we do. It remains extremely difficult to plan fundraising events in particular. We will proceed with caution but will look to be flexible, speedy and creative when opportunities arise.

One thing we do know is that the affection in which the NHS is held in this country has grown enormously. We are proud to work in partnership with the NHS to deliver life-changing services for children who stammer at the Michael Palin Centre. We are also immensely proud of the speech and language therapists from the MPC who volunteered to work on the front line at the Whittington Hospital, through some of the worst days of the pandemic.

We will continue to work in partnership with the NHS to ensure that vital services for children who stammer and their families are maintained on a sustainable basis, long into the future. We will work together over the coming year to see how we can use the lessons learnt during the lockdown period to deliver our support more effectively.

In addition, we will continue to empower young people who stammer, through our Youth Panel and Stambassador projects and build on our new mentoring scheme. We will look to continue our residential programme when Covid restrictions allow and also develop new ways of supporting young people online. We look forward to the completion of our PhD project and we hope to play a leading role in supporting and promoting further research into stammering.

We will continue to pursue the Charity's six key goals and work tirelessly to raise the necessary funds to achieve them. We will monitor our progress towards achieving these with a set of key performance indicators.



*The Youth Panel
planning for the
year ahead.*

1. To increase access to effective therapy services for children and young people across the UK who stammer.

- Continue to support assessments and therapy at the Michael Palin Centre.
- Continue to support residential courses with Talking Out and develop a new Zoom club for residential alumni.
- Develop pilot project to place a specialist speech and language therapist in an area of need using restricted funding.

KPI Targets

- 250 children directly supported by MPC
- 20 children supported through online, residential and monthly Zoom club with Talking Out
- 1 part time specialist speech and language therapist placed in a group of schools

2. To empower children and young people who stammer by giving them a voice within our organisation and in society

- Provide media training for our Youth Panel.
- Continue to support Youth Panel members interviewing researchers for social media videos and podcasts.
- Support Youth Panel to create and deliver an awareness campaign with Timebank UK.
- Launch and grow our Northern Youth Panel.
- Look to secure further funding to support the Stambition mentoring programme for a second year.
- Consider new ways to involve Youth Panel members in developing the strategy for the Charity.

KPI Targets

- 20 Youth Panel members actively engaged (2020-21: 15)
- Timebank awareness campaign launched
- 10 more Young People linked up with mentors

3. To assist the parents of children and young people who stammer, so that they are better able to support their children

- Continue to support The Parents Online Forum.
- Agree with the MPC and Talking Out the best ways to measure and support the help given to parents of children who stammer.

KPI Targets

- 50 Parents joining online support forum events (37 last year)
- 500 Parents directly supported by the Michael Palin Centre (new KPI)
- 1,000 Helpline calls from parents answered (new KPI)

4. To improve the ability of speech and language therapists to provide effective services to children and young people who stammer

- Continue supporting the training of speech and language therapists in stammering across the UK.
- Help to maintain the high take-up of training opportunities by creating and sharing widely videos featuring feedback from speech and language therapists who participate in courses.

KPI Targets

- 1,000 therapists trained supporting 10,000 children who stammer (923 trained in 2020-21, supporting 9,230)

5. To promote research into the most effective treatment of stammering in children and young people

- Seek funding for the James Lind Alliance research priorities project.
- Support Ria Bernard to complete the final year of her PhD researching the relationship between stammering and mental health.
- Support research undertaken by the Michael Palin Centre.
- Present the annual Travers Reid Award.

KPI Targets

- 1 PhD Student supported (currently 1)
- 1 paper published in an academic peer-reviewed journal (1 paper in 2020-21)
- Secure funding for Research Priorities Project (not achieved in 2020-21)

6. To promote awareness of stammering and the impact it has on children and young people's lives, and to change public perceptions

- Develop and secure funding for a national Stammer Aware schools programme.
- Work with the Youth Panel to raise awareness and plan for International Stammering Awareness Day.
- Develop, agree and implement a communications strategy that makes full use of our networks and resources to improve public perceptions of stammering.

KPI Targets

- 50 Positive media mentions of the Charity (39 in 2020-21)
- Increase website page views. (66,638 in 2020-21)
- Increase social media following (6,564 in 2020-21)
- Secure funding for a national "Stammer Aware Schools" scheme (New KPI)

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Memorandum of Association on 15 December 1988, which was last revised in September 2014, and as a charity on 21 March 1989.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

The Charity's Board of Trustees meets in person or online, at least five times per annum. At present the Board has nine members from a variety of professional backgrounds, many of whom have experience of stammering, either personally or through a family member. Trustees retire by rotation after three years, but are eligible for re-election for up to three terms of office.

The Chief Executive of the Charity implements the strategy set by the Trustees, acts as the key interface with the NHS, and has a prime responsibility for fundraising.

Trustees Recruitment and Induction

The Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that the interests of children who stammer are appropriately represented in the Trustee body. Trustees are recruited through informal methods, both through a network of parents and adults who stammer and through the body of professionals working in the field of childhood stammering. The Trustees also aim to maintain a broad mix of backgrounds and business skills on the Board. The Board of Trustees is committed to being a diverse and inclusive body. A Trustee nominations committee reviews the Trustees' skills mix and drives recruitment of new Trustees. New Trustees take part in a full induction programme covering all aspects of the work of the Charity, its governance and finances.

Board of Trustees

The Trustees are directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law. Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 45.

The members of the charitable company include the Trustees and three founding members. Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of winding up.

Method of Appointment or Election of Trustees

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association.

Relationship with Related Parties and co-operation with other organisations

The work of ASC is, at present, largely achieved through its relationship with Whittington Health NHS Trust and its Speech and Language Therapy Department in London. ASC commissions the provision of specific services from the Michael Palin Centre, part of Whittington Health NHS Trust. Specifically, ASC commissions expert assessments, consultations, treatments, training and research not otherwise funded by the National Health Service. The Charity's funding also provides specialist advisory and helpline services to health professionals and families.

The Charity has a strict conflict of interest policy and declarations are made at the start of every trustee meeting.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year.

The Board has overall responsibility for the pay policy and the salaries of staff. The Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary oversees the administration of the pay policy, evaluates employee performance and decides on any changes to pay.

Our general principles are to pay our employees a fair salary that is competitive within the charity sector, proportionate to the complexity of the role, and responsible in line with our charitable objectives.

Risk Policy

The Board of Trustees continues to review and evaluate the key risks faced by the Charity at Board meetings throughout the year. A formal risk register is maintained to record ongoing risk assessments and track key mitigating activity. The key risks of the Charity include risks associated with its governance, delivery of key strategic objectives, safeguarding of charitable assets and compliance with regulation.

The Board of Trustees ensures that robust policies, procedures, systems and financial controls are in place to mitigate key risks to protect the reputation of the charity.

In the light of Covid-19 the Risk Register was reviewed and maintained throughout the year with key changes to risk reported to the Board. The major risk identified was fundraising due to restrictions on activities such as events and marathons and a plan to mitigate these risks has been developed.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have taken in to account the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. The Trustees' report demonstrates our commitment to providing public benefit.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees' (who are also directors of Action for Stammering Children for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statement 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. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 13th October 2021 and signed on their behalf, by:



Dame Jane Roberts
Chair of Board of Trustees

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Action for Stammering Children

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 32 to 45.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 company'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 the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I 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 that in any material respect:

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.

Date: 20th October 2021



Michael Cooper-Davis ACA FCCA

For and on behalf of
Price Bailey LLP
Chartered Accountants
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire
CM23 3BT

Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating expenditure and income accounts)

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Income and Expenditure	Note	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
		£	General £	Designated £		
Income from:						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>	2	394,435	203,848	-	598,283	615,663
<i>Other trading activities</i>	3	-	2,011	-	2,011	469
<i>Investments</i>	4	-	1,809	-	1,809	2,810
Total Income		394,435	207,668	-	602,103	618,942
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	5	1,865	49,754	-	51,619	96,441
Charitable activities	6	377,247	-	-	377,247	503,844
Total expenditure		379,112	49,754	-	428,866	600,285
<i>(Loss)/gain on investments</i>		-	-	-	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income		15,323	157,914	-	173,237	18,657
Transfer between funds		-	(124,000)	124,000	-	-
Net movement in funds		15,323	33,914	124,000	173,237	18,657
Reconciliation of funds						
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>		74,750	332,905	592,000	999,655	980,999
Total funds carried forward	15	90,073	366,819	716,000	1,172,892	999,656

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 35 to 44 form part of these financial accounts.

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
<i>Tangible Assets</i>	11	592,000	592,000
Current Assets			
<i>Debtors</i>	12	3,229	7,049
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>		653,098	502,466
		<u>656,327</u>	<u>509,515</u>
Creditors	13	<u>(75,435)</u>	<u>(101,860)</u>
Net current assets		580,892	407,655
Total Net Assets		<u>1,172,892</u>	<u>999,655</u>
Funds			
<i>Designated funds - fixed assets</i>	15	592,000	592,000
<i>Designated funds - Michael Palin Centre</i>		124,000	-
<i>Unrestricted funds free reserves</i>	15	366,819	332,905
<i>Restricted funds</i>	15	90,073	74,750
Total funds and reserves		<u>1,172,892</u>	<u>999,655</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

For the year ended 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting recorded and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on the 13th October and signed on their behalf on 13th October by:



Jane Roberts
Chair of Trustees

Company no: 2328627
The notes on pages 35 to 44 form part of these accounts

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:		
<i>(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year</i>	173,237	18,657
Adjustments for:		
<i>Depreciation of tangible assets</i>	-	-
<i>Investment income</i>	(1,809)	(2,810)
<i>Decrease/(increase) in debtors</i>	3,820	(5,589)
<i>(Decrease)/increase in creditors</i>	(26,425)	(36,336)
Net cash generated from operating activities	<u>148,823</u>	<u>(26,078)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
<i>Income from investments</i>	1,809	2,810
Net cash from investing activities	<u>1,809</u>	<u>2,810</u>
<i>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</i>	150,632	(23,268)
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>	502,466	525,734
Cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>653,098</u>	<u>502,466</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year comprise:		
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	<u>653,098</u>	<u>502,466</u>
Net debt reconciliation:		
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</i>	502,466	525,734
<i>Net cash outflow in the year</i>	150,632	(23,268)
<i>Cash and cash equivalents at the year end</i>	<u>653,098</u>	<u>502,466</u>

Notes to the Financial Statement

For the year ended 31 March 2021

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The Financial Statements 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 October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Action for Stammering Children meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes. The functional and presentational currency used in the financial statement is Pounds Sterling.

1.2 Company status

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and is incorporated and domiciled in England. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 45. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity. The Charity's registered office is The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, 13-15 Pine Street, London, EC1R 0JG.

1.3. Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

1.4. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Trustees make estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There are not deemed to be any estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.5. Going concern

Following the year end the Charity has been affected by restrictions imposed by the UK Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the following ways, but not limited to:

1 - Social distancing measures and restrictions on groups meeting will have a significant impact on funds previously raised through Charity evenings and sponsored events.

2 - An expected funding gap between funding which is considered to be reasonably certain and anticipated costs.

The funding gap will be managed by continued applications to Trusts and Foundations who might be interested in supporting Action for Stammering Children in the future.

The Trustees consider that the resources available to the Charity will be sufficient for it to be able to continue as a going concern during the restrictions and once the restrictions are lifted. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would be required if the Charity were not able to continue as a going concern.

1.6. Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Grant income is recognised when there is a firm commitment and certainty that the funds will be received.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation. Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.7. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been included under expense categories that aggregate all costs for allocation to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular activities they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8. Tangible fixed assets and appreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Computer and other equipment – 3 years on a straight line basis

Freehold Property – over 50 years to an estimated residual value of £592,000

1.9. Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction. Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

1.11 Creditors

Creditors are recognised as soon as there is legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

1.12 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value. Fixed assets are recorded at depreciated historical cost.

1.13 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash 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.

1.14 Pension costs

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity. The annual contributions payable are charged to the statement of financial activities.

1.15 Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2. Donations and Legacies

	Restricted Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Grants and donations	394,435	193,849	588,284	612,663
Legacies	-	10,000	10,000	3,000
Total donations and legacies	394,435	203,849	598,284	615,663

Income from donations in 2020 included £270,553 of unrestricted income and £345,110 of restricted fund income.

3. Trading Activities

	Restricted Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Charity trading income				
Books and DVD sales	-	2,011	2,011	469
Net income from trading activities	-	2,011	2,011	469

Income from charitable activities in 2020 was all unrestricted.

4. Investment Income

	Restricted Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest received	-	1,809	1,809	2,810

Income from investment income in 2020 was all unrestricted.

5. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Restricted Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Events and fundraising	-	3,743	3,743	38,157
Staff costs incurred seeking grants and donations	1,865	46,011	47,876	58,284
	1,865	49,754	51,619	96,441

The expenditure on raising funds in 2020 was all unrestricted.

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Summary by Fund Type - Current Year			
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	343,796	-	343,796
Stambition Mentoring Project	7,590	-	7,590
Stamback in Time project	3,873	-	3,873
Residential programme	9,988	-	9,988
Research programme	12,000	-	12,000
	377,247	-	377,247

	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Summary by Fund Type - Prior Year			
Michael Palin Centre (MPC) - London	258,781	195,962	454,743
Stamback in Time project	2,354	-	2,354
Residential programme	31,609	-	31,609
Research programme	11,333	3,805	15,138
	304,077	199,767	503,844

7. Expenditure by Charitable Activity

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Direct costs:		
Assessments	200,000	228,000
Clinical work	30,000	73,500
Residential programme	9,988	31,609
Returners	9,000	10,000
Research programme	17,000	31,333
Advisory services	16,000	30,000
Education and training	17,590	26,280
Other commissioning costs	3,249	150
Innovation Awards	336	300
Stamback in Time project	3,873	2,354
Costs relating to charitable projects	41,740	40,207
	348,776	473,733
Support costs (note 8)	28,471	30,111
Total	377,247	503,844

8. Support Costs

	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£
Staff costs	14,221	16,885
Staff expenses	1,037	1,240
Professional fees	-	957
Website costs	678	1,001
Youth Panel	149	224
Equipment and repairs	-	4,043
YouGov research	-	1,440
Miscellaneous	7,578	77
Governance costs	3,744	4,244
IT costs	1,064	-
	28,471	30,111
	28,471	30,111

9. Net (Expenditure)/Income for the Year

	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Independent Examiner's Fee	3,744	2,856

Trustees did not receive remuneration or benefits in kind.
Trustees expenses reimbursement in the year totalled (2020: £NIL.)

10. Staff Costs

	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	95,910	105,223
Social security costs	5,625	7,934
Pension Costs	2,301	2,219
Total Staff Costs	103,836	115,376
	103,836	115,376

Average monthly number of employees during the year

	Total 2021	Total 2020
	No.	No.
Average number of staff	3	3
	3	3

No employee received emoluments amounting to more than £60,000 (2020: 1).
£60,000 - £70,000 - NIL

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the Trustees and management teams as listed on page 45. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension and national insurance contributions) received by the key management personnel for their services to the Charity was £47,524 (2020: £69,066).

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold property £	Office equipment £	Total 2021 £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	592,000	61,720	653,720
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	592,000	61,720	653,720
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	-	61,720	61,720
Charged	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	-	61,720	61,720
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	592,000	-	592,000
At 31 March 2020	592,000	-	592,000

12. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors	3,229	6,549
Donations receivable	-	500
	3,229	7,049

13. Creditors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	661	-
Accruals and deferred income	71,719	100,457
Social Security	2,587	1,403
Other creditors	468	-
	75,435	101,860
Deferred income at 1 April 2020	-	-
Resources deferred during the year	54,494	-
	54,494	-

Deferred income relates to grant funding received in advance of the 2021/22 financial year

14. Pension Commitments

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The total contributions for the year amounted to £ 2,301 (2020: £2,219). No amounts were payable to the fund at the year end (2020: £Nil)

15. Statement of Funds

	1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Michael Palin Centre	-	-	-	124,000	124,000
Net Book Value Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-
	592,000	-	-	124,000	716,000
General funds					
General funds	332,905	207,668	(49,754)	(124,000)	366,819
	924,905	207,668	(49,754)	-	1,082,819
Restricted funds					
Assessments	2,015	-	(800)	-	1,215
Stuttering Foundation	-	141,382	(141,382)	-	-
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	-	51,939	(51,939)	-	-
City Bridge Trust	-	32,004	(32,004)	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	8,509	(8,509)	-	-
Harrison Frank Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
John Lyons Foundation	30,000	-	(30,000)	-	-
John Lyons Foundation - emergency	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-
Peter Sowerby Foundation	3,096	-	(3,096)	-	-
Children in Need 19/20	2,581	-	(2,581)	-	-
Children in Need 20/21	-	11,300	(11,300)	-	-
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	-	16,666	(16,666)	-	-
The Weinstock Fund	2,373	-	-	-	2,373
Trusts and Foundations Restricted less than £5,000	500	10,200	(7,900)	-	2,800
PIMCO	-	69,500	-	-	69,500
Mentoring project	-	12,500	(7,500)	-	5,000
Bain Capital	34,185	-	(25,000)	-	9,185
Furlough income	-	5,435	(5,435)	-	-
	74,750	394,435	(379,112)	-	90,073
Total funds	999,655	602,103	(428,866)	-	1,172,892

Summary of Funds

	1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds	592,000	-	-	124,000	716,000
General funds	332,905	207,668	(49,754)	(124,000)	366,819
	924,905	207,668	(49,754)	-	1,082,819
Restricted funds	74,750	394,435	(379,112)	-	90,073
	999,655	602,103	(428,866)	-	1,172,892

Prior Year - Statement of Funds

	1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 March 2020 £
Designated funds					
Freehold Pine Street	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Training room extension	242,000	-	-	-	242,000
Net Book Value Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-
	592,000	-	-	-	592,000
General funds					
General funds - all funds	342,282	273,832	(296,208)	13,000	332,906
	934,282	273,832	(296,208)	13,000	924,906
Restricted funds					
Assessments	1,015	7,243	(6,243)	-	2,015
Stuttering Foundation	-	192,404	(192,404)	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	2,702	1,641	(4,343)	-	-
John Lyons Foundation	30,000	30,000	(30,000)	-	30,000
Peter Sowerby Foundation	13,000	24,796	(21,700)	(13,000)	3,096
Children In Need	-	22,601	(20,020)	-	2,581
Woodroffe Benton Foundation	-	16,667	(16,667)	-	-
The Weinstock Fund	-	2,500	(127)	-	2,373
G C Gibson Charitable Trust	-	2,573	(2,573)	-	-
Other	-	500	-	-	500
Bain Capital	-	34,185	-	-	34,185
Bidder McKinley	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
	46,717	345,110	(304,077)	(13,000)	74,750
Total funds	980,999	618,942	(600,285)	-	999,656

Prior Year - Summary of Funds

	1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	31 March 2020 £
Designated funds	592,000	-	-	-	592,000
General funds	342,282	273,832	(296,208)	13,000	332,906
	934,282	273,832	(296,208)	13,000	924,906
Restricted funds	46,717	345,110	(304,077)	(13,000)	74,750
	980,999	618,942	(600,285)	-	999,656

Purpose of Restricted Funds

Assessments	These funds were used for specialist consultations at the Michael Palin Centre.
Stuttering Foundation	These funds were used for specialist clinical, research and training activities at the Michael Palin Centre.
Children in Need	These funds were used for a Talking Out outward-bound residential in 2019/20 and for an online course in 2020/21.
Peter Sowerby Foundation	These funds were used for a Talking Out outward-bound residential in the year. The transfer of funds in 2019/20 reflects an adjustment to the balance carried forward incorrectly from a previous grant which had been utilised in the previous year.
John Lyon's Charity	These funds have been used to help children and young people in key London Boroughs to lead changes within their schools community to develop frameworks for improved provision and support for children who stammer.
Heritage Lottery Fund	These funds are being used for a project called Stamback in Time working with the Youth Panel looking at famous people who stammered.
The Woodroffe Benton Foundation	These funds were used to support the final year of a three-year PhD programme investigating the relationship between stammering and anxiety and depression in children in partnership with University College London.
The Weinstock Fund	These funds are being used for the development of a Northern Youth Panel.
Bain Capital	These funds are to support the helpline, residential and intensive courses for children who stammer.
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	These funds were used for core costs and overheads of the Charity.
City Bridge Trust	These funds were used for specialist consultations at the Michael Palin Centre.
John Lyon's Charity - emergency	These funds were used for specialist clinical, research and training activities at the Michael Palin Centre.
The Harrison-Frank Foundation (UK) Ltd.	These funds were used for specialist clinical, research and training activities at the Michael Palin Centre.
PIMCO	These funds are being used to develop a new project to deliver a community based speech and language therapist in an area of need.
Stambition Mentoring Project	These funds are being used to train and supervise a group of volunteer mentors to support young people who stammer and are at the start of their careers.

Purpose of Designated funds

Freehold Pine Street Fund

The Trustees have designated funds to the value of the freehold.

Training Room Extension

The Trustees have designated funds received from a legacy to fund the training room extension.

Michael Palin Centre

The Trustees have designated funds to provide for ongoing funding, in the coming financial year, of specialist assessments, consultation, research, training and a national helpline at the Michael Palin Centre.

16. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Restricted Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets	144,567	511,760	656,327
Creditors due within one year	(54,494)	(20,941)	(75,435)
	<u>90,073</u>	<u>1,082,819</u>	<u>1,172,892</u>

Prior Year - Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Restricted Funds 2020	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	592,000	592,000
Current assets	74,750	434,765	509,515
Creditors due within one year	-	(101,860)	(101,860)
	<u>74,750</u>	<u>924,905</u>	<u>999,655</u>

17. Financial Commitments

	2021	2020
	£	£
NHS Whittington Health	-	180,000

The Charity commissions an expert speech and language service for children and young people from NHS Whittington Health. Whilst there is no commitment as at 31 March 2021 there is an agreement to pay £300,000 for the year ended 31 March 2022 should finances allow.

18. Related Parties

There were no related party transactions that require disclosure.

Reference and Administrative Details of The Charity, its Trustees and Advisers

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Trustees	<p>Joanna Hunter (Chair - retired 1 April 2021)</p> <p>Jane Roberts (joined January 2021 and appointed Chair April 2021)</p> <p>David Broom (Honorary Treasurer - appointed Vice Chair May 2020)</p> <p>Will Evans (Company Secretary - retired January 2021)</p> <p>Jessica Robinson – (Company Secretary from April 2021 - stepped down September 2021)</p> <p>Samira Ahmed</p> <p>Balshen Izzet</p> <p>Vicky Slonims</p> <p>Anne Whateley</p> <p>Richard Murray (joined April 2020)</p> <p>Arthur Hughes Hallett (retired December 2020)</p> <p>Oliver Rawlins (retired May 2020)</p> <p>Anya Paul (joined September 2021)</p>
Company Registered Number	2328627
Charity Registered Number	801171
Company Status	A company limited by guarantee
Day-to-Day Management	The trustees delegated day-to-day management to the Charity's Chief Executive Steven Gauge
Registered Office	<p>Action for Stammering Children</p> <p>Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children</p> <p>13-15 Pine Street</p> <p>London</p> <p>EC1R 0JG</p>
Independent Examiners	<p>Price Bailey LLP</p> <p>Chartered Accountants</p> <p>Causeway House</p> <p>1 Dane Street</p> <p>Bishop's Stortford</p> <p>Hertfordshire</p> <p>CM23 3BT</p>
Bankers	<p>Lloyds</p> <p>Pall Mall St James's</p> <p>London</p> <p>SW1Y 4BE</p>



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Despite the lockdown, our Trustees, Youth Panel and colleagues at the Michael Palin Centre completed a 2.6 challenge to raise vital funds for the Charity.



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Charity Number: 801171

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