Autism NI (PAPA)

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100240

Details

Known as	Autism NI
Status	Received
Registered	2014-10-30
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Unit 3 Forestgrove Business Park Newtownbreda Road Belfast Bt8 6aw BT8 6AW
Phone	442890401729
Email	info@autismni.org
Website	www.autismni.org

Activities

Purposes: The objects of the charity shall be the advancement of education, health and wellbeing, equality of opportunity and the relief of disadvantage of people living with an autism spectrum disability and related disabilities throughout their whole life journey.

What the charity does: The advancement of education,The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information,Community development,Disability,Education/training,Research/evaluation

Who the charity helps: Adult training,Carers,Learning disabilities,Mental health,Parents,Sensory disabilities

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,231,273	£1,308,925	£-56,440	28

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Clare Bailey		
Dr Gloria Duignan		
Dr Karen Jack		
Mr Alan Young		
Mr David Heatley		
Mr Jeffrey Hobson		
Mr Steven Goldblatt		

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Autism NI (PAPA)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100240

Accounts

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

(A Company Limited By Guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Registered Charity XR22944

Company Number NI 058548

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number	XR22944
Company Registration Number	NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address
Unit 3
Forestgrove Business Park
Newtownbreda Road
Belfast
BT8 6AW

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE
Patron	Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt	Vice-Chairperson
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan	Honorary Treasurer
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors - O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.

Principal Bankers - Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

Solicitors - Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.
The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated in March 2006. Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100239 and Registered with HMRC XR22944.

Public Benefits
The advancement of education and the relief of children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the province of Ulster and in particular for the following;
(i) The promotion of greater knowledge of Autism amongst the public and those concerned in the educational facilities.
These benefits are evidenced by the public bodies and private organisations who have requested Autism training and also evidenced through the evaluations completed by all participants on our training courses and through feedback from our Parent Support Groups.
(ii) The promotion of the provision of appropriate recreational, residential and educational facilities.
Through lobbying has drawn attention to service need and for service development. The charity supports individual families through Autism NI's Family Support Service, Training Department, Helpline Service and Support Group Network.
The benefit of our Advocacy role within the Autism Community can be seen through the number of new members within our regional Support network and the increase in support given through our Helpline and Training Services.
(iii) The provision of help, guidance and information to families with Autistic members and the promotion of a network of support among such families.
These benefits are evidenced through feedback from parents and support groups and through regular evaluation of our services.
(iv) The establishment of an information resource and the promotion of research into Autism generally and the publication of the useful results thereof.
These benefits are evidenced through a number of projects and services which have been designed to specifically address the need evidenced within our Autism research
A summary of the charity's activities is listed below.
Our purposes do not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of our purposes are people living in Northern Ireland who have Autism. The beneficiaries of this purpose also include family members and carers of those with Autism. There is no private benefit.
The trustees are aware of the charity commission's guidance on public benefit.

Mission Statement
We support autistic people and their families, and campaign for autism acceptance within society.

Vision
Our vision is an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

Strategic Plan
The Main Objectives for the charity detailed within the Strategic Plan include the following together with it's main activities;

A summary of the main achievements of the charity including the difference the charity's work has made to its beneficiaries and the community.

Family Support:
Increased volunteering in the Autism NI Support network within a community development framework, development of a regional Family Support Service.

Training:
Achievement of accreditation to a quality standard, acquisition of new customers, development of new courses.

Advocacy:
Development of Autism NI's role as an agent of social change for Autism in Northern Ireland.

Marketing /Fundraising:
Increased awareness of Autism and Autism NI brand, development of new funding opportunities, utilization of new communication methods, development of corporate relationships.

Governance:
Development of good governance improvement measures, build capacity.

Partnerships
Working in Partnership is a key aspect of Autism NI. The very origin of the charity came from formation of a partnership between Parents and Professionals & Autism (PAPA)
Autism NI have built up many partnerships over the years:
AMH, All Party Assembly Group on Autism, Barnardo's, Children's Law Centre, Disability Action, Early Years, Equality Commission, Irish Autism, Action, Mencap, NICCY, NICVA, NOW, Orchardville Society, SPEAC and University of Ulster, CO3.

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Annual Report 2024-2025

Building an inclusive society

Autism NI held their seventh Glow Walk with local families at Stormont in November 2024

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Our Year in Numbers

1,411 members

satisfaction on our training courses

3,806 total sessions delivered by our Projects and Early Intervention Services

Over 7,000 Helpline calls

381 Autism Cards Issued

199 Support Group meetings

Family support groups across NI

Chairperson's Report

David Heatley

Chairperson

The year 2024/25 has marked a period of renewed growth, innovation, and continued commitment for Autism NI. Our focus has been on expanding our reach, strengthening our services, and ensuring our autism community across Northern Ireland continues to feel seen, supported, and empowered.

This year, our Helpline continued to be a vital resource, responding to over 7,000 calls from individuals, families, and professionals seeking support.

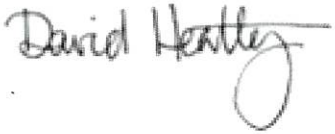
We've made significant strides in delivering hybrid support—combining digital access with in-person opportunities. From workshops to community events, we were proud to offer different ways for autistic people and their families to engage and get support.

A standout highlight was our Glow Walk at Stormont, where hundreds of families came together to connect, celebrate, and shine a light for our autism community in a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere.

Digital access to support materials also continues to grow, with users visiting our website to access free resources on education, anxiety management, mental health, and daily structure, demonstrating the continued demand for timely and accessible information.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our Board of Trustees, who continue to provide strong leadership and governance, and to our dedicated staff, volunteers, fundraisers, partners, and supporters. Your passion and perseverance fuel our mission.

Together, we are continuing to build an inclusive and equal society for autistic people and their families across Northern Ireland. Let's keep going, there is more to achieve, and we will achieve it together.



Chief Executive's Remarks

Kerry Boyd

CEO

As we reflect on another impactful year for Autism NI, I am immensely proud of the progress we have made in championing the rights of autistic people and their families. One of the most powerful moments of the year was our petition calling for a dedicated Autism Mental Health Service in Northern Ireland.

With over 25,000 signatures gathered, a clear message was sent to our government that urgent action is needed to address the mental health crisis facing autistic people. So far, this specific campaign has ensured that all CAMHs professionals will now be offered autism specific training. Although we know that there is still much to be done within this area, this level of public support demonstrates the strength of our collective voice, and we will continue to use it to advocate for real change.

Throughout the year, we deepened our advocacy efforts to ensure that the voices of autistic people are not just heard but acted upon. We have taken meaningful steps to shape a society that is more inclusive, understanding, and accessible. Autism NI has continued to provide early intervention services, parent support programmes, and professional training— equipping thousands of families and professionals with the tools they need to thrive.

Our growing partnership with the education and health sectors enables a more coordinated approach to autism support from childhood into adulthood. Despite financial pressures across the third sector, Autism NI has remained committed to sustainable growth and transparency. Thanks to the continued generosity of our funders, donors, and community partners, we have been able to maintain and enhance services at a time when they are needed most.

To everyone who has supported Autism NI this year whether through volunteering, fundraising or partnership, I offer my heartfelt thanks. It is your commitment that helps us build a society where every autistic person is valued and supported.

As we look ahead to 2025–2026, our focus remains clear - to work collaboratively toward a world where autistic people are empowered to live full, meaningful lives.

Family Support

Our Family Support provision is one of Autism NI's longest standing and most valued services. Operating across communities throughout Northern Ireland, it delivers tailored support designed to meet the unique needs of autistic people and their families.

We are proud of our neurodiverse Family Support team, whose expertise and lived experience underpin the strength of this provision. By actively listening to the autistic community, we provide a wide range of services that aim to strengthen support networks, build confidence, promote well-being, and foster a deep sense of belonging for autistic children, adults, and their families.

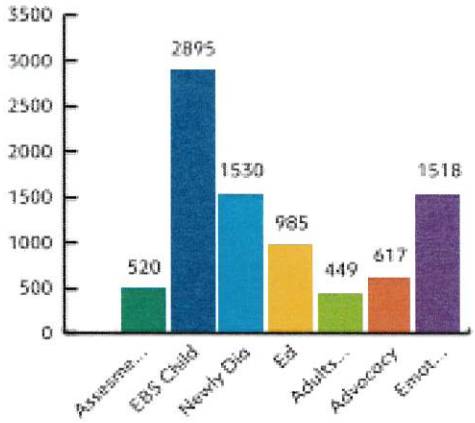
Inclusive participation is central to our approach and forms the foundation of all our work. We remain committed to building and sustaining strong partnerships with community, voluntary, and statutory organisations to ensure that every family has access to comprehensive and coordinated support.

Over the past year, we have seen a significant rise in referrals for early support across all areas of our work. As our neurodiverse team continues to grow, so too does our capacity to provide meaningful, early intervention that truly makes a difference.

Helpline

For many autistic people, their families, and professionals, our Helpline serves as the first point of contact, both pre and post diagnosis. It provides vital information, guidance, and reassurance during what can be a complex and emotional journey.

Concerns Prompting requests for support



We regularly receive meaningful feedback about our Helpline, highlighting the profound impact it has on autistic people and their families. These reflections reaffirm the vital role our support plays in their lives and underscore the real lasting difference our services make during times of uncertainty and need.

"Wow! I've never felt so seen as a parent and a carer. We are so used to having to fight for help and recognition for our three autistic children and this has floored me. In a positive yet bittersweet way. Thank you, Autism NI for having our backs. Just thank you." (Parent, Helpline service)

Support Groups

Our Support Group Coordinator is instrumental in bringing together and supporting a vibrant network of volunteers across Northern Ireland. Our volunteers are the backbone of Autism NI's community support, providing vital assistance and fostering meaningful connections at a local level.

Each volunteer brings unique strengths and invaluable contributions to our work, supporting

Autism NI Support Group Coordinator with volunteers

a wide range of initiatives and playing an essential role within the organisation. Their expertise, peer support, diverse skills, and lived experience complement the efforts of our Family Support Team, helping us deliver vital services to the autism community.

As demand for community-based interaction and inclusion has grown across all support groups, our volunteers have responded with dedication and compassion. Over the past year, they facilitated 199 support group meetings across Northern Ireland, additionally they facilitated a range of family fun days and activities such as Coder Dojo. Common themes raised by attendees included concerns around mental health, education,

assessment, parent/carer physical health, anxiety, and financial entitlements. The peer expertise and practical knowledge shared in these sessions not only provide critical support to families but also inform Autism NI's advocacy and policy work. These gatherings have become safe, empowering spaces where individuals feel heard, supported, and connected—fostering resilience and a stronger sense of community. This has also led to active partnerships with a range of providers who delivered workshops on financial planning, self-esteem, and caring for ourselves.

The success of this model continues to grow, as evidenced by attendance throughout the year.

"The W5 event was great and had a lovely atmosphere. It was lovely to connect with other families and staff. Thanks for the opportunity for our family to have an activity that meets our older son and youngest child's need. It's not often we can all do something that suits us all as a family." (Parent from Lisburn Support Group)

Autistic Adult Support

Autism NI provides a tailored unique service for autistic adults. Our **Autistic Adults Support Officer (AASO)** provides advice, empathetic support, and a listening ear. Participation is entirely voluntary, with each person offered three one-on-one sessions aimed at improving outcomes in key areas such as training, employment, relationships, and social engagement.

Steven has received support from our Autistic Adult Support Officer

94% of respondents rated the one-one-one support they received as "excellent or good".

"The AASO was outstanding and was extremely helpful, knowledgeable and understanding. She utilised clear communication both verbal, written, visual and audio – this was an excellent standard to be benchmarked. The AASO alongside all colleagues at Autism NI are exceptional human beings doing fantastic work, making positive differences and contributions to people's lives who are living with neurodiverse needs." (Autistic Adult)

We also offer three distinct **Peer Support** services including an online network for autistic adults aged 18 and over, a dedicated group for those aged 30 and above, and an Autistic LGBTQIA+ network. Each platform provides a warm, inclusive, and relaxed space for social interaction and connections.

All sessions include a text-based chat function to ensure accessibility for all communication preferences. To date, we have welcomed a growing number of autistic attendees, with some groups even initiating in-person meetups to strengthen community ties.

We continue to provide our **Autistic Adult Support Courses** to offer a supportive space that fosters peer learning around autistic strengths, challenges, and the broader concept of neurodiversity. Our courses empower autistic adults to deepen their self-awareness and gain practical strategies for enhancing their daily lives.

Members

Autism NI members play a vital role in strengthening support for autistic people and their families across Northern Ireland. Each member commits to upholding the Charity's legal framework while embracing its Mission, Vision, Ethos, and Code of Conduct.

Membership offers a wide range of benefits, many of which extend to the whole family. These include access to family activity days, parent support courses, and meaningful avenues for personal involvement, enabling members to help shape the Charity's ongoing impact within the autism community.

Family Fun Day at W5 in April 2024

Early Intervention Home Support

Autism NI remains committed to fostering strong partnerships, continually developing our collaboration with the Autism Teams across the Belfast, Northern, South Eastern, and Western Trusts. These trusted relationships have been key in facilitating direct referrals to Autism NI Resource and Support Officers, who deliver tailored support to families within their local communities.

With a well-established track record in evidencing outcomes, Autism NI is adept at identifying, measuring, and reporting on the impact of our services—ensuring accountability and continual improvement.

Participation in our services highlights their essential role in empowering autistic people and their families. These opportunities enable people to share feedback, have their voices heard, and actively shape both existing services and future developments.

We remain firmly committed to this collaborative approach, working in partnership to support, evolve, and implement meaningful change. Our early home support services are rooted in a strengths-based model, offering personalised strategies tailored to each autistic child. These supports include the use of visual structures, the development of positive routines, the promotion of independence in daily living skills, and guidance on meaningful, engaging play activities.

"The Autism Support Officer was very understanding and knowledgeable with realistic expectations. She assured my concerns, gave useful strategies and recommendations. Good signposting, thank you!" (Parent)

In the 2024/25 period, 99% of families rated the early support services provided by our Autism Resource and Support Officers as "Excellent" or "Good". 92% seen an improvement in their child's emotional well-being, after receiving early support from our Early Intervention Officers.

Mental Health and Autism Project (MAP)

The Mental Health and Autism Project is a key element of our strengths-based approach, providing tailored one-to-one support for autistic young people aged 11 to 18 within the Belfast Trust. Referrals are made through the Child and Adolescent Autism Service, ensuring timely and appropriate access to support.

Our MAP participants attended the monthly friendship café meet up in December 2024

This holistic model addresses individual needs across home, school, and community settings through a series of 8 to 12 sessions. Working in close partnership, we prioritise the areas identified by each autistic young person—focusing on building confidence, self-esteem, and emotional well-being. By encouraging active involvement in shaping their own support, the project promotes genuine participation and empowers young people to take ownership of their personal development journey.

An impressive 100% of autistic participants and additionally 100% of parents/carers rated the service as 'excellent or good'.

"I am so grateful for the help Autism NI have provided me with, other autistic boys and girls should definitely do this." (MAP participant)

Girls and Autism Project (GAP)

The Girls and Autism Project operates on a strengths-based model designed to empower autistic girls aged 11 to 18 within their home, school, and community environments. The project is dedicated to promoting achievement, enjoyment, and inclusion within a defined geographical area of the Northern Trust.

In the 2024/25 year, our GAP Life Skills Officer delivered 395 sessions, including individual and family-focused sessions, ensuring tailored

GAP participants enjoy the live Aladdin show in December 2024

GAP participants making candles together in April 2024

and meaningful support for every participant. Additionally, they facilitated small group opportunities and Friendship Cafes.

An outstanding 93% of autistic participants reported positive changes in three or more key outcome areas. Furthermore, 100% of participants rated the service as either excellent or very good.

At Autism NI, we believe every voice matters, and our autistic participants remain at the heart of everything we do.

"I have been able to make friends through GAP, and I hope to continue building on these relationships. I enjoyed every session with my amazing worker, and I hope many more girls can benefit like I have." (Autistic participant)

Supporting and Promoting Autistic Children's Emotions (SPACE)

Autism NI secured funding to deliver three support sessions for newly diagnosed children aged 8-13, whose families had previously received assistance from the Autism Support Officer in the Fermanagh area. Two pilot models were implemented, providing tailored support to 21 children in their home or school environments.

Feedback received included:

"It was good to talk about my feelings." (SPACE participant)

"I've learned a lot about my emotions, good techniques for breathing and staying calm." (SPACE participant)

Autism Card

During the 2024/25 year, we received 318 new registrations for our Autism Card. Feedback from autistic cardholders consistently highlights the card's practical value across many areas of daily life—offering increased understanding, smoother interactions, and greater confidence in public and social settings.

Training

Our Training Department provides high quality, accredited training and support to a wide variety of parents, carers, professionals, schools and organisations. Our training is evidence based, practical, and is delivered to the highest standard of accuracy to ensure it is effective in supporting autistic people at home, in the community, in school or in a workplace.

Autism NI's training courses are delivered online and in person across NI, Ireland, UK and Internationally. Our dynamic courses include interactive activities and group discussion, to enable groups to explore concepts in an engaging and practical way. In 2024/25, our training team delivered 224 training courses to 3,592 participants.

"The course had great explanations, put into context. I would highly recommend this course to all professionals." (Professional PDA course feedback)

Training for Parents and Carers

During 2024/25, we provided 1,840 funded places on our parent/carer support courses, empowering them to support their family, pre or post diagnosis. This included Autism NI funding, alongside funding from CLEAR project (supported by PHA), Ann Rylands Fund and MDT funding.

A total of 53 courses were delivered on a range of topics related to autism, including school related anxiety, sleep, supporting autistic teens and autistic females. We also expanded and developed our course content further with our new 'Understanding PDA' support course, as a response to the needs of our community.

"The strategy explanations were fantastic. I loved the practicality in the content and I took away ideas that I can actually apply in real life." (Parent who attended our Anxiety Support Course)

Support Courses for Autistic Adults

In 2024/25, we delivered a pilot programme of seven training sessions to autistic adults, on the topic of 'Autism, Anxiety and Self Care'. This course was developed based on the needs identified across our adult population and explored the common experiences and triggers of anxiety for many autistic people. The course also discussed a range of strategies to help increase emotional understanding, emotional regulation and coping strategies, supporting individuals to effectively manage anxiety and engage in positive self-care.

The feedback from these small groups were very positive and we will use this learning to further develop resources and courses for autistic adults.

"I found this training to be very validating. Felt understood, included and respected." (Autistic Adult)

Training in Adult Centres and Wider Learning Disability Services

We also held training and consultancy in adult centres and wider learning disability services in the Northern Trust area. Altogether 274 staff attended these training sessions.

Skills for Staying Safe Youth Programme

This year, our Training Department has also delivered two Skills for Saying Safe youth programmes for young people involved in our MAP and Early Intervention Projects. This group facilitation created opportunities for adolescents to come together and explore relevant topics, while building confidence and positive group experiences. Topics covered in these sessions include relationships, emotional regulation, self-care and building positive autistic identity.

"Thank you for inviting me to the group. I had so much fun and enjoyed meeting the other kids." (Autistic young person)

Training for Professionals and Organisations

Our open training programmes are available to all practitioners and professionals who want to build their understanding of autism and their confidence to provide a neuroinclusive service. We delivered an increasing range of topics for professionals, including Keyhole Early Intervention Programme, supporting autistic colleagues and employees, understanding the needs of autistic patients, and understanding PDA. This open training provides the opportunity for individuals to build their skills in the topics and areas that are most relevant to their role.

Our Keyhole training includes extensive practical resources for early years professionals.

Our commissioned training service facilitated a wide range of bespoke courses for organisations, community groups and staff teams. Our courses are tailored to each organisation based on their needs, and facilitated online or in person across NI. We work with organisations to provide knowledge on autism, introduce practical skills on how to support autistic people in the workplace and within their service, to build an inclusive environment. This year, training was delivered to various organisations, including Extern, Victim Support, National Trust, HMP Magilligan and Allstate.

Impact Award

Every organisation in Northern Ireland has a legal obligation to provide equity of access to services for autistic people. Furthermore, it makes great business sense to be accessible for our neurodivergent population. Our Autism Impact Award is a training and support programme to help organisations understand the practical steps they can take to build a neuroinclusive approach across their organisation, for employees, clients, service users and customers. The programme includes accredited training, follow up support to implement an individualised action plan and continued support for organisations who achieve the Impact Award Champion status.

NI Assembly achieves Impact Award

In 2024/25, we had a further 28 organisations sign up to the Impact Award programme, bringing the overall number of organisations to 160. This includes private business, entertainment, leisure, arts and culture, retail, sports, youth, and health services - all playing their part in building a more inclusive society.

Spotlight: Danske Bank

Danske Bank became the first bank in Northern Ireland to achieve the Autism NI Impact Award, after undertaking staff training and a thorough analysis and action planning session with Autism NI to improve its neuro-inclusion strategy and autism friendly practices.

"Through achieving the Impact Award our team has grown in confidence and knows how to better support neurodivergent people." (Kerry Phillips, Diversity and Inclusion Partner at Danske Bank)

Demonstrating the ongoing partnership approach of the Impact Award, Danske Bank have also rolled out further bespoke training across staff teams, to help continually build a culture of inclusion, support and engagement across the whole workforce.

Danske Bank is the first bank in NI to achieve the Impact Award

Impact Award in Education

In 2024/25, we continued to deliver our Impact Award for Education Programme in schools, focusing on promoting a best practice approach to autism inclusion within education settings. Our Impact Award for Education framework provides staff training and awards organisations who implemented a bespoke action plan of supports for autistic pupils. This year, 49 new schools have signed up to the programme, bringing the total number of schools to 222 since launch.

It is part of Autism NI's longstanding vision to ensure that we create an inclusive society where autistic children have the opportunity to thrive, and this all starts with ensuring that they have good educational outcomes. We want our children, parents and teachers to feel confident and happy within the school environment and therefore providing the right knowledge and resources to achieve this is vitally important.

"Course was delivered at the correct level by a very professional trainer. They were very clear, giving very helpful insights for staff to support their pupils." (Impact Award for Education Champion)

St Nicholas Primary School achieves Impact Award

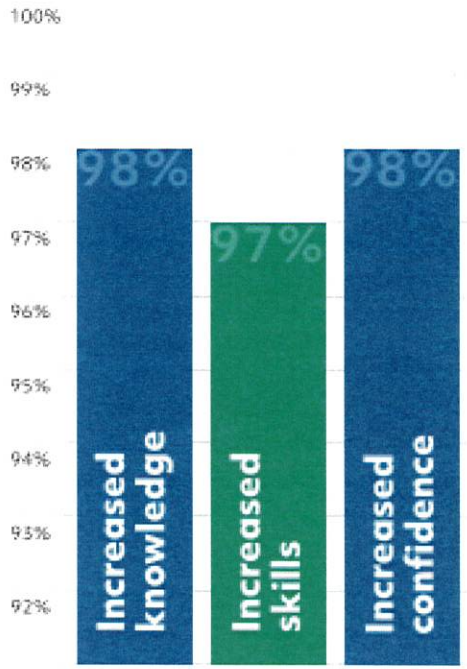
AQA Accreditations

We continue to provide AQA Unit Award Accreditations to our delegates, supporting them to demonstrate high-quality learning and professional development. In 2024/25, we saw a 60% increase in AQA accreditations achieved by our delegates; a total of 217 Unit Award Accreditations.

Our training is also CPD certified, demonstrating quality assurance and a structured approach to learning and development.

Evaluations

Evaluation scores for all our training courses remain consistently excellent, demonstrating the expertise of our trainers and practicality of our courses. Overall, our courses are rated with 96% approval for the course content, materials, and communication of the trainer. The course evaluations also demonstrate the positive impact of the training on delegates, with delegates scoring the courses as improving their knowledge (98%), skills (97%) and confidence (98%).



Improvements based on course attendance

Campaigning

As part of our ongoing work at governmental level, Autism NI provides the Secretariat for the All Party Group on Autism. This is a role that we have worked incredibly hard at for the past 17 years and there have been many milestone achieved during that time, including the introduction of autism specific legislation for Northern Ireland. Indeed, in September 2024 after years of lobbying and campaigning from Autism NI, Northern Ireland's first ever Autism Reviewer was appointed. The Autism Reviewer's role is independent and is focussed on measuring progress within the NI Autism Strategy. We look forward to seeing the Autism Reviewer's first Progress Report in Autumn 2025.

Another area we have lobbied heavily for in 2024/25 is the introduction of a Specialist Autism Mental Health Service. This campaign has been as a direct result of feedback we have received from autistic people and their families. They have told us that the current mental health services are not fit for purpose for autistic people. Ultimately, we want to see autistic children and adults supported by professionals that understand autism and can make reasonable adjustments to ensure that any interventions that are offered are suitable and effective. Therefore, to address this need, the Charity launched a public petition calling for urgent action to create a regional autism mental health service, which over 25,000 people signed. Thanks to this huge public support, the issue was successfully brought to debate at Stormont in January 2025, marking a critical step forward in our campaign. Within this debate the Minister for Health stated that all CAMHS professionals in Northern Ireland will be trained in autism. This achievement reflects the strength of our community as well as the growing recognition of the need for tailored mental health support for autistic people. However, we also know that there is still more work to be done within this area, and we will continue to monitor progress going forward.

Autism NI CEO Kerry Boyd, Autistica CEO Dr James Cusack, Mental Health Champion NI Siobhan O'Neill, former APGA Pam Cameron MLA and autistic adult Kathy Barenskie, attend Autism NI's Autism and Mental Health event at Stormont

APGA Chairperson Cathal Boylan MLA, Autism NI CEO Kerry Boyd, First Minister Michelle O'Neill and parent Christine Kelly support Autism NI's campaign for a specialist mental health service for autistic people in NI

Autism Acceptance and Understanding

Be Kind To Different Minds

In celebration of World Autism Acceptance Week which ran from 1st-7th April 2024, autistic people, families, community groups, MLAs, local businesses, and schools supported our 'Be Kind To Different Minds' message online. Our campaign video also focused on several autistic young people explaining how we can build a kind society for our autistic community.

Ella shares her message on how we can 'Be Kind To Different Minds'

Sorcha from Autism NI enjoying the activities with our families

Family Fun Day

On Sunday 7th April 2024 the Charity welcomed hundreds of local autism families to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week at W5, Belfast. This event brought families together as they all enjoyed the activities the venue had to offer.

Online

Our website (www.autismni.org) is a vital online resource for autistic people, families and professionals and has a great range of information on services, research publications, fact sheets, visuals, social stories and resources. During 2024/25, our website has been an important online tool for many of our autism families, using the website to access information, services and resources.

Our Early Intervention team wear our 'Be Kind To Different Minds' wristbands, which can be purchased on

Fundraising Events

Get Colourful

During World Autism Acceptance Week in April 2024, we asked our supporters to celebrate the Spectrum with colour and host a virtual colourful challenge. Many supporters took on a colourful 5k walk/run, coffee morning, a bake sale or a quiz to raise vital funds for Autism NI's services.

Autism Stars Talent Show

In May 2024 and March 2025, we hosted two 'Autism Stars' Talent Shows at the Avenue Arts Centre in Belfast. Both nights had a range of acts including singing, comedy, music and acting. Both evenings really showcased the talents of our autistic community. The audience were blown away by the performances and the support they had was brilliant.

Glow Walk

Hundreds of families lit up the night and came together to attend our annual Glow Walk at Stormont in November 2024. Families got involved in fun and games from the U105 crew, and a dance warm up by Fitness Freddy before taking on a night walk at Stormont Estate. Participants were also entertained by 10 year old Logan who took to the stage to sing before the walk.

Big Christmas Cuppa

Families, businesses, community groups and schools got behind our 'Big Christmas Cuppa' campaign and held a festive Christmas coffee morning in aid of Autism NI in December 2024. This campaign was sponsored by Bailies Coffee Roasters who donated coffee equipment worth £2,000 to the top fundraiser.

Mourne Madness

In August 2024, 43 people took part in our iconic Mourne Madness trek weekend. The group conquered 5 peaks in total including the iconic Slieve Donard. Team Autism NI completed the challenge as a team and everyone took in the beautiful views of the coastline.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

The Progressive Building Society

Autism NI has been recently chosen by the Progressive Building Society as their Charity Partner. This new partnership will last over five years and it will include their staff team getting behind a number of fundraising activities and events. The team will also take on Autism Impact Award training which will help them support their autistic employees and customers.

Ground Espresso Bars

Over the last two years, Northern Ireland coffee chain Ground Espresso Bars and their customers raised £25,357.34 for Autism NI. We would like to thank the team at Ground who helped raise awareness by hosting in-store World Autism Acceptance Month promotions and for getting involved in various fundraising events throughout the partnership.

Ulster GAA

Ulster GAA has chosen to support Autism NI over a two year partnership. During the first year, the Charity attended and held an information stand at their 'Gaelic For All' day, which saw lots of engagement with local families. We also hosted an online autism training session with over 75 GAA coaches, and spoke at their annual awards in which we were the benefitting Charity.

Superhero Week

Over 50 schools across Northern Ireland got their masks and capes ready as they took part in Superhero Week, which was held from 3rd-7th February 2025. Throughout the week the pupils were given superhero tasks to complete whilst raising funds for Autism NI. The schools were also given opportunities to learn about autism acceptance in their school. The Charity welcomes the amazing support from the schools and our team look forward to continuing to provide this campaign with young people across Northern Ireland.

Partnerships

Autism NI continues to be a strong advocate of partnerships, and we recognise when another organisation's support and expertise is required. We are committed to further building on our engagement with a wide range of stakeholders within the statutory, community and voluntary sectors and continue to work with individuals and families to empower them.

Financial Performance

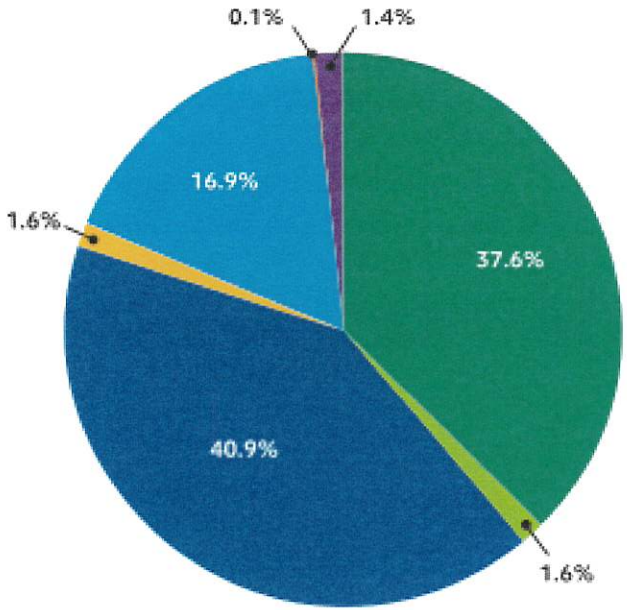
Autism NI is a trading name of Autism NI (PAPA) which is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number NI058548) and an Inland Revenue approved Charity (reference number XR22944).

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 100 240).

Registered Office:
Unit 3 Forestgrove Business Park,
Newtownbreda Road, Belfast,
BT8 6AW

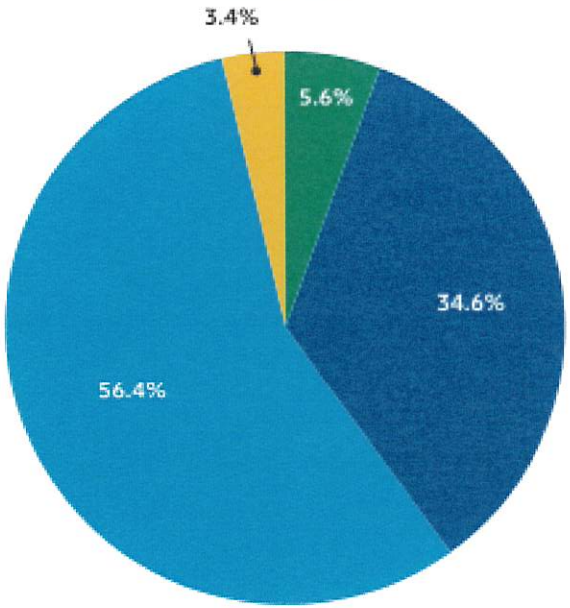
Auditors:
O'Hara Shearer
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

For more information about our services or to support our work, call us on 028 9040 1729 or visit www.autismni.org



Incoming Resources 2024/25

- Restricted Funding: Grants (37.6%)
- Unrestricted Funding: Grants (1.6%)
- Donations and Fundraising (40.9%)
- Membership (1.6%)
- Autism Training and Conferences (16.9%)
- Sale of Merchandise (0.1%)
- Investment Interest Received (1.4%)



Resources Expended 2024/25

- Expenditure on Raising Funds (5.6%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Restricted (34.6%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Unrestricted (56.4%)
- Governance Costs (3.4%)

Presidents

Professor Rita R. Jordan
BSc MSc MA PhD CPsychol
AFBPsS OBE

Dr Judith Gould
BSc MPhil AFBPsS CPsychol

Vice Presidents

Eileen Bell
BA (Hons) CBE

Professor David Sines
BSc (Hons) PhD PGCHE FHEA
FRSA FRCN CBE

Board Members

David Heatley Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt Vice-Chairperson
Dr Clare Bailey Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan Honorary Treasurer
Jeff Hobson
Dr Karen Jack
Alan Young

Patron

Adam Keefe

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Tel: **028 9040 1729**
Email: **info@autismni.org**
www.autismni.org

Autism NI is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number **NI058548**)
Registered Charity Number: **XR22964** NI Charity Commission Number: **NIC100240**

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

FR FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
TRUSTEES' REPORT

Membership
Membership of the Society shall be open to the following, irrespective of political party, nationality, religion or political opinion;
Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

Membership was 1,411 at March 2025. (1,643 March 2024)

Members are invaluable as their commitment is important in helping to provide and improve support for people with Autism and their families across Northern Ireland. Our members are invited to attend members' events, have access to funded Autism NI training courses and family support workshops and have access to priority queuing or carers discount into specific attraction across Northern Ireland.

Board of Trustees
Except as provided otherwise in the constitution the policy and general management of the charity shall be directed by the Board which shall meet not less than 4 times a year and shall consist of not less than 6 and not more than 13 members of the Society aged 18 years or over.
A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees
As set out in the Articles of Association, the Charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee, and determine the rotation in which any additional Trustees are to retire.
Currently, Trustees serve for three years after being elected at an AGM. They are eligible to stand again for re-election following the three year term. New Trustees can also be co-opted on to the Board.

Trustee Induction and Training
New Trustees are invited to an induction meeting to familiarise themselves with the Charity and the context within which it operates. These are facilitated by the Chairperson and Senior Management Team and cover:

- The obligations of the Board of Trustees;
- The content of the Articles of Association;
- The Committee and decision-making processes;
- Current financial position;
- Future plans and objectives.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Risk Management and Uncertainties
The ultimate responsibility for the management and control of the Charity resides with the Board of Trustees and as such their involvement in the key aspects of the risk management process is essential, particularly in setting the parameters of the process and in the review and consideration of the results. This should not be interpreted as meaning that the Board must undertake each aspect of the process themselves.

The Board has delegated elements of the risk management process to the Chief Executive and senior

management team, whilst ensuring that they, as Directors, review and consider the key aspects of the process and results.

The Board of Autism NI ensures that the organisation is not exposed to preventable, unacceptable risk. This risk management process is an integral part of the organisation's governance system. The Board are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Principal Risks identified as potentially having an impact on the Charity include:

Financial Stability
The principal financial challenges facing Autism NI are in the areas of fundraising and cost control. Autism NI relies heavily on the goodwill of the public, along with some government funding and other funders. Fundraising remains very challenging. A combination of increased competition for public funds and pressure on government finances means that Autism NI needs to identify and develop new sources of income in order to reduce the risk of significant income fluctuations. Autism NI works continually to reduce costs and to ensure best value for money in all expenditure.

Governance and Management
Autism NI has appropriate governance structures and procedures in place to ensure correct decision-making and the implementation of decisions. All organisational change initiatives and projects are regularly reviewed by senior management.

Operational
The Board recognises that a sound internal control system that can respond to significant risks, is embedded in operational activities, is capable of reacting to external and internal changes and will immediately report major control weaknesses, is a key and essential component of risk management.

External and Environmental
Autism NI must be able to demonstrate the impact of its work in a measurable and demonstrable way in order to be accountable to donors and beneficiaries, to guarantee the achievement of strategic objectives and to attract future funding support.

Compliance and Regulation
Autism NI has established policies and procedures and codes of practice to ensure compliance with statue, regulatory and labour law requirements, including recent General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Compliance and Regulation

Key controls used by the Charity include:
- Formal agendas, minutes and action plans for staff and Board meetings;
- Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- Established organisational structure, lines of reporting and delegation duties;
- Formal written policies and protocols for Human Resources, Finance, Risk Management, Health and Safety etc;
- Establishment and regular reporting on Key Performance Indicators and targets;
- Clear authorisation and approval.

Going Concern

As required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, we assess whether there are any uncertainties that may cast doubt over our ability to continue as a going concern. For this purpose, we focus on at least 12 months following the signing of these financial statements.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Trustees are satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year.The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses are disclosed in note 8 to the accounts.
Autism NI is committed to ensuring a proper balance between paying staff fairly so that we attract and retain the best people for the job whilst applying careful management of our charity funds. In so doing we will ensure the greatest effectiveness in delivering our charitable objectives and meeting the needs of our beneficiaries.
The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and the Charity uses the most recent NJC Payscales.

The Trustees will also consider:

(i) the Charity's financial situation;
(ii) the Charity's performance;
(iii) cost of living adjustments made in recent years;
(iv) pay reviews within the Voluntary Sector for similar sized charities.

Dormant Companies

The following companies were formed to protect the name Autism.
The one issued share in each company is in the name of Autism NI (PAPA).
The companies are dormant and it is intended that they will remain dormant.
Autism Ulster Limited
Autism Ireland Limited
Autism Consultancy & Training (ACT) Limited

Financial Review

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Total Incoming Resources	770,679	460,594	1,231,273	1,237,465
Total Resources Expended	863,155	445,770	1,308,925	1,199,025
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	-	14,824	14,824	-
Net (Outgoing) Resources for the Year	(92,476)	-	(92,476)	38,440
Net Unrealised (Losses) on Investments	-	-	-	-
Net Unrealised Gains on Investments	-	-	-	-
Transfer From Unrestricted to Restricted	(34)	34	-	-
Balance of Funds At Start of Year	685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111
Balance of Funds At End of Year	592,705	69,194	661,899	739,551

In 2025 there was a net decrease in unrestricted funds of £92,510 for the year (2024 Increase £10,087) During 2025, Central funded salaries of three staff, to the value of £64K (plus support costs) which had previously been covered by grants. Project funding is essential for the Charity to continue to deliver vital services, retain highly skilled staff and continue to meet the needs of the autistic community within Northern Ireland.

Reserves

It is our policy to maintain a prudent level of reserves to enable the charity to manage financial governance and operational risk and deliver on our commitments. An adequate and working reserve policy provides accountability and assurance that the charity's activities are sustainable.

Total unrestricted funds at the year end is £ 592,705 (2024 £ 685,215). Our aim is to have a target minimum reserve equal to one year of average operating costs which includes certain salaries and administration costs which are currently funded in projects plus a provision for redundancy payments.
This figure of unrestricted funds may be required to support core activities, presently funded in projects, due to the uncertainty of future funding.
We believe that this balance of unrestricted funds is required to ensure the stability of the organisation, to build sustainability and resilience, and to continue to carry out its aims and objectives, employment and ongoing operations including family support and Autism awareness activities.
This year saw the Charity move to new premises and costs associated with the office move are recorded within the accounts. In the next financial year, many of the computers and laptops will be required to be replaced due to the Windows 11 upgrade. Approximate cost £25,000.

Restricted Funds (note 7)

During the year ended March 2025, Restricted Funds (Projects) continued: NHSCT and BHSCT Family Support services reached over 500 families. NHSCT also funds two Autism Support Officers who support 500 families per year. The Three Guineas Trust funding continues until June 2025 and supports Fundraising, Service Development, Family Support and core costs. BBC Children in Need provides funding for the Girls and Autism Project (GAP) which funds a part time worker that supports 17 girls. This funding ended on 31 March 2025 and we are delighted that they BBC Children in Need have agreed to fund this project for a further three years. During this financial year, BBC Children in Need also funded our SPACE project which

is a project for newly diagnosed children aged 8 –13 years in the Fermanagh area. The Henry Smith Charity continues to support two part time Early Intervention workers who support 77 families per year. WHSCT funded two part time workers for part of the year, providing family support services. Funding was received from Keystone and The Dormant Accounts Fund NI to help expand our digital reach and the resources and supports we offer. Full details of Project Income and Expenditure can be found in Note 7 of the Accounts. Changes in Restricted Funding can impact on salaries and administration costs within the Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funding is reviewed on a regular basis by the CEO and is on the Agenda for all Board meetings.

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number XR22944

Company Registration Number NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address
Unit 3
Forestgrove Business Park
Newtownbreda Road
Belfast
BT8 6AW

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE

Patron Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt	Vice-Chairperson
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan	Honorary Treasurer
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors - O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.

Principal Bankers - Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

Solicitors - Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities in Respect of the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Autism NI (PAPA) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1 Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2 Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) ;
3 Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4 State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
5 Prepare the accounts 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.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

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.

Auditors
A resolution proposing that O'Hara Shearer be re-appointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board

David Heatley

Date: 10 Nov 2025

David Heatley
Chairperson

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autism NI (PAPA) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janaury 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

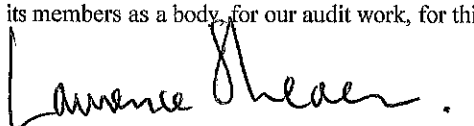
As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., Senior Statutory Auditor
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, Statutory Auditor
O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

Dated: 10th November 2025

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and Legacies					
Grants	2	20,999	460,594	481,593	509,038
Donations	3	414,675	-	414,675	334,666
Membership		19,971	-	19,971	24,885
		455,645	460,594	916,239	868,589
Other Trading Activities					
Training and Conferences	4	208,454	-	208,454	205,074
Fund Raising Events	5	88,646	-	88,646	153,732
Resources, Books, Videos etc		1,265	-	1,265	2,022
		298,365	-	298,365	360,828
Income from Investments					
Bank Interest Received		16,669	-	16,669	8,048
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		770,679	460,594	1,231,273	1,237,465
EXPENDITURE ON	6				
Expenditure on Raising Funds					
Staff Costs		53,632	-	53,632	74,861
Other Costs		19,869	-	19,869	23,923
		73,501	-	73,501	98,784
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Staff Costs		496,949	352,822	849,771	749,344
Other Costs		249,190	92,948	342,138	305,935
Governance Costs; Staff Costs		37,015	-	37,015	33,650
Governance Costs; Other Costs		6,500	-	6,500	11,312
		789,654	445,770	1,235,424	1,100,241
				-	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		863,155	445,770	1,308,925	1,199,025
NET INCOME		-	14,824	14,824	38,440
NET (EXPENDITURE)		(92,476)	-	(92,476)	-
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT (LOSSES) GAINS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(34)	34	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(92,510)	14,858	(77,652)	38,440
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2024		685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2025		592,705	69,194	661,899	739,551
TOTAL FUNDS		592,705	69,194	661,899	739,551

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
COMPARATIVE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and Legacies				
Grants	2	19,195	489,843	509,038
Donations	3	334,666	-	334,666
Membership		24,885	-	24,885
		378,746	489,843	868,589
Other Trading Activities				
Training and Conferences	4	205,074	-	205,074
Donations and Fund Raising Events	5	153,732	-	153,732
Resources, Books, Videos etc		2,022	-	2,022
		360,828	-	360,828
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest Received		8,048	-	8,048
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		747,622	489,843	1,237,465
EXPENDITURE ON	6			
Expenditure on Raising Funds				
Staff Costs		74,861	-	74,861
Other Costs		23,923	-	23,923
		98,784	-	98,784
Expenditure on Charitable Activities				-
Staff Costs		377,374	371,970	749,344
Other Costs		213,059	92,876	305,935
Governance Costs; Staff Costs		33,650	-	33,650
Governance Costs; Other Costs		11,312	-	11,312
		635,395	464,846	1,100,241
				-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		734,179	464,846	1,199,025
NET INCOME		13,443	24,997	38,440
NET (EXPENDITURE)		-	-	-
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(3,356)	3,356	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,087	28,353	38,440
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023		675,128	25,983	701,111
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024		685,215	54,336	739,551
TOTAL FUNDS		685,215	54,336	739,551

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	NOTE	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	83,665	10,842
		83,665	10,842
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	10	42,620	44,835
Bank Accounts	11	592,054	755,657
		634,674	800,492
CREDITORS; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year			
Creditors and Accruals	12	56,440	71,783
		56,440	71,783
NET CURRENT ASSETS		578,234	728,709
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		661,899	739,551
CREDITORS; Amounts Falling Due After One Year	13	-	-
NET ASSETS		661,899	739,551
FUNDS		£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			
AUTISM CENTRAL OFFICE	16 & 17	592,705	685,215
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
PROJECTS	16 & 17	69,194	54,336
TOTAL FUNDS		661,899	739,551

These Financial Statements were approved by the board of management on the 10 Nov 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

David Heatley
Chairperson

Date: 10 Nov 2025

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	NOTE	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	15	(76,218)	30,934
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Dividends, Interest and Rents From Investments		-	-
Proceeds From the Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment		-	-
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(87,385)	(3,600)
Proceeds from the Sale of Investments		-	-
Purchase of Investments		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities		(87,385)	(3,600)
Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
Repayments of Borrowings		-	-
Cash Inflows From New Borrowings		-	-
Receipt of Endowment		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities		-	-
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period		(163,603)	27,334
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		755,657	728,323
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents Due to Exchange Rate Movements		-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period	11	592,054	755,657

		2025 £	2024 £
ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Cash in Hand		592,054	755,657
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)		-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand		-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	11	592,054	755,657

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The principal accounting policies which have been adopted are set out below.

The Charity prepares its accounts in accordance with 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) and the Companies Act 2006.

Autism NI (PAPA) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

GOING CONCERN

As required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, we assess whether there are any uncertainties that may cast doubt over our ability to continue as a going concern. For this purpose, we focus on at least 12 months following the signing of these financial statements.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Trustees are satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year.The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants , is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.
When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted fund when receivable.

INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest is included when receivable by the charity under investment income.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost which comprises the purchase price and any installation charges.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the assets within their useful lives. The methods adopted and rates used are:

FIXTURE AND FITTINGS	10% - 20%	STRAIGHT LINE
ALTERATION TO LEASEHOLD PREMISES	5%	STRAIGHT LINE

INVESTMENTS

Listed investments are stated at market value. The SOFA includes realised gains and losses on investments sold in the year and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation of investments.

JUDGEMENTS ESTIMATES

In the application of the charity's accounting policies the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.
The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.
The trustees do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation requiring disclosure.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted General Funds - these are donations, grants and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without specified purpose and are available as general funds and are available to spend at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity.

Designated Funds - these are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meet these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

PENSION
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity made a contribution to this scheme as highlighted in note 8.

TAXATION
As a registered charity, the charity benefits from rates relief, and is exempt from direct tax on its charitable activities but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

STOCKS
The cost of publications and promotional and educational material is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY
The Charity "Autism NI (PAPA)" is a Company Limited By Guarantee.

Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
The charity only has financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are normally initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the carrying valueplus accrued interest less repayments. The financing charge to expenditure is at a constant rate calculated using the effective interest method.

2. GRANTS		2025	2024
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
i) **AUTISM NI (PAPA)**			
DoH Core Funding		19,195	19,195
Non Recurrent Financial Payment		1,804	-
		20,999	19,195
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		20,999	19,195
RESTRICTED FUNDS		**RESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
ii) **AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS**	7		
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)		46,145	42,431
The Three Guineas Trust		70,000	70,000
NHSCT ASOs		77,261	70,029
Joseph Levy		-	37,000
Children In Need		26,824	26,609
Children In Need Space		5,000	-
Keystone		-	24,373
Family Support		4,255	160
BHSCT		37,782	38,391
BHSCT MAP		37,854	58,455
The Henry Smith Charity		69,500	56,700
WHSCT ASO's		35,989	30,562
SEHSCT		-	10,141
Dormant Accounts		49,984	24,992
TEACCH Steering Group		-	-
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		460,594	489,843
Total Credited to Statement of Financial Activities		481,593	509,038

	£ 2025	£ 2024
	£	£
3. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
DONATIONS	414,675	334,666

Donations include general donations from the public and businesses, along with Payroll Giving and Regular Giving. Since 2021, we have seen a significant increase in Donations. Our Fundraising Team work very hard in raising the profile of the Charity and we can see the increase of awareness through our social media platforms, along with the invaluable work of the whole staff team.

	£ 2025	£ 2024
4 TRAINING	208,454	205,074

Training includes income from Parents, Individuals and Professionals.
Further training has also been commissioned by Statutory and Charitable Trusts.

5. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
FUND RAISING EVENTS	88,646	153,732

During the year, the Fundraising Team carried out a number of events including Mourne Madness, Glow Walk, Abseil, Zipline and Skydive.

6. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Note	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	8	587,596	352,822	940,418	485,885	371,970	857,855
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance		20,158	8,206	28,364	37,587	7,784	45,371
Repairs and Maintenance		2,118	-	2,118	-	-	-
Telephone		11,609	3,487	15,096	8,443	3,998	12,441
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising		45,205	-	45,205	43,157	347	43,504
Website and IT		-	31,740	31,740	-	22,085	22,085
Catering		-	-	-	-	135	135
Travel Expenses		16,643	16,581	33,224	16,214	20,468	36,682
Autism Awareness		7,200	-	7,200	2,460	-	2,460
Training and Conferences		20,247	-	20,247	14,496	-	14,496
Recruitment and Staff Development		2,395	9,812	12,207	2,272	10,603	12,875
Purchase of Books, Videos and Resources		10,010	-	10,010	7,414	-	7,414
Resources for Projects		-	14,887	14,887	-	25,854	25,854
Fund Raising Expenditure		17,237	-	17,237	20,115	-	20,115
Expenditure on Behalf of Branches / Support Groups		13,965	-	13,965	11,360	-	11,360
Professional Fees and Subscriptions		76,118	1,080	77,198	60,882	-	60,882
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit Fees		6,000	500	6,500	6,000	500	6,500
Accountancy Fees		6,626	-	6,626	5,312	-	5,312
Bank Fees and Interest		424	-	424	961	-	961
General Expenses		5,042	4,603	9,645	5,974	203	6,177
Capital		-	2,052	2,052	-	899	899
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets		135	-	135	-	-	-
Depreciation		14,427	-	14,427	5,647	-	5,647
		863,155	445,770	1,308,925	734,179	464,846	1,199,025
Total Resources Expended		863,155	445,770	1,308,925	734,179	464,846	1,199,025

(Note 7)

7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	TOTAL PROJECTS	NHSCT Family Support	The Three Guineas Trust	NHSCT ASOs
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Received	460,594	46,145	70,000	77,261
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions				
Salaries and Redundancies	323,830	29,497	66,421	52,959
Management	20,291	3,595	-	2,509
Administration	6,308	1,798	-	-
HR / Finance	2,393	-	-	-
	352,822	34,890	66,421	55,468
COSTS				
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	8,206	-	-	2,290
Telephone	3,487	252	-	940
Postage,Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	-	-
Website and IT	31,740	1,500	-	1,795
Catering	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	16,581	4,462	1,239	3,367
Recruitment and Staff Development	9,812	-	-	7,363
Resources for Projects	14,887	3,150	-	1,800
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	1,080	-	-	1,080
Audit and Accountancy Fees	500	500	-	-
General Expenses	4,603	485	-	538
Capital	2,052	931	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-
	92,948	11,280	1,239	19,173
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	445,770	46,170	67,660	74,641
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	26,987	-	2,340	2,620
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(12,163)	(25)	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2024	54,336	-	19,132	(1,457)
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	34	25	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2025	69,194	-	21,472	1,163

NHSCT Family Support
Contract to March 2027.

The Three Guineas Trust
The Three Guineas Trust which supports our Helpline and Awareness campaigns.
The Three Guineas Trust has confirmed further funding of £140,000 over two years (£70K in 2023/24 and £70K in 2024/25) the new funding commenced in July 2023.

NHSCT ASOs
A new contract was awarded in January 2024 for three years.

7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	BBC CHILDREN IN NEED	KEYSTONE	FAMILY SUPPORT	BHSCT	BHSCT MAP
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	31,824	-	4,255	37,782	37,854
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	23,095	4,763	836	33,570	31,616
Management	2,874	-	-	1,937	1,937
Administration	-	-	-	1,579	1,579
HR / Finance	-	-	-	-	-
	25,969	4,763	836	37,086	35,132
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	212	-	-	-	500
Telephone	439	-	16	439	439
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	-	-	-
Website and IT	-	-	-	480	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	944	-	155	429	1,173
Recruitment and Staff Development	1,800	-	-	-	135
Resources for Projects	3,884	-	888	1,000	1,965
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-		-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	197	-	531	674	1,007
Capital	931	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	8,407	-	1,590	3,022	5,219
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	34,376	4,763	2,426	40,108	40,351
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	-	1,829	-	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(2,552)	(4,763)	-	(2,326)	(2,497)
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2024	376	4,754	1,836	3,411	1,210
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	9	-	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2025	(2,176)	-	3,665	1,085	(1,287)

BBC Children in Need Includes CiN Space
BBC Children in Need – funding awarded for a further three years, until March 2028
BBC Children in Need SPACE - funding received in the year.
This project is for newly diagnosed children aged 8 –13 years in the Fermanagh area

Keystone
Funds received in previous year in advance of expenditure.

Family Support
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

BHSCT
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	THE HENRY SMITH CHARITY	WHSCT ASO's	SEHSCT	DORMANT ACCOUNTS	TEACCH STEERING GROUP
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	69,500	35,989	-	49,984	-
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	44,402	29,628	-	7,043	-
Management	5,275	2,164	-	-	-
Administration	-	1,352	-	-	-
HR / Finance	2,393	-	-	-	-
	52,070	33,144	-	7,043	-
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	5,204	-	-	-	-
Telephone	878	84	-	-	-
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	-	-	-
Website and IT	1,300	-	-	26,665	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	2,878	1,934	-	-	-
Recruitment and Staff Development	130	-	-	384	-
Resources for Projects	1,825	25	-	350	-
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	369	802	-		-
Capital	190	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	12,774	2,845	-	27,399	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	64,844	35,989	-	34,442	-
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	4,656	-	-	15,542	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	-	-	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2024	9,681	-	-	10,373	5,020
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	-	-	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2025	14,337	-	-	25,915	5,020

Henry Smith Charity
The unexpended balance is due to the grant received in advance.

WHSCT ASO's
Shortfall met by Central.

SEHSCT
Funding received in the year up to the 31st March 2024.

Dormant Accounts
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross Salary	846,540	763,977
Employers NIC Contribution	68,015	68,015
Employers Pension Contribution	25,863	25,863
Redundancy Payments	-	-
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	940,418	857,855

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is now administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity makes a contribution to this scheme as noted above.

Trustees Directors Remuneration
The trustees directors did not receive any emoluments during the year 2025 Nil (2024 £ Nil)
Trustees directors were reimbursed expenses during the year 2025 £ Nil (2024 NIL)

Related party transactions see note 18.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Director, Director of Development and Director of Family Support. Their remuneration including pension contributions were £222,842 (2024 £217,056).

Employees during the year were as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Chief Executive	1	1
Director of Development	1	1
Director of Finance	1	1
Director of Family Support	1	1
Training and Development Officer	2	2
Corporate Manager	1	1
Fundraising and Marketing Manager	1	1
Sales and Marketing Officer	-	1
Events and Fundraising Officer	1	1
Family Support Manager	1	1
Family Support and Helpline	2	3
Family Support Group Officer	1	1
Project Staff	9	9
Administration Officer	1	1
Early Intervention	3	3
Communications Officer	1	1
Autistic Adults Support Officer	1	1
	28	30

9. FIXED ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED		RESTRICTED	TOTAL
	F&F	Premises	F&F	
	£	£	£	£
COST				
Balance at 1st April 2024	164,460	5,559	30,460	200,479
Additions	87,385	-	-	87,385
Disposals	(135,386)	(5,559)	(30,460)	(171,405)
Balance at 31st March 2025	116,459	-	-	116,459
DEPRECIATION				
Balance at 1st April 2024	153,703	5,558	30,376	189,637
Charge for the Period	14,427	-	-	14,427
Elimination on Disposals	(135,336)	(5,558)	(30,376)	(171,270)
Balance at 31st March 2025	32,794	-	-	32,794
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2025	83,665	-	-	83,665
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2024	10,757	1	84	10,842

10. DEBTORS	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	31,520	36,645
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	11,100	8,190
	42,620	44,835

11. BANK AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	£	£
UNRESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) CENTRAL	586,976	750,564
	586,976	750,564
RESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	5,078	5,093
TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND AT HAND	592,054	755,657

12. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	£	£
Trade Creditors	16,554	18,347
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	39,886	53,436
	56,440	71,783

13. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year		
Hire Purchase Creditor	-	-
	-	-

14. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION	£	£
Audit Fees	6,500	6,500
	6,500	6,500

15. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE) INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Note	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Net (Expenditure) Income for the Reporting Period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(77,652)	38,440
Adjustments For;			
Depreciation Charges		14,427	5,647
Realised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Unrealised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-
Dividends, Interest and Rents from Investments		-	-
Loss (Profit) on the Sale of Fixed Assets		135	-
(Increase) Decrease in Stocks		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Debtors		2,215	(22,511)
Increase (Decrease) in Creditors		(15,343)	9,358
Net Cash Provided (Used In) By Operating Activities		(76,218)	30,934

ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		2025 £	2024 £
Cash in Hand		592,054	755,657
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)		-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand		-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	11	592,054	755,657

16. ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES BETWEEN THE NET ASSETS AT THE 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING	RESTRICTED FUNDING	TOTAL
		CENTRAL	PROJECTS	
		£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	9	83,665	-	83,665
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and Prepayments	10	42,620	-	42,620
Owed by Inter Divisions		-	64,116	64,116
Cash on Hand and at Bank	11	586,976	5,078	592,054
		629,596	69,194	698,790
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year				
Owed to Inter Divisions		64,116	-	64,116
Creditors and Accruals	12	56,440	-	56,440
		120,556	-	120,556
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due After One Year				
Creditors and Accruals	13	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		592,705	69,194	661,899

17. RECONCILIATION AND ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON THE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING CENTRAL	(Note 7 Page 47-49) RESTRICTED FUNDING PROJECTS	TOTAL
	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
UNRESTRICTED	770,679	-	770,679
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	46,145	46,145
The Three Guineas Trust	-	70,000	70,000
NHSCT ASOs	-	77,261	77,261
Joseph Levy	-	-	-
Children In Need	-	26,824	26,824
Children In Need Space	-	5,000	5,000
Keystone	-	-	-
Family Support	-	4,255	4,255
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	-	-
BHSCT	-	37,782	37,782
BHSCT MAP	-	37,854	37,854
The Henry Smith Charity	-	69,500	69,500
WHSCT ASO's	-	35,989	35,989
SEHSCT		-	
Dormant Accounts		49,984	
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
	770,679	460,594	1,231,273
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
UNRESTRICTED	863,155	-	863,155
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	46,170	46,170
The Three Guineas Trust	-	67,660	67,660
NHSCT ASOs	-	74,641	74,641
Joseph Levy	-	-	-
Children In Need	-	34,376	34,376
Keystone	-	4,763	4,763
Family Support	-	-	-
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	2,426	2,426
BHSCT	-	40,108	40,108
BHSCT MAP	-	40,351	40,351
The Henry Smith Charity	-	64,844	64,844
WHSCT ASO's	-	35,989	35,989
SEHSCT		-	-
Dormant Accounts		34,442	34,442
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
	863,155	445,770	1,308,925
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	(92,476)	14,824	(77,652)
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	(34)	34	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(92,510)	14,858	(77,652)
BALANCE AT 1ST APRIL 2024	685,215	54,336	739,551
BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2025	592,705	69,194	661,899

THE FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS	69,194
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
General	592,705
Designated	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	592,705
TOTAL FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	661,899

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the charity purchased £38,025.60 (2024 £26,398.28) from Leaf Consultancy Ltd for computer software and support during the year.

The balance due to Leaf Consultancy Ltd in trade creditors at year end was £2,566.86 (2024 £3,666.80). Mr Steven Goldblatt is a trustee of the charity and a majority shareholder and director of Leaf Consultancy Ltd.

The transactions were on normal commercial terms that were beneficial to the charity. Mr Goldblatt took no part in the decision to use Leaf Consultancy Ltd. The charity had been using the services of Leaf Consultancy Ltd for several years before Mr Goldblatt was appointed a trustee.

19. REPORTING CURRENCY

The financial statements are stated in GBP (sterling)

20. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

After 30 years based in Knockbracken Healthcare Park the charity has moved to Forestgrove Business Park, Newtownbreda.
The financial cost in moving and fitting out the new premises is estimated to be in the region of £88,000. This cost is noted in additions to fixed assets.

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying value of the company's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below;

FINANCIAL ASSETS Measured at undiscounted amount receivable	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	31,520	36,645
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	11,100	8,190
	42,620	44,835

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES Measured at undiscounted amount payable	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Creditors	16,554	18,347
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	39,886	53,436
	56,440	71,783

Autism NI (PAPA)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100240

Accounts

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

(A Company Limited By Guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Registered Charity XR22944

Company Number NI 058548

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number	XR22944
Company Registration Number	NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address

Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE
Patron	Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt	Vice-Chairperson
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan	Honorary Treasurer
Jonathan Simpson	(Resigned 12th February 2024)
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors	- O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.
Principal Bankers	- Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
Solicitors	- Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.
The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated in March 2006. Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100239 and Registered with HMRC XR22944.

Public Benefits
The advancement of education and the relief of children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the province of Ulster and in particular for the following;
(i) The promotion of greater knowledge of Autism amongst the public and those concerned in the educational facilities.
These benefits are evidenced by the public bodies and private organisations who have requested Autism training and also evidenced through the evaluations completed by all participants on our training courses and through feedback from our Parent Support Groups.
(ii) The promotion of the provision of appropriate recreational, residential and educational facilities.
Through lobbying has drawn attention to service need and for service development. The charity supports individual families through Autism NI's Family Support Service, Training Department, Helpline Service and Support Group Network.
The benefit of our Advocacy role within the Autism Community can be seen through the number of new members within our regional Support network and the increase in support given through our Helpline and Training Services.
(iii) The provision of help, guidance and information to families with Autistic members and the promotion of a network of support among such families.
These benefits are evidenced through feedback from parents and support groups and through regular evaluation of our services.
(iv) The establishment of an information resource and the promotion of research into Autism generally and the publication of the useful results thereof.
These benefits are evidenced through a number of projects and services which have been designed to specifically address the need evidenced within our Autism research
A summary of the charity's activities is listed below.
Our purposes do not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of our purposes are people living in Northern Ireland who have Autism. The beneficiaries of this purpose also include family members and carers of those with Autism. There is no private benefit.
The trustees are aware of the charity commission's guidance on public benefit.

Mission Statement
We support autistic people and their families, and campaign for autism acceptance within society.

Vision
Our vision is an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

Strategic Plan
The Main Objectives for the charity detailed within the Strategic Plan include the following together with it's main activities;

A summary of the main achievements of the charity including the difference the charity's work has made to its beneficiaries and the community.

Family Support:
Increased volunteering in the Autism NI Support network within a community development framework, development of a regional Family Support Service.

Training:
Achievement of accreditation to a quality standard, acquisition of new customers, development of new courses.

Advocacy:
Development of Autism NI's role as an agent of social change for Autism in Northern Ireland.

Marketing /Fundraising:
Increased awareness of Autism and Autism NI brand, development of new funding opportunities, utilization of new communication methods, development of corporate relationships.

Governance:
Development of good governance improvement measures, build capacity.

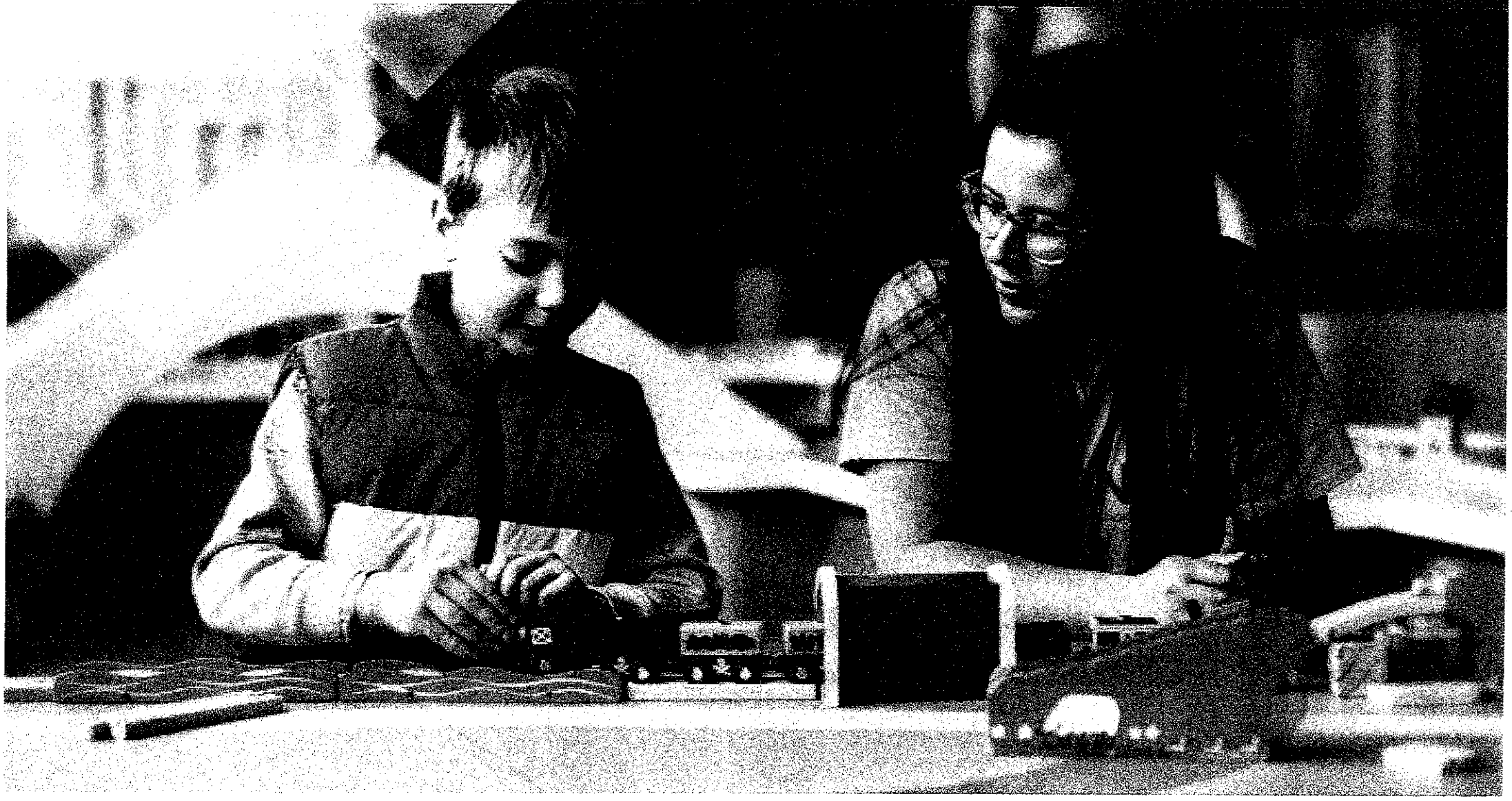
Partnerships
Working in Partnership is a key aspect of Autism NI. The very origin of the charity came from formation of a partnership between Parents and Professionals & Autism (PAPA)
Autism NI have built up many partnerships over the years:
AMH, All Party Assembly Group on Autism, Barnardo's, Children's Law Centre, Disability Action, Early Years, Equality Commission, Irish Autism, Action, Mencap, NICCY, NICVA, NOW, Orchardville Society, SPEAC and University of Ulster, CO3.

AutismNI

Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Annual Report 2023-2024

Building an inclusive society



Autism NI held their sixth Glow Walk with local families at Stormont in November 2023.

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Our Year in Numbers

1,643 members

Overall **97%** satisfaction on our training courses

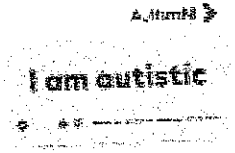
4,059 total sessions delivered by our Projects and Early Intervention Services

Over **7,500** Helpline calls

Over **33,000** 'Followers' on Facebook

2,338 participants received training

38% Increase in Autism Card Applications



214 Support Group meetings

96,602 users visited our website

135 people achieved AQA Unit Award Accreditations in Autism

20+ Family support groups across NI

Chairperson's Report

David Heatley

Chairperson

This past year has been another very busy year for Autism NI. I am very proud of the work of the staff team as they continue to grow service provision for our autism community. As is clear from 'Our Year in Numbers' we are providing more intervention sessions, Helpline support calls and Support Group support sessions, than ever before. I know how much of a difference this support can make for our autistic adults and families and therefore I am delighted that we are reaching more people, right across Northern Ireland. Indeed, our Helpline received over 7,500 calls within the 2023-24 year, with the main areas of support being emotional and behavioural support for children, support after a diagnosis, as well as autistic adults seeking support and information.

The work that our CEO, Kerry Boyd and our staff team have been doing at government and policy level, is also something that should be commended. As a Charity, we are the secretariat for the All Party Group on Autism and have held this position for the past 16 years. Within this role we are able to highlight the many pertinent issues that are affecting autistic people within their daily lives. Most recently, one of the issues that we have chosen to prioritise and lobby for, is the immediate need for the creation of a specialist autism mental health service. We will therefore continue to work on this campaign within the forthcoming year, in our aim of achieving our vision of an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Trustees for their dedicated efforts in governing the Charity. As always, my thanks also go to the staff team, our volunteers, fundraisers, charity partners and funders, without their support our work would not be possible.

David Heatley

Chief Executive's Remarks

Kerry Boyd
CEO

Throughout 2023-24 Autism NI increased its reach, adapting and evolving services to meet the increasing level of need from a growing autism community. We were able to provide over 13,800 support sessions through our Early Intervention Service, Training Service and Helpline to autistic adults, parents, carers, families and professionals.

The Charity also continues to evolve its services through integral participation with our autism community in Northern Ireland. We take very seriously the mantra of 'nothing for us without us' and therefore we ensure autistic people are at the heart of everything we do and every new support service we develop. Indeed, this participation can be seen within our Autistic Peer Network, which I am delighted to report has went from strength to strength over the past year.

One of the highlights this year was the fantastic turnout at our Glow Walk, where hundreds of families took part, giving us our biggest attendance to date. It was a night full of fun, laughter and camaraderie, and it was great to see so many children enjoying the event together, within the grounds of Stormont Estate. World Autism Acceptance Month was another great success. In particular, our Family Fun Day at W5 was fantastic, where families came together to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week. Our autistic adults also had a chance to share their own personal stories through our Spectrum Stories campaign which ran throughout the month of April.

I would finally like to extend my thanks to all of our stakeholders, ambassadors, volunteers, partners, donors and our fantastic staff team, for their dedication and commitment. Without their support, Autism NI could not deliver our support services to the autism community and continue to build an inclusive society.

Family Support

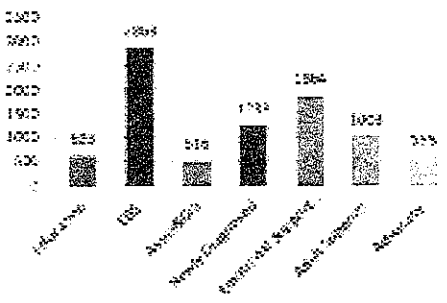
One of our longest-standing services is our Family Support provision, operating regionally throughout local communities and delivering tailored support services. We deeply value the expertise and strengths of the Autism NI Family Support Team. We actively listen to our autistic community and offer a diverse range of services aimed at bolstering the support networks, confidence, well being, and sense of belonging for autistic children, adults, and their families. Central to our approach is inclusive participation, which forms the bedrock of our work. We remain committed to nurturing and fostering relationships with community, voluntary, and statutory services, ensuring families and individuals receive comprehensive support.

At Autism NI, we are fortunate to have a neurodiverse team that continues to grow. Their unwavering dedication has ensured that autistic people and their families benefit from a spectrum of early supports. Over the past year, referrals to Autism NI for early support have surged across all areas of our work.

Individual Support

The Autism NI Helpline for many autistic people, families and professionals is the first point of contact before and after diagnosis.

Concerns prompting requests for support



We regularly receive feedback on our Helpline, which shows the profound impact our support has on autistic people and their families. It reaffirms the invaluable difference our services make in their lives.

"I can't express how grateful I am for your input. It helped to give me focus at a time when I feel like I am completely floundering".

(Helpline - adult pending assessment)

Autistic Adults Support Officer

Through integral participation via our Helpline, our team identified a gap in services for newly diagnosed autistic adults. In response, we launched the Autistic Adults Support Officer programme in partnership with the Belfast Trust. During this year it was expanded to cover Antrim, Newtownabbey, Carrickfergus, Downpatrick, Holywood and Lisburn.

The initiative is tailored to address individual needs, offering personalised advice, support, and a neuroaffirmative listening ear. Each participant engages voluntarily, benefiting from three sessions designed to enhance outcomes in various areas such as training, employment, relationships, and social opportunities.

"There's not just one typical autistic person, we're all very individual people and have different needs."
Ella, autistic adult

The Adult Support Service is robustly evaluated, employing an outcomes-based model to track the progress of autistic people. Feedback received from one participant during the programme included, "I would like to take this opportunity to provide feedback on the Autistic Adult Support Officer (AASO) who has been providing some support to myself recently. She has been very understanding and has attentively listened to my concerns and my neurodiverse thought processes. The AASO has also provided some excellent presentations and is helping me understand some of the processes along the journey. She is very approachable and brings valuable lived human and life experiences to the role. It is very clear to see that she is passionate about neurodiversity and people and is clearly dedicated to the role. Keep up the great work you are doing".

Autistic Adult Peer Networks

The development of our online peer networks has been fuelled by integral participation and has achieved remarkable success. We offer three distinct services: an online peer support network for autistic adults aged 18 and above, a peer support network tailored for participants aged 30 or older, and an autistic LGBTQIA+ network. These platforms provide a warm neuroaffirmative and inclusive space for socialising and engaging with others in a relaxed and secure environment.

We take a proactive approach to listen and respond to individual needs, continually adapting our support to facilitate involvement and participation. Text-based communication is available via the chat function, ensuring accessibility for all. To date, we've welcomed numerous autistic attendees, with some groups also arranging in-person meetings. One participant commented; "Thanks so much for last night - it was excellent. You spoke well and advocated alongside autistic people. Thanks for sharing the presentation and hopefully will see you on Saturday for the coffee morning." (Autistic Adult)

Autistic Adult Support Course

Integral participation identified that following individual support sessions and coffee meetups, there was another area to be explored, a supportive environment offering opportunities for peer learning on autistic strengths, challenges, and neurodivergence. The aim was to empower autistic adults to deepen their self-understanding and acquire practical strategies to improve their lives.

Participants who completed week six

"Enjoyed, good talking through sensory issues and self-care good week."

"Good sharing, listening to others experiences, learning new stuff."

"Great space for having others discussing issues and solving problems thank you."

Members

Autism NI members play an invaluable role in enhancing support for autistic people and their families throughout Northern Ireland. Each member commits to participating within the legal framework of the Charity and aligning with its Mission, Vision, Ethos, and Code of Conduct.

Membership brings a multitude of benefits that often extend to entire families, including participation in family days, access to training courses, and the opportunity to shape the impact of the Charity through individual engagement within the autism community.

Home Support

Autism NI remains steadfast in advocating for partnerships, nurturing and expanding our relationships with the Autism Intervention Teams in Belfast, Northern and Western Trusts. These teams have been instrumental in directly referring individuals to Autism NI Resource or Support Officers, who provide personalised services to families within their local communities. With a proven track record in evidencing outcomes, Autism NI is well-versed in identifying, measuring, and reporting on the impact of our services.

Participation in these services underscores their vital importance, offering autistic people and their families the opportunity to provide feedback, have their voices heard, and influence both current services and future directions.

We are committed to furthering this collaborative approach, working across partnerships to support, develop, and implement

change. Our early intervention support services are grounded in a strengths-based approach, offering tailored strategies for each autistic child. These include utilising visual structures, establishing positive routines, promoting independence in daily living skills, and providing guidance on engaging play activities.

Feedback has included:

"The Autism Support Officer was very helpful, really appreciated the home visit and ability to discuss specific issues and my child."

"A warm and reassuring approach was given on information about autism, and guidance on what help is available. The resources, leaflets and literature were great.

I learnt more in three sessions than I have in a year, it was extremely helpful and beneficial."

In the 2023/24 period, 99% of families rated the early support services provided by our Autism Resource/ Support Officers as *"Excellent"* or *"Good"*.

Support Groups

Our Support Groups play a pivotal role in uniting a dynamic volunteer network across Northern Ireland. Volunteers are at the heart of our efforts to provide essential support within the community.

Each volunteer brings a unique and valuable contribution, bolstering a wide array of initiatives and playing an integral role in our organisation. Their expertise, peer support, skills, and diverse backgrounds complement the work of our Family Support Team, enabling us to deliver crucial services to the autism community.

As demand for community-based peer interaction has surged across all support groups, our volunteers have risen to the challenge. Their unwavering dedication has made a significant difference to the autistic community throughout Northern Ireland. In the past year, Autism NI volunteers have facilitated 214 support group meetings, where discussion themes among attendees revolved around concerns relating to education, assessment, mental health, anxiety and financial entitlements. The practical knowledge and peer expertise shared during these gatherings underscore our commitment to influencing policy and practices.

The success of this model is evidenced by a notable uptake in attendance at meetings throughout the year.

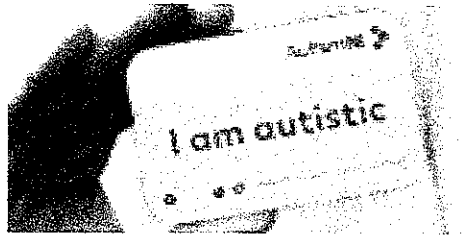
Feedback has included:

"Autism NI is an essential service to the Family Support Hub. A valuable support to help families achieve a better quality of life for their child and the family circle. My families think the Support Groups and Helpline is fantastic."
(Family Support Hub)

"So great to be part of the group - refreshing to be among others who understand and are so open about their experiences..."

Autism Card

Throughout the year 23/24, we saw a significant 38% increase in registrations for our 'Autism Card'. Feedback from autistic cardholders indicates its value in various aspects of their everyday lives, highlighting its practical benefits.



Early Intervention

Our ongoing Early Intervention Service builds and strengthens relationships for families whose child has received a new diagnosis. Families referred to the Early Intervention Service from the Trust engaged in bespoke early intervention sessions. These sessions provided family members with visual strategies and practical tools and support to manage behaviours, play and socialisation.

Our Early Intervention Team have successfully provided 2,774 individual sessions. The difference detailed by families included enhanced understanding of their autistic child's needs, access to information on appropriate services and improved confidence that enabled opportunities. Parental feedback was extremely positive with the majority of families stating that the benefits of the home visits were either *'excellent' or 'good'.*

Support from the Henry Smith Charity

We are now in our 3rd year of the Early Intervention Service within the South Eastern Trust area supported by the Henry Smith Charity, and have provided our Early Intervention programme to 81 families.

To date we have provided 510 Early Intervention sessions to families, and have measured the success of the Early Intervention Service by using the Outcome Star (Family) and a parent evaluation. An Outcomes Star and an assessment is completed collaboratively by the Early Intervention Officer and parent at the beginning and end of the service. The Star provides a framework that supports both parties to reflect on the strengths and challenges that exist. Using the scale descriptions, they identify together where the service user is for each outcome area and plot that onto the Star Chart. The assessment provides information on where we can target our bespoke interventions for the child and family.

The results of our Parent and Outcome Star Evaluations stated that:

100% of families received bespoke visual and practical support.

91% said their wellbeing had improved, 84% said they felt better emotionally and 81% said their social networks had also improved

90% behaviours and boundaries within the home were much better, 86% said the family routine had improved, 75% said they were feeling better physically and 99% of families said the service they received was excellent.

The Early Intervention Service continues to provide much needed support families within the South Eastern Trust area.

Meet our Early Intervention Officer Hannah

As an Early Intervention Officer, I work collaboratively with families in order to provide tailored information and resources that can empower parents and carers to have an increased understanding of their children's needs. As well as providing practical resources, I offer a listening ear for families through our bespoke service. It is a privilege to work alongside families and I will continue to try and make a positive difference within the autism community.

Mental Health and Autism Project (MAP)

The Mental Health and Autism Project represents another cornerstone of our strengths-based approach. It offers one-to-one support to autistic young people aged 11 to 18 within the Belfast Trust, facilitated through requests for support from the Child and Adolescents Autism Service.

This model adopts a holistic approach to support, addressing needs across home, school, and community environments through 8 to 12 sessions. Collaborating closely with our partners, we prioritise areas of support identified by each autistic young person, aiming to enhance their confidence, self-esteem, and emotional well-being. This approach fosters integral participation, empowering each young person with a sense of ownership over the direction of their support.

An impressive 92% of autistic participants rated the service as 'excellent or very good', and their feedback included:

"MAP has helped me with managing my thoughts and feelings and going outside."

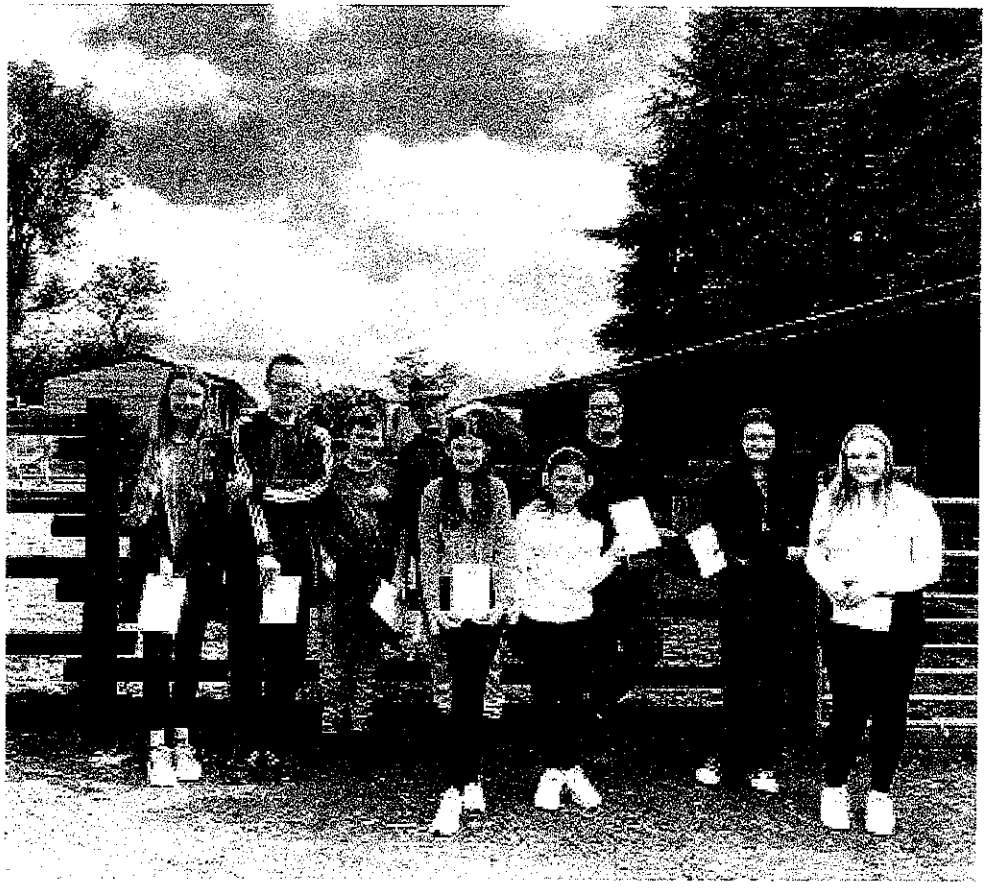
"I would have been lost without all your amazing service and help. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, I have loved my sessions and will miss them greatly."

"We found this service extremely helpful, myself, my husband and my daughter. We feel that we have learned a lot, and our daughter has gained confidence from participating in group activities with peers." (Parent)

"Great service for parents and young people as it helped my daughter to understand her diagnosis better and she has been more open with me as a parent." (Parent)

In our collaborative journey of building strengths together, we're thrilled to share that the average number of outcome areas in which autistic participants made increased positive progress was 3.5. Notably, areas experiencing the highest percentage of change included:

- Feelings and behaviours
- Education and learning
- Confidence and self-esteem.



Autistic females

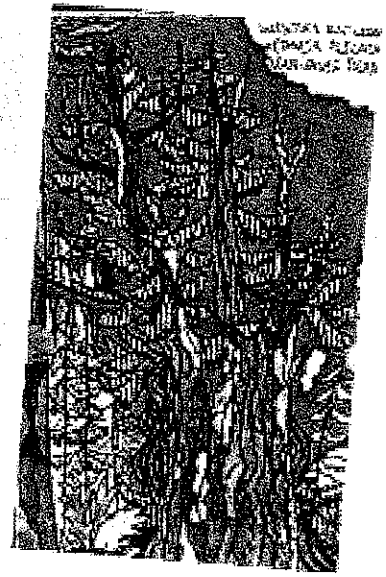
The Girls and Autism Project operates on a strengths-based model, specifically crafted to empower autistic girls aged 11 to 18 within their home, school, and community settings. It aims to foster achievement, enjoyment, and social participation within the Northern Trust area.

During the 23/24 year, our GAP Life Skills Officer conducted 495 sessions, including group activities and family sessions, ensuring personalized support for each participation.

An impressive 100% of autistic participants reported experiencing positive changes in two or more outcome areas during this period. Additionally, all autistic participants involved rated the service as either 'excellent' or 'very good'. At Autism NI, every voice matters, particularly those of our autistic participants.

"I guess I am more comfortable talking to people now." (Autistic girl)

"I exchanged numbers with the other girls, I feel left out in school, and I've liked sharing my personal experiences with others."



Training

Our Training Department provides high quality, accredited training and support to a wide variety of parents, carers, professionals, schools and organisations. Our training is evidence based, practical, and is delivered to the highest standard of accuracy to ensure it is effective in supporting autistic people at home, in the community, in school or in a workplace.

'I gained a lot more knowledge. The trainer was amazing and explained everything so well. Thank you.'
(Evaluation feedback)

Autism NI's training courses are delivered online and in person across NI, Ireland, UK and Internationally. Our dynamic courses include interactive activities and group discussion, to enable groups to explore concepts in an engaging and practical way. Overall, our training team delivered 156 training courses in 2022/23/24 to 2,338 participants.

Training for Parents and Carers

During 2023/24 we provided free support courses to parents and carers, empowering them to support their family, pre or post diagnosis. This included 405 funded places on our sessions, funded by Ann Ryland Fund, Blackburn Trust and Awards for All.

The courses were delivered on topics that were particularly relevant within the challenging circumstances, for example, sleep, social stories, supporting your teen. We also expanded and developed our course content further, within our 'Autism and Interactions' course and our 'Autism, Anxiety and School' course.

'The trainer was excellent at broadening my awareness of autism. I would highly recommend it to all parents, carers and anyone responsible for caring for a child.'
(Parent/Carer Support Course Feedback)

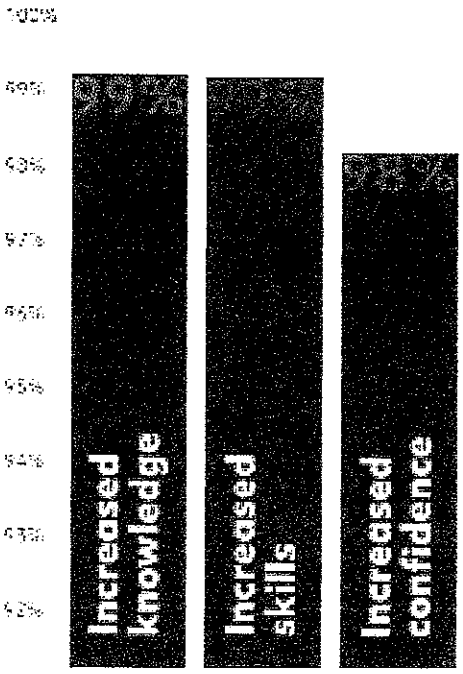
AQA Accreditations

We provide AQA unit award accreditations to people who have attended our training courses, supporting them to demonstrate high-quality learning and professional development. In 2023/24, 135 people completed a range of AQA unit award accreditations to evidence their development.

We are CPD certified, demonstrating quality assurance and a structured approach to learning and development. Our Training Department are certified by the CPD Certification Service.

Evaluations

Evaluation scores for all our training courses remain consistently excellent, demonstrating the expertise of our trainers and practicality of our courses. Overall, our courses are rated with 97% approval for the course content, materials, and communication of the trainer.



Improvements based on course attendance

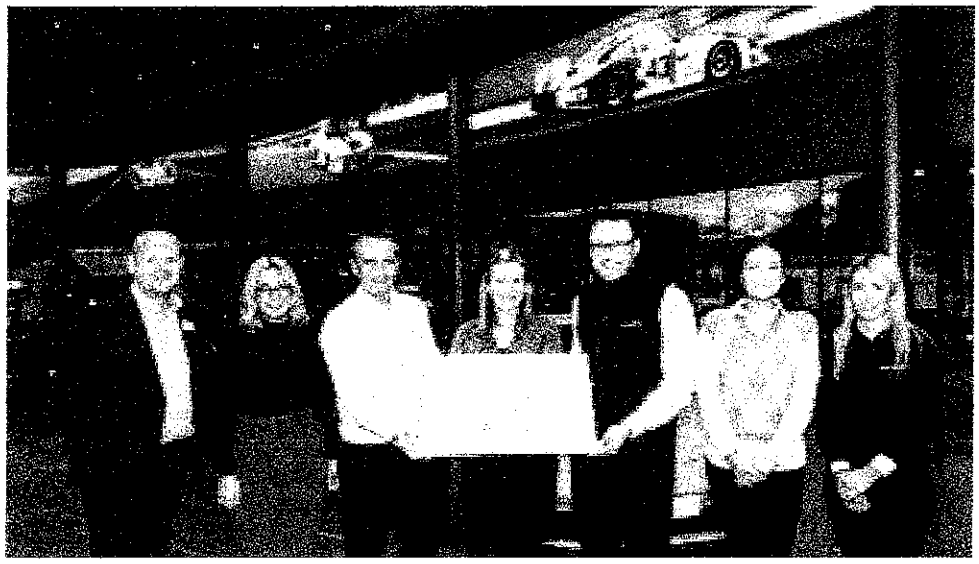
The course evaluations also demonstrate the positive impact of the training on delegates, with delegates scoring the courses as improving their knowledge (99.6%), skills (99%) and confidence (99%).

Training for Organisations

Our commissioned training service facilitated a wide range of bespoke courses for organisations, community groups and staff teams. Our courses are tailored to each organisation based on their needs and facilitated online or in person. We work with organisations to provide knowledge on autism, introduce practical skills on how to support autistic people in the workplace and also within their service, to build an inclusive environment.

During 2023/24, Autism NI delivered bespoke training sessions to a range of organisations, including Health and Social Care Trusts, Education settings, Voluntary Sector, public facilities, and private businesses. It is so important that we continue to work alongside organisations to ensure full accessibility for our autistic community. The bespoke training that Autism NI offers allows organisations to design a training programme that will address their particular needs.

"This training has really helped our team think about simple changes we can make to make our workplace more accessible"
City Belfast



Impact Award

It is essential that every organisation in Northern Ireland understands that they are legally obligated to provide equal access to services for autistic people under the Autism Act 2011. Our Impact Award is a training and support programme to help organisations create a more 'autism inclusive environment' for their autistic staff and customers. The training programme equips staff to better understand autism and how to adapt the organisation's environment to support autistic people and their families. The programme includes accredited training, follow up support to implement an individualised action plan and continued support for organisations who achieve the Impact Award Champion status.

In 2023/24, 32 organisations completed their Impact Award training, bringing the overall number of Impact Award Programmes delivered to 132.

This includes entertainment venues, leisure centres, arts and cultural venues, shopping centres and community venues. A number of our Impact Award Champions have continued to develop their partnership with Autism NI further by completing the process of reaccreditation with the Impact Award programme and accessing further top-up training for staff, to ensure a best practice approach is maintained across their services.

Spotlight: ASOS

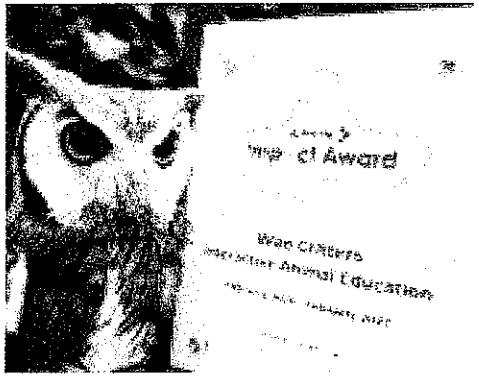
ASOS Belfast Tech Hub achieved their Impact Award in July 2023 and found this to be a very positive process for their team. For example, it opened up a dialogue with several colleagues to disclose their diagnosis of autism, which was made possible by the positive steps they have taken towards inclusion.

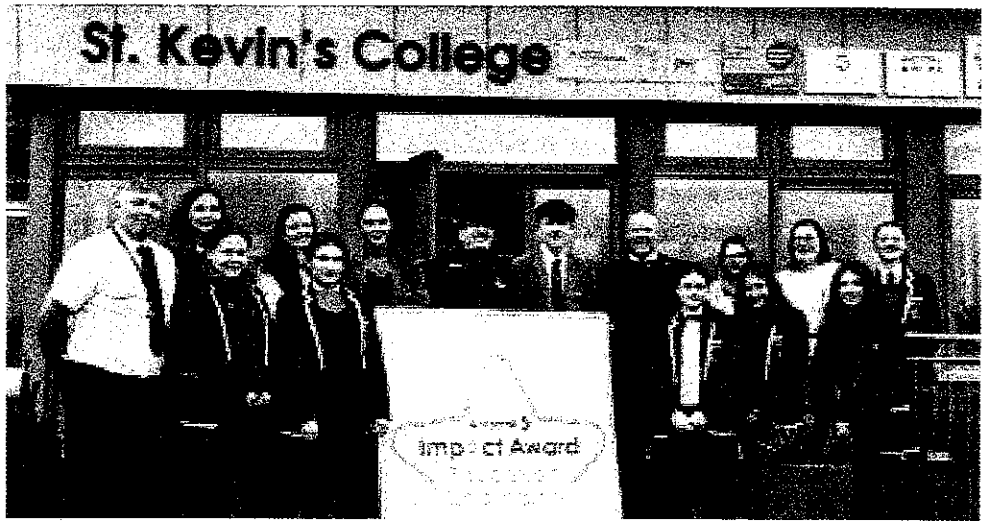
"Autism NI were fantastic in terms of guiding and supporting us through the whole process" (ASOS worker)

The training and accessibility work they have completed this year has generated a lot of interest within the wider company, and several ASOS offices throughout UK have now also completed their Impact Award training in March 2024, to further their commitment to inclusion.

Impact Award in Education

In 2023/24, we continued to deliver our Impact Award Programme in schools, focusing on promoting a best practice approach to autism inclusion within education settings. Our Impact Award for Education framework provides staff training awarding schools that implemented a bespoke action plan to support their autistic pupils. This programme was extremely popular with 69





schools completing the training programme this year and 169 schools have received the award training since launch. It is part of Autism NI's longstanding vision to ensure that we create an inclusive society where autistic children have the opportunity to thrive, and this all starts with ensuring that they have good educational outcomes.

As a charity we have lobbied endlessly over the past number of years for mandatory autism training for all teaching staff, but until this happens, we will continue to support our local schools and teachers in every way we can. We want our children, parents and teachers to feel confident and happy within the school environment and therefore providing the right knowledge and resources to achieve this is vitally important.

"The benefits to both staff and pupils have been very noticeable and it has certainly been a rewarding piece of work."

(School feedback)

Campaigning

Mental Health and Autism Event

On Monday 25th September 2023, Autism NI hosted a Mental Health and Autism event at Stormont, highlighting the immediate action that needs to be taken to introduce a specialist autism mental health service in Northern Ireland.

We have never felt a greater need for this service as we are receiving more and more calls for support from autistic people and their families. One of the biggest issues that Autism NI's Helpline receives on a daily basis is the need for mental health support for both children and adults. We therefore feel passionately that Northern Ireland needs to have a mental health service which understands autistic people and most of all, how to support them.

Guest speakers at this event included Autism NI's CEO Kerry Boyd, Autistica UK CEO, Dr James Cusack, Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland, Professor Siobhan O'Neill, Chair of the All Party Group on Autism, Pam Cameron MLA and autistic adult Kathy Barenskie.

With recent figures showing that autistic adults are nine times more likely to die from suicide and autistic children twenty times more likely to self-harm, Autism NI is pressing for mental health professionals to be trained in autism, offering tailored support strategies that work for autistic people

Kathy, an autistic adult, said: "I felt completely abandoned when my mental health deteriorated. I was told there was no specialist support for autistic people which left me feeling scared and incredibly anxious for my future. Changes need to be made as I don't want anyone else to feel like I did during those dark times. These changes should start with professionals being trained in autism and understanding how they can adapt their support strategies to help autistic people."

Campaigning - Raising Understanding and Acceptance

AutismNI

Be Kind To Different Minds

In celebration of World Autism Acceptance Week which ran from 27th March - 2nd April 2023, autistic people, families, community groups, MLAs, local businesses, and schools supported our 'Be Kind To Different Minds' message on social media. Our supporters got involved in our poster campaign and shared their own message on how to build a kinder and more inclusive society.

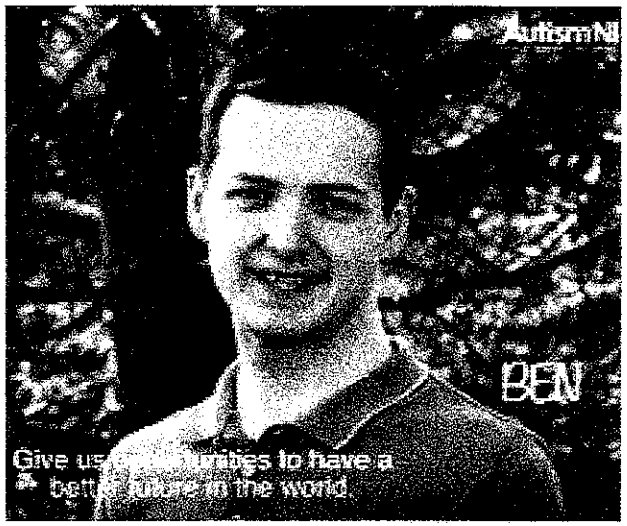
Mattie McKeown shares her message on how we can 'Be Kind To Different Minds'

Online

Our website (www.autismni.org) is a vital online resource for families and professionals and has a great range of information on services, research publications, fact sheets and downloadable resources on education, anxiety, visual aids and games for autistic children and adults. During 2023/24, our website has been an important online tool for many of our autism families and we seen 96,602 unique users visit our website to access information, services and resources.

Family Fun Day

On Sunday 2nd April 2023 the Charity welcomed hundreds of local autism families to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week at W5, Belfast. This event brought families together to enjoy the activities in a safe setting.



Be Kind To Different Minds video

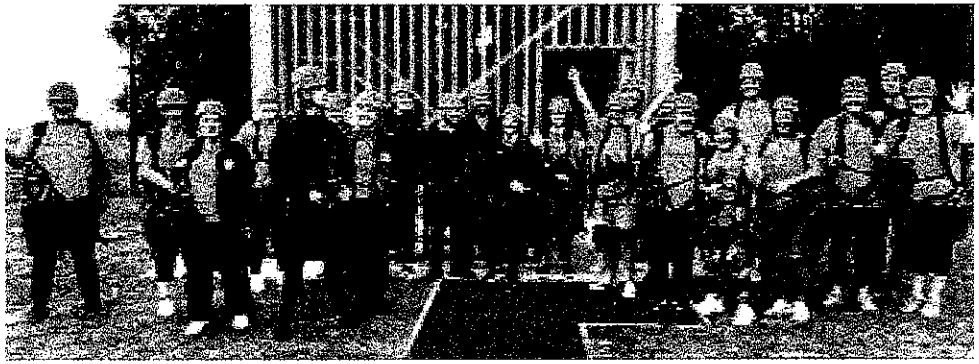
To mark World Autism Acceptance Week, we asked a group of autistic people how society can 'be kind to different minds' and raise understanding of autism in a short video. The video was shared across online platforms during April.

Fundraising Events

Get Colourful

During World Autism Acceptance Week in April 2023, we asked our supporters to celebrate the Spectrum with colour and host a virtual colourful challenge. Many supporters took on a colourful 5k walk, a bake sale or a quiz to raise vital funds for Autism NI's services.

Fundraising Events



Zipline

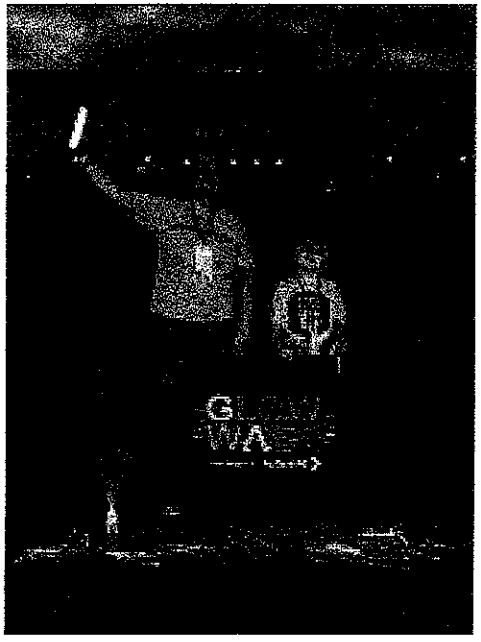
Our fundraisers reached new heights as we held three zipline challenge events in June 2023, September 2023, and March 2024. Supporters took on the longest Zipline in Ireland at Colin Glen Forest Park in Belfast and raised funds for local autism services.

Mourne Madness

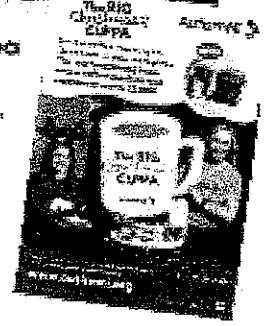
In August 2023, 50 people took part in our iconic Mourne Madness trek. The group conquered Slieve Donard as a team and a smaller group then went on to climb Slieve Commedagh and Slieve Bearnagh.

Glow Walk

Over a thousand families 'got their glow on' as families came together to attend our annual Glow Walk at Stormont in November 2023. Families got involved in fun and games from the U105 crew, and a dance warm up by Fitness Freddy before taking on a night walk at Stormont Estate. Attendees even got a chance to listen to the fantastic Isla McManus sing on the big stage!!



Big Christmas Cuppa



Families, businesses, community groups and schools got behind our 'Big Christmas Cuppa' campaign and held a festive Christmas coffee morning in aid of Autism NI in December 2023. This campaign was sponsored by Bailies Coffee Roasters who donated coffee equipment worth £2,000 to the top fundraiser.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

Home Bargains

In the last two years, Home Bargains has raised over £105,000 for Autism NI. The staff and Area Managers supported the Charity with endless fundraising activities and in-store collections throughout the two-year partnership. In the last year, staff took on a Prison Island challenge, and held a Superhero Day in store. Shoppers also donated to Autism NI by dropping their change into our collection tins at the tills, which are available across 79 stores in Northern Ireland.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

Ground Espresso Bars

In April 2023, Ground Espresso Bars chose Autism NI as their Charity partner and kicked off the partnership by donating 10p from every hot drink sold during April to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Month. The organisation raised nearly £10,000 from this campaign. During the year the team also asked for donations from the tills, staff took part in various challenge events, and in December they also donated 10p from every celebration cake sold to Autism NI. Ground Espresso Bars has also chosen to renew their partnership with Autism NI in 2024.

Little Wing

During April 2023, Little Wing Pizza supported World Autism Acceptance Month by donating £1 from each special sold during April to Autism NI.

Kicking for Autism

In August 2023, Tom and Megan took on the mammoth tasks of scoring a point in every GAA pitch in County Tyrone to raise vital funds for Autism NI. They gained great community support as local clubs came out to support them. Altogether they raised a fantastic £16,823.62 for Autism NI.

Superhero Week

Over 50 schools across Northern Ireland took part in our Superhero Week from 5th-9th February 2024. Pupils took on superhero tasks throughout the week whilst asking for sponsorship and raising autism acceptance in their school. At the end of the week, pupils celebrated their achievements with a certificate and sticker badge.

Ashgrove Nursery School took part in Superhero Week 2024

Partnerships

Autism NI continues to be a strong advocate of partnerships, and we recognise when another organisation's support and expertise is required. We are committed to further building on our engagement with a wide range of stakeholders within the statutory, community and voluntary sectors and continue to work with individuals and families to empower them.

Financial Performance

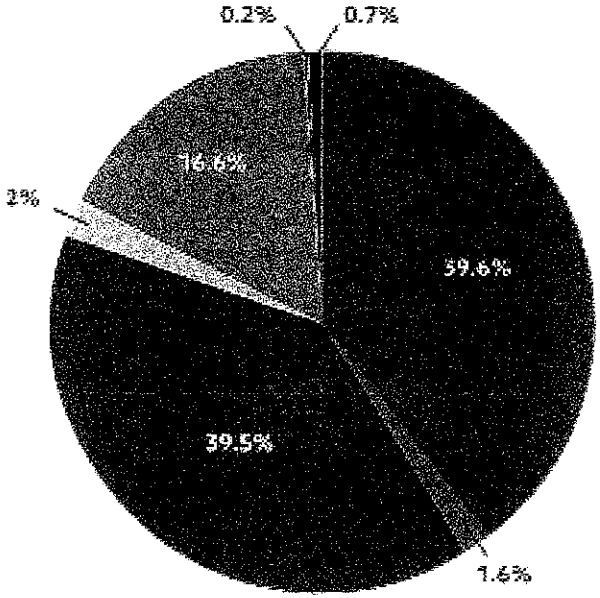
Autism NI is a trading name of Autism NI (PAPA) which is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number NI058548) and an Inland Revenue approved Charity (reference number XR22944).

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 100 240).

Registered Office:
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast, BT8 8BH

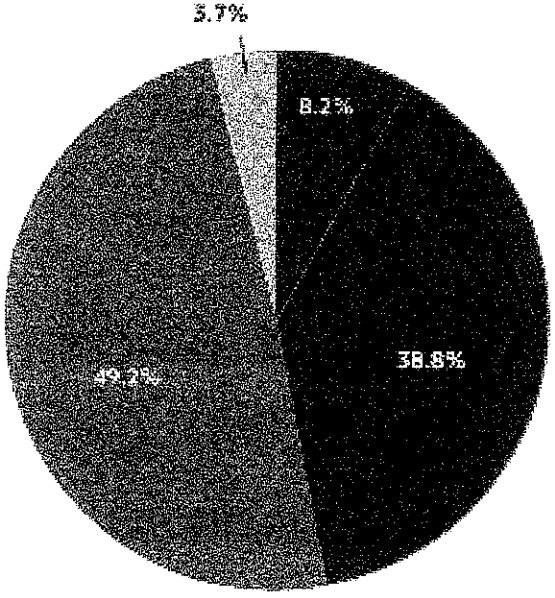
Auditors:
O'Hara Shearer
347 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

For more information about our services or to support our work, call us on 028 9040 1729 or visit www.autismni.org



Incoming Resources 2023/24

- Restricted Funding: Grants (39.6%)
- Unrestricted Funding: Grants (1.6%)
- Donations and Fundraising (39.5%)
- Membership (2%)
- Autism Training and Conferences (16.6%)
- Sale of Merchandise (0.2%)
- Investment Interest Received (0.7%)



Resources Expended 2023/24

- Expenditure on Raising Funds (8.2%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Restricted (38.8%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Unrestricted (49.2%)
- Governance Costs (3.7%)

Patrons

Professor Rita R. Jordan OBE
Dr Judith Gould

Vice Presidents

Eileen Bell CBE
Professor David Sines CBE

Board of Directors

David Heatley Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt Vice-Chairperson
Dr Clare Bailey Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan Honorary Treasurer
Jeff Hobson
Dr Karen Jack
Alan Young

Patron

Adam Keefe

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Tel: **028 9040 1729**
Email: **info@autismni.org**
www.autismni.org

Autism NI is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: NI058548)
Registered Charity Number: XR23965 NI Charity Commission Number: NIC102348

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Membership
Membership of the Society shall be open to the following, irrespective of political party, nationality, religion or political opinion;
Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

Membership was 1,643 at March 2024. (1,578 March 2023)

Members are invaluable as their commitment is important in helping to provide and improve support for people with Autism and their families across Northern Ireland. Our members are invited to attend members' events, have access to funded Autism NI training courses and family support workshops and have access to priority queuing or carers discount into specific attraction across Northern Ireland.

Board of Trustees
Except as provided otherwise in the constitution the policy and general management of the charity shall be directed by the Board which shall meet not less than 4 times a year and shall consist of not less than 6 and not more than 13 members of the Society aged 18 years or over.
A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees
As set out in the Articles of Association, the Charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee, and determine the rotation in which any additional Trustees are to retire.
Currently, Trustees serve for three years after being elected at an AGM. They are eligible to stand again for re-election following the three year term. New Trustees can also be co-opted on to the Board.

Trustee Induction and Training
New Trustees are invited to an induction meeting to familiarise themselves with the Charity and the context within which it operates. These are facilitated by the Chairperson and Senior Management Team and cover:

- The obligations of the Board of Trustees;
- The content of the Articles of Association;
- The Committee and decision-making processes;
- Current financial position;
- Future plans and objectives.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Risk Management and Uncertainties
The ultimate responsibility for the management and control of the Charity resides with the Board of Trustees and as such their involvement in the key aspects of the risk management process is essential, particularly in setting the parameters of the process and in the review and consideration of the results. This should not be interpreted as meaning that the Board must undertake each aspect of the process themselves.

The Board has delegated elements of the risk management process to the Chief Executive and senior

management team, whilst ensuring that they, as Directors, review and consider the key aspects of the process and results.

The Board of Autism NI ensures that the organisation is not exposed to preventable, unacceptable risk. This risk management process is an integral part of the organisation's governance system. The Board are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Principal Risks identified as potentially having an impact on the Charity include:

Financial Stability
The principal financial challenges facing Autism NI are in the areas of fundraising and cost control. Autism NI relies heavily on the goodwill of the public, along with some government funding and other funders. Fundraising remains very challenging. A combination of increased competition for public funds and pressure on government finances means that Autism NI needs to identify and develop new sources of income in order to reduce the risk of significant income fluctuations. Autism NI works continually to reduce costs and to ensure best value for money in all expenditure.

Governance and Management
Autism NI has appropriate governance structures and procedures in place to ensure correct decision-making and the implementation of decisions. All organisational change initiatives and projects are regularly reviewed by senior management.

Operational
The Board recognises that a sound internal control system that can respond to significant risks, is embedded in operational activities, is capable of reacting to external and internal changes and will immediately report major control weaknesses, is a key and essential component of risk management.

External and Environmental
Autism NI must be able to demonstrate the impact of its work in a measurable and demonstrable way in order to be accountable to donors and beneficiaries, to guarantee the achievement of strategic objectives and to attract future funding support.

Compliance and Regulation
Autism NI has established policies and procedures and codes of practice to ensure compliance with statue, regulatory and labour law requirements, including recent General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Compliance and Regulation

Key controls used by the Charity include:
- Formal agendas, minutes and action plans for staff and Board meetings;
- Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- Established organisational structure, lines of reporting and delegation duties;
- Formal written policies and protocols for Human Resources, Finance, Risk Management, Health and Safety etc;
- Establishment and regular reporting on Key Performance Indicators and targets;
- Clear authorisation and approval.

Going Concern

As required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, we assess whether there are any uncertainties that may cast doubt over our ability to continue as a going concern. For this purpose, we focus on at least 12 months following the signing of these financial statements.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Trustees are satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year.The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses are disclosed in note 8 to the accounts.
Autism NI is committed to ensuring a proper balance between paying staff fairly so that we attract and retain the best people for the job whilst applying careful management of our charity funds. In so doing we will ensure the greatest effectiveness in delivering our charitable objectives and meeting the needs of our beneficiaries.
The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and the Charity uses the most recent NJC Payscales.

The Trustees will also consider:

(i) the Charity's financial situation;
(ii) the Charity's performance;
(iii) cost of living adjustments made in recent years;
(iv) pay reviews within the Voluntary Sector for similar sized charities.

Dormant Companies

The following companies were formed to protect the name Autism.
The one issued share in each company is in the name of Autism NI (PAPA).
The companies are dormant and it is intended that they will remain dormant.
Autism Ulster Limited
Autism Ireland Limited
Autism Consultancy & Training (ACT) Limited

Financial Review

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Total Incoming Resources	747,622	489,843	1,237,465	940,865
Total Resources Expended	734,179	464,846	1,199,025	1,051,470
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	13,443	24,997	38,440	-
Net (Outgoing) Resources for the Year	-	-	-	(110,605)
Net Unrealised (Losses) on Investments	-	-	-	-
Net Unrealised Gains on Investments	-	-	-	-
Transfer From Unrestricted to Restricted	(3,356)	3,356	-	-
Balance of Funds At Start of Year	675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716
Balance of Funds At End of Year	685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111

In 2024 there was a net increase in unrestricted funds of £ 10,087 for the year (2023 Decrease £102,808) In 2023 £46,907 of this decrease related to the charity supporting the core activities previously met with grants received from The Three Guineas.

Reserves

It is our policy to maintain a prudent level of reserves to enable the charity to manage financial governance and operational risk and deliver on our commitments. An adequate and working reserve policy provides accountability and assurance that the charity's activities are sustainable.

Total unrestricted funds at the year end is £ 685,215 (2023 £ 675,128). Our aim is to have a target minimum reserve equal to one year of average operating costs which includes certain salaries and administration costs which are currently funded in projects plus a provision for redundancy payments.
This figure of unrestricted funds may be required to support core activities, presently funded in projects, due to the uncertainty of future funding.
We believe that this balance of unrestricted funds is required to ensure the stability of the organisation, to build sustainability and resilience, and to continue to carry out its aims and objectives, employment and ongoing operations including family support and Autism awareness activities.
The next financial year will see the Charity move to new premises and funds of £100,000 have been designated to support this move.

Restricted Funds (note 7)

During the year ended March 2024, Restricted Funds (Projects) continued: NHSCT and BHSCT Family Support services reached over 500 families. NHSCT also funds two Autism Support Officers who support 500 families per year. The Three Guineas Trust agreed further funding for two years which will support Fundraising, Service Development, Family Support and core costs. The Joseph Levy Foundation funded a full time worker which supported almost 100 families in the Belfast area and this ended Mar 2024. BBC Children in Need provides funding for the Girls and Autism Project (GAP) which funds a part time worker that supports 17 girls. This funding is going in to its final year. The Henry Smith Charity continues to support two part time Early Intervention workers who support 77 families per year. WHSCT funded two part time workers providing family support services to 184 families. Funding was received from Keystone and The Dormant Accounts Fund NI to help expand our digital reach and the resources and supports we offer. SEHSCT provided in year funding for a part time Early Intervention worker to deliver 72 sessions to families

within that Trust area. Full details of Project Income and Expenditure can be found in Note 7 of the Accounts. Changes in Restricted Funding can impact on salaries and administration costs within the Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funding is reviewed on a regular basis by the CEO and is on the Agenda for all Board meetings.

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number XR22944

Company Registration Number NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE

Patron Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt	Vice-Chairperson
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan	Honorary Treasurer
Jonathan Simpson	(Resigned 12th February 2024)
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors - O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.

Principal Bankers - Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

Solicitors - Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities in Respect of the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Autism NI (PAPA) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1 Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2 Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102) ;
3 Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4 State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
5 Prepare the accounts 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.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

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.

Auditors
A resolution proposing that O'Hara Shearer be re-appointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board

David Heatley

David Heatley
Chairperson

Date: 2 December 2024

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autism NI (PAPA) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janaury 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

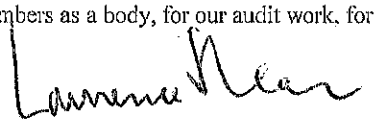
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., **Senior Statutory Auditor**
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, **Statutory Auditor**
O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

Dated: 2nd December 2024

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and Legacies					
Grants	2	19,195	489,843	509,038	403,199
Donations	3	334,666	-	334,666	228,237
Membership		24,885	-	24,885	22,172
		378,746	489,843	868,589	653,608
Other Trading Activities					
Training and Conferences	4	205,074	-	205,074	179,832
Fund Raising Events	5	153,732	-	153,732	103,144
Resources, Books, Videos etc		2,022	-	2,022	1,993
		360,828	-	360,828	284,969
Income from Investments					
Bank Interest Received		8,048	-	8,048	2,288
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		747,622	489,843	1,237,465	940,865
EXPENDITURE ON	6				
Expenditure on Raising Funds					
Staff Costs		74,861	-	74,861	62,355
Other Costs		23,923	-	23,923	22,289
		98,784	-	98,784	84,644
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Staff Costs		377,374	371,970	749,344	670,972
Other Costs		213,059	92,876	305,935	247,886
Governance Costs: Staff Costs		33,650	-	33,650	31,450
Governance Costs: Other Costs		11,312	-	11,312	16,518
		635,395	464,846	1,100,241	966,826
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		734,179	464,846	1,199,025	1,051,470
NET INCOME		13,443	24,997	38,440	-
NET (EXPENDITURE)		-	-	-	(110,605)
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT (LOSSES) GAINS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(3,356)	3,356	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,087	28,353	38,440	(110,605)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023		675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024		685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111
TOTAL FUNDS		685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
COMPARATIVE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and Legacies				
Grants	2	48,911	354,288	403,199
Donations	3	228,237	-	228,237
Membership		22,172	-	22,172
		299,320	354,288	653,608
Other Trading Activities				
Training and Conferences	4	179,832	-	179,832
Donations and Fund Raising Events	5	103,144	-	103,144
Resources, Books, Videos etc		1,993	-	1,993
		284,969	-	284,969
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest Received		2,288	-	2,288
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		586,577	354,288	940,865
EXPENDITURE ON	6			
Expenditure on Raising Funds				
Staff Costs		62,355	-	62,355
Other Costs		22,289	-	22,289
		84,644	-	84,644
Expenditure on Charitable Activities				-
Staff Costs		328,899	342,073	670,972
Other Costs		181,001	66,885	247,886
Governance Costs; Staff Costs		31,450	-	31,450
Governance Costs; Other Costs		16,518	-	16,518
		557,868	408,958	966,826
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		642,512	408,958	1,051,470
NET INCOME		-	-	-
NET (EXPENDITURE)		(55,935)	(54,670)	(110,605)
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(46,873)	46,873	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(102,808)	(7,797)	(110,605)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022		777,936	33,780	811,716
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023		675,128	25,983	701,111
TOTAL FUNDS		675,128	25,983	701,111

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	NOTE	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	10,842	12,889
		10,842	12,889
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	10	44,835	22,324
Bank Accounts	11	755,657	728,323
		800,492	750,647
CREDITORS; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year			
Creditors and Accruals	12	71,783	62,425
		71,783	62,425
NET CURRENT ASSETS		728,709	688,222
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		739,551	701,111
CREDITORS; Amounts Falling Due After One Year	13	-	-
NET ASSETS		739,551	701,111
FUNDS		£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			
AUTISM CENTRAL OFFICE	16 & 17	685,215	675,128
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
PROJECTS	16 & 17	54,336	25,983
TOTAL FUNDS		739,551	701,111

These Financial Statements were approved by the board of management on the 02/12/2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

David Heatley
Chairperson

Date: 2 December 2024

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	NOTE	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	15	30,934	(61,395)
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Dividends, Interest and Rents From Investments		-	-
Proceeds From the Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment		-	-
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(3,600)	(7,880)
Proceeds from the Sale of Investments		-	-
Purchase of Investments		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities		(3,600)	(7,880)
Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
Repayments of Borrowings		-	-
Cash Inflows From New Borrowings		-	-
Receipt of Endowment		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities		-	-
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period		27,334	(69,275)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		728,323	797,598
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents Due to Exchange Rate Movements		-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period	11	755,657	728,323

	2024 £	2023 £
ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash in Hand	755,657	728,323
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)	-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand	-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	755,657	728,323

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The principal accounting policies which have been adopted are set out below.

The Charity prepares its accounts in accordance with 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 1st January 2015), the Finacial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Autism NI (PAPA) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

GOING CONCERN

As required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, we assess whether there are any uncertainties that may cast doubt over our ability to continue as a going concern. For this purpose, we focus on at least 12 months following the signing of these financial statements.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Trustees are satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year.The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants , is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.
When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted fund when receivable.

INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest is included when receivable by the charity under investment income.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost which comprises the purchase price and any installation charges.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the assets within their useful lives. The methods adopted and rates used are:

FIXTURE AND FITTINGS	20%	STRAIGHT LINE
ALTERATION TO LEASEHOLD PREMISES	5%	STRAIGHT LINE

INVESTMENTS

Listed investments are stated at market value. The SOFA includes realised gains and losses on investments sold in the year and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation of investments.

JUDGEMENTS ESTIMATES

In the application of the charity's accounting policies the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.
The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.
The trustees do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation requiring disclosure.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted General Funds - these are donations, grants and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without specified purpose and are available as general funds and are available to spend at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity.

Designated Funds - these are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meet these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

PENSION
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity made a contribution to this scheme as highlighted in note 8.

TAXATION
As a registered charity, the charity benefits from rates relief, and is exempt from direct tax on its charitable activities but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

STOCKS
The cost of publications and promotional and educational material is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY
The Charity "Autism NI (PAPA)" is a Company Limited By Guarantee.

Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
The charity only has financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are normally initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the carrying valueplus accrued interest less repayments. The financing charge to expenditure is at a constant rate calculated using the effective interest method.

2. GRANTS		2024	2023
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
i) AUTISM NI (PAPA)			
DoH	Core Funding	19,195	38,390
NHSCT	Non Recurrent Financial Payment	-	10,521
		19,195	48,911
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		19,195	48,911
RESTRICTED FUNDS		**RESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
ii) AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	7		
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)		42,431	37,371
The Three Guineas Trust		70,000	31,250
NHSCT ASOs		70,029	67,843
Joseph Levy		37,000	18,500
Children In Need		26,609	26,178
Keystone		24,373	-
Family Support		-	8,621
Community Foundation NI Family Support		160	3,732
BHSCT		38,391	73,931
BHSCT MAP		58,455	-
The Henry Smith Charity		56,700	56,300
WHSCT ASO's		30,562	30,562
SEHSCT		10,141	-
Dormant Accounts		24,992	-
TEACCH Steering Group		-	-
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		489,843	354,288
Total Credited to Statement of Financial Activities		509,038	403,199

	£ 2024	£ 2023
	£	£
3. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
DONATIONS	334,666	228,237

Donations include general donations from the public and businesses, along with Payroll Giving and Regular Giving. Since 2021, we have seen a significant increase in Donations. Our Fundraising Team work very hard in raising the profile of the Charity and we can see the increase of awareness through our social media platforms, along with the invaluable work of the whole staff team.

	£ 2024	£ 2023
4 TRAINING	205,074	179,832

Training includes income from Parents, Individuals and Professionals.
Further training has also been commissioned by Statutory and Charitable Trusts.

5. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
FUND RAISING EVENTS	153,732	103,144

During the year, the Fundraising Team carried out a number of events including Mourne Madness, Glow Walk, Abseil, Zipline and Skydive.

6. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Note	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	8	485,885	371,970	857,855	422,704	342,073	764,777
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance		37,587	7,784	45,371	35,839	3,366	39,205
Repairs and Maintenance		-	-	-	511	-	511
Telephone		8,443	3,998	12,441	6,068	2,330	8,398
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising		43,157	347	43,504	40,615	1,139	41,754
Website and IT		-	22,085	22,085			
Catering		-	135	135	-	-	-
Travel Expenses		16,214	20,468	36,682	9,525	14,650	24,175
Autism Awareness		2,460	-	2,460	2,400	-	2,400
Training and Conferences		14,496	-	14,496	9,337	-	9,337
Recruitment and Staff Development		2,272	10,603	12,875	5,314	17,201	22,515
Purchase of Books, Videos and Resources		7,414	-	7,414	5,022	-	5,022
Resources for Projects		-	25,854	25,854	-	21,820	21,820
Fund Raising Expenditure		20,115	-	20,115	18,874	-	18,874
Expenditure on Behalf of Branches / Support Groups		11,360	-	11,360	9,119	-	9,119
Professional Fees and Subscriptions		60,882	-	60,882	49,507	3,940	53,447
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit Fees		6,000	500	6,500	5,640	500	6,140
Accountancy Fees		5,312	-	5,312	10,878	-	10,878
Bank Fees and Interest		961	-	961	685	-	685
Hire Purchase Interest		-	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses		5,974	203	6,177	2,572	162	2,734
Capital		-	899	899	-	1,777	1,777
Depreciation		5,647	-	5,647	7,902	-	7,902
		734,179	464,846	1,199,025	642,512	408,958	1,051,470
Total Resources Expended		734,179	464,846	1,199,025	642,512	408,958	1,051,470

(Note 7)

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	TOTAL PROJECTS	NHSCT Family Support	The Three Guineas Trust	NHSCT ASOs
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Received	489,843	42,431	70,000	70,029
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions				
Salaries and Redundancies	337,125	26,906	50,868	49,618
Management	23,910	3,595	-	1,882
Administration	7,606	1,798	-	-
HR / Finance	3,329	-	-	-
	371,970	32,299	50,868	51,500
COSTS				
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	7,784	-	-	2,318
Telephone	3,998	252	-	940
Postage,Printing, Stationery and Advertising	347	-	-	-
Website and IT	22,085	720	-	720
Catering	135	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	20,468	5,346	-	4,117
Recruitment and Staff Development	10,603	-	-	6,550
Resources for Projects	25,854	3,350	-	1,329
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	500	500	-	-
General Expenses	203	-	-	203
Capital	899	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-
	92,876	10,168	-	16,177
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	464,846	42,467	50,868	67,677
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	38,161	-	19,132	2,352
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(13,164)	(36)	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023	25,983	(452)	-	(3,809)
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	3,356	488	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	54,336	-	19,132	(1,457)

NHSCT Family Support
Contract to March 2024.

The Three Guineas Trust
The Three Guineas Trust which supports our Helpline and Awareness campaigns.
The Three Guineas Trust has confirmed further funding of £140,000 over two years (£70K in 2023/24 and £70K in 2024/25) the new funding commenced in July 2023.

NHSCT ASOs
A new contract was awarded in January 2024 for three years.

Joseph Levy
Initial funding was for three years to April 2022.
Additional funding of £55,500 was agreed for the eighteen months to 31st March 2024.

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	BBC CHILDREN IN NEED	KEYSTONE	FAMILY SUPPORT	BHSCT	BHSCT MAP
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	26,609	24,373	160	38,391	58,455
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	19,583	13,768	-	32,002	37,225
Management	2,851	-	-	1,937	3,875
Administration	-	-	-	1,579	1,579
HR / Finance	-	-	-	-	1,066
	22,434	13,768	-	35,518	43,745
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	-	-	-	-	1,749
Telephone	423	-	-	439	439
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	-	-	-
Website and IT	460	5,851	-	770	880
Catering	-	-	135	-	-
Travel Expenses	546	-	-	410	2,978
Recruitment and Staff Development	53	-	-	-	1,500
Resources for Projects	2,833	-	-	1,000	9,014
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-		-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	4,315	5,851	135	2,619	16,560
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	26,749	19,619	135	38,137	60,305
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	4,754	25	254	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(140)	-	-	-	(1,850)
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023	516	-	1,811	3,157	3,060
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	-	-	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	376	4,754	1,836	3,411	1,210

BBC Children in Need
Project to the 31st March 2025.
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Keystone
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Family Support
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

BHSCT
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	THE HENRY SMITH CHARITY	WHSCT ASO's	SEHSCT	DORMANT ACCOUNTS	TEACCH STEERING GROUP
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	56,700	30,562	10,144	24,992	-
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	40,014	31,984	1,846	2,935	-
Management	2,901	2,885	1,211	-	-
Administration	-	1,803	-	-	-
HR / Finance	1,597	-	666	-	-
	44,512	36,672	3,723	2,935	-
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	2,624	-	1,093	-	-
Telephone	862	456	-	-	-
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	347	-	-
Website and IT	600	-	400	11,684	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	2,322	4,087	151	-	-
Recruitment and Staff Development	-	-	2,500	-	-
Resources for Projects	5,363	-	1,930	-	-
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	-		-		-
Capital	899	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	12,670	4,543	6,421	11,684	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	57,182	41,215	10,144	14,619	-
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	-	-	10,373	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(482)	(10,653)	(3)	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023	10,163	7,790	-	-	5,020
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	2,863	3	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	9,681	-	-	10,373	5,020

Henry Smith Charity
The unexpended balance is due to the grant received in advance.

WHSCT ASO's
This was a two year project with the Charity funding the second year.

SEHSCT
Funding received in the year up to the 31st March 2024.

Dormant Accounts
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2024 £	2023 £
Gross Salary	763,977	684,630
Employers NIC Contribution	68,015	57,500
Employers Pension Contribution	25,863	22,647
Redundancy Payments	-	-
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	857,855	764,777

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is now administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity makes a contribution to this scheme as noted above.

Trustees Directors Remuneration
The trustees directors did not receive any emoluments during the year 2024 Nil (2023 £ Nil)
Trustees directors were reimbursed expenses during the year 2024 £ Nil (2023 NIL)

Related party transactions see note 18.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Director, Director of Development and Director of Family Support. Their remuneration including pension contributions were £217,056 (2023 £214,053).

Employees during the year were as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Chief Executive	1	1
Director of Development	1	1
Director of Finance	1	1
Director of Family Support	1	1
Training and Development Officer	2	2
Corporate Manager	1	1
Fundraising and Marketing Manager	1	1
Sales and Marketing Officer	1	1
Events and Fundraising Officer	1	1
Family Support Manager	1	1
Family Support and Helpline	3	3
Family Support Group Officer	1	1
Project Staff	9	9
Administration Officer	1	1
Early Intervention	3	3
Communications Officer	1	1
Autistic Adults Support Officer	1	1
	30	30

9. FIXED ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED		RESTRICTED	TOTAL
	F&F	Premises	F&F	
	£	£	£	£
COST				
Balance at 1st April 2023	160,860	5,559	30,460	196,879
Additions	3,600	-	-	3,600
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2024	164,460	5,559	30,460	200,479
DEPRECIATION				
Balance at 1st April 2023	148,056	5,558	30,376	183,990
Charge for the Period	5,647	-	-	5,647
Elimination on Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2024	153,703	5,558	30,376	189,637
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2024	10,757	1	84	10,842
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2023	12,804	1	84	12,889

10. DEBTORS	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	36,645	22,324
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	8,190	-
	44,835	22,324

11. BANK AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	£	£
UNRESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) CENTRAL	750,564	723,216
	750,564	723,216
RESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	5,093	5,107
TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND AT HAND	755,657	728,323

12. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	£	£
Trade Creditors	18,347	15,213
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	53,436	47,212
	71,783	62,425

13. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year		
Hire Purchase Creditor	-	-
	-	-

	£	£
14. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION		
Audit Fees	6,500	5,640
	6,500	5,640

15. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Note	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Net Income (Expenditure) for the Reporting Period (as per the statement of financial activities)		38,440	(110,605)
Adjustments For:			
Depreciation Charges		5,647	7,902
Realised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Unrealised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-
Dividends, Interest and Rents from Investments		-	-
Loss (Profit) on the Sale of Fixed Assets		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Stocks		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Debtors		(22,511)	37,682
Increase (Decrease) in Creditors		9,358	3,626
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities		30,934	(61,395)

ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		2024 £	2023 £
Cash in Hand		755,657	728,323
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)		-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand		-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	11	755,657	728,323

16. ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES BETWEEN THE NET ASSETS AT THE 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING	RESTRICTED FUNDING	TOTAL
		CENTRAL	PROJECTS	
		£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	9	10,758	84	10,842
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and Prepayments	10	44,835	-	44,835
Owed by Inter Divisions		-	52,957	52,957
Cash on Hand and at Bank	11	750,564	5,093	755,657
		795,399	58,050	853,449
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year				
Owed to Inter Divisions		52,957	-	52,957
Creditors and Accruals	12	67,985	3,798	71,783
		120,942	3,798	124,740
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due After One Year				
Creditors and Accruals	13	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		685,215	54,336	739,551

17. RECONCILIATION AND ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON THE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR

(Note 7 Page 47-49)

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING CENTRAL	RESTRICTED FUNDING PROJECTS	TOTAL
	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
UNRESTRICTED	747,622	-	747,622
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	42,431	42,431
The Three Guineas Trust	-	70,000	70,000
NHSCT ASOs	-	70,029	70,029
Joseph Levy	-	37,000	37,000
Children In Need	-	26,609	26,609
Keystone	-	24,373	24,373
Family Support	-	-	-
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	160	160
BHSCT	-	38,391	38,391
BHSCT MAP	-	58,455	58,455
The Henry Smith Charity	-	56,700	56,700
WHSCT ASO's	-	30,562	30,562
SEHSCT		10,141	
Dormant Accounts		24,992	
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
	747,622	489,843	1,237,465
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
UNRESTRICTED	734,179	-	734,179
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	42,467	42,467
The Three Guineas Trust	-	50,868	50,868
NHSCT ASOs	-	67,677	67,677
Joseph Levy	-	35,729	35,729
Children In Need	-	26,749	26,749
Keystone	-	19,619	19,619
Family Support	-	-	-
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	135	135
BHSCT	-	38,137	38,137
BHSCT MAP	-	60,305	60,305
The Henry Smith Charity	-	57,182	57,182
WHSCT ASO's	-	41,215	41,215
SEHSCT		10,144	10,144
Dormant Accounts		14,619	14,619
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
	734,179	464,846	1,199,025
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	13,443	24,997	38,440
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	(3,356)	3,356	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	10,087	28,353	38,440
BALANCE AT 1ST APRIL 2023	675,128	25,983	701,111
BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2024	685,215	54,336	739,551

THE FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS	54,336
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
General	685,215
Designated	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	685,215
TOTAL FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	739,551

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the charity purchased £26,398.28 (2023 £25,194.60) from Leaf Consultancy Ltd for computer software and support during the year.

The balance due to Leaf Consultancy Ltd in trade creditors at year end was £3,666.80 (2023 £900.46). Mr Steven Goldblatt is a trustee of the charity and a majority shareholder and director of Leaf Consultancy Ltd.

The transactions were on normal commercial terms that were beneficial to the charity. Mr Goldblatt took no part in the decision to use Leaf Consultancy Ltd. The charity had been using the services of Leaf Consultancy Ltd for several years before Mr Goldblatt was appointed a trustee.

19. REPORTING CURRENCY

The financial statements are stated in GBP (sterling)

20. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

After 30 years based in Knockbracken Healthcare Park the charity will move to Forestgrove Business Park, Newtownbreda.
The financial cost in moving and fitting out the new premises is estimated to be in the region of £100,000.

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying value of the company's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

FINANCIAL ASSETS	**2024**	**2023**
Measured at undiscounted amount receivable	**£**	**£**
Trade Debtors	36,645	22,324
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	8,190	-
	44,835	22,324

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	**2024**	**2023**
Measured at undiscounted amount payable	**£**	**£**
Trade Creditors	18,347	15,213
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	53,436	47,212
	71,783	62,425

Autism NI (PAPA)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100240

Annual report

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

(A Company Limited By Guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Registered Charity XR22944

Company Number NI 058548

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number	XR22944
Company Registration Number	NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address

Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE
Patron	Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt	Vice-Chairperson
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan	Honorary Treasurer
Jonathan Simpson	(Resigned 12th February 2024)
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors	- O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.
Principal Bankers	- Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
Solicitors	- Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.
The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated in March 2006. Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100239 and Registered with HMRC XR22944.

Public Benefits
The advancement of education and the relief of children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the province of Ulster and in particular for the following;
(i) The promotion of greater knowledge of Autism amongst the public and those concerned in the educational facilities.
These benefits are evidenced by the public bodies and private organisations who have requested Autism training and also evidenced through the evaluations completed by all participants on our training courses and through feedback from our Parent Support Groups.
(ii) The promotion of the provision of appropriate recreational, residential and educational facilities.
Through lobbying has drawn attention to service need and for service development. The charity supports individual families through Autism NI's Family Support Service, Training Department, Helpline Service and Support Group Network.
The benefit of our Advocacy role within the Autism Community can be seen through the number of new members within our regional Support network and the increase in support given through our Helpline and Training Services.
(iii) The provision of help, guidance and information to families with Autistic members and the promotion of a network of support among such families.
These benefits are evidenced through feedback from parents and support groups and through regular evaluation of our services.
(iv) The establishment of an information resource and the promotion of research into Autism generally and the publication of the useful results thereof.
These benefits are evidenced through a number of projects and services which have been designed to specifically address the need evidenced within our Autism research
A summary of the charity's activities is listed below.
Our purposes do not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of our purposes are people living in Northern Ireland who have Autism. The beneficiaries of this purpose also include family members and carers of those with Autism. There is no private benefit.
The trustees are aware of the charity commission's guidance on public benefit.

Mission Statement
We support autistic people and their families, and campaign for autism acceptance within society.

Vision
Our vision is an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

Strategic Plan
The Main Objectives for the charity detailed within the Strategic Plan include the following together with it's main activities;

A summary of the main achievements of the charity including the difference the charity's work has made to its beneficiaries and the community.

Family Support:
Increased volunteering in the Autism NI Support network within a community development framework, development of a regional Family Support Service.

Training:
Achievement of accreditation to a quality standard, acquisition of new customers, development of new courses.

Advocacy:
Development of Autism NI's role as an agent of social change for Autism in Northern Ireland.

Marketing /Fundraising:
Increased awareness of Autism and Autism NI brand, development of new funding opportunities, utilization of new communication methods, development of corporate relationships.

Governance:
Development of good governance improvement measures, build capacity.

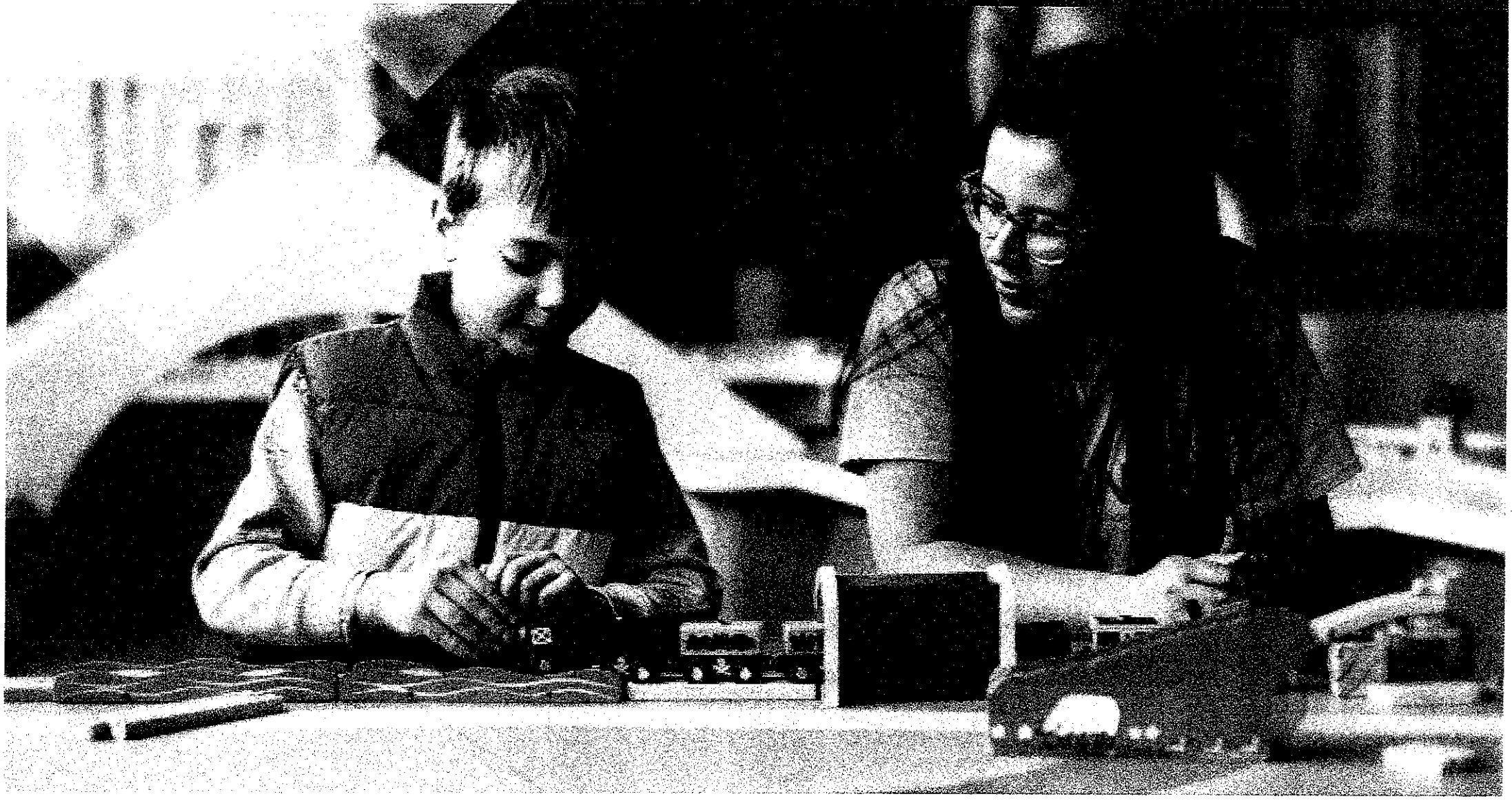
Partnerships
Working in Partnership is a key aspect of Autism NI. The very origin of the charity came from formation of a partnership between Parents and Professionals & Autism (PAPA)
Autism NI have built up many partnerships over the years:
AMH, All Party Assembly Group on Autism, Barnardo's, Children's Law Centre, Disability Action, Early Years, Equality Commission, Irish Autism, Action, Mencap, NICCY, NICVA, NOW, Orchardville Society, SPEAC and University of Ulster, CO3.

AutismNI

Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Annual Report 2023-2024

Building an inclusive society



Autism NI held their sixth Glow Walk with local families at Stormont in November 2023.

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Partnerships 25

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Our Year in Numbers

1,643 members

Overall **97%** satisfaction on our training courses

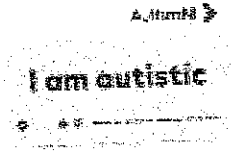
4,059 total sessions delivered by our Projects and Early Intervention Services

Over **7,500** Helpline calls

Over **33,000** 'Followers' on Facebook

2,338 participants received training

38% Increase in Autism Card Applications



214 Support Group meetings

96,602 users visited our website

135 people achieved AQA Unit Award Accreditations in Autism

20+ Family support groups across NI

Chairperson's Report

David Heatley

Chairperson

This past year has been another very busy year for Autism NI. I am very proud of the work of the staff team as they continue to grow service provision for our autism community. As is clear from 'Our Year in Numbers' we are providing more intervention sessions, Helpline support calls and Support Group support sessions, than ever before. I know how much of a difference this support can make for our autistic adults and families and therefore I am delighted that we are reaching more people, right across Northern Ireland. Indeed, our Helpline received over 7,500 calls within the 2023-24 year, with the main areas of support being emotional and behavioural support for children, support after a diagnosis, as well as autistic adults seeking support and information.

The work that our CEO, Kerry Boyd and our staff team have been doing at government and policy level, is also something that should be commended. As a Charity, we are the secretariat for the All Party Group on Autism and have held this position for the past 16 years. Within this role we are able to highlight the many pertinent issues that are affecting autistic people within their daily lives. Most recently, one of the issues that we have chosen to prioritise and lobby for, is the immediate need for the creation of a specialist autism mental health service. We will therefore continue to work on this campaign within the forthcoming year, in our aim of achieving our vision of an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Trustees for their dedicated efforts in governing the Charity. As always, my thanks also go to the staff team, our volunteers, fundraisers, charity partners and funders, without their support our work would not be possible.

David Heatley

Chief Executive's Remarks

Kerry Boyd
CEO

Throughout 2023-24 Autism NI increased its reach, adapting and evolving services to meet the increasing level of need from a growing autism community. We were able to provide over 13,800 support sessions through our Early Intervention Service, Training Service and Helpline to autistic adults, parents, carers, families and professionals.

The Charity also continues to evolve its services through integral participation with our autism community in Northern Ireland. We take very seriously the mantra of 'nothing for us without us' and therefore we ensure autistic people are at the heart of everything we do and every new support service we develop. Indeed, this participation can be seen within our Autistic Peer Network, which I am delighted to report has went from strength to strength over the past year.

One of the highlights this year was the fantastic turnout at our Glow Walk, where hundreds of families took part, giving us our biggest attendance to date. It was a night full of fun, laughter and camaraderie, and it was great to see so many children enjoying the event together, within the grounds of Stormont Estate. World Autism Acceptance Month was another great success. In particular, our Family Fun Day at W5 was fantastic, where families came together to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week. Our autistic adults also had a chance to share their own personal stories through our Spectrum Stories campaign which ran throughout the month of April.

I would finally like to extend my thanks to all of our stakeholders, ambassadors, volunteers, partners, donors and our fantastic staff team, for their dedication and commitment. Without their support, Autism NI could not deliver our support services to the autism community and continue to build an inclusive society.

Family Support

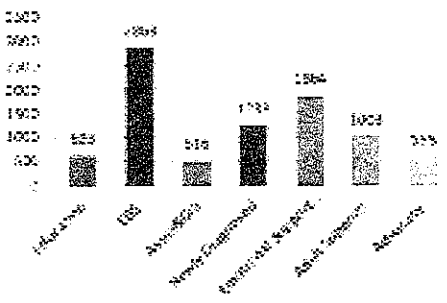
One of our longest-standing services is our Family Support provision, operating regionally throughout local communities and delivering tailored support services. We deeply value the expertise and strengths of the Autism NI Family Support Team. We actively listen to our autistic community and offer a diverse range of services aimed at bolstering the support networks, confidence, well being, and sense of belonging for autistic children, adults, and their families. Central to our approach is inclusive participation, which forms the bedrock of our work. We remain committed to nurturing and fostering relationships with community, voluntary, and statutory services, ensuring families and individuals receive comprehensive support.

At Autism NI, we are fortunate to have a neurodiverse team that continues to grow. Their unwavering dedication has ensured that autistic people and their families benefit from a spectrum of early supports. Over the past year, referrals to Autism NI for early support have surged across all areas of our work.

Individual Support

The Autism NI Helpline for many autistic people, families and professionals is the first point of contact before and after diagnosis.

Concerns prompting requests for support



We regularly receive feedback on our Helpline, which shows the profound impact our support has on autistic people and their families. It reaffirms the invaluable difference our services make in their lives.

"I can't express how grateful I am for your input. It helped to give me focus at a time when I feel like I am completely floundering".

(Helpline - adult pending assessment)

Autistic Adults Support Officer

Through integral participation via our Helpline, our team identified a gap in services for newly diagnosed autistic adults. In response, we launched the Autistic Adults Support Officer programme in partnership with the Belfast Trust. During this year it was expanded to cover Antrim, Newtownabbey, Carrickfergus, Downpatrick, Holywood and Lisburn.

The initiative is tailored to address individual needs, offering personalised advice, support, and a neuroaffirmative listening ear. Each participant engages voluntarily, benefiting from three sessions designed to enhance outcomes in various areas such as training, employment, relationships, and social opportunities.

"There's not just one typical autistic person, we're all very individual people and have different needs."
Ella, autistic adult

The Adult Support Service is robustly evaluated, employing an outcomes-based model to track the progress of autistic people. Feedback received from one participant during the programme included, "I would like to take this opportunity to provide feedback on the Autistic Adult Support Officer (AASO) who has been providing some support to myself recently. She has been very understanding and has attentively listened to my concerns and my neurodiverse thought processes. The AASO has also provided some excellent presentations and is helping me understand some of the processes along the journey. She is very approachable and brings valuable lived human and life experiences to the role. It is very clear to see that she is passionate about neurodiversity and people and is clearly dedicated to the role. Keep up the great work you are doing".

Autistic Adult Peer Networks

The development of our online peer networks has been fuelled by integral participation and has achieved remarkable success. We offer three distinct services: an online peer support network for autistic adults aged 18 and above, a peer support network tailored for participants aged 30 or older, and an autistic LGBTQIA+ network. These platforms provide a warm neuroaffirmative and inclusive space for socialising and engaging with others in a relaxed and secure environment.

We take a proactive approach to listen and respond to individual needs, continually adapting our support to facilitate involvement and participation. Text-based communication is available via the chat function, ensuring accessibility for all. To date, we've welcomed numerous autistic attendees, with some groups also arranging in-person meetings. One participant commented; "Thanks so much for last night - it was excellent. You spoke well and advocated alongside autistic people. Thanks for sharing the presentation and hopefully will see you on Saturday for the coffee morning." (Autistic Adult)

Autistic Adult Support Course

Integral participation identified that following individual support sessions and coffee meetups, there was another area to be explored, a supportive environment offering opportunities for peer learning on autistic strengths, challenges, and neurodivergence. The aim was to empower autistic adults to deepen their self-understanding and acquire practical strategies to improve their lives.

Participants who completed week six

"Enjoyed, good talking through sensory issues and self-care good week."

"Good sharing, listening to others experiences, learning new stuff."

"Great space for having others discussing issues and solving problems thank you."

Members

Autism NI members play an invaluable role in enhancing support for autistic people and their families throughout Northern Ireland. Each member commits to participating within the legal framework of the Charity and aligning with its Mission, Vision, Ethos, and Code of Conduct.

Membership brings a multitude of benefits that often extend to entire families, including participation in family days, access to training courses, and the opportunity to shape the impact of the Charity through individual engagement within the autism community.

Home Support

Autism NI remains steadfast in advocating for partnerships, nurturing and expanding our relationships with the Autism Intervention Teams in Belfast, Northern and Western Trusts. These teams have been instrumental in directly referring individuals to Autism NI Resource or Support Officers, who provide personalised services to families within their local communities. With a proven track record in evidencing outcomes, Autism NI is well-versed in identifying, measuring, and reporting on the impact of our services.

Participation in these services underscores their vital importance, offering autistic people and their families the opportunity to provide feedback, have their voices heard, and influence both current services and future directions.

We are committed to furthering this collaborative approach, working across partnerships to support, develop, and implement

change. Our early intervention support services are grounded in a strengths-based approach, offering tailored strategies for each autistic child. These include utilising visual structures, establishing positive routines, promoting independence in daily living skills, and providing guidance on engaging play activities.

Feedback has included:

"The Autism Support Officer was very helpful, really appreciated the home visit and ability to discuss specific issues and my child."

"A warm and reassuring approach was given on information about autism, and guidance on what help is available. The resources, leaflets and literature were great.

I learnt more in three sessions than I have in a year, it was extremely helpful and beneficial."

In the 2023/24 period, 99% of families rated the early support services provided by our Autism Resource/ Support Officers as *"Excellent"* or *"Good"*.

Support Groups

Our Support Groups play a pivotal role in uniting a dynamic volunteer network across Northern Ireland. Volunteers are at the heart of our efforts to provide essential support within the community.

Each volunteer brings a unique and valuable contribution, bolstering a wide array of initiatives and playing an integral role in our organisation. Their expertise, peer support, skills, and diverse backgrounds complement the work of our Family Support Team, enabling us to deliver crucial services to the autism community.

As demand for community-based peer interaction has surged across all support groups, our volunteers have risen to the challenge. Their unwavering dedication has made a significant difference to the autistic community throughout Northern Ireland. In the past year, Autism NI volunteers have facilitated 214 support group meetings, where discussion themes among attendees revolved around concerns relating to education, assessment, mental health, anxiety and financial entitlements. The practical knowledge and peer expertise shared during these gatherings underscore our commitment to influencing policy and practices.

The success of this model is evidenced by a notable uptake in attendance at meetings throughout the year.

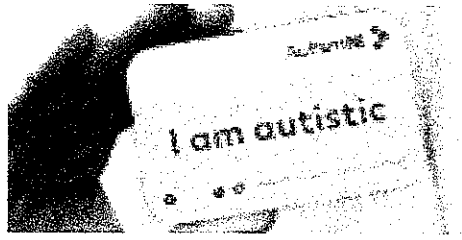
Feedback has included:

"Autism NI is an essential service to the Family Support Hub. A valuable support to help families achieve a better quality of life for their child and the family circle. My families think the Support Groups and Helpline is fantastic."
(Family Support Hub)

"So great to be part of the group - refreshing to be among others who understand and are so open about their experiences..."

Autism Card

Throughout the year 23/24, we saw a significant 38% increase in registrations for our 'Autism Card'. Feedback from autistic cardholders indicates its value in various aspects of their everyday lives, highlighting its practical benefits.



Early Intervention

Our ongoing Early Intervention Service builds and strengthens relationships for families whose child has received a new diagnosis. Families referred to the Early Intervention Service from the Trust engaged in bespoke early intervention sessions. These sessions provided family members with visual strategies and practical tools and support to manage behaviours, play and socialisation.

Our Early Intervention Team have successfully provided 2,774 individual sessions. The difference detailed by families included enhanced understanding of their autistic child's needs, access to information on appropriate services and improved confidence that enabled opportunities. Parental feedback was extremely positive with the majority of families stating that the benefits of the home visits were either *'excellent' or 'good'.*

Support from the Henry Smith Charity

We are now in our 3rd year of the Early Intervention Service within the South Eastern Trust area supported by the Henry Smith Charity, and have provided our Early Intervention programme to 81 families.

To date we have provided 510 Early Intervention sessions to families, and have measured the success of the Early Intervention Service by using the Outcome Star (Family) and a parent evaluation. An Outcomes Star and an assessment is completed collaboratively by the Early Intervention Officer and parent at the beginning and end of the service. The Star provides a framework that supports both parties to reflect on the strengths and challenges that exist. Using the scale descriptions, they identify together where the service user is for each outcome area and plot that onto the Star Chart. The assessment provides information on where we can target our bespoke interventions for the child and family.

The results of our Parent and Outcome Star Evaluations stated that:

100% of families received bespoke visual and practical support.

91% said their wellbeing had improved, 84% said they felt better emotionally and 81% said their social networks had also improved

90% behaviours and boundaries within the home were much better, 86% said the family routine had improved, 75% said they were feeling better physically and 99% of families said the service they received was excellent.

The Early Intervention Service continues to provide much needed support families within the South Eastern Trust area.

Meet our Early Intervention Officer Hannah

As an Early Intervention Officer, I work collaboratively with families in order to provide tailored information and resources that can empower parents and carers to have an increased understanding of their children's needs. As well as providing practical resources, I offer a listening ear for families through our bespoke service. It is a privilege to work alongside families and I will continue to try and make a positive difference within the autism community.

Mental Health and Autism Project (MAP)

The Mental Health and Autism Project represents another cornerstone of our strengths-based approach. It offers one-to-one support to autistic young people aged 11 to 18 within the Belfast Trust, facilitated through requests for support from the Child and Adolescents Autism Service.

This model adopts a holistic approach to support, addressing needs across home, school, and community environments through 8 to 12 sessions. Collaborating closely with our partners, we prioritise areas of support identified by each autistic young person, aiming to enhance their confidence, self-esteem, and emotional well-being. This approach fosters integral participation, empowering each young person with a sense of ownership over the direction of their support.

An impressive 92% of autistic participants rated the service as 'excellent or very good', and their feedback included:

"MAP has helped me with managing my thoughts and feelings and going outside."

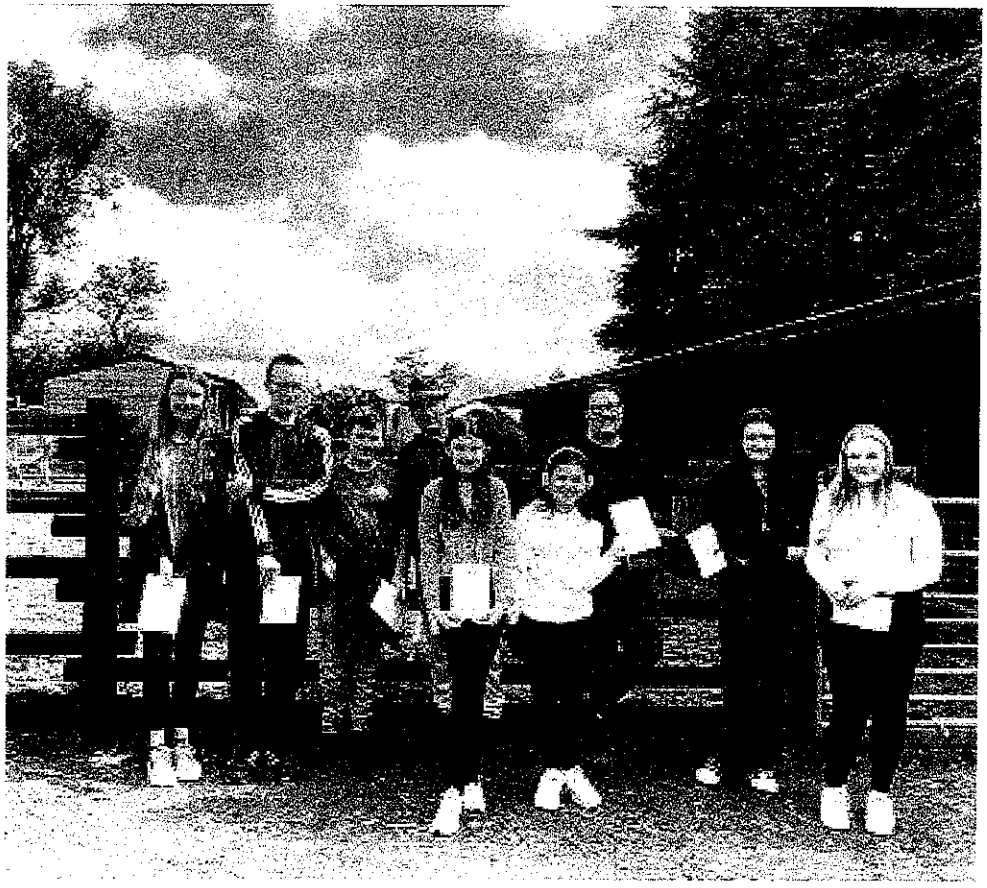
"I would have been lost without all your amazing service and help. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, I have loved my sessions and will miss them greatly."

"We found this service extremely helpful, myself, my husband and my daughter. We feel that we have learned a lot, and our daughter has gained confidence from participating in group activities with peers." (Parent)

"Great service for parents and young people as it helped my daughter to understand her diagnosis better and she has been more open with me as a parent." (Parent)

In our collaborative journey of building strengths together, we're thrilled to share that the average number of outcome areas in which autistic participants made increased positive progress was 3.5. Notably, areas experiencing the highest percentage of change included:

- Feelings and behaviours
- Education and learning
- Confidence and self-esteem.



Autistic females

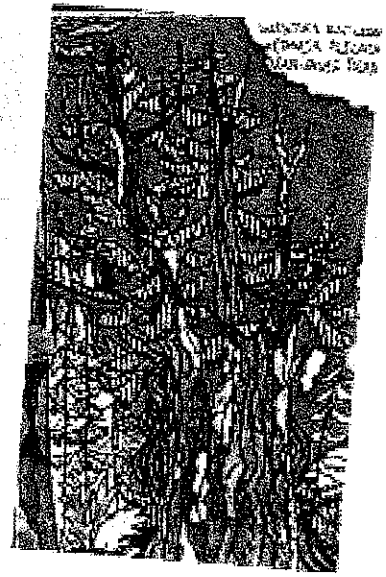
The Girls and Autism Project operates on a strengths-based model, specifically crafted to empower autistic girls aged 11 to 18 within their home, school, and community settings. It aims to foster achievement, enjoyment, and social participation within the Northern Trust area.

During the 23/24 year, our GAP Life Skills Officer conducted 495 sessions, including group activities and family sessions, ensuring personalized support for each participation.

An impressive 100% of autistic participants reported experiencing positive changes in two or more outcome areas during this period. Additionally, all autistic participants involved rated the service as either 'excellent' or 'very good'. At Autism NI, every voice matters, particularly those of our autistic participants.

"I guess I am more comfortable talking to people now." (Autistic girl)

"I exchanged numbers with the other girls, I feel left out in school, and I've liked sharing my personal experiences with others."



Training

Our Training Department provides high quality, accredited training and support to a wide variety of parents, carers, professionals, schools and organisations. Our training is evidence based, practical, and is delivered to the highest standard of accuracy to ensure it is effective in supporting autistic people at home, in the community, in school or in a workplace.

'I gained a lot more knowledge. The trainer was amazing and explained everything so well. Thank you.'
(Evaluation feedback)

Autism NI's training courses are delivered online and in person across NI, Ireland, UK and Internationally. Our dynamic courses include interactive activities and group discussion, to enable groups to explore concepts in an engaging and practical way. Overall, our training team delivered 156 training courses in 2022/23/24 to 2,338 participants.

Training for Parents and Carers

During 2023/24 we provided free support courses to parents and carers, empowering them to support their family, pre or post diagnosis. This included 405 funded places on our sessions, funded by Ann Ryland Fund, Blackburn Trust and Awards for All.

The courses were delivered on topics that were particularly relevant within the challenging circumstances, for example, sleep, social stories, supporting your teen. We also expanded and developed our course content further, within our 'Autism and Interactions' course and our 'Autism, Anxiety and School' course.

'The trainer was excellent at broadening my awareness of autism. I would highly recommend it to all parents, carers and anyone responsible for caring for a child.'
(Parent/Carer Support Course Feedback)

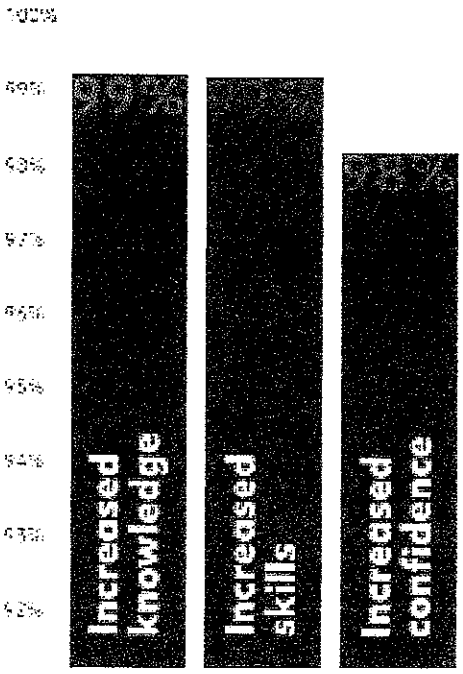
AQA Accreditations

We provide AQA unit award accreditations to people who have attended our training courses, supporting them to demonstrate high-quality learning and professional development. In 2023/24, 135 people completed a range of AQA unit award accreditations to evidence their development.

We are CPD certified, demonstrating quality assurance and a structured approach to learning and development. Our Training Department are certified by the CPD Certification Service.

Evaluations

Evaluation scores for all our training courses remain consistently excellent, demonstrating the expertise of our trainers and practicality of our courses. Overall, our courses are rated with 97% approval for the course content, materials, and communication of the trainer.



Improvements based on course attendance

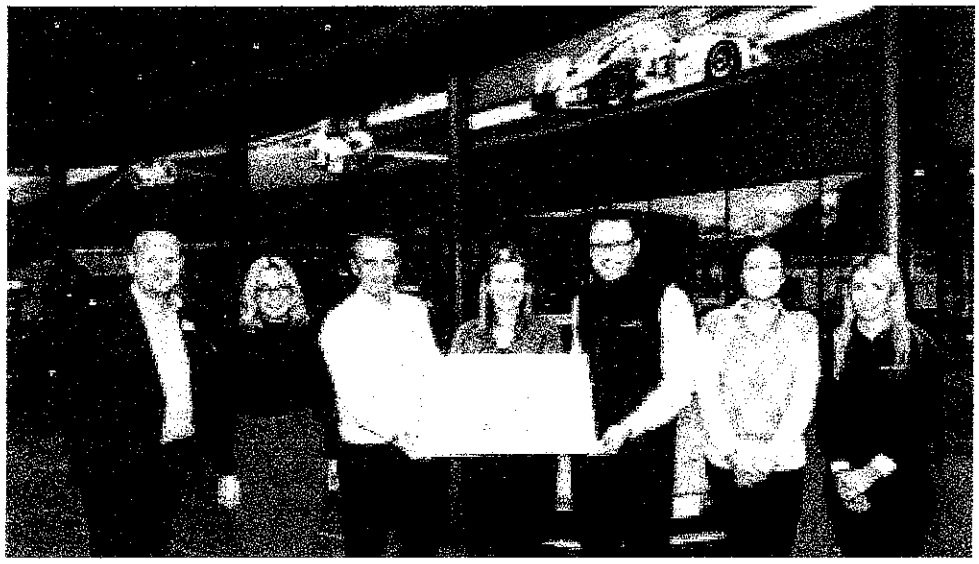
The course evaluations also demonstrate the positive impact of the training on delegates, with delegates scoring the courses as improving their knowledge (99.6%), skills (99%) and confidence (99%).

Training for Organisations

Our commissioned training service facilitated a wide range of bespoke courses for organisations, community groups and staff teams. Our courses are tailored to each organisation based on their needs and facilitated online or in person. We work with organisations to provide knowledge on autism, introduce practical skills on how to support autistic people in the workplace and also within their service, to build an inclusive environment.

During 2023/24, Autism NI delivered bespoke training sessions to a range of organisations, including Health and Social Care Trusts, Education settings, Voluntary Sector, public facilities, and private businesses. It is so important that we continue to work alongside organisations to ensure full accessibility for our autistic community. The bespoke training that Autism NI offers allows organisations to design a training programme that will address their particular needs.

"This training has really helped our team think about simple changes we can make to make our workplace more accessible"
City Belfast



Impact Award

It is essential that every organisation in Northern Ireland understands that they are legally obligated to provide equal access to services for autistic people under the Autism Act 2011. Our Impact Award is a training and support programme to help organisations create a more 'autism inclusive environment' for their autistic staff and customers. The training programme equips staff to better understand autism and how to adapt the organisation's environment to support autistic people and their families. The programme includes accredited training, follow up support to implement an individualised action plan and continued support for organisations who achieve the Impact Award Champion status.

In 2023/24, 32 organisations completed their Impact Award training, bringing the overall number of Impact Award Programmes delivered to 132.

This includes entertainment venues, leisure centres, arts and cultural venues, shopping centres and community venues. A number of our Impact Award Champions have continued to develop their partnership with Autism NI further by completing the process of reaccreditation with the Impact Award programme and accessing further top-up training for staff, to ensure a best practice approach is maintained across their services.

Spotlight: ASOS

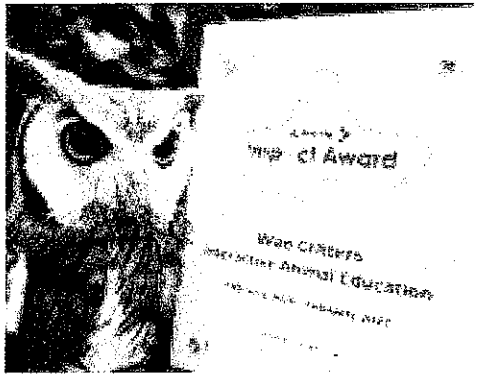
ASOS Belfast Tech Hub achieved their Impact Award in July 2023 and found this to be a very positive process for their team. For example, it opened up a dialogue with several colleagues to disclose their diagnosis of autism, which was made possible by the positive steps they have taken towards inclusion.

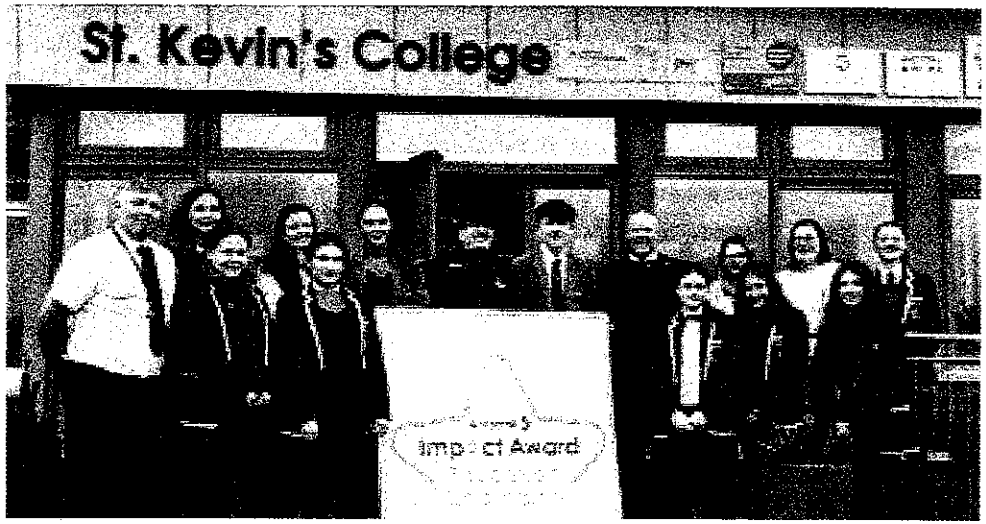
"Autism NI were fantastic in terms of guiding and supporting us through the whole process" (ASOS worker)

The training and accessibility work they have completed this year has generated a lot of interest within the wider company, and several ASOS offices throughout UK have now also completed their Impact Award training in March 2024, to further their commitment to inclusion.

Impact Award in Education

In 2023/24, we continued to deliver our Impact Award Programme in schools, focusing on promoting a best practice approach to autism inclusion within education settings. Our Impact Award for Education framework provides staff training awarding schools that implemented a bespoke action plan to support their autistic pupils. This programme was extremely popular with 69





schools completing the training programme this year and 169 schools have received the award training since launch. It is part of Autism NI's longstanding vision to ensure that we create an inclusive society where autistic children have the opportunity to thrive, and this all starts with ensuring that they have good educational outcomes.

As a charity we have lobbied endlessly over the past number of years for mandatory autism training for all teaching staff, but until this happens, we will continue to support our local schools and teachers in every way we can. We want our children, parents and teachers to feel confident and happy within the school environment and therefore providing the right knowledge and resources to achieve this is vitally important.

"The benefits to both staff and pupils have been very noticeable and it has certainly been a rewarding piece of work."

(School feedback)

Campaigning

Mental Health and Autism Event

On Monday 25th September 2023, Autism NI hosted a Mental Health and Autism event at Stormont, highlighting the immediate action that needs to be taken to introduce a specialist autism mental health service in Northern Ireland.

We have never felt a greater need for this service as we are receiving more and more calls for support from autistic people and their families. One of the biggest issues that Autism NI's Helpline receives on a daily basis is the need for mental health support for both children and adults. We therefore feel passionately that Northern Ireland needs to have a mental health service which understands autistic people and most of all, how to support them.

Guest speakers at this event included Autism NI's CEO Kerry Boyd, Autistica UK CEO, Dr James Cusack, Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland, Professor Siobhan O'Neill, Chair of the All Party Group on Autism, Pam Cameron MLA and autistic adult Kathy Barenskie.

With recent figures showing that autistic adults are nine times more likely to die from suicide and autistic children twenty times more likely to self-harm, Autism NI is pressing for mental health professionals to be trained in autism, offering tailored support strategies that work for autistic people

Kathy, an autistic adult, said: "I felt completely abandoned when my mental health deteriorated. I was told there was no specialist support for autistic people which left me feeling scared and incredibly anxious for my future. Changes need to be made as I don't want anyone else to feel like I did during those dark times. These changes should start with professionals being trained in autism and understanding how they can adapt their support strategies to help autistic people."

Campaigning - Raising Understanding and Acceptance

AutismNI

Be Kind To Different Minds

In celebration of World Autism Acceptance Week which ran from 27th March - 2nd April 2023, autistic people, families, community groups, MLAs, local businesses, and schools supported our 'Be Kind To Different Minds' message on social media. Our supporters got involved in our poster campaign and shared their own message on how to build a kinder and more inclusive society.

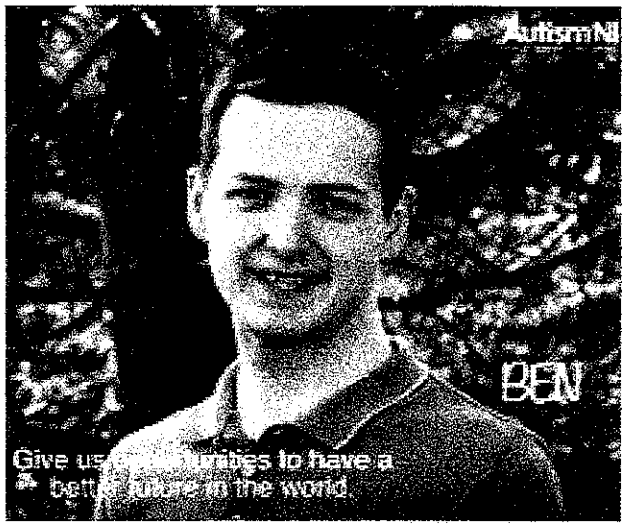
Mattie McKeown shares her message on how we can 'Be Kind To Different Minds'

Online

Our website (www.autismni.org) is a vital online resource for families and professionals and has a great range of information on services, research publications, fact sheets and downloadable resources on education, anxiety, visual aids and games for autistic children and adults. During 2023/24, our website has been an important online tool for many of our autism families and we seen 96,602 unique users visit our website to access information, services and resources.

Family Fun Day

On Sunday 2nd April 2023 the Charity welcomed hundreds of local autism families to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week at W5, Belfast. This event brought families together to enjoy the activities in a safe setting.



Be Kind To Different Minds video

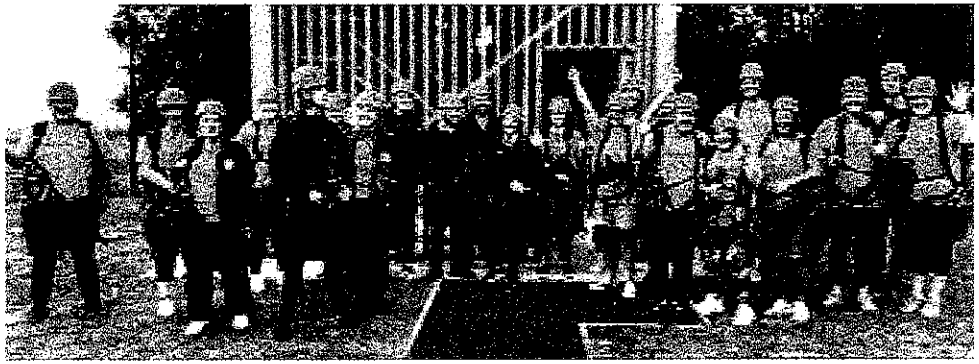
To mark World Autism Acceptance Week, we asked a group of autistic people how society can 'be kind to different minds' and raise understanding of autism in a short video. The video was shared across online platforms during April.

Fundraising Events

Get Colourful

During World Autism Acceptance Week in April 2023, we asked our supporters to celebrate the Spectrum with colour and host a virtual colourful challenge. Many supporters took on a colourful 5k walk, a bake sale or a quiz to raise vital funds for Autism NI's services.

Fundraising Events



Zipline

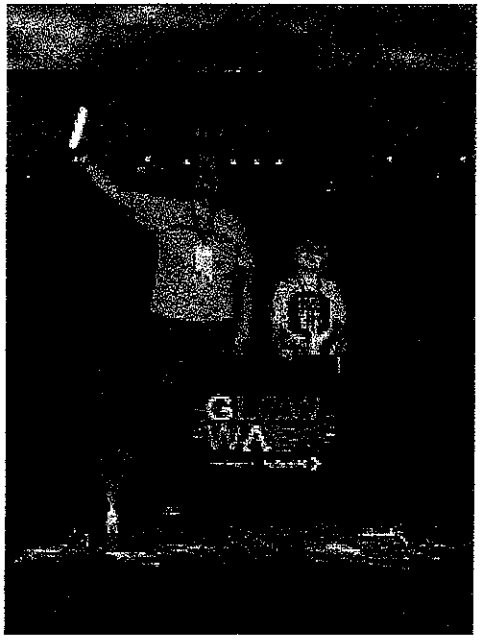
Our fundraisers reached new heights as we held three zipline challenge events in June 2023, September 2023, and March 2024. Supporters took on the longest Zipline in Ireland at Colin Glen Forest Park in Belfast and raised funds for local autism services.

Mourne Madness

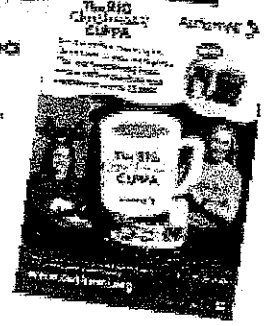
In August 2023, 50 people took part in our iconic Mourne Madness trek. The group conquered Slieve Donard as a team and a smaller group then went on to climb Slieve Commedagh and Slieve Bearnagh.

Glow Walk

Over a thousand families 'got their glow on' as families came together to attend our annual Glow Walk at Stormont in November 2023. Families got involved in fun and games from the U105 crew, and a dance warm up by Fitness Freddy before taking on a night walk at Stormont Estate. Attendees even got a chance to listen to the fantastic Isla McManus sing on the big stage!!



Big Christmas Cuppa



Families, businesses, community groups and schools got behind our 'Big Christmas Cuppa' campaign and held a festive Christmas coffee morning in aid of Autism NI in December 2023. This campaign was sponsored by Bailies Coffee Roasters who donated coffee equipment worth £2,000 to the top fundraiser.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

Home Bargains

In the last two years, Home Bargains has raised over £105,000 for Autism NI. The staff and Area Managers supported the Charity with endless fundraising activities and in-store collections throughout the two-year partnership. In the last year, staff took on a Prison Island challenge, and held a Superhero Day in store. Shoppers also donated to Autism NI by dropping their change into our collection tins at the tills, which are available across 79 stores in Northern Ireland.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

Ground Espresso Bars

In April 2023, Ground Espresso Bars chose Autism NI as their Charity partner and kicked off the partnership by donating 10p from every hot drink sold during April to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Month. The organisation raised nearly £10,000 from this campaign. During the year the team also asked for donations from the tills, staff took part in various challenge events, and in December they also donated 10p from every celebration cake sold to Autism NI. Ground Espresso Bars has also chosen to renew their partnership with Autism NI in 2024.

Little Wing

During April 2023, Little Wing Pizza supported World Autism Acceptance Month by donating £1 from each special sold during April to Autism NI.

Kicking for Autism

In August 2023, Tom and Megan took on the mammoth tasks of scoring a point in every GAA pitch in County Tyrone to raise vital funds for Autism NI. They gained great community support as local clubs came out to support them. Altogether they raised a fantastic £16,823.62 for Autism NI.

Superhero Week

Over 50 schools across Northern Ireland took part in our Superhero Week from 5th-9th February 2024. Pupils took on superhero tasks throughout the week whilst asking for sponsorship and raising autism acceptance in their school. At the end of the week, pupils celebrated their achievements with a certificate and sticker badge.

Ashgrove Nursery School took part in Superhero Week 2024

Partnerships

Autism NI continues to be a strong advocate of partnerships, and we recognise when another organisation's support and expertise is required. We are committed to further building on our engagement with a wide range of stakeholders within the statutory, community and voluntary sectors and continue to work with individuals and families to empower them.

Financial Performance

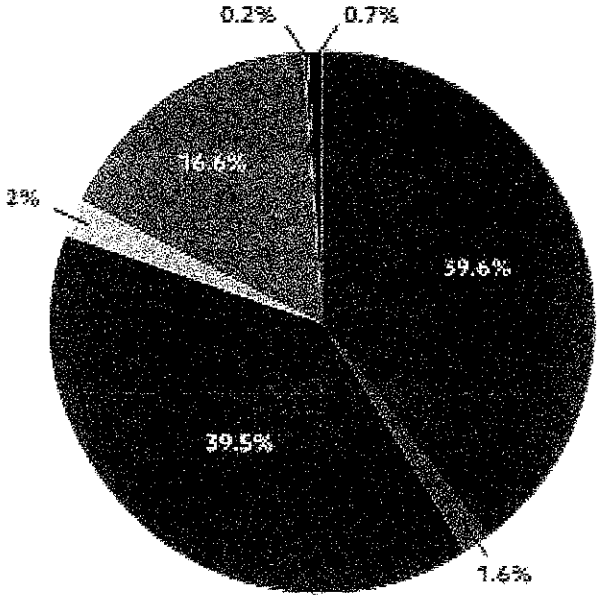
Autism NI is a trading name of Autism NI (PAPA) which is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number NI058548) and an Inland Revenue approved Charity (reference number XR22944).

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 100 240).

Registered Office:
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast, BT8 8BH

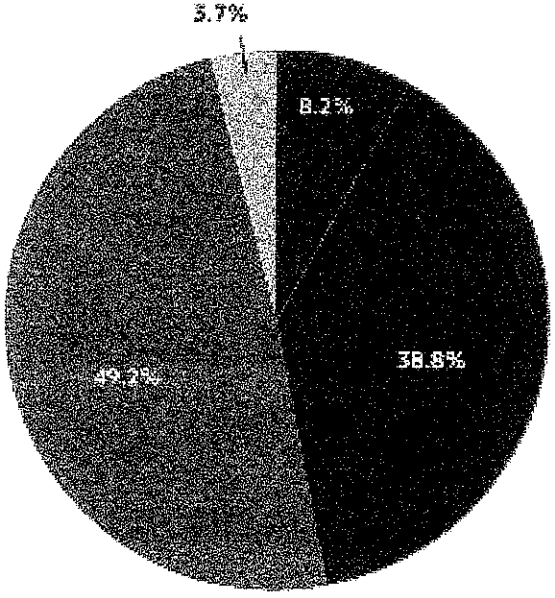
Auditors:
O'Hara Shearer
347 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

For more information about our services or to support our work, call us on 028 9040 1729 or visit www.autismni.org



Incoming Resources 2023/24

- Restricted Funding: Grants (39.6%)
- Unrestricted Funding: Grants (1.6%)
- Donations and Fundraising (39.5%)
- Membership (2%)
- Autism Training and Conferences (16.6%)
- Sale of Merchandise (0.2%)
- Investment Interest Received (0.7%)



Resources Expended 2023/24

- Expenditure on Raising Funds (8.2%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Restricted (38.8%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Unrestricted (49.2%)
- Governance Costs (3.7%)

Patrons

Professor Rita R. Jordan OBE
Dr Judith Gould

Vice Presidents

Eileen Bell CBE
Professor David Sines CBE

Board of Directors

David Heatley Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt Vice-Chairperson
Dr Clare Bailey Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan Honorary Treasurer
Jeff Hobson
Dr Karen Jack
Alan Young

Patron

Adam Keefe

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Tel: **028 9040 1729**
Email: **info@autismni.org**
www.autismni.org

Autism NI is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: NI058548)
Registered Charity Number: XR23965 NI Charity Commission Number: NIC102348

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Membership
Membership of the Society shall be open to the following, irrespective of political party, nationality, religion or political opinion;
Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

Membership was 1,643 at March 2024. (1,578 March 2023)

Members are invaluable as their commitment is important in helping to provide and improve support for people with Autism and their families across Northern Ireland. Our members are invited to attend members' events, have access to funded Autism NI training courses and family support workshops and have access to priority queuing or carers discount into specific attraction across Northern Ireland.

Board of Trustees
Except as provided otherwise in the constitution the policy and general management of the charity shall be directed by the Board which shall meet not less than 4 times a year and shall consist of not less than 6 and not more than 13 members of the Society aged 18 years or over.
A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees
As set out in the Articles of Association, the Charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee, and determine the rotation in which any additional Trustees are to retire.
Currently, Trustees serve for three years after being elected at an AGM. They are eligible to stand again for re-election following the three year term. New Trustees can also be co-opted on to the Board.

Trustee Induction and Training
New Trustees are invited to an induction meeting to familiarise themselves with the Charity and the context within which it operates. These are facilitated by the Chairperson and Senior Management Team and cover:

- The obligations of the Board of Trustees;
- The content of the Articles of Association;
- The Committee and decision-making processes;
- Current financial position;
- Future plans and objectives.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Risk Management and Uncertainties
The ultimate responsibility for the management and control of the Charity resides with the Board of Trustees and as such their involvement in the key aspects of the risk management process is essential, particularly in setting the parameters of the process and in the review and consideration of the results. This should not be interpreted as meaning that the Board must undertake each aspect of the process themselves.

The Board has delegated elements of the risk management process to the Chief Executive and senior

management team, whilst ensuring that they, as Directors, review and consider the key aspects of the process and results.

The Board of Autism NI ensures that the organisation is not exposed to preventable, unacceptable risk. This risk management process is an integral part of the organisation's governance system. The Board are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Principal Risks identified as potentially having an impact on the Charity include:

Financial Stability
The principal financial challenges facing Autism NI are in the areas of fundraising and cost control. Autism NI relies heavily on the goodwill of the public, along with some government funding and other funders. Fundraising remains very challenging. A combination of increased competition for public funds and pressure on government finances means that Autism NI needs to identify and develop new sources of income in order to reduce the risk of significant income fluctuations. Autism NI works continually to reduce costs and to ensure best value for money in all expenditure.

Governance and Management
Autism NI has appropriate governance structures and procedures in place to ensure correct decision-making and the implementation of decisions. All organisational change initiatives and projects are regularly reviewed by senior management.

Operational
The Board recognises that a sound internal control system that can respond to significant risks, is embedded in operational activities, is capable of reacting to external and internal changes and will immediately report major control weaknesses, is a key and essential component of risk management.

External and Environmental
Autism NI must be able to demonstrate the impact of its work in a measurable and demonstrable way in order to be accountable to donors and beneficiaries, to guarantee the achievement of strategic objectives and to attract future funding support.

Compliance and Regulation
Autism NI has established policies and procedures and codes of practice to ensure compliance with statue, regulatory and labour law requirements, including recent General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Compliance and Regulation

Key controls used by the Charity include:
- Formal agendas, minutes and action plans for staff and Board meetings;
- Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- Established organisational structure, lines of reporting and delegation duties;
- Formal written policies and protocols for Human Resources, Finance, Risk Management, Health and Safety etc;
- Establishment and regular reporting on Key Performance Indicators and targets;
- Clear authorisation and approval.

Going Concern

As required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, we assess whether there are any uncertainties that may cast doubt over our ability to continue as a going concern. For this purpose, we focus on at least 12 months following the signing of these financial statements.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Trustees are satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year.The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses are disclosed in note 8 to the accounts.
Autism NI is committed to ensuring a proper balance between paying staff fairly so that we attract and retain the best people for the job whilst applying careful management of our charity funds. In so doing we will ensure the greatest effectiveness in delivering our charitable objectives and meeting the needs of our beneficiaries.
The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and the Charity uses the most recent NJC Payscales.

The Trustees will also consider:

(i) the Charity's financial situation;
(ii) the Charity's performance;
(iii) cost of living adjustments made in recent years;
(iv) pay reviews within the Voluntary Sector for similar sized charities.

Dormant Companies

The following companies were formed to protect the name Autism.
The one issued share in each company is in the name of Autism NI (PAPA).
The companies are dormant and it is intended that they will remain dormant.
Autism Ulster Limited
Autism Ireland Limited
Autism Consultancy & Training (ACT) Limited

Financial Review

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Total Incoming Resources	747,622	489,843	1,237,465	940,865
Total Resources Expended	734,179	464,846	1,199,025	1,051,470
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	13,443	24,997	38,440	-
Net (Outgoing) Resources for the Year	-	-	-	(110,605)
Net Unrealised (Losses) on Investments	-	-	-	-
Net Unrealised Gains on Investments	-	-	-	-
Transfer From Unrestricted to Restricted	(3,356)	3,356	-	-
Balance of Funds At Start of Year	675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716
Balance of Funds At End of Year	685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111

In 2024 there was a net increase in unrestricted funds of £ 10,087 for the year (2023 Decrease £102,808) In 2023 £46,907 of this decrease related to the charity supporting the core activities previously met with grants received from The Three Guineas.

Reserves

It is our policy to maintain a prudent level of reserves to enable the charity to manage financial governance and operational risk and deliver on our commitments. An adequate and working reserve policy provides accountability and assurance that the charity's activities are sustainable.

Total unrestricted funds at the year end is £ 685,215 (2023 £ 675,128). Our aim is to have a target minimum reserve equal to one year of average operating costs which includes certain salaries and administration costs which are currently funded in projects plus a provision for redundancy payments.
This figure of unrestricted funds may be required to support core activities, presently funded in projects, due to the uncertainty of future funding.
We believe that this balance of unrestricted funds is required to ensure the stability of the organisation, to build sustainability and resilience, and to continue to carry out its aims and objectives, employment and ongoing operations including family support and Autism awareness activities.
The next financial year will see the Charity move to new premises and funds of £100,000 have been designated to support this move.

Restricted Funds (note 7)

During the year ended March 2024, Restricted Funds (Projects) continued: NHSCT and BHSCT Family Support services reached over 500 families. NHSCT also funds two Autism Support Officers who support 500 families per year. The Three Guineas Trust agreed further funding for two years which will support Fundraising, Service Development, Family Support and core costs. The Joseph Levy Foundation funded a full time worker which supported almost 100 families in the Belfast area and this ended Mar 2024. BBC Children in Need provides funding for the Girls and Autism Project (GAP) which funds a part time worker that supports 17 girls. This funding is going in to its final year. The Henry Smith Charity continues to support two part time Early Intervention workers who support 77 families per year. WHSCT funded two part time workers providing family support services to 184 families. Funding was received from Keystone and The Dormant Accounts Fund NI to help expand our digital reach and the resources and supports we offer. SEHSCT provided in year funding for a part time Early Intervention worker to deliver 72 sessions to families

within that Trust area. Full details of Project Income and Expenditure can be found in Note 7 of the Accounts. Changes in Restricted Funding can impact on salaries and administration costs within the Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funding is reviewed on a regular basis by the CEO and is on the Agenda for all Board meetings.

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number XR22944

Company Registration Number NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE

Patron Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt	Vice-Chairperson
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan	Honorary Treasurer
Jonathan Simpson	(Resigned 12th February 2024)
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors - O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.

Principal Bankers - Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

Solicitors - Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities in Respect of the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Autism NI (PAPA) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1 Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2 Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102) ;
3 Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4 State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
5 Prepare the accounts 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.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

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.

Auditors
A resolution proposing that O'Hara Shearer be re-appointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board

David Heatley

David Heatley
Chairperson

Date: 2 December 2024

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autism NI (PAPA) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janaury 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

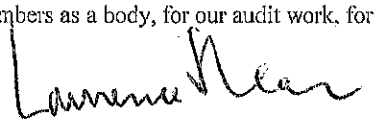
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., **Senior Statutory Auditor**
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, **Statutory Auditor**
O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

Dated: 2nd December 2024

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and Legacies					
Grants	2	19,195	489,843	509,038	403,199
Donations	3	334,666	-	334,666	228,237
Membership		24,885	-	24,885	22,172
		378,746	489,843	868,589	653,608
Other Trading Activities					
Training and Conferences	4	205,074	-	205,074	179,832
Fund Raising Events	5	153,732	-	153,732	103,144
Resources, Books, Videos etc		2,022	-	2,022	1,993
		360,828	-	360,828	284,969
Income from Investments					
Bank Interest Received		8,048	-	8,048	2,288
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		747,622	489,843	1,237,465	940,865
EXPENDITURE ON	6				
Expenditure on Raising Funds					
Staff Costs		74,861	-	74,861	62,355
Other Costs		23,923	-	23,923	22,289
		98,784	-	98,784	84,644
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Staff Costs		377,374	371,970	749,344	670,972
Other Costs		213,059	92,876	305,935	247,886
Governance Costs: Staff Costs		33,650	-	33,650	31,450
Governance Costs: Other Costs		11,312	-	11,312	16,518
		635,395	464,846	1,100,241	966,826
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		734,179	464,846	1,199,025	1,051,470
NET INCOME		13,443	24,997	38,440	-
NET (EXPENDITURE)		-	-	-	(110,605)
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT (LOSSES) GAINS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(3,356)	3,356	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,087	28,353	38,440	(110,605)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023		675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024		685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111
TOTAL FUNDS		685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
COMPARATIVE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and Legacies				
Grants	2	48,911	354,288	403,199
Donations	3	228,237	-	228,237
Membership		22,172	-	22,172
		299,320	354,288	653,608
Other Trading Activities				
Training and Conferences	4	179,832	-	179,832
Donations and Fund Raising Events	5	103,144	-	103,144
Resources, Books, Videos etc		1,993	-	1,993
		284,969	-	284,969
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest Received		2,288	-	2,288
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		586,577	354,288	940,865
EXPENDITURE ON	6			
Expenditure on Raising Funds				
Staff Costs		62,355	-	62,355
Other Costs		22,289	-	22,289
		84,644	-	84,644
Expenditure on Charitable Activities				-
Staff Costs		328,899	342,073	670,972
Other Costs		181,001	66,885	247,886
Governance Costs; Staff Costs		31,450	-	31,450
Governance Costs; Other Costs		16,518	-	16,518
		557,868	408,958	966,826
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		642,512	408,958	1,051,470
NET INCOME		-	-	-
NET (EXPENDITURE)		(55,935)	(54,670)	(110,605)
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(46,873)	46,873	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(102,808)	(7,797)	(110,605)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022		777,936	33,780	811,716
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023		675,128	25,983	701,111
TOTAL FUNDS		675,128	25,983	701,111

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	NOTE	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	10,842	12,889
		10,842	12,889
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	10	44,835	22,324
Bank Accounts	11	755,657	728,323
		800,492	750,647
CREDITORS; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year			
Creditors and Accruals	12	71,783	62,425
		71,783	62,425
NET CURRENT ASSETS		728,709	688,222
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		739,551	701,111
CREDITORS; Amounts Falling Due After One Year	13	-	-
NET ASSETS		739,551	701,111
FUNDS		£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			
AUTISM CENTRAL OFFICE	16 & 17	685,215	675,128
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
PROJECTS	16 & 17	54,336	25,983
TOTAL FUNDS		739,551	701,111

These Financial Statements were approved by the board of management on the 02/12/2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

David Heatley
Chairperson

Date: 2 December 2024

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	NOTE	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	15	30,934	(61,395)
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Dividends, Interest and Rents From Investments		-	-
Proceeds From the Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment		-	-
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(3,600)	(7,880)
Proceeds from the Sale of Investments		-	-
Purchase of Investments		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities		(3,600)	(7,880)
Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
Repayments of Borrowings		-	-
Cash Inflows From New Borrowings		-	-
Receipt of Endowment		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities		-	-
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period		27,334	(69,275)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		728,323	797,598
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents Due to Exchange Rate Movements		-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period	11	755,657	728,323

	2024 £	2023 £
ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash in Hand	755,657	728,323
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)	-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand	-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	755,657	728,323

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The principal accounting policies which have been adopted are set out below.

The Charity prepares its accounts in accordance with 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 1st January 2015), the Finacial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Autism NI (PAPA) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

GOING CONCERN

As required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, we assess whether there are any uncertainties that may cast doubt over our ability to continue as a going concern. For this purpose, we focus on at least 12 months following the signing of these financial statements.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Trustees are satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year.The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants , is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.
When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted fund when receivable.

INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest is included when receivable by the charity under investment income.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost which comprises the purchase price and any installation charges.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the assets within their useful lives. The methods adopted and rates used are:

FIXTURE AND FITTINGS	20%	STRAIGHT LINE
ALTERATION TO LEASEHOLD PREMISES	5%	STRAIGHT LINE

INVESTMENTS

Listed investments are stated at market value. The SOFA includes realised gains and losses on investments sold in the year and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation of investments.

JUDGEMENTS ESTIMATES

In the application of the charity's accounting policies the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.
The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.
The trustees do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation requiring disclosure.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted General Funds - these are donations, grants and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without specified purpose and are available as general funds and are available to spend at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity.

Designated Funds - these are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meet these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

PENSION
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity made a contribution to this scheme as highlighted in note 8.

TAXATION
As a registered charity, the charity benefits from rates relief, and is exempt from direct tax on its charitable activities but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

STOCKS
The cost of publications and promotional and educational material is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY
The Charity "Autism NI (PAPA)" is a Company Limited By Guarantee.

Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
The charity only has financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are normally initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the carrying valueplus accrued interest less repayments. The financing charge to expenditure is at a constant rate calculated using the effective interest method.

2. GRANTS		2024	2023
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
i) AUTISM NI (PAPA)			
DoH	Core Funding	19,195	38,390
NHSCT	Non Recurrent Financial Payment	-	10,521
		19,195	48,911
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		19,195	48,911
RESTRICTED FUNDS		**RESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
ii) AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	7		
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)		42,431	37,371
The Three Guineas Trust		70,000	31,250
NHSCT ASOs		70,029	67,843
Joseph Levy		37,000	18,500
Children In Need		26,609	26,178
Keystone		24,373	-
Family Support		-	8,621
Community Foundation NI Family Support		160	3,732
BHSCT		38,391	73,931
BHSCT MAP		58,455	-
The Henry Smith Charity		56,700	56,300
WHSCT ASO's		30,562	30,562
SEHSCT		10,141	-
Dormant Accounts		24,992	-
TEACCH Steering Group		-	-
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		489,843	354,288
Total Credited to Statement of Financial Activities		509,038	403,199

	£ 2024	£ 2023
	£	£
3. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
DONATIONS	334,666	228,237

Donations include general donations from the public and businesses, along with Payroll Giving and Regular Giving. Since 2021, we have seen a significant increase in Donations. Our Fundraising Team work very hard in raising the profile of the Charity and we can see the increase of awareness through our social media platforms, along with the invaluable work of the whole staff team.

	£ 2024	£ 2023
4 TRAINING	205,074	179,832

Training includes income from Parents, Individuals and Professionals.
Further training has also been commissioned by Statutory and Charitable Trusts.

5. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
FUND RAISING EVENTS	153,732	103,144

During the year, the Fundraising Team carried out a number of events including Mourne Madness, Glow Walk, Abseil, Zipline and Skydive.

6. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Note	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	8	485,885	371,970	857,855	422,704	342,073	764,777
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance		37,587	7,784	45,371	35,839	3,366	39,205
Repairs and Maintenance		-	-	-	511	-	511
Telephone		8,443	3,998	12,441	6,068	2,330	8,398
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising		43,157	347	43,504	40,615	1,139	41,754
Website and IT		-	22,085	22,085			
Catering		-	135	135	-	-	-
Travel Expenses		16,214	20,468	36,682	9,525	14,650	24,175
Autism Awareness		2,460	-	2,460	2,400	-	2,400
Training and Conferences		14,496	-	14,496	9,337	-	9,337
Recruitment and Staff Development		2,272	10,603	12,875	5,314	17,201	22,515
Purchase of Books, Videos and Resources		7,414	-	7,414	5,022	-	5,022
Resources for Projects		-	25,854	25,854	-	21,820	21,820
Fund Raising Expenditure		20,115	-	20,115	18,874	-	18,874
Expenditure on Behalf of Branches / Support Groups		11,360	-	11,360	9,119	-	9,119
Professional Fees and Subscriptions		60,882	-	60,882	49,507	3,940	53,447
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit Fees		6,000	500	6,500	5,640	500	6,140
Accountancy Fees		5,312	-	5,312	10,878	-	10,878
Bank Fees and Interest		961	-	961	685	-	685
Hire Purchase Interest		-	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses		5,974	203	6,177	2,572	162	2,734
Capital		-	899	899	-	1,777	1,777
Depreciation		5,647	-	5,647	7,902	-	7,902
		734,179	464,846	1,199,025	642,512	408,958	1,051,470
Total Resources Expended		734,179	464,846	1,199,025	642,512	408,958	1,051,470

(Note 7)

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	TOTAL PROJECTS	NHSCT Family Support	The Three Guineas Trust	NHSCT ASOs
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Received	489,843	42,431	70,000	70,029
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions				
Salaries and Redundancies	337,125	26,906	50,868	49,618
Management	23,910	3,595	-	1,882
Administration	7,606	1,798	-	-
HR / Finance	3,329	-	-	-
	371,970	32,299	50,868	51,500
COSTS				
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	7,784	-	-	2,318
Telephone	3,998	252	-	940
Postage,Printing, Stationery and Advertising	347	-	-	-
Website and IT	22,085	720	-	720
Catering	135	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	20,468	5,346	-	4,117
Recruitment and Staff Development	10,603	-	-	6,550
Resources for Projects	25,854	3,350	-	1,329
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	500	500	-	-
General Expenses	203	-	-	203
Capital	899	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-
	92,876	10,168	-	16,177
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	464,846	42,467	50,868	67,677
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	38,161	-	19,132	2,352
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(13,164)	(36)	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023	25,983	(452)	-	(3,809)
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	3,356	488	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	54,336	-	19,132	(1,457)

NHSCT Family Support
Contract to March 2024.

The Three Guineas Trust
The Three Guineas Trust which supports our Helpline and Awareness campaigns.
The Three Guineas Trust has confirmed further funding of £140,000 over two years (£70K in 2023/24 and £70K in 2024/25) the new funding commenced in July 2023.

NHSCT ASOs
A new contract was awarded in January 2024 for three years.

Joseph Levy
Initial funding was for three years to April 2022.
Additional funding of £55,500 was agreed for the eighteen months to 31st March 2024.

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	BBC CHILDREN IN NEED	KEYSTONE	FAMILY SUPPORT	BHSCT	BHSCT MAP
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	26,609	24,373	160	38,391	58,455
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	19,583	13,768	-	32,002	37,225
Management	2,851	-	-	1,937	3,875
Administration	-	-	-	1,579	1,579
HR / Finance	-	-	-	-	1,066
	22,434	13,768	-	35,518	43,745
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	-	-	-	-	1,749
Telephone	423	-	-	439	439
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	-	-	-
Website and IT	460	5,851	-	770	880
Catering	-	-	135	-	-
Travel Expenses	546	-	-	410	2,978
Recruitment and Staff Development	53	-	-	-	1,500
Resources for Projects	2,833	-	-	1,000	9,014
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-		-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	4,315	5,851	135	2,619	16,560
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	26,749	19,619	135	38,137	60,305
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	4,754	25	254	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(140)	-	-	-	(1,850)
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023	516	-	1,811	3,157	3,060
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	-	-	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	376	4,754	1,836	3,411	1,210

BBC Children in Need
Project to the 31st March 2025.
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Keystone
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Family Support
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

BHSCT
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	THE HENRY SMITH CHARITY	WHSCT ASO's	SEHSCT	DORMANT ACCOUNTS	TEACCH STEERING GROUP
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	56,700	30,562	10,144	24,992	-
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	40,014	31,984	1,846	2,935	-
Management	2,901	2,885	1,211	-	-
Administration	-	1,803	-	-	-
HR / Finance	1,597	-	666	-	-
	44,512	36,672	3,723	2,935	-
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	2,624	-	1,093	-	-
Telephone	862	456	-	-	-
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	347	-	-
Website and IT	600	-	400	11,684	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	2,322	4,087	151	-	-
Recruitment and Staff Development	-	-	2,500	-	-
Resources for Projects	5,363	-	1,930	-	-
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	-		-		-
Capital	899	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	12,670	4,543	6,421	11,684	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	57,182	41,215	10,144	14,619	-
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	-	-	10,373	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(482)	(10,653)	(3)	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023	10,163	7,790	-	-	5,020
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	2,863	3	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	9,681	-	-	10,373	5,020

Henry Smith Charity
The unexpended balance is due to the grant received in advance.

WHSCT ASO's
This was a two year project with the Charity funding the second year.

SEHSCT
Funding received in the year up to the 31st March 2024.

Dormant Accounts
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2024 £	2023 £
Gross Salary	763,977	684,630
Employers NIC Contribution	68,015	57,500
Employers Pension Contribution	25,863	22,647
Redundancy Payments	-	-
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	857,855	764,777

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is now administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity makes a contribution to this scheme as noted above.

Trustees Directors Remuneration
The trustees directors did not receive any emoluments during the year 2024 Nil (2023 £ Nil)
Trustees directors were reimbursed expenses during the year 2024 £ Nil (2023 NIL)

Related party transactions see note 18.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Director, Director of Development and Director of Family Support. Their remuneration including pension contributions were £217,056 (2023 £214,053).

Employees during the year were as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Chief Executive	1	1
Director of Development	1	1
Director of Finance	1	1
Director of Family Support	1	1
Training and Development Officer	2	2
Corporate Manager	1	1
Fundraising and Marketing Manager	1	1
Sales and Marketing Officer	1	1
Events and Fundraising Officer	1	1
Family Support Manager	1	1
Family Support and Helpline	3	3
Family Support Group Officer	1	1
Project Staff	9	9
Administration Officer	1	1
Early Intervention	3	3
Communications Officer	1	1
Autistic Adults Support Officer	1	1
	30	30

9. FIXED ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED		RESTRICTED	TOTAL
	F&F	Premises	F&F	
	£	£	£	£
COST				
Balance at 1st April 2023	160,860	5,559	30,460	196,879
Additions	3,600	-	-	3,600
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2024	164,460	5,559	30,460	200,479
DEPRECIATION				
Balance at 1st April 2023	148,056	5,558	30,376	183,990
Charge for the Period	5,647	-	-	5,647
Elimination on Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2024	153,703	5,558	30,376	189,637
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2024	10,757	1	84	10,842
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2023	12,804	1	84	12,889

10. DEBTORS	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	36,645	22,324
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	8,190	-
	44,835	22,324

11. BANK AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	£	£
UNRESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) CENTRAL	750,564	723,216
	750,564	723,216
RESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	5,093	5,107
TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND AT HAND	755,657	728,323

12. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	£	£
Trade Creditors	18,347	15,213
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	53,436	47,212
	71,783	62,425

13. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year		
Hire Purchase Creditor	-	-
	-	-

	£	£
14. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION		
Audit Fees	6,500	5,640
	6,500	5,640

15. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Note	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Net Income (Expenditure) for the Reporting Period (as per the statement of financial activities)		38,440	(110,605)
Adjustments For:			
Depreciation Charges		5,647	7,902
Realised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Unrealised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-
Dividends, Interest and Rents from Investments		-	-
Loss (Profit) on the Sale of Fixed Assets		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Stocks		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Debtors		(22,511)	37,682
Increase (Decrease) in Creditors		9,358	3,626
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities		30,934	(61,395)

ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		2024 £	2023 £
Cash in Hand		755,657	728,323
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)		-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand		-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	11	755,657	728,323

16. ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES BETWEEN THE NET ASSETS AT THE 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING	RESTRICTED FUNDING	TOTAL
		CENTRAL	PROJECTS	
		£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	9	10,758	84	10,842
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and Prepayments	10	44,835	-	44,835
Owed by Inter Divisions		-	52,957	52,957
Cash on Hand and at Bank	11	750,564	5,093	755,657
		795,399	58,050	853,449
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year				
Owed to Inter Divisions		52,957	-	52,957
Creditors and Accruals	12	67,985	3,798	71,783
		120,942	3,798	124,740
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due After One Year				
Creditors and Accruals	13	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		685,215	54,336	739,551

17. RECONCILIATION AND ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON THE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR

(Note 7 Page 47-49)

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING CENTRAL	RESTRICTED FUNDING PROJECTS	TOTAL
	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
UNRESTRICTED	747,622	-	747,622
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	42,431	42,431
The Three Guineas Trust	-	70,000	70,000
NHSCT ASOs	-	70,029	70,029
Joseph Levy	-	37,000	37,000
Children In Need	-	26,609	26,609
Keystone	-	24,373	24,373
Family Support	-	-	-
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	160	160
BHSCT	-	38,391	38,391
BHSCT MAP	-	58,455	58,455
The Henry Smith Charity	-	56,700	56,700
WHSCT ASO's	-	30,562	30,562
SEHSCT		10,141	
Dormant Accounts		24,992	
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
	747,622	489,843	1,237,465
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
UNRESTRICTED	734,179	-	734,179
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	42,467	42,467
The Three Guineas Trust	-	50,868	50,868
NHSCT ASOs	-	67,677	67,677
Joseph Levy	-	35,729	35,729
Children In Need	-	26,749	26,749
Keystone	-	19,619	19,619
Family Support	-	-	-
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	135	135
BHSCT	-	38,137	38,137
BHSCT MAP	-	60,305	60,305
The Henry Smith Charity	-	57,182	57,182
WHSCT ASO's	-	41,215	41,215
SEHSCT		10,144	10,144
Dormant Accounts		14,619	14,619
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
	734,179	464,846	1,199,025
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	13,443	24,997	38,440
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	(3,356)	3,356	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	10,087	28,353	38,440
BALANCE AT 1ST APRIL 2023	675,128	25,983	701,111
BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2024	685,215	54,336	739,551

THE FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS	54,336
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
General	685,215
Designated	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	685,215
TOTAL FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	739,551

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the charity purchased £26,398.28 (2023 £25,194.60) from Leaf Consultancy Ltd for computer software and support during the year.

The balance due to Leaf Consultancy Ltd in trade creditors at year end was £3,666.80 (2023 £900.46). Mr Steven Goldblatt is a trustee of the charity and a majority shareholder and director of Leaf Consultancy Ltd.

The transactions were on normal commercial terms that were beneficial to the charity. Mr Goldblatt took no part in the decision to use Leaf Consultancy Ltd. The charity had been using the services of Leaf Consultancy Ltd for several years before Mr Goldblatt was appointed a trustee.

19. REPORTING CURRENCY

The financial statements are stated in GBP (sterling)

20. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

After 30 years based in Knockbracken Healthcare Park the charity will move to Forestgrove Business Park, Newtownbreda.
The financial cost in moving and fitting out the new premises is estimated to be in the region of £100,000.

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying value of the company's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

FINANCIAL ASSETS	**2024**	**2023**
Measured at undiscounted amount receivable	**£**	**£**
Trade Debtors	36,645	22,324
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	8,190	-
	44,835	22,324

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	**2024**	**2023**
Measured at undiscounted amount payable	**£**	**£**
Trade Creditors	18,347	15,213
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	53,436	47,212
	71,783	62,425

Autism NI (PAPA)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100240

Annual return

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

(A Company Limited By Guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Registered Charity XR22944

Company Number NI 058548

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number	XR22944
Company Registration Number	NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address

Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE
Patron	Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt	Vice-Chairperson
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan	Honorary Treasurer
Jonathan Simpson	(Resigned 12th February 2024)
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors	- O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.
Principal Bankers	- Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
Solicitors	- Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.
The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated in March 2006. Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100239 and Registered with HMRC XR22944.

Public Benefits
The advancement of education and the relief of children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the province of Ulster and in particular for the following;
(i) The promotion of greater knowledge of Autism amongst the public and those concerned in the educational facilities.
These benefits are evidenced by the public bodies and private organisations who have requested Autism training and also evidenced through the evaluations completed by all participants on our training courses and through feedback from our Parent Support Groups.
(ii) The promotion of the provision of appropriate recreational, residential and educational facilities.
Through lobbying has drawn attention to service need and for service development. The charity supports individual families through Autism NI's Family Support Service, Training Department, Helpline Service and Support Group Network.
The benefit of our Advocacy role within the Autism Community can be seen through the number of new members within our regional Support network and the increase in support given through our Helpline and Training Services.
(iii) The provision of help, guidance and information to families with Autistic members and the promotion of a network of support among such families.
These benefits are evidenced through feedback from parents and support groups and through regular evaluation of our services.
(iv) The establishment of an information resource and the promotion of research into Autism generally and the publication of the useful results thereof.
These benefits are evidenced through a number of projects and services which have been designed to specifically address the need evidenced within our Autism research
A summary of the charity's activities is listed below.
Our purposes do not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of our purposes are people living in Northern Ireland who have Autism. The beneficiaries of this purpose also include family members and carers of those with Autism. There is no private benefit.
The trustees are aware of the charity commission's guidance on public benefit.

Mission Statement
We support autistic people and their families, and campaign for autism acceptance within society.

Vision
Our vision is an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

Strategic Plan
The Main Objectives for the charity detailed within the Strategic Plan include the following together with it's main activities;

A summary of the main achievements of the charity including the difference the charity's work has made to its beneficiaries and the community.

Family Support:
Increased volunteering in the Autism NI Support network within a community development framework, development of a regional Family Support Service.

Training:
Achievement of accreditation to a quality standard, acquisition of new customers, development of new courses.

Advocacy:
Development of Autism NI's role as an agent of social change for Autism in Northern Ireland.

Marketing /Fundraising:
Increased awareness of Autism and Autism NI brand, development of new funding opportunities, utilization of new communication methods, development of corporate relationships.

Governance:
Development of good governance improvement measures, build capacity.

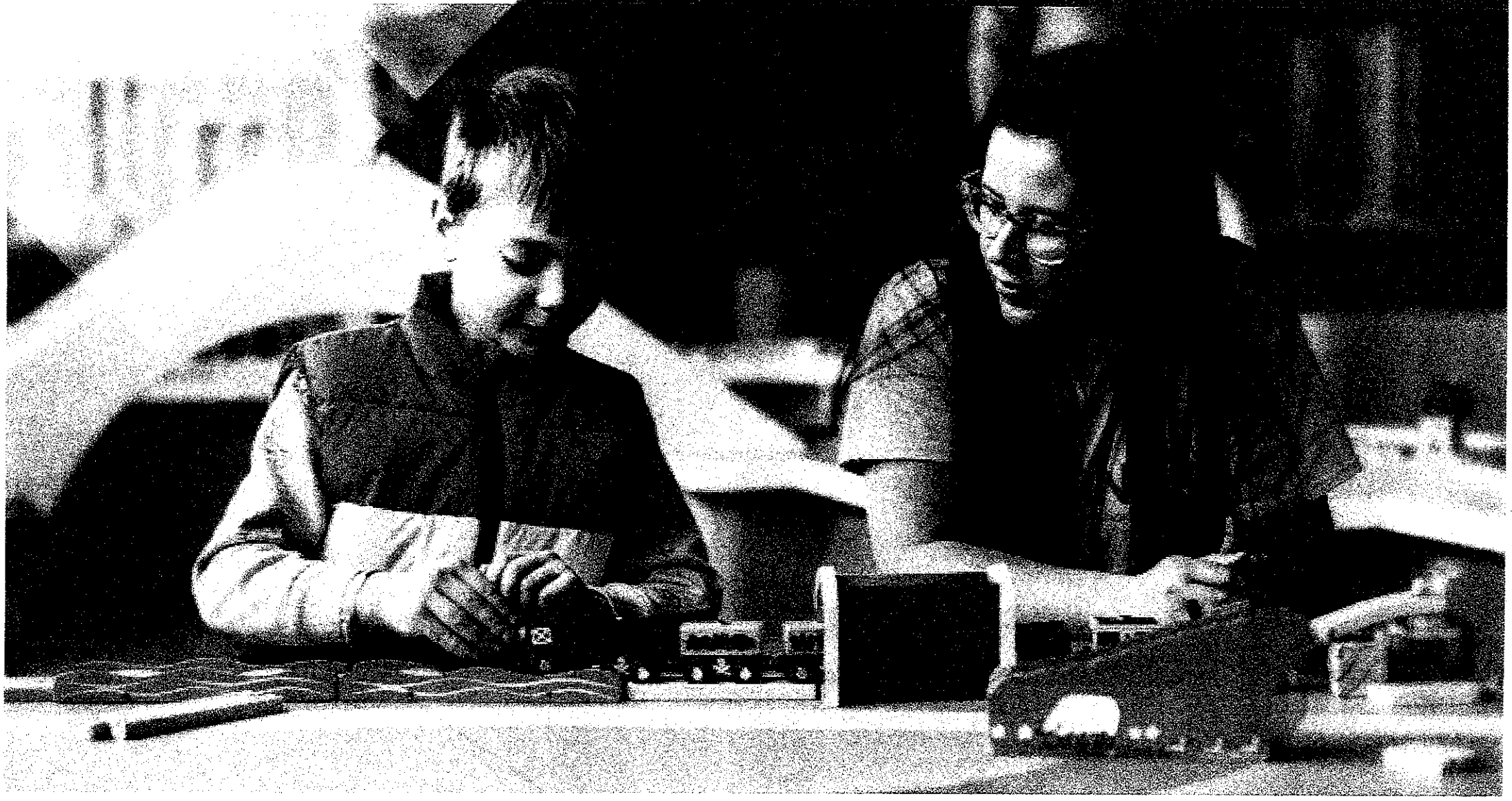
Partnerships
Working in Partnership is a key aspect of Autism NI. The very origin of the charity came from formation of a partnership between Parents and Professionals & Autism (PAPA)
Autism NI have built up many partnerships over the years:
AMH, All Party Assembly Group on Autism, Barnardo's, Children's Law Centre, Disability Action, Early Years, Equality Commission, Irish Autism, Action, Mencap, NICCY, NICVA, NOW, Orchardville Society, SPEAC and University of Ulster, CO3.

AutismNI

Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Annual Report 2023-2024

Building an inclusive society



Autism NI held their sixth Glow Walk with local families at Stormont in November 2023.

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Our Year in Numbers

1,643 members

Overall **97%** satisfaction on our training courses

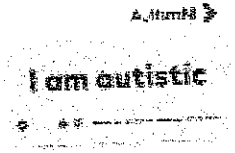
4,059 total sessions delivered by our Projects and Early Intervention Services

Over **7,500** Helpline calls

Over **33,000** 'Followers' on Facebook

2,338 participants received training

38% Increase in Autism Card Applications



214 Support Group meetings

96,602 users visited our website

135 people achieved AQA Unit Award Accreditations in Autism

20+ Family support groups across NI

Chairperson's Report

David Heatley

Chairperson

This past year has been another very busy year for Autism NI. I am very proud of the work of the staff team as they continue to grow service provision for our autism community. As is clear from 'Our Year in Numbers' we are providing more intervention sessions, Helpline support calls and Support Group support sessions, than ever before. I know how much of a difference this support can make for our autistic adults and families and therefore I am delighted that we are reaching more people, right across Northern Ireland. Indeed, our Helpline received over 7,500 calls within the 2023-24 year, with the main areas of support being emotional and behavioural support for children, support after a diagnosis, as well as autistic adults seeking support and information.

The work that our CEO, Kerry Boyd and our staff team have been doing at government and policy level, is also something that should be commended. As a Charity, we are the secretariat for the All Party Group on Autism and have held this position for the past 16 years. Within this role we are able to highlight the many pertinent issues that are affecting autistic people within their daily lives. Most recently, one of the issues that we have chosen to prioritise and lobby for, is the immediate need for the creation of a specialist autism mental health service. We will therefore continue to work on this campaign within the forthcoming year, in our aim of achieving our vision of an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Trustees for their dedicated efforts in governing the Charity. As always, my thanks also go to the staff team, our volunteers, fundraisers, charity partners and funders, without their support our work would not be possible.

David Heatley

Chief Executive's Remarks

Kerry Boyd
CEO

Throughout 2023-24 Autism NI increased its reach, adapting and evolving services to meet the increasing level of need from a growing autism community. We were able to provide over 13,800 support sessions through our Early Intervention Service, Training Service and Helpline to autistic adults, parents, carers, families and professionals.

The Charity also continues to evolve its services through integral participation with our autism community in Northern Ireland. We take very seriously the mantra of 'nothing for us without us' and therefore we ensure autistic people are at the heart of everything we do and every new support service we develop. Indeed, this participation can be seen within our Autistic Peer Network, which I am delighted to report has went from strength to strength over the past year.

One of the highlights this year was the fantastic turnout at our Glow Walk, where hundreds of families took part, giving us our biggest attendance to date. It was a night full of fun, laughter and camaraderie, and it was great to see so many children enjoying the event together, within the grounds of Stormont Estate. World Autism Acceptance Month was another great success. In particular, our Family Fun Day at W5 was fantastic, where families came together to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week. Our autistic adults also had a chance to share their own personal stories through our Spectrum Stories campaign which ran throughout the month of April.

I would finally like to extend my thanks to all of our stakeholders, ambassadors, volunteers, partners, donors and our fantastic staff team, for their dedication and commitment. Without their support, Autism NI could not deliver our support services to the autism community and continue to build an inclusive society.

Family Support

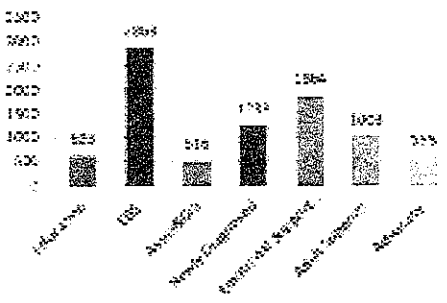
One of our longest-standing services is our Family Support provision, operating regionally throughout local communities and delivering tailored support services. We deeply value the expertise and strengths of the Autism NI Family Support Team. We actively listen to our autistic community and offer a diverse range of services aimed at bolstering the support networks, confidence, well being, and sense of belonging for autistic children, adults, and their families. Central to our approach is inclusive participation, which forms the bedrock of our work. We remain committed to nurturing and fostering relationships with community, voluntary, and statutory services, ensuring families and individuals receive comprehensive support.

At Autism NI, we are fortunate to have a neurodiverse team that continues to grow. Their unwavering dedication has ensured that autistic people and their families benefit from a spectrum of early supports. Over the past year, referrals to Autism NI for early support have surged across all areas of our work.

Individual Support

The Autism NI Helpline for many autistic people, families and professionals is the first point of contact before and after diagnosis.

Concerns prompting requests for support



We regularly receive feedback on our Helpline, which shows the profound impact our support has on autistic people and their families. It reaffirms the invaluable difference our services make in their lives.

"I can't express how grateful I am for your input. It helped to give me focus at a time when I feel like I am completely floundering".

(Helpline - adult pending assessment)

Autistic Adults Support Officer

Through integral participation via our Helpline, our team identified a gap in services for newly diagnosed autistic adults. In response, we launched the Autistic Adults Support Officer programme in partnership with the Belfast Trust. During this year it was expanded to cover Antrim, Newtownabbey, Carrickfergus, Downpatrick, Holywood and Lisburn.

The initiative is tailored to address individual needs, offering personalised advice, support, and a neuroaffirmative listening ear. Each participant engages voluntarily, benefiting from three sessions designed to enhance outcomes in various areas such as training, employment, relationships, and social opportunities.

"There's not just one typical autistic person, we're all very individual people and have different needs."
Ella, autistic adult

The Adult Support Service is robustly evaluated, employing an outcomes-based model to track the progress of autistic people. Feedback received from one participant during the programme included, "I would like to take this opportunity to provide feedback on the Autistic Adult Support Officer (AASO) who has been providing some support to myself recently. She has been very understanding and has attentively listened to my concerns and my neurodiverse thought processes. The AASO has also provided some excellent presentations and is helping me understand some of the processes along the journey. She is very approachable and brings valuable lived human and life experiences to the role. It is very clear to see that she is passionate about neurodiversity and people and is clearly dedicated to the role. Keep up the great work you are doing".

Autistic Adult Peer Networks

The development of our online peer networks has been fuelled by integral participation and has achieved remarkable success. We offer three distinct services: an online peer support network for autistic adults aged 18 and above, a peer support network tailored for participants aged 30 or older, and an autistic LGBTQIA+ network. These platforms provide a warm neuroaffirmative and inclusive space for socialising and engaging with others in a relaxed and secure environment.

We take a proactive approach to listen and respond to individual needs, continually adapting our support to facilitate involvement and participation. Text-based communication is available via the chat function, ensuring accessibility for all. To date, we've welcomed numerous autistic attendees, with some groups also arranging in-person meetings. One participant commented; "Thanks so much for last night - it was excellent. You spoke well and advocated alongside autistic people. Thanks for sharing the presentation and hopefully will see you on Saturday for the coffee morning." (Autistic Adult)

Autistic Adult Support Course

Integral participation identified that following individual support sessions and coffee meetups, there was another area to be explored, a supportive environment offering opportunities for peer learning on autistic strengths, challenges, and neurodivergence. The aim was to empower autistic adults to deepen their self-understanding and acquire practical strategies to improve their lives.

Participants who completed week six

"Enjoyed, good talking through sensory issues and self-care good week."

"Good sharing, listening to others experiences, learning new stuff."

"Great space for having others discussing issues and solving problems thank you."

Members

Autism NI members play an invaluable role in enhancing support for autistic people and their families throughout Northern Ireland. Each member commits to participating within the legal framework of the Charity and aligning with its Mission, Vision, Ethos, and Code of Conduct.

Membership brings a multitude of benefits that often extend to entire families, including participation in family days, access to training courses, and the opportunity to shape the impact of the Charity through individual engagement within the autism community.

Home Support

Autism NI remains steadfast in advocating for partnerships, nurturing and expanding our relationships with the Autism Intervention Teams in Belfast, Northern and Western Trusts. These teams have been instrumental in directly referring individuals to Autism NI Resource or Support Officers, who provide personalised services to families within their local communities. With a proven track record in evidencing outcomes, Autism NI is well-versed in identifying, measuring, and reporting on the impact of our services.

Participation in these services underscores their vital importance, offering autistic people and their families the opportunity to provide feedback, have their voices heard, and influence both current services and future directions.

We are committed to furthering this collaborative approach, working across partnerships to support, develop, and implement

change. Our early intervention support services are grounded in a strengths-based approach, offering tailored strategies for each autistic child. These include utilising visual structures, establishing positive routines, promoting independence in daily living skills, and providing guidance on engaging play activities.

Feedback has included:

"The Autism Support Officer was very helpful, really appreciated the home visit and ability to discuss specific issues and my child."

"A warm and reassuring approach was given on information about autism, and guidance on what help is available. The resources, leaflets and literature were great.

I learnt more in three sessions than I have in a year, it was extremely helpful and beneficial."

In the 2023/24 period, 99% of families rated the early support services provided by our Autism Resource/ Support Officers as *"Excellent"* or *"Good"*.

Support Groups

Our Support Groups play a pivotal role in uniting a dynamic volunteer network across Northern Ireland. Volunteers are at the heart of our efforts to provide essential support within the community.

Each volunteer brings a unique and valuable contribution, bolstering a wide array of initiatives and playing an integral role in our organisation. Their expertise, peer support, skills, and diverse backgrounds complement the work of our Family Support Team, enabling us to deliver crucial services to the autism community.

As demand for community-based peer interaction has surged across all support groups, our volunteers have risen to the challenge. Their unwavering dedication has made a significant difference to the autistic community throughout Northern Ireland. In the past year, Autism NI volunteers have facilitated 214 support group meetings, where discussion themes among attendees revolved around concerns relating to education, assessment, mental health, anxiety and financial entitlements. The practical knowledge and peer expertise shared during these gatherings underscore our commitment to influencing policy and practices.

The success of this model is evidenced by a notable uptake in attendance at meetings throughout the year.

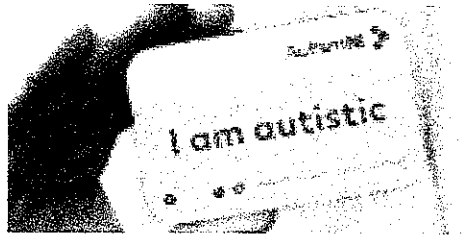
Feedback has included:

"Autism NI is an essential service to the Family Support Hub. A valuable support to help families achieve a better quality of life for their child and the family circle. My families think the Support Groups and Helpline is fantastic."
(Family Support Hub)

"So great to be part of the group - refreshing to be among others who understand and are so open about their experiences..."

Autism Card

Throughout the year 23/24, we saw a significant 38% increase in registrations for our 'Autism Card'. Feedback from autistic cardholders indicates its value in various aspects of their everyday lives, highlighting its practical benefits.



Early Intervention

Our ongoing Early Intervention Service builds and strengthens relationships for families whose child has received a new diagnosis. Families referred to the Early Intervention Service from the Trust engaged in bespoke early intervention sessions. These sessions provided family members with visual strategies and practical tools and support to manage behaviours, play and socialisation.

Our Early Intervention Team have successfully provided 2,774 individual sessions. The difference detailed by families included enhanced understanding of their autistic child's needs, access to information on appropriate services and improved confidence that enabled opportunities. Parental feedback was extremely positive with the majority of families stating that the benefits of the home visits were either *'excellent' or 'good'.*

Support from the Henry Smith Charity

We are now in our 3rd year of the Early Intervention Service within the South Eastern Trust area supported by the Henry Smith Charity, and have provided our Early Intervention programme to 81 families.

To date we have provided 510 Early Intervention sessions to families, and have measured the success of the Early Intervention Service by using the Outcome Star (Family) and a parent evaluation. An Outcomes Star and an assessment is completed collaboratively by the Early Intervention Officer and parent at the beginning and end of the service. The Star provides a framework that supports both parties to reflect on the strengths and challenges that exist. Using the scale descriptions, they identify together where the service user is for each outcome area and plot that onto the Star Chart. The assessment provides information on where we can target our bespoke interventions for the child and family.

The results of our Parent and Outcome Star Evaluations stated that:

100% of families received bespoke visual and practical support.

91% said their wellbeing had improved, 84% said they felt better emotionally and 81% said their social networks had also improved

90% behaviours and boundaries within the home were much better, 86% said the family routine had improved, 75% said they were feeling better physically and 99% of families said the service they received was excellent.

The Early Intervention Service continues to provide much needed support families within the South Eastern Trust area.

Meet our Early Intervention Officer Hannah

As an Early Intervention Officer, I work collaboratively with families in order to provide tailored information and resources that can empower parents and carers to have an increased understanding of their children's needs. As well as providing practical resources, I offer a listening ear for families through our bespoke service. It is a privilege to work alongside families and I will continue to try and make a positive difference within the autism community.

Mental Health and Autism Project (MAP)

The Mental Health and Autism Project represents another cornerstone of our strengths-based approach. It offers one-to-one support to autistic young people aged 11 to 18 within the Belfast Trust, facilitated through requests for support from the Child and Adolescents Autism Service.

This model adopts a holistic approach to support, addressing needs across home, school, and community environments through 8 to 12 sessions. Collaborating closely with our partners, we prioritise areas of support identified by each autistic young person, aiming to enhance their confidence, self-esteem, and emotional well-being. This approach fosters integral participation, empowering each young person with a sense of ownership over the direction of their support.

An impressive 92% of autistic participants rated the service as 'excellent or very good', and their feedback included:

"MAP has helped me with managing my thoughts and feelings and going outside."

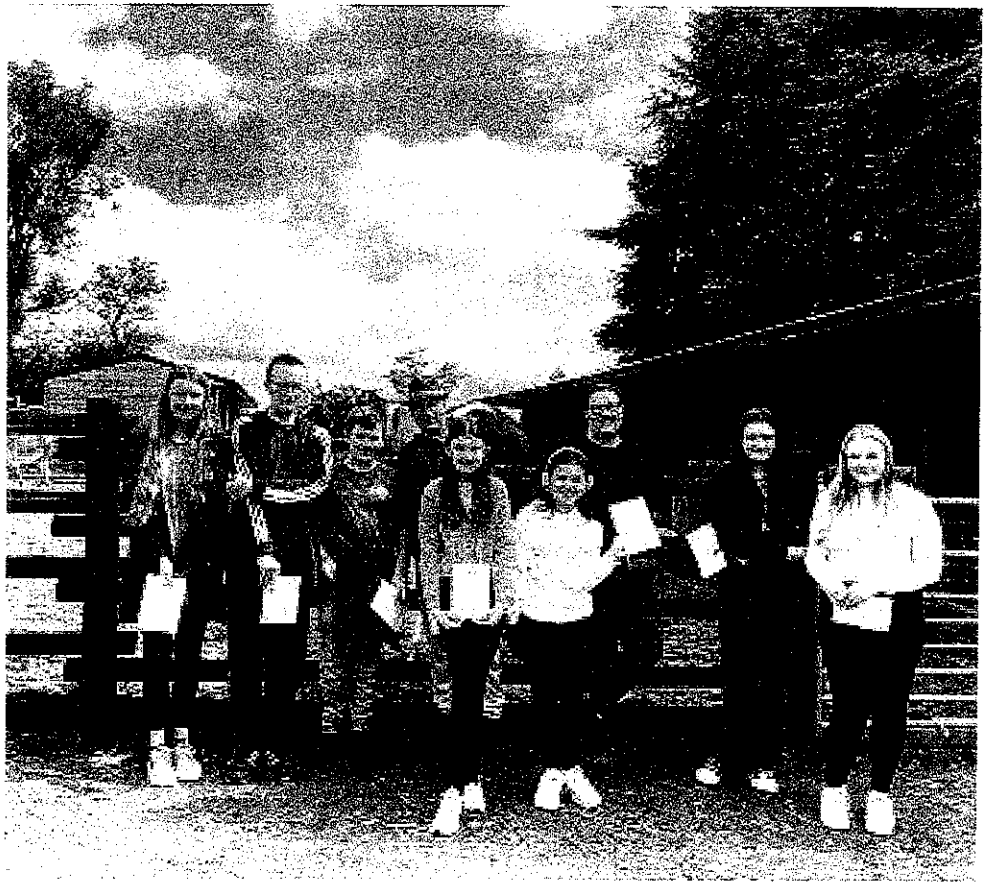
"I would have been lost without all your amazing service and help. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, I have loved my sessions and will miss them greatly."

"We found this service extremely helpful, myself, my husband and my daughter. We feel that we have learned a lot, and our daughter has gained confidence from participating in group activities with peers." (Parent)

"Great service for parents and young people as it helped my daughter to understand her diagnosis better and she has been more open with me as a parent." (Parent)

In our collaborative journey of building strengths together, we're thrilled to share that the average number of outcome areas in which autistic participants made increased positive progress was 3.5. Notably, areas experiencing the highest percentage of change included:

- Feelings and behaviours
- Education and learning
- Confidence and self-esteem.



Autistic females

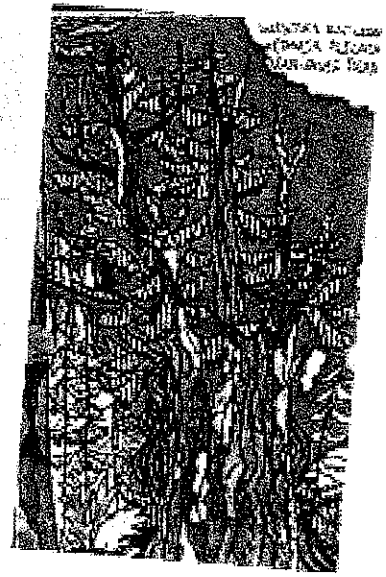
The Girls and Autism Project operates on a strengths-based model, specifically crafted to empower autistic girls aged 11 to 18 within their home, school, and community settings. It aims to foster achievement, enjoyment, and social participation within the Northern Trust area.

During the 23/24 year, our GAP Life Skills Officer conducted 495 sessions, including group activities and family sessions, ensuring personalized support for each participation.

An impressive 100% of autistic participants reported experiencing positive changes in two or more outcome areas during this period. Additionally, all autistic participants involved rated the service as either 'excellent' or 'very good'. At Autism NI, every voice matters, particularly those of our autistic participants.

"I guess I am more comfortable talking to people now." (Autistic girl)

"I exchanged numbers with the other girls, I feel left out in school, and I've liked sharing my personal experiences with others."



Training

Our Training Department provides high quality, accredited training and support to a wide variety of parents, carers, professionals, schools and organisations. Our training is evidence based, practical, and is delivered to the highest standard of accuracy to ensure it is effective in supporting autistic people at home, in the community, in school or in a workplace.

'I gained a lot more knowledge. The trainer was amazing and explained everything so well. Thank you.'
(Evaluation feedback)

Autism NI's training courses are delivered online and in person across NI, Ireland, UK and Internationally. Our dynamic courses include interactive activities and group discussion, to enable groups to explore concepts in an engaging and practical way. Overall, our training team delivered 156 training courses in 2022/23/24 to 2,338 participants.

Training for Parents and Carers

During 2023/24 we provided free support courses to parents and carers, empowering them to support their family, pre or post diagnosis. This included 405 funded places on our sessions, funded by Ann Ryland Fund, Blackburn Trust and Awards for All.

The courses were delivered on topics that were particularly relevant within the challenging circumstances, for example, sleep, social stories, supporting your teen. We also expanded and developed our course content further, within our 'Autism and Interactions' course and our 'Autism, Anxiety and School' course.

'The trainer was excellent at broadening my awareness of autism. I would highly recommend it to all parents, carers and anyone responsible for caring for a child.'
(Parent/Carer Support Course Feedback)

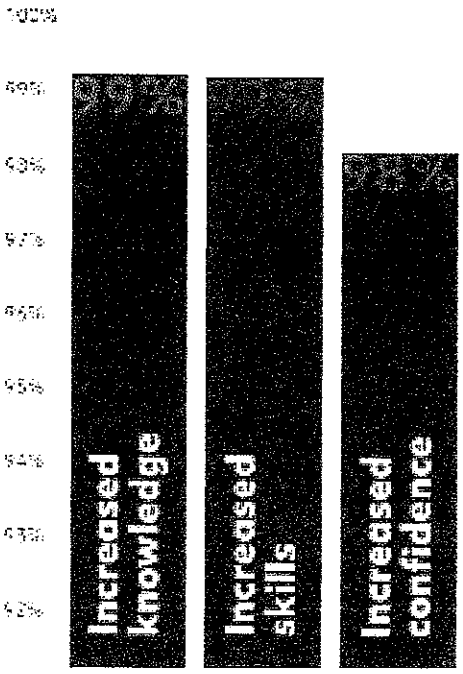
AQA Accreditations

We provide AQA unit award accreditations to people who have attended our training courses, supporting them to demonstrate high-quality learning and professional development. In 2023/24, 135 people completed a range of AQA unit award accreditations to evidence their development.

We are CPD certified, demonstrating quality assurance and a structured approach to learning and development. Our Training Department are certified by the CPD Certification Service.

Evaluations

Evaluation scores for all our training courses remain consistently excellent, demonstrating the expertise of our trainers and practicality of our courses. Overall, our courses are rated with 97% approval for the course content, materials, and communication of the trainer.



Improvements based on course attendance

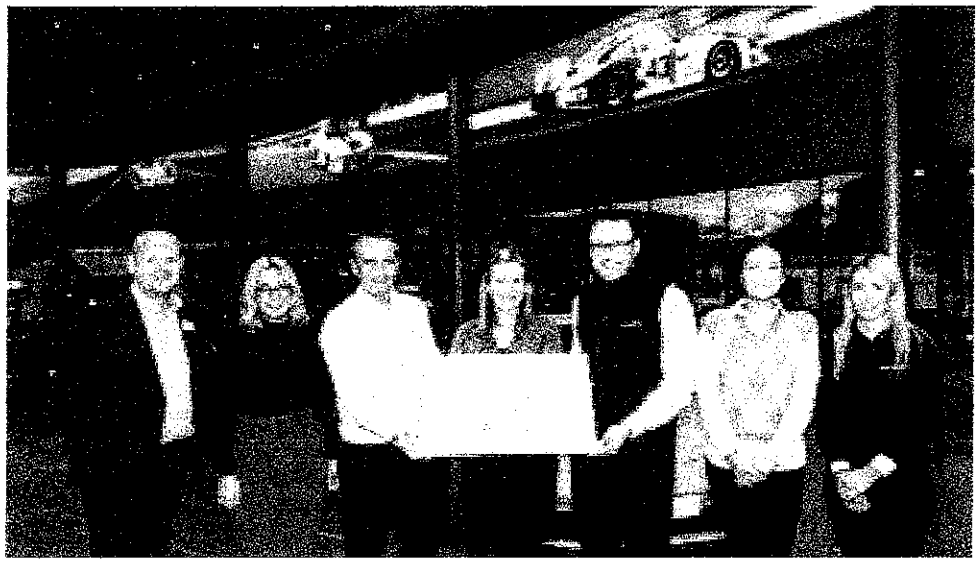
The course evaluations also demonstrate the positive impact of the training on delegates, with delegates scoring the courses as improving their knowledge (99.6%), skills (99%) and confidence (99%).

Training for Organisations

Our commissioned training service facilitated a wide range of bespoke courses for organisations, community groups and staff teams. Our courses are tailored to each organisation based on their needs and facilitated online or in person. We work with organisations to provide knowledge on autism, introduce practical skills on how to support autistic people in the workplace and also within their service, to build an inclusive environment.

During 2023/24, Autism NI delivered bespoke training sessions to a range of organisations, including Health and Social Care Trusts, Education settings, Voluntary Sector, public facilities, and private businesses. It is so important that we continue to work alongside organisations to ensure full accessibility for our autistic community. The bespoke training that Autism NI offers allows organisations to design a training programme that will address their particular needs.

"This training has really helped our team think about simple changes we can make to make our workplace more accessible"
City Belfast



Impact Award

It is essential that every organisation in Northern Ireland understands that they are legally obligated to provide equal access to services for autistic people under the Autism Act 2011. Our Impact Award is a training and support programme to help organisations create a more 'autism inclusive environment' for their autistic staff and customers. The training programme equips staff to better understand autism and how to adapt the organisation's environment to support autistic people and their families. The programme includes accredited training, follow up support to implement an individualised action plan and continued support for organisations who achieve the Impact Award Champion status.

In 2023/24, 32 organisations completed their Impact Award training, bringing the overall number of Impact Award Programmes delivered to 132.

This includes entertainment venues, leisure centres, arts and cultural venues, shopping centres and community venues. A number of our Impact Award Champions have continued to develop their partnership with Autism NI further by completing the process of reaccreditation with the Impact Award programme and accessing further top-up training for staff, to ensure a best practice approach is maintained across their services.

Spotlight: ASOS

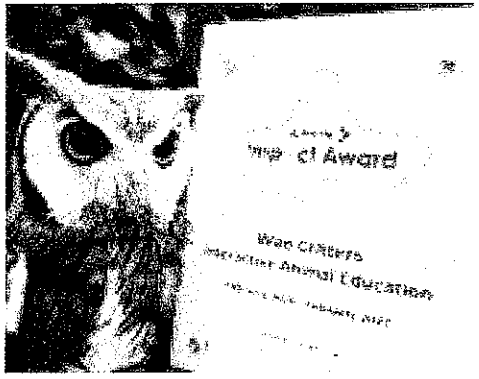
ASOS Belfast Tech Hub achieved their Impact Award in July 2023 and found this to be a very positive process for their team. For example, it opened up a dialogue with several colleagues to disclose their diagnosis of autism, which was made possible by the positive steps they have taken towards inclusion.

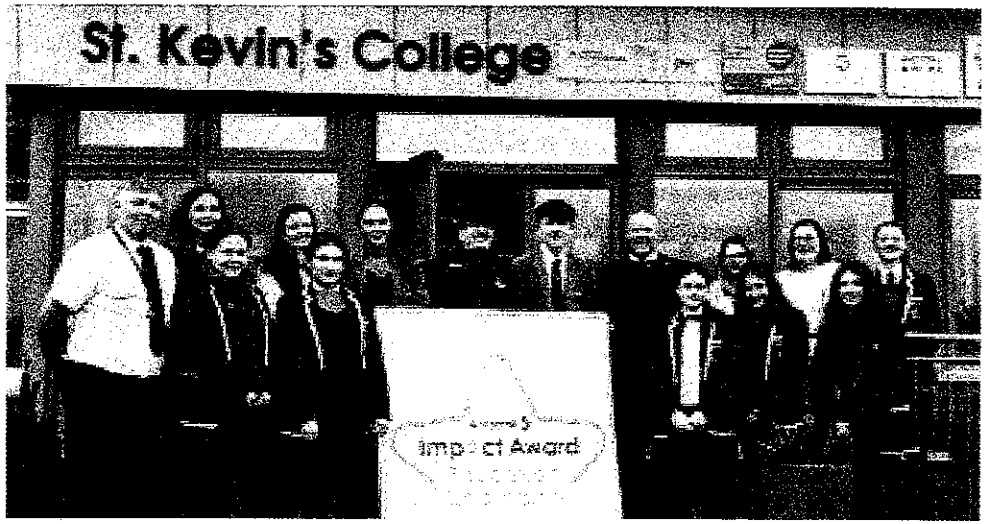
"Autism NI were fantastic in terms of guiding and supporting us through the whole process" (ASOS worker)

The training and accessibility work they have completed this year has generated a lot of interest within the wider company, and several ASOS offices throughout UK have now also completed their Impact Award training in March 2024, to further their commitment to inclusion.

Impact Award in Education

In 2023/24, we continued to deliver our Impact Award Programme in schools, focusing on promoting a best practice approach to autism inclusion within education settings. Our Impact Award for Education framework provides staff training awarding schools that implemented a bespoke action plan to support their autistic pupils. This programme was extremely popular with 69





schools completing the training programme this year and 169 schools have received the award training since launch. It is part of Autism NI's longstanding vision to ensure that we create an inclusive society where autistic children have the opportunity to thrive, and this all starts with ensuring that they have good educational outcomes.

As a charity we have lobbied endlessly over the past number of years for mandatory autism training for all teaching staff, but until this happens, we will continue to support our local schools and teachers in every way we can. We want our children, parents and teachers to feel confident and happy within the school environment and therefore providing the right knowledge and resources to achieve this is vitally important.

"The benefits to both staff and pupils have been very noticeable and it has certainly been a rewarding piece of work."

(School feedback)

Campaigning

Mental Health and Autism Event

On Monday 25th September 2023, Autism NI hosted a Mental Health and Autism event at Stormont, highlighting the immediate action that needs to be taken to introduce a specialist autism mental health service in Northern Ireland.

We have never felt a greater need for this service as we are receiving more and more calls for support from autistic people and their families. One of the biggest issues that Autism NI's Helpline receives on a daily basis is the need for mental health support for both children and adults. We therefore feel passionately that Northern Ireland needs to have a mental health service which understands autistic people and most of all, how to support them.

Guest speakers at this event included Autism NI's CEO Kerry Boyd, Autistica UK CEO, Dr James Cusack, Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland, Professor Siobhan O'Neill, Chair of the All Party Group on Autism, Pam Cameron MLA and autistic adult Kathy Barenskie.

With recent figures showing that autistic adults are nine times more likely to die from suicide and autistic children twenty times more likely to self-harm, Autism NI is pressing for mental health professionals to be trained in autism, offering tailored support strategies that work for autistic people

Kathy, an autistic adult, said: "I felt completely abandoned when my mental health deteriorated. I was told there was no specialist support for autistic people which left me feeling scared and incredibly anxious for my future. Changes need to be made as I don't want anyone else to feel like I did during those dark times. These changes should start with professionals being trained in autism and understanding how they can adapt their support strategies to help autistic people."

Campaigning - Raising Understanding and Acceptance

AutismNI

Be Kind To Different Minds

In celebration of World Autism Acceptance Week which ran from 27th March - 2nd April 2023, autistic people, families, community groups, MLAs, local businesses, and schools supported our 'Be Kind To Different Minds' message on social media. Our supporters got involved in our poster campaign and shared their own message on how to build a kinder and more inclusive society.

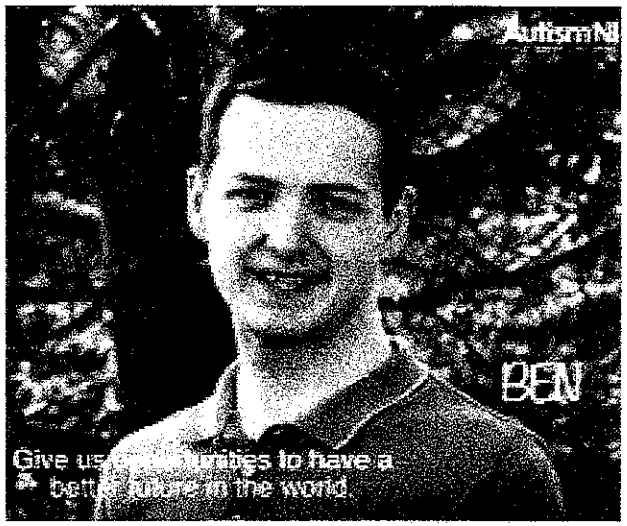
Mattie McKeown shares her message on how we can 'Be Kind To Different Minds'

Online

Our website (www.autismni.org) is a vital online resource for families and professionals and has a great range of information on services, research publications, fact sheets and downloadable resources on education, anxiety, visual aids and games for autistic children and adults. During 2023/24, our website has been an important online tool for many of our autism families and we seen 96,602 unique users visit our website to access information, services and resources.

Family Fun Day

On Sunday 2nd April 2023 the Charity welcomed hundreds of local autism families to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week at W5, Belfast. This event brought families together to enjoy the activities in a safe setting.



Be Kind To Different Minds video

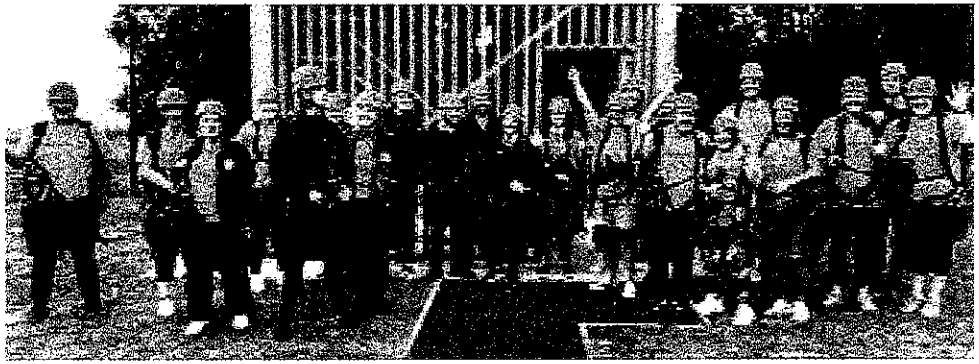
To mark World Autism Acceptance Week, we asked a group of autistic people how society can 'be kind to different minds' and raise understanding of autism in a short video. The video was shared across online platforms during April.

Fundraising Events

Get Colourful

During World Autism Acceptance Week in April 2023, we asked our supporters to celebrate the Spectrum with colour and host a virtual colourful challenge. Many supporters took on a colourful 5k walk, a bake sale or a quiz to raise vital funds for Autism NI's services.

Fundraising Events



Zipline

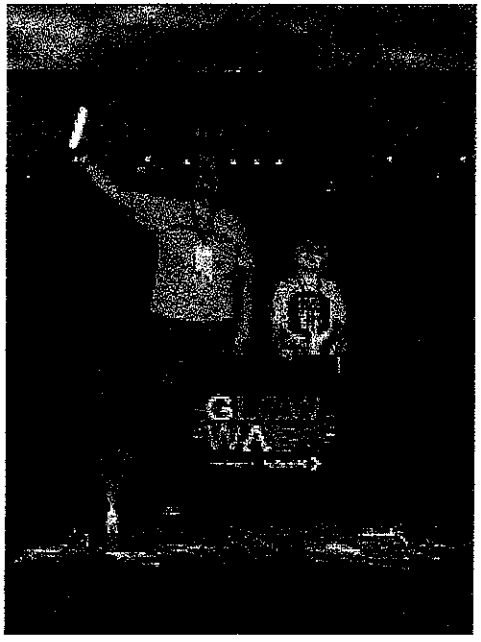
Our fundraisers reached new heights as we held three zipline challenge events in June 2023, September 2023, and March 2024. Supporters took on the longest Zipline in Ireland at Colin Glen Forest Park in Belfast and raised funds for local autism services.

Mourne Madness

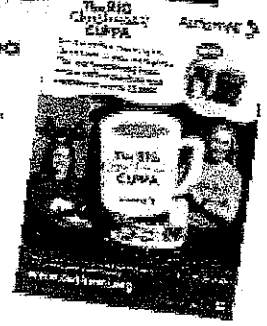
In August 2023, 50 people took part in our iconic Mourne Madness trek. The group conquered Slieve Donard as a team and a smaller group then went on to climb Slieve Commedagh and Slieve Bearnagh.

Glow Walk

Over a thousand families 'got their glow on' as families came together to attend our annual Glow Walk at Stormont in November 2023. Families got involved in fun and games from the U105 crew, and a dance warm up by Fitness Freddy before taking on a night walk at Stormont Estate. Attendees even got a chance to listen to the fantastic Isla McManus sing on the big stage!!



Big Christmas Cuppa



Families, businesses, community groups and schools got behind our 'Big Christmas Cuppa' campaign and held a festive Christmas coffee morning in aid of Autism NI in December 2023. This campaign was sponsored by Bailies Coffee Roasters who donated coffee equipment worth £2,000 to the top fundraiser.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

Home Bargains

In the last two years, Home Bargains has raised over £105,000 for Autism NI. The staff and Area Managers supported the Charity with endless fundraising activities and in-store collections throughout the two-year partnership. In the last year, staff took on a Prison Island challenge, and held a Superhero Day in store. Shoppers also donated to Autism NI by dropping their change into our collection tins at the tills, which are available across 79 stores in Northern Ireland.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

Ground Espresso Bars

In April 2023, Ground Espresso Bars chose Autism NI as their Charity partner and kicked off the partnership by donating 10p from every hot drink sold during April to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Month. The organisation raised nearly £10,000 from this campaign. During the year the team also asked for donations from the tills, staff took part in various challenge events, and in December they also donated 10p from every celebration cake sold to Autism NI. Ground Espresso Bars has also chosen to renew their partnership with Autism NI in 2024.

Little Wing

During April 2023, Little Wing Pizza supported World Autism Acceptance Month by donating £1 from each special sold during April to Autism NI.

Kicking for Autism

In August 2023, Tom and Megan took on the mammoth tasks of scoring a point in every GAA pitch in County Tyrone to raise vital funds for Autism NI. They gained great community support as local clubs came out to support them. Altogether they raised a fantastic £16,823.62 for Autism NI.

Superhero Week

Over 50 schools across Northern Ireland took part in our Superhero Week from 5th-9th February 2024. Pupils took on superhero tasks throughout the week whilst asking for sponsorship and raising autism acceptance in their school. At the end of the week, pupils celebrated their achievements with a certificate and sticker badge.

Ashgrove Nursery School took part in Superhero Week 2024

Partnerships

Autism NI continues to be a strong advocate of partnerships, and we recognise when another organisation's support and expertise is required. We are committed to further building on our engagement with a wide range of stakeholders within the statutory, community and voluntary sectors and continue to work with individuals and families to empower them.

Financial Performance

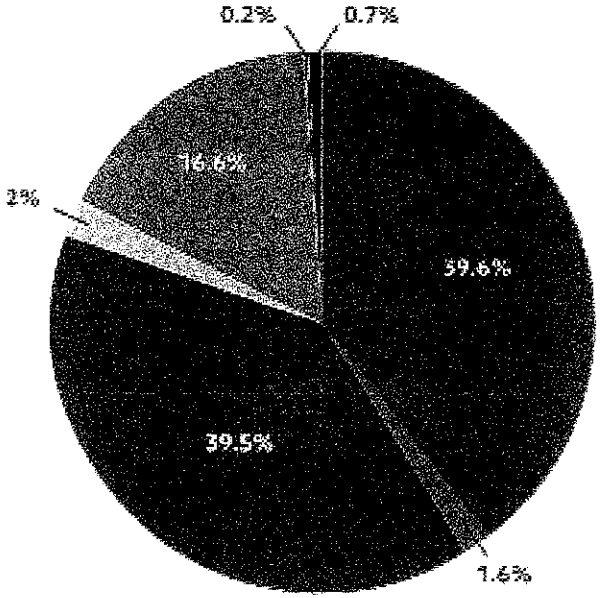
Autism NI is a trading name of Autism NI (PAPA) which is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number NI058548) and an Inland Revenue approved Charity (reference number XR22944).

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 100 240).

Registered Office:
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast, BT8 8BH

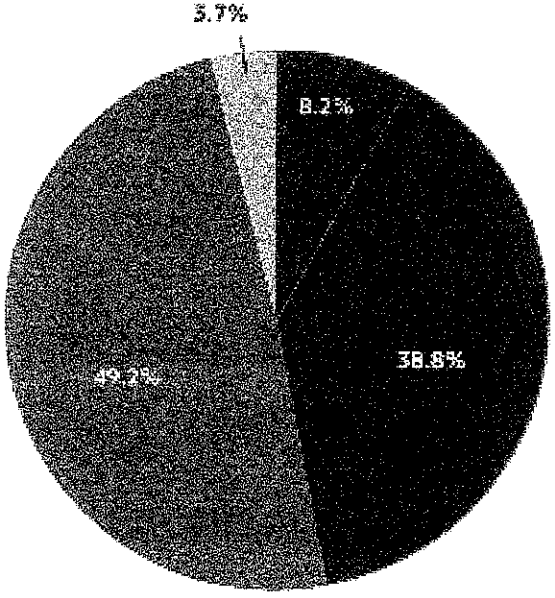
Auditors:
O'Hara Shearer
347 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

For more information about our services or to support our work, call us on 028 9040 1729 or visit www.autismni.org



Incoming Resources 2023/24

- Restricted Funding: Grants (39.6%)
- Unrestricted Funding: Grants (1.6%)
- Donations and Fundraising (39.5%)
- Membership (2%)
- Autism Training and Conferences (16.6%)
- Sale of Merchandise (0.2%)
- Investment Interest Received (0.7%)



Resources Expended 2023/24

- Expenditure on Raising Funds (8.2%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Restricted (38.8%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Unrestricted (49.2%)
- Governance Costs (3.7%)

Patrons

Professor Rita R. Jordan OBE
Dr Judith Gould

Vice Presidents

Eileen Bell CBE
Professor David Sines CBE

Board of Directors

David Heatley Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt Vice-Chairperson
Dr Clare Bailey Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan Honorary Treasurer
Jeff Hobson
Dr Karen Jack
Alan Young

Patron

Adam Keefe

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Tel: **028 9040 1729**
Email: **info@autismni.org**
www.autismni.org

Autism NI is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number: NI058548)
Registered Charity Number: XR23965 NI Charity Commission Number: NIC102348

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Membership
Membership of the Society shall be open to the following, irrespective of political party, nationality, religion or political opinion;
Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

Membership was 1,643 at March 2024. (1,578 March 2023)

Members are invaluable as their commitment is important in helping to provide and improve support for people with Autism and their families across Northern Ireland. Our members are invited to attend members' events, have access to funded Autism NI training courses and family support workshops and have access to priority queuing or carers discount into specific attraction across Northern Ireland.

Board of Trustees
Except as provided otherwise in the constitution the policy and general management of the charity shall be directed by the Board which shall meet not less than 4 times a year and shall consist of not less than 6 and not more than 13 members of the Society aged 18 years or over.
A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees
As set out in the Articles of Association, the Charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee, and determine the rotation in which any additional Trustees are to retire.
Currently, Trustees serve for three years after being elected at an AGM. They are eligible to stand again for re-election following the three year term. New Trustees can also be co-opted on to the Board.

Trustee Induction and Training
New Trustees are invited to an induction meeting to familiarise themselves with the Charity and the context within which it operates. These are facilitated by the Chairperson and Senior Management Team and cover:

- The obligations of the Board of Trustees;
- The content of the Articles of Association;
- The Committee and decision-making processes;
- Current financial position;
- Future plans and objectives.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Risk Management and Uncertainties
The ultimate responsibility for the management and control of the Charity resides with the Board of Trustees and as such their involvement in the key aspects of the risk management process is essential, particularly in setting the parameters of the process and in the review and consideration of the results. This should not be interpreted as meaning that the Board must undertake each aspect of the process themselves.

The Board has delegated elements of the risk management process to the Chief Executive and senior

management team, whilst ensuring that they, as Directors, review and consider the key aspects of the process and results.

The Board of Autism NI ensures that the organisation is not exposed to preventable, unacceptable risk. This risk management process is an integral part of the organisation's governance system. The Board are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Principal Risks identified as potentially having an impact on the Charity include:

Financial Stability
The principal financial challenges facing Autism NI are in the areas of fundraising and cost control. Autism NI relies heavily on the goodwill of the public, along with some government funding and other funders. Fundraising remains very challenging. A combination of increased competition for public funds and pressure on government finances means that Autism NI needs to identify and develop new sources of income in order to reduce the risk of significant income fluctuations. Autism NI works continually to reduce costs and to ensure best value for money in all expenditure.

Governance and Management
Autism NI has appropriate governance structures and procedures in place to ensure correct decision-making and the implementation of decisions. All organisational change initiatives and projects are regularly reviewed by senior management.

Operational
The Board recognises that a sound internal control system that can respond to significant risks, is embedded in operational activities, is capable of reacting to external and internal changes and will immediately report major control weaknesses, is a key and essential component of risk management.

External and Environmental
Autism NI must be able to demonstrate the impact of its work in a measurable and demonstrable way in order to be accountable to donors and beneficiaries, to guarantee the achievement of strategic objectives and to attract future funding support.

Compliance and Regulation
Autism NI has established policies and procedures and codes of practice to ensure compliance with statue, regulatory and labour law requirements, including recent General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Compliance and Regulation

Key controls used by the Charity include:
- Formal agendas, minutes and action plans for staff and Board meetings;
- Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- Established organisational structure, lines of reporting and delegation duties;
- Formal written policies and protocols for Human Resources, Finance, Risk Management, Health and Safety etc;
- Establishment and regular reporting on Key Performance Indicators and targets;
- Clear authorisation and approval.

Going Concern

As required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, we assess whether there are any uncertainties that may cast doubt over our ability to continue as a going concern. For this purpose, we focus on at least 12 months following the signing of these financial statements.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Trustees are satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year.The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses are disclosed in note 8 to the accounts.
Autism NI is committed to ensuring a proper balance between paying staff fairly so that we attract and retain the best people for the job whilst applying careful management of our charity funds. In so doing we will ensure the greatest effectiveness in delivering our charitable objectives and meeting the needs of our beneficiaries.
The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and the Charity uses the most recent NJC Payscales.

The Trustees will also consider:

(i) the Charity's financial situation;
(ii) the Charity's performance;
(iii) cost of living adjustments made in recent years;
(iv) pay reviews within the Voluntary Sector for similar sized charities.

Dormant Companies

The following companies were formed to protect the name Autism.
The one issued share in each company is in the name of Autism NI (PAPA).
The companies are dormant and it is intended that they will remain dormant.
Autism Ulster Limited
Autism Ireland Limited
Autism Consultancy & Training (ACT) Limited

Financial Review

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Total Incoming Resources	747,622	489,843	1,237,465	940,865
Total Resources Expended	734,179	464,846	1,199,025	1,051,470
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	13,443	24,997	38,440	-
Net (Outgoing) Resources for the Year	-	-	-	(110,605)
Net Unrealised (Losses) on Investments	-	-	-	-
Net Unrealised Gains on Investments	-	-	-	-
Transfer From Unrestricted to Restricted	(3,356)	3,356	-	-
Balance of Funds At Start of Year	675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716
Balance of Funds At End of Year	685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111

In 2024 there was a net increase in unrestricted funds of £ 10,087 for the year (2023 Decrease £102,808) In 2023 £46,907 of this decrease related to the charity supporting the core activities previously met with grants received from The Three Guineas.

Reserves

It is our policy to maintain a prudent level of reserves to enable the charity to manage financial governance and operational risk and deliver on our commitments. An adequate and working reserve policy provides accountability and assurance that the charity's activities are sustainable.

Total unrestricted funds at the year end is £ 685,215 (2023 £ 675,128). Our aim is to have a target minimum reserve equal to one year of average operating costs which includes certain salaries and administration costs which are currently funded in projects plus a provision for redundancy payments.
This figure of unrestricted funds may be required to support core activities, presently funded in projects, due to the uncertainty of future funding.
We believe that this balance of unrestricted funds is required to ensure the stability of the organisation, to build sustainability and resilience, and to continue to carry out its aims and objectives, employment and ongoing operations including family support and Autism awareness activities.
The next financial year will see the Charity move to new premises and funds of £100,000 have been designated to support this move.

Restricted Funds (note 7)

During the year ended March 2024, Restricted Funds (Projects) continued: NHSCT and BHSCT Family Support services reached over 500 families. NHSCT also funds two Autism Support Officers who support 500 families per year. The Three Guineas Trust agreed further funding for two years which will support Fundraising, Service Development, Family Support and core costs. The Joseph Levy Foundation funded a full time worker which supported almost 100 families in the Belfast area and this ended Mar 2024. BBC Children in Need provides funding for the Girls and Autism Project (GAP) which funds a part time worker that supports 17 girls. This funding is going in to its final year. The Henry Smith Charity continues to support two part time Early Intervention workers who support 77 families per year. WHSCT funded two part time workers providing family support services to 184 families. Funding was received from Keystone and The Dormant Accounts Fund NI to help expand our digital reach and the resources and supports we offer. SEHSCT provided in year funding for a part time Early Intervention worker to deliver 72 sessions to families

within that Trust area. Full details of Project Income and Expenditure can be found in Note 7 of the Accounts. Changes in Restricted Funding can impact on salaries and administration costs within the Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funding is reviewed on a regular basis by the CEO and is on the Agenda for all Board meetings.

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number XR22944

Company Registration Number NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE

Patron Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt	Vice-Chairperson
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan	Honorary Treasurer
Jonathan Simpson	(Resigned 12th February 2024)
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors - O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.

Principal Bankers - Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

Solicitors - Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities in Respect of the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Autism NI (PAPA) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1 Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2 Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102) ;
3 Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4 State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
5 Prepare the accounts 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.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

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.

Auditors
A resolution proposing that O'Hara Shearer be re-appointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board

David Heatley

David Heatley
Chairperson

Date: 2 December 2024

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autism NI (PAPA) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janaury 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

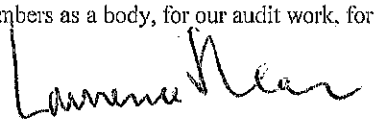
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., **Senior Statutory Auditor**
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, **Statutory Auditor**
O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

Dated: 2nd December 2024

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and Legacies					
Grants	2	19,195	489,843	509,038	403,199
Donations	3	334,666	-	334,666	228,237
Membership		24,885	-	24,885	22,172
		378,746	489,843	868,589	653,608
Other Trading Activities					
Training and Conferences	4	205,074	-	205,074	179,832
Fund Raising Events	5	153,732	-	153,732	103,144
Resources, Books, Videos etc		2,022	-	2,022	1,993
		360,828	-	360,828	284,969
Income from Investments					
Bank Interest Received		8,048	-	8,048	2,288
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		747,622	489,843	1,237,465	940,865
EXPENDITURE ON	6				
Expenditure on Raising Funds					
Staff Costs		74,861	-	74,861	62,355
Other Costs		23,923	-	23,923	22,289
		98,784	-	98,784	84,644
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Staff Costs		377,374	371,970	749,344	670,972
Other Costs		213,059	92,876	305,935	247,886
Governance Costs: Staff Costs		33,650	-	33,650	31,450
Governance Costs: Other Costs		11,312	-	11,312	16,518
		635,395	464,846	1,100,241	966,826
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		734,179	464,846	1,199,025	1,051,470
NET INCOME		13,443	24,997	38,440	-
NET (EXPENDITURE)		-	-	-	(110,605)
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT (LOSSES) GAINS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(3,356)	3,356	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,087	28,353	38,440	(110,605)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023		675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024		685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111
TOTAL FUNDS		685,215	54,336	739,551	701,111

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
COMPARATIVE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and Legacies				
Grants	2	48,911	354,288	403,199
Donations	3	228,237	-	228,237
Membership		22,172	-	22,172
		299,320	354,288	653,608
Other Trading Activities				
Training and Conferences	4	179,832	-	179,832
Donations and Fund Raising Events	5	103,144	-	103,144
Resources, Books, Videos etc		1,993	-	1,993
		284,969	-	284,969
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest Received		2,288	-	2,288
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		586,577	354,288	940,865
EXPENDITURE ON	6			
Expenditure on Raising Funds				
Staff Costs		62,355	-	62,355
Other Costs		22,289	-	22,289
		84,644	-	84,644
Expenditure on Charitable Activities				-
Staff Costs		328,899	342,073	670,972
Other Costs		181,001	66,885	247,886
Governance Costs; Staff Costs		31,450	-	31,450
Governance Costs; Other Costs		16,518	-	16,518
		557,868	408,958	966,826
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		642,512	408,958	1,051,470
NET INCOME		-	-	-
NET (EXPENDITURE)		(55,935)	(54,670)	(110,605)
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(46,873)	46,873	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(102,808)	(7,797)	(110,605)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022		777,936	33,780	811,716
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023		675,128	25,983	701,111
TOTAL FUNDS		675,128	25,983	701,111

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

	NOTE	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	10,842	12,889
		10,842	12,889
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	10	44,835	22,324
Bank Accounts	11	755,657	728,323
		800,492	750,647
CREDITORS; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year			
Creditors and Accruals	12	71,783	62,425
		71,783	62,425
NET CURRENT ASSETS		728,709	688,222
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		739,551	701,111
CREDITORS; Amounts Falling Due After One Year	13	-	-
NET ASSETS		739,551	701,111
FUNDS		£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			
AUTISM CENTRAL OFFICE	16 & 17	685,215	675,128
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
PROJECTS	16 & 17	54,336	25,983
TOTAL FUNDS		739,551	701,111

These Financial Statements were approved by the board of management on the 02/12/2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

David Heatley
Chairperson

Date: 2 December 2024

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	NOTE	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	15	30,934	(61,395)
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Dividends, Interest and Rents From Investments		-	-
Proceeds From the Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment		-	-
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(3,600)	(7,880)
Proceeds from the Sale of Investments		-	-
Purchase of Investments		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities		(3,600)	(7,880)
Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
Repayments of Borrowings		-	-
Cash Inflows From New Borrowings		-	-
Receipt of Endowment		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities		-	-
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period		27,334	(69,275)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		728,323	797,598
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents Due to Exchange Rate Movements		-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period	11	755,657	728,323

	2024 £	2023 £
ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash in Hand	755,657	728,323
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)	-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand	-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	755,657	728,323

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The principal accounting policies which have been adopted are set out below.

The Charity prepares its accounts in accordance with 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 1st January 2015), the Finacial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Autism NI (PAPA) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

GOING CONCERN

As required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, we assess whether there are any uncertainties that may cast doubt over our ability to continue as a going concern. For this purpose, we focus on at least 12 months following the signing of these financial statements.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Trustees are satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year.The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants , is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.
When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted fund when receivable.

INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest is included when receivable by the charity under investment income.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost which comprises the purchase price and any installation charges.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the assets within their useful lives. The methods adopted and rates used are:

FIXTURE AND FITTINGS	20%	STRAIGHT LINE
ALTERATION TO LEASEHOLD PREMISES	5%	STRAIGHT LINE

INVESTMENTS

Listed investments are stated at market value. The SOFA includes realised gains and losses on investments sold in the year and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation of investments.

JUDGEMENTS ESTIMATES

In the application of the charity's accounting policies the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.
The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.
The trustees do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation requiring disclosure.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted General Funds - these are donations, grants and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without specified purpose and are available as general funds and are available to spend at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity.

Designated Funds - these are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meet these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

PENSION
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity made a contribution to this scheme as highlighted in note 8.

TAXATION
As a registered charity, the charity benefits from rates relief, and is exempt from direct tax on its charitable activities but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

STOCKS
The cost of publications and promotional and educational material is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY
The Charity "Autism NI (PAPA)" is a Company Limited By Guarantee.

Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
The charity only has financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are normally initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the carrying valueplus accrued interest less repayments. The financing charge to expenditure is at a constant rate calculated using the effective interest method.

2. GRANTS		2024	2023
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
i) AUTISM NI (PAPA)			
DoH	Core Funding	19,195	38,390
NHSCT	Non Recurrent Financial Payment	-	10,521
		19,195	48,911
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		19,195	48,911
RESTRICTED FUNDS		**RESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
ii) AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	7		
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)		42,431	37,371
The Three Guineas Trust		70,000	31,250
NHSCT ASOs		70,029	67,843
Joseph Levy		37,000	18,500
Children In Need		26,609	26,178
Keystone		24,373	-
Family Support		-	8,621
Community Foundation NI Family Support		160	3,732
BHSCT		38,391	73,931
BHSCT MAP		58,455	-
The Henry Smith Charity		56,700	56,300
WHSCT ASO's		30,562	30,562
SEHSCT		10,141	-
Dormant Accounts		24,992	-
TEACCH Steering Group		-	-
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		489,843	354,288
Total Credited to Statement of Financial Activities		509,038	403,199

	£ 2024	£ 2023
	£	£
3. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
DONATIONS	334,666	228,237

Donations include general donations from the public and businesses, along with Payroll Giving and Regular Giving. Since 2021, we have seen a significant increase in Donations. Our Fundraising Team work very hard in raising the profile of the Charity and we can see the increase of awareness through our social media platforms, along with the invaluable work of the whole staff team.

	£ 2024	£ 2023
4 TRAINING	205,074	179,832

Training includes income from Parents, Individuals and Professionals.
Further training has also been commissioned by Statutory and Charitable Trusts.

5. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
FUND RAISING EVENTS	153,732	103,144

During the year, the Fundraising Team carried out a number of events including Mourne Madness, Glow Walk, Abseil, Zipline and Skydive.

6. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Note	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	8	485,885	371,970	857,855	422,704	342,073	764,777
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance		37,587	7,784	45,371	35,839	3,366	39,205
Repairs and Maintenance		-	-	-	511	-	511
Telephone		8,443	3,998	12,441	6,068	2,330	8,398
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising		43,157	347	43,504	40,615	1,139	41,754
Website and IT		-	22,085	22,085			
Catering		-	135	135	-	-	-
Travel Expenses		16,214	20,468	36,682	9,525	14,650	24,175
Autism Awareness		2,460	-	2,460	2,400	-	2,400
Training and Conferences		14,496	-	14,496	9,337	-	9,337
Recruitment and Staff Development		2,272	10,603	12,875	5,314	17,201	22,515
Purchase of Books, Videos and Resources		7,414	-	7,414	5,022	-	5,022
Resources for Projects		-	25,854	25,854	-	21,820	21,820
Fund Raising Expenditure		20,115	-	20,115	18,874	-	18,874
Expenditure on Behalf of Branches / Support Groups		11,360	-	11,360	9,119	-	9,119
Professional Fees and Subscriptions		60,882	-	60,882	49,507	3,940	53,447
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit Fees		6,000	500	6,500	5,640	500	6,140
Accountancy Fees		5,312	-	5,312	10,878	-	10,878
Bank Fees and Interest		961	-	961	685	-	685
Hire Purchase Interest		-	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses		5,974	203	6,177	2,572	162	2,734
Capital		-	899	899	-	1,777	1,777
Depreciation		5,647	-	5,647	7,902	-	7,902
		734,179	464,846	1,199,025	642,512	408,958	1,051,470
Total Resources Expended		734,179	464,846	1,199,025	642,512	408,958	1,051,470

(Note 7)

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	TOTAL PROJECTS	NHSCT Family Support	The Three Guineas Trust	NHSCT ASOs
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Received	489,843	42,431	70,000	70,029
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions				
Salaries and Redundancies	337,125	26,906	50,868	49,618
Management	23,910	3,595	-	1,882
Administration	7,606	1,798	-	-
HR / Finance	3,329	-	-	-
	371,970	32,299	50,868	51,500
COSTS				
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	7,784	-	-	2,318
Telephone	3,998	252	-	940
Postage,Printing, Stationery and Advertising	347	-	-	-
Website and IT	22,085	720	-	720
Catering	135	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	20,468	5,346	-	4,117
Recruitment and Staff Development	10,603	-	-	6,550
Resources for Projects	25,854	3,350	-	1,329
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	500	500	-	-
General Expenses	203	-	-	203
Capital	899	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-
	92,876	10,168	-	16,177
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	464,846	42,467	50,868	67,677
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	38,161	-	19,132	2,352
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(13,164)	(36)	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023	25,983	(452)	-	(3,809)
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	3,356	488	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	54,336	-	19,132	(1,457)

NHSCT Family Support
Contract to March 2024.

The Three Guineas Trust
The Three Guineas Trust which supports our Helpline and Awareness campaigns.
The Three Guineas Trust has confirmed further funding of £140,000 over two years (£70K in 2023/24 and £70K in 2024/25) the new funding commenced in July 2023.

NHSCT ASOs
A new contract was awarded in January 2024 for three years.

Joseph Levy
Initial funding was for three years to April 2022.
Additional funding of £55,500 was agreed for the eighteen months to 31st March 2024.

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	BBC CHILDREN IN NEED	KEYSTONE	FAMILY SUPPORT	BHSCT	BHSCT MAP
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	26,609	24,373	160	38,391	58,455
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	19,583	13,768	-	32,002	37,225
Management	2,851	-	-	1,937	3,875
Administration	-	-	-	1,579	1,579
HR / Finance	-	-	-	-	1,066
	22,434	13,768	-	35,518	43,745
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	-	-	-	-	1,749
Telephone	423	-	-	439	439
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	-	-	-
Website and IT	460	5,851	-	770	880
Catering	-	-	135	-	-
Travel Expenses	546	-	-	410	2,978
Recruitment and Staff Development	53	-	-	-	1,500
Resources for Projects	2,833	-	-	1,000	9,014
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-		-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	4,315	5,851	135	2,619	16,560
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	26,749	19,619	135	38,137	60,305
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	4,754	25	254	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(140)	-	-	-	(1,850)
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023	516	-	1,811	3,157	3,060
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	-	-	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	376	4,754	1,836	3,411	1,210

BBC Children in Need
Project to the 31st March 2025.
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Keystone
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Family Support
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

BHSCT
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	THE HENRY SMITH CHARITY	WHSCT ASO's	SEHSCT	DORMANT ACCOUNTS	TEACCH STEERING GROUP
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	56,700	30,562	10,144	24,992	-
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	40,014	31,984	1,846	2,935	-
Management	2,901	2,885	1,211	-	-
Administration	-	1,803	-	-	-
HR / Finance	1,597	-	666	-	-
	44,512	36,672	3,723	2,935	-
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	2,624	-	1,093	-	-
Telephone	862	456	-	-	-
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	347	-	-
Website and IT	600	-	400	11,684	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	2,322	4,087	151	-	-
Recruitment and Staff Development	-	-	2,500	-	-
Resources for Projects	5,363	-	1,930	-	-
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	-		-		-
Capital	899	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	12,670	4,543	6,421	11,684	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	57,182	41,215	10,144	14,619	-
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	-	-	10,373	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(482)	(10,653)	(3)	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2023	10,163	7,790	-	-	5,020
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	2,863	3	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2024	9,681	-	-	10,373	5,020

Henry Smith Charity
The unexpended balance is due to the grant received in advance.

WHSCT ASO's
This was a two year project with the Charity funding the second year.

SEHSCT
Funding received in the year up to the 31st March 2024.

Dormant Accounts
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2024 £	2023 £
Gross Salary	763,977	684,630
Employers NIC Contribution	68,015	57,500
Employers Pension Contribution	25,863	22,647
Redundancy Payments	-	-
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	857,855	764,777

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is now administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity makes a contribution to this scheme as noted above.

Trustees Directors Remuneration
The trustees directors did not receive any emoluments during the year 2024 Nil (2023 £ Nil)
Trustees directors were reimbursed expenses during the year 2024 £ Nil (2023 NIL)

Related party transactions see note 18.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Director, Director of Development and Director of Family Support. Their remuneration including pension contributions were £217,056 (2023 £214,053).

Employees during the year were as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Chief Executive	1	1
Director of Development	1	1
Director of Finance	1	1
Director of Family Support	1	1
Training and Development Officer	2	2
Corporate Manager	1	1
Fundraising and Marketing Manager	1	1
Sales and Marketing Officer	1	1
Events and Fundraising Officer	1	1
Family Support Manager	1	1
Family Support and Helpline	3	3
Family Support Group Officer	1	1
Project Staff	9	9
Administration Officer	1	1
Early Intervention	3	3
Communications Officer	1	1
Autistic Adults Support Officer	1	1
	30	30

9. FIXED ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED		RESTRICTED	TOTAL
	F&F	Premises	F&F	
	£	£	£	£
COST				
Balance at 1st April 2023	160,860	5,559	30,460	196,879
Additions	3,600	-	-	3,600
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2024	164,460	5,559	30,460	200,479
DEPRECIATION				
Balance at 1st April 2023	148,056	5,558	30,376	183,990
Charge for the Period	5,647	-	-	5,647
Elimination on Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2024	153,703	5,558	30,376	189,637
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2024	10,757	1	84	10,842
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2023	12,804	1	84	12,889

10. DEBTORS	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	36,645	22,324
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	8,190	-
	44,835	22,324

11. BANK AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	£	£
UNRESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) CENTRAL	750,564	723,216
	750,564	723,216
RESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	5,093	5,107
TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND AT HAND	755,657	728,323

12. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	£	£
Trade Creditors	18,347	15,213
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	53,436	47,212
	71,783	62,425

13. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year		
Hire Purchase Creditor	-	-
	-	-

	£	£
14. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION		
Audit Fees	6,500	5,640
	6,500	5,640

15. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Note	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Net Income (Expenditure) for the Reporting Period (as per the statement of financial activities)		38,440	(110,605)
Adjustments For:			
Depreciation Charges		5,647	7,902
Realised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Unrealised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-
Dividends, Interest and Rents from Investments		-	-
Loss (Profit) on the Sale of Fixed Assets		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Stocks		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Debtors		(22,511)	37,682
Increase (Decrease) in Creditors		9,358	3,626
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities		30,934	(61,395)

ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		2024 £	2023 £
Cash in Hand		755,657	728,323
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)		-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand		-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	11	755,657	728,323

16. ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES BETWEEN THE NET ASSETS AT THE 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING	RESTRICTED FUNDING	TOTAL
		CENTRAL	PROJECTS	
		£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	9	10,758	84	10,842
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and Prepayments	10	44,835	-	44,835
Owed by Inter Divisions		-	52,957	52,957
Cash on Hand and at Bank	11	750,564	5,093	755,657
		795,399	58,050	853,449
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year				
Owed to Inter Divisions		52,957	-	52,957
Creditors and Accruals	12	67,985	3,798	71,783
		120,942	3,798	124,740
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due After One Year				
Creditors and Accruals	13	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		685,215	54,336	739,551

17. RECONCILIATION AND ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON THE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR

(Note 7 Page 47-49)

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING CENTRAL	RESTRICTED FUNDING PROJECTS	TOTAL
	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
UNRESTRICTED	747,622	-	747,622
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	42,431	42,431
The Three Guineas Trust	-	70,000	70,000
NHSCT ASOs	-	70,029	70,029
Joseph Levy	-	37,000	37,000
Children In Need	-	26,609	26,609
Keystone	-	24,373	24,373
Family Support	-	-	-
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	160	160
BHSCT	-	38,391	38,391
BHSCT MAP	-	58,455	58,455
The Henry Smith Charity	-	56,700	56,700
WHSCT ASO's	-	30,562	30,562
SEHSCT		10,141	
Dormant Accounts		24,992	
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
	747,622	489,843	1,237,465
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
UNRESTRICTED	734,179	-	734,179
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	42,467	42,467
The Three Guineas Trust	-	50,868	50,868
NHSCT ASOs	-	67,677	67,677
Joseph Levy	-	35,729	35,729
Children In Need	-	26,749	26,749
Keystone	-	19,619	19,619
Family Support	-	-	-
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	135	135
BHSCT	-	38,137	38,137
BHSCT MAP	-	60,305	60,305
The Henry Smith Charity	-	57,182	57,182
WHSCT ASO's	-	41,215	41,215
SEHSCT		10,144	10,144
Dormant Accounts		14,619	14,619
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
	734,179	464,846	1,199,025
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	13,443	24,997	38,440
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	(3,356)	3,356	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	10,087	28,353	38,440
BALANCE AT 1ST APRIL 2023	675,128	25,983	701,111
BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2024	685,215	54,336	739,551

THE FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS	54,336
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
General	685,215
Designated	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	685,215
TOTAL FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	739,551

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the charity purchased £26,398.28 (2023 £25,194.60) from Leaf Consultancy Ltd for computer software and support during the year.

The balance due to Leaf Consultancy Ltd in trade creditors at year end was £3,666.80 (2023 £900.46). Mr Steven Goldblatt is a trustee of the charity and a majority shareholder and director of Leaf Consultancy Ltd.

The transactions were on normal commercial terms that were beneficial to the charity. Mr Goldblatt took no part in the decision to use Leaf Consultancy Ltd. The charity had been using the services of Leaf Consultancy Ltd for several years before Mr Goldblatt was appointed a trustee.

19. REPORTING CURRENCY

The financial statements are stated in GBP (sterling)

20. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

After 30 years based in Knockbracken Healthcare Park the charity will move to Forestgrove Business Park, Newtownbreda.
The financial cost in moving and fitting out the new premises is estimated to be in the region of £100,000.

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying value of the company's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

FINANCIAL ASSETS	**2024**	**2023**
Measured at undiscounted amount receivable	**£**	**£**
Trade Debtors	36,645	22,324
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	8,190	-
	44,835	22,324

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	**2024**	**2023**
Measured at undiscounted amount payable	**£**	**£**
Trade Creditors	18,347	15,213
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	53,436	47,212
	71,783	62,425

Autism NI (PAPA)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100240

Accounts

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

(A Company Limited By Guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Registered Charity XR22944

Company Number NI 58548

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number	XR22944
Company Registration Number	NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE
Patron	Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Diane Heyburn	Resigned as Vice-Chairperson and Trustee on the 24th November 2022
Steven Goldblatt	Appointed as Vice-Chairperson on the 24th Novemeber 2022
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Jonathan Simpson	Resigned as Honorary Treasurer on the 24th November 2022
Dr Gloria Duignan	Appointed as Honorary Treasurer on the 24th Novemeber 2022
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	Appointed as Director and Trustee on the 24th November 2022

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors	- O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.
Principal Bankers	- Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
Solicitors	- Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023.
The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated in March 2006. Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100239 and Registered with HMRC XR22944.

Public Benefits
The advancement of education and the relief of children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the province of Ulster and in particular for the following;
(i) The promotion of greater knowledge of Autism amongst the public and those concerned in the educational facilities.
These benefits are evidenced by the public bodies and private organisations who have requested Autism training and also evidenced through the evaluations completed by all participants on our training courses and through feedback from our Parent Support Groups.
(ii) The promotion of the provision of appropriate recreational, residential and educational facilities.
Through lobbying has drawn attention to service need and for service development. The charity supports individual families through Autism NI's Family Support Service, Training Department, Helpline Service and Support Group Network.
The benefit of our Advocacy role within the Autism Community can be seen through the number of new members within our regional Support network and the increase in support given through our Helpline and Training Services.
(iii) The provision of help, guidance and information to families with Autistic members and the promotion of a network of support among such families.
These benefits are evidenced through feedback from parents and support groups and through regular evaluation of our services.
(iv) The establishment of an information resource and the promotion of research into Autism generally and the publication of the useful results thereof.
These benefits are evidenced through a number of projects and services which have been designed to specifically address the need evidenced within our Autism research
A summary of the charity's activities is listed below.
Our purposes do not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of our purposes are people living in Northern Ireland who have Autism. The beneficiaries of this purpose also include family members and carers of those with Autism. There is no private benefit.
The trustees are aware of the charity commission's guidance on public benefit.

Mission Statement
We support autistic people and their families, and campaign for autism acceptance within society.

Vision
Our vision is an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

Strategic Plan
The Main Objectives for the charity detailed within the Strategic Plan include the following together with it's main activities;

A summary of the main achievements of the charity including the difference the charity's work has made to its beneficiaries and the community.

Family Support:
Increased volunteering in the Autism NI Support network within a community development framework, development of a regional Family Support Service.

Training:
Achievement of accreditation to a quality standard, acquisition of new customers, development of new courses.

Advocacy:
Development of Autism NI's role as an agent of social change for Autism in Northern Ireland.

Marketing /Fundraising:
Increased awareness of Autism and Autism NI brand, development of new funding opportunities, utilization of new communication methods, development of corporate relationships.

Governance:
Development of good governance improvement measures, build capacity.

Partnerships
Working in Partnership is a key aspect of Autism NI. The very origin of the charity came from formation of a partnership between Parents and Professionals & Autism (PAPA)
Autism NI have built up many partnerships over the years:
Autism Celtic Nation Partnership, AMH, All Party Assembly Group on Autism, Barnardo's, Children's Law Centre, Disability Action, Early Years, Equality Commission, Irish Autism Action, Mencap, NICCY, NICVA, NOW, Orchardville Society, SPEAC and University of Ulster.

Annual Report 2022-2023

Building an inclusive society

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Autism NI held their fifth Glow Walk with local families at Stormont in November 2022.

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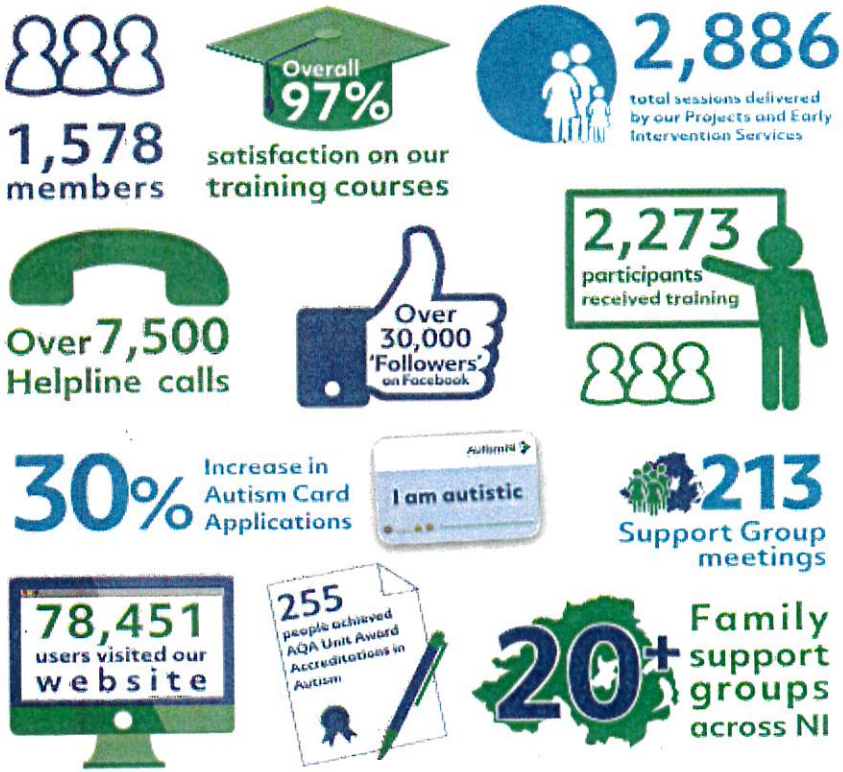
AutismNI

Our Year in Numbers



Chairperson's Report

David Heatley

Chairperson

This was a very progressive year for Autism NI as our services reached more people than ever. With over 7,500 calls to our Helpline, it is clear that autistic people and their families rely on the knowledge, advice and resources that our Family Support team brings. Understandably, since the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen a rise in calls on emotional support for children, young people and parents and carers.

Many parents and carers attended our support courses and key businesses and schools achieved our Autism NI Impact Award. It's great to see many establishments supporting the autism community by putting adjustments in place to increase accessibility for their neurodiverse employees and customers. Our Training team delivered a range of courses to 2,273 people in the last year.

Our Early Intervention service expanded further, with nearly 3,000 families receiving what we know is a lifeline support service to so many. This area of work is critical to ensuring that our children have the best start in life, and it is something that we want to see all autistic children avail of throughout Northern Ireland.

Another highlight of the year was the Glow Walk which was held at Stormont with our families in November. It was great to see so many families enjoying the fun activities from Fitness Freddy to the U105 crew.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board of Trustees for their dedicated efforts in governing the Charity.

Finally, my thanks to the staff team, our volunteers, fundraisers, charity partners and funders, without their support our work would not be possible. We all need to continue to work together implementing our vision of an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

David Heatley

Chief Executive's Remarks

Kerry Boyd

CEO

As I look back on the past year, I am extremely proud of the steps that the Charity has taken to deliver services that have made such a positive impact on our autism community.

Autism NI has continued to campaign for the full implementation of the recent Autism (Amendment) Act, which was passed in March 2022. As the Secretariat of the All Party Group on Autism, the Charity plays a pivotal role in supporting positive change for autism services in Northern Ireland and we continue to make progress during a period of time when the NI Assembly is not functionally fully. Autism NI was also recognised for its hard work in campaigning for the recent legislation passed as our team were awarded the 'Outstanding Achievement Award' at the Families First Awards in April 2022.

The Charity's services have grown and this includes the expansion of our Autistic Adults Service including the employment of an Autistic Adults Support Officer and the delivery of Autistic Peer Support Networks. These services were created through co-participation with our autistic adults and have been positively received. For the first time, our adults feel supported and empowered in areas such as employment, education and social outings.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our staff team during the last year. Autism NI's neurodiverse team continue to provide knowledge, expertise and motivation in their work to ensure that all autistic people and their families are being fully supported.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all our stakeholders, ambassadors, volunteers, partners and donors for their dedication and commitment to Autism NI. Without their support, Autism NI could not deliver our vital support services and continue to build and advocate for an inclusive society for everyone.

Kerry Boyd

AutismNI

Family Support

One of our longest established services is our Family Support provision, which continued to be operational across local communities in Northern Ireland providing tailored support services. We recognise the skills and resilience of the Autism NI Family Support Team. We listen to our members and provide a range of services to ensure that autistic children, adults and their families increased support networks, confidence, well-being and connectedness. Integral participation is at the core of what we do. We continue to form and maintain relationships with community, voluntary and statutory services to provide a vital services to families and individuals.

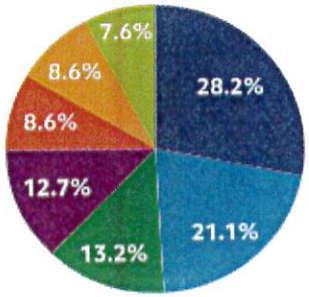
Autism NI is fortunate to have a neurodiverse team, which has not only grown but with continued determination they ensured that families have benefited from a range of early supports. Over the past year, referrals to Autism NI for early help have increased across all our areas of our work.

Individual Support

Our Helpline is the first point of contact for many autistic people, families and professionals pre and post diagnosis.

During 2022/23, Autism NI received over 7,500 direct contacts which enabled the team to advise autistic people and their families on support available and additional interventions including practical resources, one-to-one sessions, and a listening ear. Additionally, we provided information, advocacy, signposting, and a range of bespoke supports.

Areas of support needed



We receive regular positive feedback on our Helpline, indicating how much the support really matters and makes an invaluable difference to the people we are working with.

"I called Autism NI's Helpline and for the first time I felt heard as a parent. They tapped me into services at Autism NI which I've been so appreciative of as I really didn't know who to turn to on the start of my own journey with my autistic child." **Parent**

Individual Support for Autistic Adults

In partnership with the Belfast Trust, our Autistic Adults Support Officer offers tailored support to autistic adults who wish to voluntarily avail of support in areas including employment, relationships and social opportunities.

"This is the only help I have received since my diagnosis, and I am so grateful for your support." **Autistic Adult**

Autistic Adult Peer Networks

We provide two online peer network services for autistic adults, one for over 18-year-olds and the other for over 30-year-olds. Our peer networks provide an opportunity for autistic adults to socialise and interact with others in a relaxed and safe environment. We are proactive in listening and responding to individuals needs and adapt participation to include text base communication. There have been 192 autistic attendees to date, with some of the groups meeting in person.

Support Groups

Our Support Group Co-ordinator brings together a vibrant volunteer network across Northern Ireland, which is central to helping us deliver essential supports in the community.

Every volunteer makes a unique and distinct contribution, they strengthen a wide variety of initiatives, and are an integral part of the Charity. Their invaluable expertise, peer support, skills and diversity complement the work of our Family Support Team, in delivering essential services to the autism community. During the pandemic many of our volunteers upskilled, and their dedication made a vital difference to the autism community across Northern Ireland.

Autism NI volunteers participated in 213 Support Group meetings focusing on education, assessment, mental health and anxiety. The practical knowledge and invaluable peer expertise shared in these meetings, provides an obligation to influence policy and practice. The success of the model remains, and the network experienced an attendee increase across meetings this year.

"I went along to the Support Group meeting on Wednesday night. Everyone was extremely welcoming and happy, it was lovely. I don't get out much so it was a real treat to talk to people who understand, and I will definitely be a regular attendee"
Parent, South Belfast Support Group

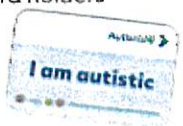
Autism NI volunteers attend Family Fun Day in W5

Autism NI Members

Autism NI has 1,578 members who make an invaluable difference contributing to improved supports for autistic people and their families across Northern Ireland. Individual members have agreed to participate within the legal requirements of the Charity and its Mission, Vision, Ethos and Code of Conduct. The benefits of our membership often extend to whole family participation through family days, training courses and the opportunity to shape the impact the Charity has across the autism community, through individual engagement.

Autism Card

During 2022/23, we experienced a 30% increase in registrations for our Autism Card. Autistic card holders tell us, it is beneficial in a range of ways and that they use it in their everyday lives.



AutismNI

Early Intervention

Our ongoing Early Intervention Service builds and strengthens relationships for families whose child has received a new diagnosis. Families referred to the Early Intervention Service from the Trust engage in bespoke sessions. These sessions provided family members with visual strategies and practical tools and support to manage behaviours, play and socialisation.

Autism NI continues to be a strong advocate of partnerships, and we have maintained our relationships with the Belfast, Northern, and Western Trusts Autism Intervention Teams. They have referred directly to the Autism NI Resource or Support Officers, and Early Intervention Officers, who offered bespoke services to families in their local communities.

Autism NI has a proven record in evidencing outcomes, and is well established in the practice of identifying, measuring, and reporting outcomes. In addition, we have a long-standing commitment to hearing directly from and maintaining relationships with autistic people and their families. Participation demonstrates how vital these services are, providing an opportunity for individuals to feed back on their experience and offer suggestions for future direction. The positive feedback we receive highlights how invaluable the support has been after diagnosis, empowering parents with practical tools and support.

Our Early Intervention Team has successfully provided 2,010 individual sessions. The difference detailed by families included enhanced understanding of their autistic child's needs, access to information on appropriate services and improved confidence that enabled opportunities. Parental feedback was extremely positive with 97% of families stating that the benefits of the home visits were either 'excellent' or 'good'.

Traci's Story

Traci is a parent of an autistic child and has been supported through our Early Intervention Service.

"When I was lost, confused and shunned by services, I felt unheard. I reached out to Autism NI and got put in contact with one of their Early Intervention Officer's called Julie. Even just from the other end of the phone she listened and acknowledged my thoughts, feelings and challenges. I felt so supported as we started on this journey, she really did go above and beyond.

Through the Early Intervention Service I was provided with learning packs and educational information and this helped me to start using visuals within our home with my son, and we still use them now. I was given the tools I never knew I needed, and the sensory games have helped us all as a family."

Mental Health and Autism Project (MAP)

Our MAP participants solved puzzles at their recent Wizard inspired outing in February 2023

Our MAP provides one to one support for autistic young people (aged 11-18 years) within the Belfast Trust, via request from the Child and Adolescents Autism Service. In 2022/23, we delivered 408 sessions.

The service offers 8 -12 bespoke support sessions with young people in the home, at school or in the community. Working in partnership, we focus on areas of support needs ascertained by each autistic young person, with a view to increasing confidence, self-esteem, and emotional well-being. This enables integral participation with each young person, empowering them with ownership regarding the direction of their support. 80% of autistic participants rated the service as 'excellent'.

In building strengths together, we are delighted to report that the average number of outcome areas that autistic participants made progress in, was four.

Areas experiencing the highest percentage change included:

- feelings & behaviours
- education & learning
- and confidence & self-esteem.

"This has been one of the few helpful services I have received." **MAP participant**

Girls and Autism Project (GAP)

GAP supports autistic girls aged 11-18 years across home, school and community environments. The focus is on supporting achievement, enjoyment and social participation across the Northern Trust. During 2022/23, our GAP Officer completed 395 individual visits and facilitated group activities.

83% of autistic participants during 2022/23 experienced positive change in two or more outcome areas. 100% of autistic girls rated the service as 'excellent or very good'.

"The Life Skills Officer is super nice and awesome. She helped me with a few things, and I think my confidence has improved since I started." **Autistic participant**

Our GAP participants took part in Equine care sessions during the Summer

AutismNI

Training

Our Training Department provides high quality, accredited training and advice to a wide variety of parents, carers, schools, groups and organisations. Our training is evidence based, practical, and is delivered to the highest standard of accuracy to ensure it is effective in supporting autistic people at home, in the community, in school or in a workplace.

During 2022/23, Autism NI's training courses were delivered online and in person. Our high quality courses are delivered by experienced trainers and include interactive activities and group discussion, to enable groups to explore concepts in an engaging and practical way.

Overall, our training team delivered 172 training courses in 2022/23 to 2,273 participants.

Parents and Carers attended the Fundamentals of Autism training course

Support Courses for Parents and Carers

During 2022/23 we continued to provide funded training courses to parents and carers. The courses were delivered to provide continued support to families pre and post diagnosis. We are immensely grateful for our funders, which included PHA CLEAR Project supported by Baily Thomas, Arnold Clark, Awards for All, Hedley Foundation, Halifax Foundation, National Lottery Fund and Prince of Wales Charitable Trust.

The courses were delivered on topics that were particularly relevant with the challenging circumstances, for example, managing anxiety, dealing with change and transition, emotional regulation and anxiety, females and autism, adolescence and growing up, and supporting a return to school.

"Thank you so very much. It was a very informative course and I've definitely learned some great techniques to hopefully help my son." **Parent**

Autism Support Officers – Parent and Carer Support Courses

Throughout 2022/23 our Autism Support Officers in the Northern Trust held 97 courses for parents and carers of newly diagnosed autistic children, and those awaiting assessment. Evaluations from this training were extremely positive, with 99.5% of participants rating the course as 'excellent or good' and 100% of parents and carers noted they experienced an increase in their knowledge, confidence and skills in supporting their autistic children.

AQA Accreditations

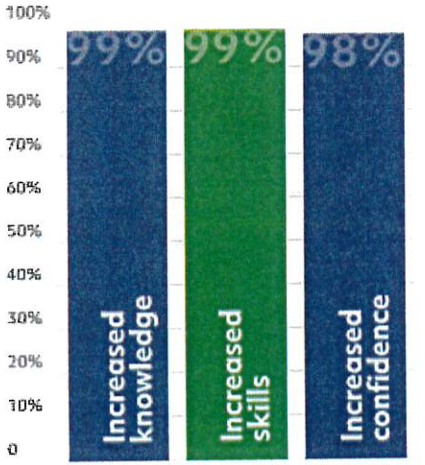
We provide AQA unit award accreditations to people who have attended our training courses, supporting them to demonstrate high-quality learning and self-development. In 2022/23, 255 people completed a range of AQA unit award accreditations to evidence their development.

We are CPD certified. Our courses are quality assured and demonstrate a structured approach to learning and development.

CPD CERTIFIED
The CPD Certification Service

Evaluations

Evaluation scores for all our training courses remain consistently excellent, demonstrating the expertise of our trainers and practicality of our courses. Overall, our courses are rated with 97% approval for the course content, materials, and communication of the trainer. The course evaluations also demonstrate the positive impact of the training on delegates, with delegates scoring the courses as improving their knowledge (99%), skills (99%) and confidence (98%).



Improvements based on course attendance

Training for Organisations

Our commissioned training service also facilitated a wide range of bespoke courses for organisations, community groups and staff teams. Our courses were tailored to each organisation based on their needs and facilitated online or in person. We work with organisations to provide knowledge on autism, introduce practical skills on how to support autistic people in the work place and start conversations on building an inclusive environment.

During 2022/23, Autism NI delivered bespoke training sessions to a range of organisations, including Health and Social Care Trusts, Education settings, Voluntary Sector, public facilities, and private businesses.

It is so important that we continue to work alongside organisations to ensure full accessibility for our autistic community. The bespoke training that Autism NI offers allows organisations to design a training programme that will address their particular needs. The training includes the creation of an action plan, developed by the staff team, ensuring ownership of the reasonable adjustments and changes that will be implemented within a set time frame. It is essential that every organisation in Northern Ireland understands that they are legally obligated to provide equal access to services for autistic people under the Autism Act 2011.

"It was so nice being trained by someone who is so passionate. I found the interactive activities very interesting. It was first class and so important for employers to learn how to support team members." **Professional, Autism and Employment Training**

High Rise achieve the Autism NI Impact Award

Impact Award

Our Impact Award is a training and support programme to help organisations create a more 'autism inclusive environment' for their staff and customers. The training programme equips staff to better understand autism and how to adapt the organisation's environment to support autistic people and their families. The programme includes accredited training, follow up support to implement an individualised action plan and continued support for organisations who achieve the Impact Award Champion status.

ICC Waterfront and Ulster Hall achieved the Autism NI Impact Award

Overall, 135 organisations across Northern Ireland have achieved our Impact Award to show their commitment to increasing autism accessibility in their organisation, including Entertainment venues and Leisure Centres, Arts and Cultural venues, Shopping Centres and community venues.

A number of our Impact Award Champions have continued to develop their partnership with Autism NI further by completing the process of reaccreditation with the Impact Award programme and accessing further top-up training for staff, to ensure a best practice approach is maintained across their services.

Impact Award for Education

In 2022/23, we continued to deliver our Impact Award Programme in schools, focusing on promoting a best practice approach to autism inclusion within education settings. Our Impact Award for Education framework provides staff training and awarded organisations who implemented a bespoke action plan of supports for autistic pupils. This programme was extremely popular with 56 schools being awarded with the Impact Award Champion status in the last year, overall 86 schools have received this award.

It is part of Autism NI's longstanding vision to ensure that we create an inclusive society where autistic children have the opportunity to thrive, and this all starts with ensuring that they have good educational outcomes. As a charity we have lobbied endlessly over the past number of years for mandatory autism training for all teaching staff, but until this happens, we will continue to support our local schools and teachers in every way we can. We want our children, parents and teachers to feel confident and happy within the school environment and therefore providing the right knowledge and resources to achieve this is vitally important.

Glasswater and Killyleagh Integrated Primary School achieved the Impact Award for Education in February 2023

Campaigning

Autism (Amendment) Act 2022

Since the passing of the Autism (Amendment) Act in March 2022, Autism NI has continued to be the secretariat of the All Party Group on Autism at Stormont and bring forward key issues autistic people and their families are facing. With the absence of the NI Assembly, the implementation of the new legislation has been delayed due to funding issues.

APGA meeting in September 2022

Autism NI played a pivotal role in helping achieve the new autism legislation through lobbying the NI Executive. The new legislation focuses on the development of a regional early intervention services, a range of adult support services, an autism strategy with measurable targets and the employment of an independent scrutiny mechanism.

NI Census Results

The Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency released results from Census 2021 in December 2022. For the first time, the Census included a question to record autism figures in Northern Ireland for both children and adults, with 35,367 people stating they have an autism diagnosis. This recent addition to the census is one that Autism NI has campaigned for and with the passing of the Autism Act of 2011, has finally been introduced. The results are significant, as they can be used to shape autism services for adults and children in Northern Ireland.

Autism Alliance UK

Autism Alliance UK is a national partnership for autism charities and third party organisations to come together and support autistic people and their families. Our CEO recently presented our journey to achieve the Autism (Amendment) Act 2022 and how we lobbied key government

Autism NI CEO Kerry Boyd presenting to Autism Alliance UK

bodies for this vital legislation in Northern Ireland. Other countries within the UK are in the process of lobbying their own government for similar legislation, which will protect the rights for autistic people, collect data and develop autism services.

Consultation Responses

Autism NI responds on behalf of the autism community to more public consultations by public bodies than any other agency in Northern Ireland. In the past year, numerous responses have been completed and the case for improved provision and adjustments for autism has been submitted to local Councils, government agencies and NGOs. We aim to ensure autism stays on the agenda and that it is recognised and understood within our civil society.

UU Research Hub

The UU Autism Research Hub is a UU/ Autism NI initiative to enhance the interest and activity in quality research with a focus on autism. Autism NI has a commitment to promoting, recognising, and protecting the role of autism self-advocates and families as co-partners in any such research. Workshops are held to agree priorities, and to enable meaningful and recognised participation from the autism community.

AutismNI

Autism Acceptance and Resources

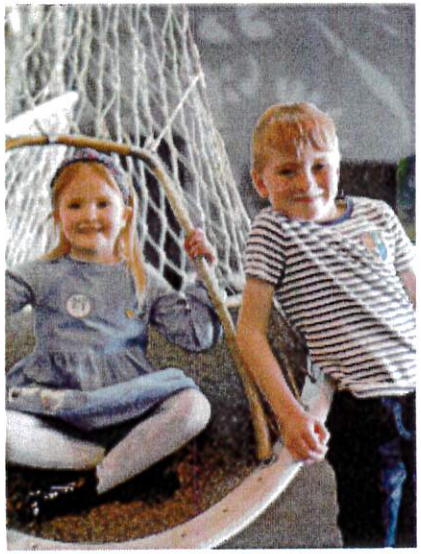
Be Kind To Different Minds

In celebration of World Autism Acceptance Week which ran from 28th March-3rd April 2022, autistic people, families, community groups, MLA's, businesses and schools supported our 'Be Kind To Different Mind's message on social media. Our supporters got involved in our poster campaign and shared their own message on how to build a kinder and more inclusive society.

Evren shares his message on how we can 'Be Kind To Different Minds'.

Family Fun Day

On Sunday 3rd April 2022 we welcomed hundreds of local autism families to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week at W5, Belfast. The event which has been postponed for the previous two years due to Covid 19, saw families come together to celebrate the local autism community.



Siblings Hariette and Oliver enjoy our Family Fun Day at W5

Online

Our website (www.autismni.org) is a vital online resource for families and professionals and has a great range of information on services, research publications, fact sheets and downloadable resources on education, anxiety, visual aids and games for autistic children and adults. During 2022/23, our website has been an important online tool for many of our autism families and we seen 78,451 unique users visit our website to access information, services and resources.

We also extended our reach on social media by creating a new TikTok page and regularly keeping supporters updated on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.

Fundraising Events

Zipline

Our fundraisers reached new heights as they took on the longest Zipline in Ireland at Colin Glen Forest Park in Belfast in August 2022.

Mourne Madness

In August 2022, over 40 people took part in our iconic Mourne Madness trek. The group conquered Slieve Donard as a team and a smaller group then went on to climb Slieve Commedagh and Slieve Bearnagh. The sun was shining, and everyone took in the beautiful views of the coastline.

Glow Walk

Hundreds of families 'got their glow on' and attended our family fun Glow Walk at Stormont in November 2022. Families got involved in fun and games from the U105 crew, and a dance warm up by Fitness Freddy before taking on a night walk at Stormont Estate.

Big Christmas Cuppa

Families, businesses, community groups, and schools got behind our 'Big Christmas Cuppa' campaign and held a festive Christmas coffee morning in aid of Autism NI.

Challenge 22

During World Autism Acceptance Week, over 100 people took part in our virtual challenge based on the number 22 which represented 1 in 22 school age children with an autism diagnosis. Many supporters got creative and baked 22 buns, cycled 22 miles or walked 22k to raise vital funds for Autism NI's services.

Nuala and Eoghan baked 22 buns and cookies for Challenge 22

Superhero Week

Over 45 schools across Northern Ireland took part in our Superhero Week from 6th-10th February 2023. Pupils took on superhero tasks throughout the week whilst asking for sponsorship and learning about autism in their school. At the end of the week, pupils celebrated their achievements with a certificate and sticker badge.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

Home Bargains

The staff team at Home Bargains have been supporting Autism NI through a number of fundraising events in store throughout the year, and a group of 14 staff members took part in our Tandem Skydive challenge in June 2022 raising nearly £13,000.

Shoppers can also continue to donate to Autism NI by dropping their change in our collection tins at the tills, which are available across 28 stores in Northern Ireland.

Mercedes Benz NI Truck and Van

MBNI Truck and Van has chosen Autism NI as their benefitting Charity partner for 2023. The staff team started their fundraising by hosting a Christmas Jumper Day in December and raising £422. The team has planned a calendar of events to host throughout 2023.

Little Wing

During April 2022, Little Wing Pizza supported World Autism Acceptance Month by donating £1 from each special sold during April to Autism NI.

Linfield FC

Northern Ireland legend and Linfield FC Manager David Healey launched our new partnership with the Club in October 2022. To kick off the partnership, the Club held a 'Keepy-uppy Challenge' on social media and held various bucket collections at home matches.

AutismNI

Partnerships

Autism NI continues to be a strong advocate of partnerships, and we recognise when another organisation's support and expertise is required. We are committed to further building on our engagement with a wide range of stakeholders within the statutory, community and voluntary sectors and continue to work with individuals and families to empower them.

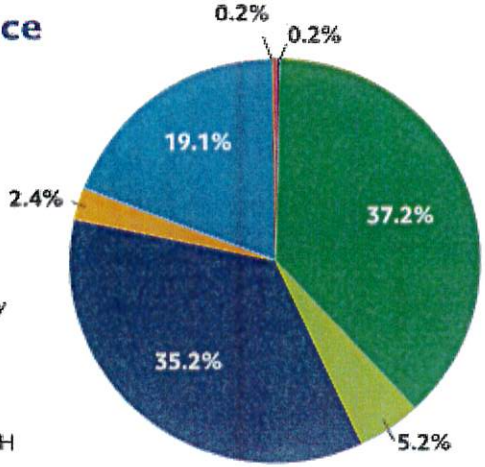
Financial Performance

Autism NI is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number NI058548) and an Inland Revenue approved charity (reference number XR22944). Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC100240.

Registered Office:
Donard, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8BH

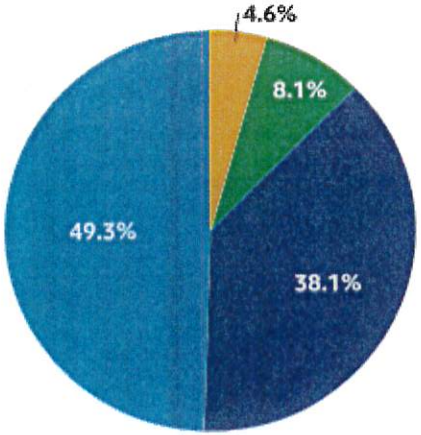
Auditors:
O'Hara Shearer
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

For more information about our services or to support our work, call us on 028 9040 1729 or visit www.autismni.org



Incoming Resources 2022/23

- Restricted Funding: Grants (37.2%)
- Unrestricted Funding: Grants (5.2%)
- Donations and Fundraising (35.2%)
- Membership (2.4%)
- Autism Training and Conferences (19.1%)
- Sale of Merchandise (0.2%)
- Investment Interest Received (0.2%)



Resources Expended 2022/23

- Expenditure on Raising Funds (8.1%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Restricted (38.1%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Unrestricted (49.3%)
- Governance Costs (4.6%)

Presidents
Professor Rita R. Jordan
Dr Judith Gould

Vice Presidents
Eileen Bell CBE
Professor David Sines

Board Members
David Heatley Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt Vice-Chairperson
Dr Clare Bailey Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan Honorary Treasurer
Jonathan Simpson
Jeff Hobson
Dr Karen Jack
Alan Young

Patron
Adam Keefe

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Autism NI
Donard, Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8BH

Tel: **028 9040 1729**
Email: **info@autismni.org**
www.autismni.org

Autism NI is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number NI058548)
Registered Charity Number: XR22968 NI Charity Commission Number: NIC100248

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Membership
Membership of the Society shall be open to the following, irrespective of political party, nationality, religion or political opinion;
Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

Covid-19 had also impacted on Autism NI's membership with a fall in numbers and in income during the Year 2021. Thankfully this year income and membership have both increased. With membership at 1578 at March 2023.

Members are invaluable as their commitment is important in helping to provide & improve support for people with Autism and their families across Northern Ireland. Our members are invited to attend members' events, have access to funded Autism NI training courses and family support workshops and have access to priority queuing or carers discount into specific attraction across Northern Ireland.

Board of Trustees
Except as provided otherwise in the constitution the policy and general management of the charity shall be directed by the Board which shall meet not less than 4 times a year and shall consist of not less than 6 and not more than 13 members of the Society aged 18 years or over.
A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees
As set out in the Articles of Association, the Charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee, and determine the rotation in which any additional Trustees are to retire.
Currently, Trustees serve for three years after being elected at an AGM. They are eligible to stand again for re-election following the three year term. New Trustees can also be co-opted on to the Board.

Trustee Induction and Training
New Trustees are invited to an induction meeting to familiarise themselves with the Charity and the context within which it operates. These are facilitated by the Chairperson and Senior Management Team and cover:

- The obligations of the Board of Trustees;
- The content of the Articles of Association;
- The Committee and decision-making processes;
- Current financial position;
- Future plans and objectives.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Risk Management and Uncertainties
The ultimate responsibility for the management and control of the Charity resides with the Board of Trustees and as such their involvement in the key aspects of the risk management process is essential, particularly in setting the parameters of the process and in the review and consideration of the results. This should not be interpreted as meaning that the Board must undertake each aspect of the process themselves.

The Board has delegated elements of the risk management process to the Chief Executive and senior management team, whilst ensuring that they, as Directors, review and consider the key aspects of the process and results.

The Board of Autism NI ensures that the organisation is not exposed to preventable, unacceptable risk. This risk management process is an integral part of the organisation's governance system. The Board are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Principal Risks identified as potentially having an impact on the Charity include:

Financial Stability
The principal financial challenges facing Autism NI are in the areas of fundraising and cost control. Autism NI relies heavily on the goodwill of the public, along with some government funding and other funders. Fundraising remains very challenging. A combination of increased competition for public funds and pressure on government finances means that Autism NI needs to identify and develop new sources of income in order to reduce the risk of significant income fluctuations. Autism NI works continually to reduce costs and to ensure best value for money in all expenditure.

Governance and Management
Autism NI has appropriate governance structures and procedures in place to ensure correct decision-making and the implementation of decisions. All organisational change initiatives and projects are regularly reviewed by senior management.

Operational
The Board recognises that a sound internal control system that can respond to significant risks, is embedded in operational activities, is capable of reacting to external and internal changes and will immediately report major control weaknesses, is a key and essential component of risk management.

External and Environmental
Autism NI must be able to demonstrate the impact of its work in a measurable and demonstrable way in order to be accountable to donors and beneficiaries, to guarantee the achievement of strategic objectives and to attract future funding support.

Compliance and Regulation
Autism NI has established policies and procedures and codes of practice to ensure compliance with statue, regulatory and labour law requirements, including recent General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Compliance and Regulation

Key controls used by the Charity include:
- Formal agendas, minutes and action plans for staff and Board meetings;
- Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- Established organisational structure, lines of reporting and delegation duties;
- Formal written policies and protocols for Human Resources, Finance, Risk Management, Health and Safety etc;
- Establishment and regular reporting on Key Performance Indicators and targets;
- Clear authorisation and approval.

Going Concern

In March 2020 The World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic in relation to Covid-19 and subsequently the UK Government imposed lockdown measures. This has had a significant impact on businesses and economic activity around the world.
The directors had taken actions to mitigate the financial impact of the loss of income during this time including the use of the government support measure Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. Reserves are currently adequate. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses are disclosed in note 8 to the accounts.
Autism NI is committed to ensuring a proper balance between paying staff fairly so that we attract and retain the best people for the job whilst applying careful management of our charity funds. In so doing we will ensure the greatest effectiveness in delivering our charitable objectives and meeting the needs of our beneficiaries.
The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and the Charity uses the most recent NJC Payscales.

The Trustees will also consider:

(i) the Charity's financial situation;
(ii) the Charity's performance;
(iii) cost of living adjustments made in recent years;
(iv) pay reviews within the Voluntary Sector for similar sized charities.

Dormant Companies

The following companies were formed to protect the name Autism.
The one issued share in each company is in the name of Autism NI (PAPA).
The companies are dormant and it is intended that they will remain dormant.
Autism Ulster Limited
Autism Ireland Limited
Autism Consultancy & Training (ACT) Limited

Financial Review

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Total Incoming Resources	586,577	354,288	940,865	857,265
Total Resources Expended	642,512	408,958	1,051,470	769,448
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	-	-	-	87,817
Net (Outgoing) Resources for the Year	(55,935)	(54,670)	(110,605)	-
Net Unrealised (Losses) on Investments	-	-	-	-
Net Unrealised Gains on Investments	-	-	-	-
Transfer From Unrestricted to Restricted	(46,873)	46,873	-	-
Balance of Funds At Start of Year	777,936	33,780	811,716	723,899
Balance of Funds At End of Year	675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716

In 2023 there was a net decrease in unrestricted funds of £ 111,429 for the year (2022 Increase £118,692) £46,907 of this decrease related to the charity supporting the core activities previously met with grants received from The Three Guineas.

No Covid-19 grants were received in this year. Received in previous years (2022 £1,213, 2021 £179,836). These grants enabled the charity to protect existing posts.

Reserves

It is our policy to maintain a prudent level of reserves to enable the charity to manage financial governance and operational risk and deliver on our commitments. An adequate and working reserve policy provides accountability and assurance that the charity's activities are sustainable.

Total unrestricted funds at the year end is £ 675,128 (2022 £ 777,936). Our aim is to have a target minimum reserve equal to one year of average operating costs which includes certain salaries and administration costs which are currently funded in projects plus a provision for redundancy payments.
This figure of unrestricted funds may be required to support core activities, presently funded in projects, due to the uncertainty of future funding considering the significant impact Covid-19 has had on businesses. We believe that this balance of unrestricted funds is required to ensure the stability of the organisation, to build sustainability and resilience, and to continue to carry out its aims and objectives, employment and ongoing operations including family support and Autism awareness activities.

Restricted Funds (note 7)

During the year ended March 2023, Restricted Funds (Projects) continued: NHSCT and BHSCT Family Support services reached over 500 families. NHSCT also funds two Autism Support Officers who support 500 families per year. The Three Guineas Trust final funding received with the Charity meeting the shortfall of £46,907 for these core activities for the remainder of the year. The Joseph Levy Foundation awarded new funding for 18 months which funds a full time worker who supports almost 100 families per year in the Belfast area. BBC Children in Need provides funding for the Girls and Autism Project (GAP) which funds a part time worker who supports 17 girls. The Henry Smith Charity continues to support two part time Early Intervention workers who support 77 families per year. WHSCT funding commenced for two part time workers providing family support services to 184 families for one year. Full details of Project Income and Expenditure can be found in Note 7 of the Accounts. Changes in Restricted Funding can impact on salaries and administration costs within the Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funding is reviewed on a regular basis by the CEO and is on the agenda for all Board meetings.

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number XR22944

Company Registration Number NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE

Patron Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Diane Heyburn	Resigned as Vice-Chairperson and Trustee on the 24th November 2022
Steven Goldblatt	Appointed as Vice-Chairperson on the 24th Novemeber 2022
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Jonathan Simpson	Resigned as Honorary Treasurer on the 24th November 2022
Dr Gloria Duignan	Appointed as Honorary Treasurer on the 24th Novemeber 2022
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	Appointed as Director and Trustee on the 24th November 2022

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors - O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.

Principal Bankers - Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

Solicitors - Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities in Respect of the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Autism NI (PAPA) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1 Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2 Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
3 Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4 State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
5 Prepare the accounts 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.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

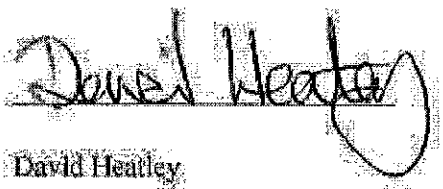
In so far as the trustees are aware:

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.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that O'Hara Shearer be re-appointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board



Date: 27th November 2023

David Heatley
Chairperson

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autism NI (PAPA) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janauary 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janaury 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

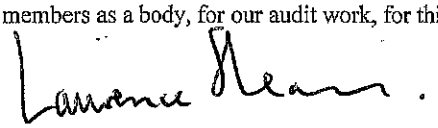
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., Senior Statutory Auditor
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, Statutory Auditor
O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

Dated: 27th November 2023

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and Legacies					
Grants	2	48,911	354,288	403,199	385,752
Donations	3	228,237	-	228,237	215,089
Membership		22,172	-	22,172	20,487
		299,320	354,288	653,608	621,328
Other Trading Activities					
Training and Conferences	4	179,832	-	179,832	137,506
Fund Raising Events	5	103,144	-	103,144	92,879
Resources, Books, Videos etc		1,993	-	1,993	1,234
		284,969	-	284,969	231,619
COVID-19 GRANTS					
Covid-19 Grants	2	-	-	-	1,213
Income from Investments					
Bank Interest Received		2,288	-	2,288	3,105
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		586,577	354,288	940,865	857,265
EXPENDITURE ON	6				
Expenditure on Raising Funds					
Staff Costs		62,355	-	62,355	48,655
Other Costs		22,289	-	22,289	18,737
		84,644	-	84,644	67,392
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Staff Costs		328,899	342,073	670,972	467,836
Other Costs		181,001	66,885	247,886	201,788
Governance Costs; Staff Costs		31,450	-	31,450	23,500
Governance Costs; Other Costs		16,518	-	16,518	8,932
		557,868	408,958	966,826	702,056
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		642,512	408,958	1,051,470	769,448
NET INCOME		-	-	-	87,817
NET (EXPENDITURE)		(55,935)	(54,670)	(110,605)	-
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT (LOSSES) GAINS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(46,873)	46,873	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(102,808)	(7,797)	(110,605)	87,817
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022		777,936	33,780	811,716	723,899
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023		675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716
TOTAL FUNDS		675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and Legacies				
Grants	2	49,450	336,302	385,752
Donations	3	215,089	-	215,089
Membership		20,487	-	20,487
		285,026	336,302	621,328
Other Trading Activities				
Training and Conferences	4	137,506	-	137,506
Donations and Fund Raising Events	5	92,879	-	92,879
Resources, Books, Videos etc		1,234	-	1,234
		231,619	-	231,619
COVID-19 GRANTS				
Covid-19 Grants	2	1,213	-	1,213
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest Received		3,105	-	3,105
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		520,963	336,302	857,265
EXPENDITURE ON	6			
Expenditure on Raising Funds				
Staff Costs		48,655	-	48,655
Other Costs		18,737	-	18,737
		67,392	-	67,392
Expenditure on Charitable Activities				-
Staff Costs		181,568	286,268	467,836
Other Costs		120,575	81,213	201,788
Governance Costs; Staff Costs		23,500	-	23,500
Governance Costs; Other Costs		8,932	-	8,932
		334,575	367,481	702,056
				-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		401,967	367,481	769,448
NET INCOME		118,996	-	118,996
NET (EXPENDITURE)		-	(31,179)	(31,179)
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(306)	306	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		118,690	(30,873)	87,817
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2020		659,246	64,653	723,899
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2021		777,936	33,780	811,716
TOTAL FUNDS		777,936	33,780	811,716

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

	NOTE	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	12,889	12,911
		12,889	12,911
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	10	22,324	60,006
Bank Accounts	11	728,323	797,598
		750,647	857,604
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year			
Creditors and Accruals	12	62,425	58,799
		62,425	58,799
NET CURRENT ASSETS		688,222	798,805
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		701,111	811,716
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year	13	-	-
NET ASSETS		701,111	811,716
FUNDS		£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			
AUTISM CENTRAL OFFICE	16 & 17	675,128	777,936
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
PROJECTS	16 & 17	25,983	33,780
TOTAL FUNDS		701,111	811,716

These Financial Statements were approved by the board of management on the 27 Nov 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

David Heatley
Chairperson

Date: 27th November 2023

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	NOTE	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	15	(61,395)	73,167
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Dividends, Interest and Rents From Investments		-	-
Proceeds From the Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment		-	-
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(7,880)	(6,907)
Proceeds from the Sale of Investments		-	-
Purchase of Investments		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities		(7,880)	(6,907)
Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
Repayments of Borrowings		-	-
Cash Inflows From New Borrowings		-	-
Receipt of Endowment		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities		-	-
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period		(69,275)	66,260
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		797,598	731,338
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents Due to Exchange Rate Movements		-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period	11	728,323	797,598

	2023 £	2022 £
ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash in Hand	728,323	797,598
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)	-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand	-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	728,323	797,598

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The principal accounting policies which have been adopted are set out below.

The Charity prepares its accounts in accordance with 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 1st January 2015), the Finacial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Autism NI (PAPA) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

GOING CONCERN

In March 2020 The World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic in relation to Covid-19 and subsequently the UK Government imposed lockdown measures. This has had a significant impact on businesses and economic activity around the world.
The directors have taken actions to mitigate the financial impact of the loss of income during this time including the use of government support measures Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. Reserves are currently adequate. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants , is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.
When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted fund when receivable.

INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest is included when receivable by the charity under investment income.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost which comprises the purchase price and any installation charges.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the assets within their useful lives. The methods adopted and rates used are:

FIXTURE AND FITTINGS	20%	STRAIGHT LINE
ALTERATION TO LEASEHOLD PREMISES	5%	STRAIGHT LINE

INVESTMENTS

Listed investments are stated at market value. The SOFA includes realised gains and losses on investments sold in the year and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation of investments.

JUDGEMENTS ESTIMATES

In the application of the charity's accounting policies the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.
The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.
The trustees do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation requiring disclosure.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted General Funds - these are donations, grants and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without specified purpose and are available as general funds and are available to spend at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity.

Designated Funds - these are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meet these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

PENSION
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity made a contribution to this scheme as highlighted in note 8.

TAXATION
As a registered charity, the charity benefits from rates relief, and is exempt from direct tax on its charitable activities but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

STOCKS
The cost of publications and promotional and educational material is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY
The Charity "Autism NI (PAPA)" is a Company Limited By Guarantee.

Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
The charity only has financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are normally initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the carrying valueplus accrued interest less repayments. The financing charge to expenditure is at a constant rate calculated using the effective interest method.

2. GRANTS		2023	2022
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
i) AUTISM NI (PAPA)			
DoH	Core Funding	38,390	38,390
NHSCT	Non Recurrent Financial Payment	10,521	11,060
		48,911	49,450
Covid-19 Grants			
Job Retention Scheme		-	1,213
		-	1,213
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		48,911	50,663

		RESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS
		£	£
ii) AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	7		
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)		37,371	35,954
The Three Guineas Trust		31,250	81,250
NHSCT ASOs		67,843	65,271
Joseph Levy		18,500	18,480
Children In Need		26,178	16,454
Children In Need Covid-19		-	9,374
Family Support		8,621	1,000
Community Foundation NI Family Support		3,732	625
BHSCT		73,931	50,294
The Henry Smith Charity		56,300	57,600
TEACCH Steering Group		-	-
WHSCT ASO's		30,562	-
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		354,288	336,302
Total Credited to Statement of Financial Activities		403,199	386,965

	£ 2023	£ 2022
	£	£
3. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS DONATIONS	228,237	215,089

As a result of Covid-19, the government's imposed lockdown and the economic uncertainty the charity had seen a substantial reduction in donations received in 2021 but thankfully donations have increased in 2022 and 2023. Donations Includes income from Donations received directly and payroll giving GAYE.

	£ 2023	£ 2022
4 TRAINING	179,832	137,506

Training includes income from Parents, Individuals and Professionals.
Further training has also been commissioned by Statutory and Charitable Trusts.

5. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS FUND RAISING EVENTS	103,144	92,879

During the year and last year the fund raising team and Corporate donors carried out a number of events including Mourne Madness, Glow Walk, Abseil, Zipline and Skydive.
The team continues to increase their work with corporate donors and have seen an increase in awareness following fund raising events, the fund raising events, the ongoing lobbying and the work on social media.

6. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Note	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	8	422,704	342,073	764,777	253,723	286,268	539,991
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance		35,839	3,366	39,205	38,974	2,686	41,660
Telephone		6,068	2,330	8,398	6,240	2,106	8,346
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising		40,615	1,139	41,754	10,216	1,380	11,596
Catering		-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses		9,525	14,650	24,175	3,708	2,753	6,461
Autism Awareness		2,400	-	2,400	-	-	-
Training and Conferences		9,337	-	9,337	5,486	-	5,486
Recruitment and Staff Development		5,314	17,201	22,515	1,051	40,580	41,631
Purchase of Books, Videos and Resources		5,022	-	5,022	738	-	738
Resources for Projects		-	21,820	21,820	-	21,770	21,770
Fund Raising Expenditure		18,874	-	18,874	15,054	-	15,054
Expenditure on Behalf of Branches / Support Groups		9,119	-	9,119	2,407	-	2,407
Professional Fees and Subscriptions		49,507	3,940	53,447	41,691	4,450	46,141
Audit Fees		5,640	500	6,140	5,432	500	5,932
Accountancy Fees		10,878	-	10,878	3,500	-	3,500
Bank Fees and Interest		685	-	685	561	-	561
General Expenses		2,572	162	2,734	2,009	1,444	3,453
Capital		-	1,777	1,777	-	3,544	3,544
Depreciation		7,902	-	7,902	11,177	-	11,177
		642,512	408,958	1,051,470	401,967	367,481	769,448
Total Resources Expended		642,512	408,958	1,051,470	401,967	367,481	769,448

(Note 7)

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	TOTAL PROJECTS	NHSCT Family Support	The Three Guineas Trust	NHSCT ASOs	JOSEPH LEVY
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	354,288	37,371	31,250	67,843	18,500
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries and Redundancies	302,585	26,328	66,474	47,643	18,817
Management	31,625	3,595	13,800	1,673	1,617
Administration	6,282	1,798	-	-	424
HR / Finance	1,581	-	-	-	-
	342,073	31,721	80,274	49,316	20,858
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	3,366	-	-	742	-
Telephone	2,330	252	-	581	21
Postage,Printing, Stationery and Advertising	1,139	-	-	596	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	14,650	3,222	237	2,120	212
Recruitment and Staff Development	17,201	-	-	11,610	5,360
Resources for Projects	21,820	1,600	-	5,995	1,400
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	3,940	-	-	1,305	701
Audit and Accountancy Fees	500	500	-	-	-
General Expenses	162	-	-	162	-
Capital	1,777	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	66,885	5,574	237	23,111	7,694
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	408,958	37,295	80,511	72,427	28,552
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	9,371	76	-	-	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(64,041)	-	(49,261)	(4,584)	(10,052)
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022	33,780	(528)	2,354	775	8,779
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	46,873	-	46,907	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023	25,983	(452)	-	(3,809)	(1,273)

NHSCT Family Support
Contract to March 2024.

The Three Guinneas
During this financial year, the Charity received the final year of agreed funding from The Three Guineas Trust which supports our Helpline and Awareness campaigns. The Charity met the shortfall of £46,907 for these core activities from Central funds for the remainder. The Three Guineas Trust has confirmed further funding of £140,000 over two years (£70K in 2023/24 and £70K in 2024/25) and the new funding will commence in July 2023.

NHSCT ASO's
Funding ongoing to January 2024
Tendering for additional three years.

Joseph Levy
Initial funding was for three years to April 2022.
Additional funding of £55,500 has been agreed for the eighteen months to 31st March 2024.

7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	BBC CHILDREN IN NEED	BBC CHILDREN IN NEED COVID-19	FAMILY SUPPORT	BHSCT	THE HENRY SMITH CHARITY
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	26,178	-	12,353	73,931	56,300
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	18,638	-	8,621	59,375	39,909
Management	2,751	-	-	3,874	2,873
Administration	-	-	-	3,158	-
HR / Finance	-	-	-	-	1,581
	21,389	-	8,621	66,407	44,363
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	-	-	-	-	2,624
Telephone	249	-	-	504	504
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	-	-	543
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	1,986	-	-	2,733	2,719
Recruitment and Staff Development	-	-	-	-	-
Resources for Projects	1,880	-	3,876	2,937	4,132
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	158	-	-	828	948
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	4,273	-	3,876	7,002	11,470
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	25,662	-	12,497	73,409	55,833
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	516	-	-	522	467
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	-	(144)	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022	-	34	1,955	5,695	9,696
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	(34)	-	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023	516	-	1,811	6,217	10,163

BBC Children In Need
Project to the 31st March 2025.
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Family Support
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

BHSCT
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Henry Smith Charity
Grant received in advance with 1st instalment received in May 2021.
The unexpended balance is due to the grant received in advance.
To 31st May 2024 can reply within 6 mths before 31st May 2024

7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	TEACCH STEERING GROUP	WHSCT ASO's
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Received	-	30,562
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions		
Salaries	-	16,780
Management	-	1,442
Administration	-	902
HR / Finance	-	-
	-	19,124
COSTS		
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	-	-
Telephone	-	219
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-
Catering	-	-
Travel Expenses	-	1,421
Recruitment and Staff Development	-	231
Resources for Projects	-	-
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-
General Expenses	-	-
Capital	-	1,777
Depreciation	-	-
	-	3,648
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	-	22,772
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	7,790
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022	5,020	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023	5,020	7,790

WHSCT ASO's
Funds received in advance of expenditure to November 2023.
This is a two year project with the Charity funding the second year.
Costs for the second year are projected at £61,000.

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2023 £	2022 £
Gross Salary	684,630	488,318
Employers NIC Contribution	57,500	35,228
Employers Pension Contribution	22,647	16,445
Redundancy Payments	-	-
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	764,777	539,991

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is now administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity makes a contribution to this scheme as noted above.

Trustees Directors Remuneration
The trustees directors did not receive any emoluments during the year 2023 Nil (2022 £ Nil)
Trustees directors were reimbursed expenses during the year 2023 £ Nil (2022 NIL)

Related party transactions see note 18.

No employee received emoluments of more than £70,000.
The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Director, Director of Development and Director of Family Support.
Their remuneration including pension contributions were £214,053 (2022 £155,820).

Employees during the year were as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Chief Executive	1	1
Director of Development	1	1
Director of Finance	1	1
Director of Family Support	1	1
Training and Development Officer	2	1
Corporate Manager	1	-
Fundraising and Marketing Manager	1	-
Sales and Marketing Officer	1	-
Events and Fundraising Officer	1	1
Events and Marketing Officer	-	1
Family Support Manager	1	-
Family Support and Helpline	3	2
Family Support Group Officer	1	1
Project Staff	9	6
Youth Worker	-	1
Training Officer	-	1
Administration Officer	1	1
Personal Assistant and Human Resources Officer	-	1
Early Intervention	3	3
Communications Officer	1	-
Autistic Adults Support Officer	1	-
	30	23

9. FIXED ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED		RESTRICTED	TOTAL
	F&F	Premises	F&F	
	£	£	£	£
COST				
Balance at 1st April 2022	152,980	5,559	30,460	188,999
Additions	7,880	-	-	7,880
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2023	160,860	5,559	30,460	196,879
DEPRECIATION				
Balance at 1st April 2022	140,430	5,282	30,376	176,088
Charge for the Period	7,626	276	-	7,902
Elimination on Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2023	148,056	5,558	30,376	183,990
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2023	12,804	1	84	12,889
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2022	12,550	277	84	12,911

10. DEBTORS	2023 £	2022 £
Trade Debtors	22,324	16,256
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	-	43,750
	22,324	60,006

11. BANK AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	£	£
UNRESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) CENTRAL	723,216	792,475
	723,216	792,475
RESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	5,107	5,123
TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND AT HAND	728,323	797,598

12. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	£	£
Trade Creditors	15,213	17,430
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	47,212	41,369
	62,425	58,799

13. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year		
Hire Purchase Creditor	-	-
	-	-

14. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION	£	£
Audit Fees	6,140	5,432
	6,140	5,432

15. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Note	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Net Income (Expenditure) for the Reporting Period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(110,605)	87,817
Adjustments For;			
Depreciation Charges		7,902	11,177
Realised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Unrealised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-
Dividends, Interest and Rents from Investments		-	-
Loss (Profit) on the Sale of Fixed Assets		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Stocks		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Debtors		37,682	(39,146)
Increase (Decrease) in Creditors		3,626	13,319
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities		(61,395)	73,167

ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		2023 £	2022 £
Cash in Hand		728,323	797,598
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)		-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand		-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	11	728,323	797,598

16. ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES BETWEEN THE NET ASSETS AT THE 31ST MARCH 2023

	Note	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING	RESTRICTED FUNDING	TOTAL
		CENTRAL	PROJECTS	
		£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	9	12,805	84	12,889
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and Prepayments	10	22,324	-	22,324
Owed by Inter Divisions		-	24,590	24,590
Cash on Hand and at Bank	11	723,216	5,107	728,323
		745,540	29,697	775,237
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year				
Owed to Inter Divisions		24,590	-	24,590
Creditors and Accruals	12	58,627	3,798	62,425
		83,217	3,798	87,015
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due After One Year				
Creditors and Accruals	13	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		675,128	25,983	701,111

17. RECONCILIATION AND ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON THE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR

(Note 7 Page 43-45)

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING CENTRAL	RESTRICTED FUNDING PROJECTS	TOTAL
	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
UNRESTRICTED	586,577	-	586,577
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	37,371	37,371
The Three Guineas Trust	-	31,250	31,250
NHSCT ASOs	-	67,843	67,843
Joseph Levy	-	18,500	18,500
Children In Need	-	26,178	26,178
Children In Need Covid-19	-	-	-
Family Support	-	8,621	8,621
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	3,732	3,732
BHSCT	-	73,931	73,931
The Henry Smith Charity	-	56,300	56,300
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
WHSCT ASO's	-	30,562	30,562
	586,577	354,288	940,865
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
UNRESTRICTED	642,512	-	642,512
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	37,295	37,295
The Three Guineas Trust	-	80,511	80,511
NHSCT ASOs	-	72,427	72,427
Joseph Levy	-	28,552	28,552
Children In Need	-	25,662	25,662
Children In Need Covid-19	-	-	-
Family Support	-	8,621	8,621
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	3,876	3,876
BHSCT	-	73,409	73,409
The Henry Smith Charity	-	55,833	55,833
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
WHSCT ASO's	-	22,772	22,772
	642,512	408,958	1,051,470
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	(55,935)	(54,670)	(110,605)
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	(46,873)	46,873	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(102,808)	(7,797)	(110,605)
BALANCE AT 1ST APRIL 2022	777,936	33,780	811,716
BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2023	675,128	25,983	701,111

THE FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS	25,983
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
General	675,128
Designated	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	675,128
TOTAL FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	701,111

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the charity purchased £25,194.60 (2022 £16,257.74) from Leaf Consultancy Ltd for computer software and support during the year.
Leaf Consultancy Ltd to upgrade its computer system.
The balance due to Leaf Consultancy Ltd in trade creditors at year end was £900.46 (2022 £1,904.57).
Mr Steven Goldblatt is a trustee of the charity and a majority shareholder and director of Leaf Consultancy Ltd.
The transactions were on normal commercial terms that were beneficial to the charity. Mr Goldblatt took no part in the decision to use Leaf Consultancy Ltd. The charity had been using the services of Leaf Consultancy Ltd for several years before Mr Golblatt was appointed a trustee.

19. REPORTING CURRENCY

The financial statements are stated in GBP (sterling)

20. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There has been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year end.

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying value of the company's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below;

FINANCIAL ASSETS Measured at undiscounted amount receivable	**2023** **£**	**2022** **£**
Trade Debtors	22,324	16,256
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	-	43,750
	22,324	60,006

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES Measured at undiscounted amount payable	**2023** **£**	**2022** **£**
Trade Creditors	15,213	17,430
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	47,212	41,369
	62,425	58,799

Autism NI (PAPA)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100240

Annual report

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

(A Company Limited By Guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Registered Charity XR22944

Company Number NI 58548

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number	XR22944
Company Registration Number	NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE
Patron	Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Diane Heyburn	Resigned as Vice-Chairperson and Trustee on the 24th November 2022
Steven Goldblatt	Appointed as Vice-Chairperson on the 24th Novemeber 2022
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Jonathan Simpson	Resigned as Honorary Treasurer on the 24th November 2022
Dr Gloria Duignan	Appointed as Honorary Treasurer on the 24th Novemeber 2022
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	Appointed as Director and Trustee on the 24th November 2022

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors	- O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.
Principal Bankers	- Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS
Solicitors	- Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charity submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023.
The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated in March 2006. Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100239 and Registered with HMRC XR22944.

Public Benefits
The advancement of education and the relief of children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in the province of Ulster and in particular for the following;
(i) The promotion of greater knowledge of Autism amongst the public and those concerned in the educational facilities.
These benefits are evidenced by the public bodies and private organisations who have requested Autism training and also evidenced through the evaluations completed by all participants on our training courses and through feedback from our Parent Support Groups.
(ii) The promotion of the provision of appropriate recreational, residential and educational facilities.
Through lobbying has drawn attention to service need and for service development. The charity supports individual families through Autism NI's Family Support Service, Training Department, Helpline Service and Support Group Network.
The benefit of our Advocacy role within the Autism Community can be seen through the number of new members within our regional Support network and the increase in support given through our Helpline and Training Services.
(iii) The provision of help, guidance and information to families with Autistic members and the promotion of a network of support among such families.
These benefits are evidenced through feedback from parents and support groups and through regular evaluation of our services.
(iv) The establishment of an information resource and the promotion of research into Autism generally and the publication of the useful results thereof.
These benefits are evidenced through a number of projects and services which have been designed to specifically address the need evidenced within our Autism research
A summary of the charity's activities is listed below.
Our purposes do not lead to harm. The beneficiaries of our purposes are people living in Northern Ireland who have Autism. The beneficiaries of this purpose also include family members and carers of those with Autism. There is no private benefit.
The trustees are aware of the charity commission's guidance on public benefit.

Mission Statement
We support autistic people and their families, and campaign for autism acceptance within society.

Vision
Our vision is an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

Strategic Plan
The Main Objectives for the charity detailed within the Strategic Plan include the following together with it's main activities;

A summary of the main achievements of the charity including the difference the charity's work has made to its beneficiaries and the community.

Family Support:
Increased volunteering in the Autism NI Support network within a community development framework, development of a regional Family Support Service.

Training:
Achievement of accreditation to a quality standard, acquisition of new customers, development of new courses.

Advocacy:
Development of Autism NI's role as an agent of social change for Autism in Northern Ireland.

Marketing /Fundraising:
Increased awareness of Autism and Autism NI brand, development of new funding opportunities, utilization of new communication methods, development of corporate relationships.

Governance:
Development of good governance improvement measures, build capacity.

Partnerships
Working in Partnership is a key aspect of Autism NI. The very origin of the charity came from formation of a partnership between Parents and Professionals & Autism (PAPA)
Autism NI have built up many partnerships over the years:
Autism Celtic Nation Partnership, AMH, All Party Assembly Group on Autism, Barnardo's, Children's Law Centre, Disability Action, Early Years, Equality Commission, Irish Autism Action, Mencap, NICCY, NICVA, NOW, Orchardville Society, SPEAC and University of Ulster.

Annual Report 2022-2023

Building an inclusive society

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Autism NI held their fifth Glow Walk with local families at Stormont in November 2022.

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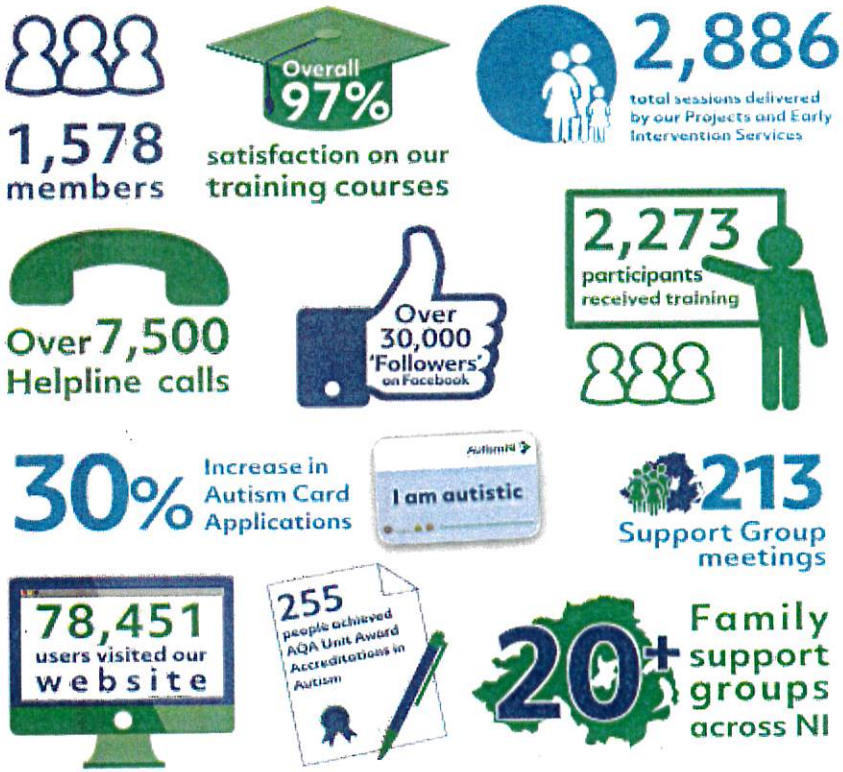
AutismNI

Our Year in Numbers



Chairperson's Report

David Heatley

Chairperson

This was a very progressive year for Autism NI as our services reached more people than ever. With over 7,500 calls to our Helpline, it is clear that autistic people and their families rely on the knowledge, advice and resources that our Family Support team brings. Understandably, since the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen a rise in calls on emotional support for children, young people and parents and carers.

Many parents and carers attended our support courses and key businesses and schools achieved our Autism NI Impact Award. It's great to see many establishments supporting the autism community by putting adjustments in place to increase accessibility for their neurodiverse employees and customers. Our Training team delivered a range of courses to 2,273 people in the last year.

Our Early Intervention service expanded further, with nearly 3,000 families receiving what we know is a lifeline support service to so many. This area of work is critical to ensuring that our children have the best start in life, and it is something that we want to see all autistic children avail of throughout Northern Ireland.

Another highlight of the year was the Glow Walk which was held at Stormont with our families in November. It was great to see so many families enjoying the fun activities from Fitness Freddy to the U105 crew.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board of Trustees for their dedicated efforts in governing the Charity.

Finally, my thanks to the staff team, our volunteers, fundraisers, charity partners and funders, without their support our work would not be possible. We all need to continue to work together implementing our vision of an inclusive society where autistic people can achieve their full potential.

David Heatley

Chief Executive's Remarks

Kerry Boyd

CEO

As I look back on the past year, I am extremely proud of the steps that the Charity has taken to deliver services that have made such a positive impact on our autism community.

Autism NI has continued to campaign for the full implementation of the recent Autism (Amendment) Act, which was passed in March 2022. As the Secretariat of the All Party Group on Autism, the Charity plays a pivotal role in supporting positive change for autism services in Northern Ireland and we continue to make progress during a period of time when the NI Assembly is not functionally fully. Autism NI was also recognised for its hard work in campaigning for the recent legislation passed as our team were awarded the 'Outstanding Achievement Award' at the Families First Awards in April 2022.

The Charity's services have grown and this includes the expansion of our Autistic Adults Service including the employment of an Autistic Adults Support Officer and the delivery of Autistic Peer Support Networks. These services were created through co-participation with our autistic adults and have been positively received. For the first time, our adults feel supported and empowered in areas such as employment, education and social outings.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our staff team during the last year. Autism NI's neurodiverse team continue to provide knowledge, expertise and motivation in their work to ensure that all autistic people and their families are being fully supported.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all our stakeholders, ambassadors, volunteers, partners and donors for their dedication and commitment to Autism NI. Without their support, Autism NI could not deliver our vital support services and continue to build and advocate for an inclusive society for everyone.

Kerry Boyd

AutismNI

Family Support

One of our longest established services is our Family Support provision, which continued to be operational across local communities in Northern Ireland providing tailored support services. We recognise the skills and resilience of the Autism NI Family Support Team. We listen to our members and provide a range of services to ensure that autistic children, adults and their families increased support networks, confidence, well-being and connectedness. Integral participation is at the core of what we do. We continue to form and maintain relationships with community, voluntary and statutory services to provide a vital services to families and individuals.

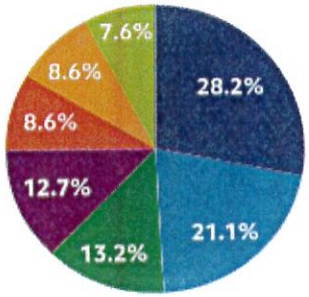
Autism NI is fortunate to have a neurodiverse team, which has not only grown but with continued determination they ensured that families have benefited from a range of early supports. Over the past year, referrals to Autism NI for early help have increased across all our areas of our work.

Individual Support

Our Helpline is the first point of contact for many autistic people, families and professionals pre and post diagnosis.

During 2022/23, Autism NI received over 7,500 direct contacts which enabled the team to advise autistic people and their families on support available and additional interventions including practical resources, one-to-one sessions, and a listening ear. Additionally, we provided information, advocacy, signposting, and a range of bespoke supports.

Areas of support needed



We receive regular positive feedback on our Helpline, indicating how much the support really matters and makes an invaluable difference to the people we are working with.

"I called Autism NI's Helpline and for the first time I felt heard as a parent. They tapped me into services at Autism NI which I've been so appreciative of as I really didn't know who to turn to on the start of my own journey with my autistic child." **Parent**

Individual Support for Autistic Adults

In partnership with the Belfast Trust, our Autistic Adults Support Officer offers tailored support to autistic adults who wish to voluntarily avail of support in areas including employment, relationships and social opportunities.

"This is the only help I have received since my diagnosis, and I am so grateful for your support." **Autistic Adult**

Autistic Adult Peer Networks

We provide two online peer network services for autistic adults, one for over 18-year-olds and the other for over 30-year-olds. Our peer networks provide an opportunity for autistic adults to socialise and interact with others in a relaxed and safe environment. We are proactive in listening and responding to individuals needs and adapt participation to include text base communication. There have been 192 autistic attendees to date, with some of the groups meeting in person.

Support Groups

Our Support Group Co-ordinator brings together a vibrant volunteer network across Northern Ireland, which is central to helping us deliver essential supports in the community.

Every volunteer makes a unique and distinct contribution, they strengthen a wide variety of initiatives, and are an integral part of the Charity. Their invaluable expertise, peer support, skills and diversity complement the work of our Family Support Team, in delivering essential services to the autism community. During the pandemic many of our volunteers upskilled, and their dedication made a vital difference to the autism community across Northern Ireland.

Autism NI volunteers participated in 213 Support Group meetings focusing on education, assessment, mental health and anxiety. The practical knowledge and invaluable peer expertise shared in these meetings, provides an obligation to influence policy and practice. The success of the model remains, and the network experienced an attendee increase across meetings this year.

"I went along to the Support Group meeting on Wednesday night. Everyone was extremely welcoming and happy, it was lovely. I don't get out much so it was a real treat to talk to people who understand, and I will definitely be a regular attendee"
Parent, South Belfast Support Group

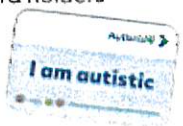
Autism NI volunteers attend Family Fun Day in W5

Autism NI Members

Autism NI has 1,578 members who make an invaluable difference contributing to improved supports for autistic people and their families across Northern Ireland. Individual members have agreed to participate within the legal requirements of the Charity and its Mission, Vision, Ethos and Code of Conduct. The benefits of our membership often extend to whole family participation through family days, training courses and the opportunity to shape the impact the Charity has across the autism community, through individual engagement.

Autism Card

During 2022/23, we experienced a 30% increase in registrations for our Autism Card. Autistic card holders tell us, it is beneficial in a range of ways and that they use it in their everyday lives.



AutismNI

Early Intervention

Our ongoing Early Intervention Service builds and strengthens relationships for families whose child has received a new diagnosis. Families referred to the Early Intervention Service from the Trust engage in bespoke sessions. These sessions provided family members with visual strategies and practical tools and support to manage behaviours, play and socialisation.

Autism NI continues to be a strong advocate of partnerships, and we have maintained our relationships with the Belfast, Northern, and Western Trusts Autism Intervention Teams. They have referred directly to the Autism NI Resource or Support Officers, and Early Intervention Officers, who offered bespoke services to families in their local communities.

Autism NI has a proven record in evidencing outcomes, and is well established in the practice of identifying, measuring, and reporting outcomes. In addition, we have a long-standing commitment to hearing directly from and maintaining relationships with autistic people and their families. Participation demonstrates how vital these services are, providing an opportunity for individuals to feed back on their experience and offer suggestions for future direction. The positive feedback we receive highlights how invaluable the support has been after diagnosis, empowering parents with practical tools and support.

Our Early Intervention Team has successfully provided 2,010 individual sessions. The difference detailed by families included enhanced understanding of their autistic child's needs, access to information on appropriate services and improved confidence that enabled opportunities. Parental feedback was extremely positive with 97% of families stating that the benefits of the home visits were either 'excellent' or 'good'.

Traci's Story

Traci is a parent of an autistic child and has been supported through our Early Intervention Service.

"When I was lost, confused and shunned by services, I felt unheard. I reached out to Autism NI and got put in contact with one of their Early Intervention Officer's called Julie. Even just from the other end of the phone she listened and acknowledged my thoughts, feelings and challenges. I felt so supported as we started on this journey, she really did go above and beyond.

Through the Early Intervention Service I was provided with learning packs and educational information and this helped me to start using visuals within our home with my son, and we still use them now. I was given the tools I never knew I needed, and the sensory games have helped us all as a family."

Mental Health and Autism Project (MAP)

Our MAP participants solved puzzles at their recent Wizard inspired outing in February 2023

Our MAP provides one to one support for autistic young people (aged 11-18 years) within the Belfast Trust, via request from the Child and Adolescents Autism Service. In 2022/23, we delivered 408 sessions.

The service offers 8 -12 bespoke support sessions with young people in the home, at school or in the community. Working in partnership, we focus on areas of support needs ascertained by each autistic young person, with a view to increasing confidence, self-esteem, and emotional well-being. This enables integral participation with each young person, empowering them with ownership regarding the direction of their support. 80% of autistic participants rated the service as 'excellent'.

In building strengths together, we are delighted to report that the average number of outcome areas that autistic participants made progress in, was four.

Areas experiencing the highest percentage change included:

- feelings & behaviours
- education & learning
- and confidence & self-esteem.

"This has been one of the few helpful services I have received." **MAP participant**

Girls and Autism Project (GAP)

GAP supports autistic girls aged 11-18 years across home, school and community environments. The focus is on supporting achievement, enjoyment and social participation across the Northern Trust. During 2022/23, our GAP Officer completed 395 individual visits and facilitated group activities.

83% of autistic participants during 2022/23 experienced positive change in two or more outcome areas. 100% of autistic girls rated the service as 'excellent or very good'.

"The Life Skills Officer is super nice and awesome. She helped me with a few things, and I think my confidence has improved since I started." **Autistic participant**

Our GAP participants took part in Equine care sessions during the Summer

AutismNI

Training

Our Training Department provides high quality, accredited training and advice to a wide variety of parents, carers, schools, groups and organisations. Our training is evidence based, practical, and is delivered to the highest standard of accuracy to ensure it is effective in supporting autistic people at home, in the community, in school or in a workplace.

During 2022/23, Autism NI's training courses were delivered online and in person. Our high quality courses are delivered by experienced trainers and include interactive activities and group discussion, to enable groups to explore concepts in an engaging and practical way.

Overall, our training team delivered 172 training courses in 2022/23 to 2,273 participants.

Parents and Carers attended the Fundamentals of Autism training course

Support Courses for Parents and Carers

During 2022/23 we continued to provide funded training courses to parents and carers. The courses were delivered to provide continued support to families pre and post diagnosis. We are immensely grateful for our funders, which included PHA CLEAR Project supported by Baily Thomas, Arnold Clark, Awards for All, Hedley Foundation, Halifax Foundation, National Lottery Fund and Prince of Wales Charitable Trust.

The courses were delivered on topics that were particularly relevant with the challenging circumstances, for example, managing anxiety, dealing with change and transition, emotional regulation and anxiety, females and autism, adolescence and growing up, and supporting a return to school.

"Thank you so very much. It was a very informative course and I've definitely learned some great techniques to hopefully help my son." **Parent**

Autism Support Officers – Parent and Carer Support Courses

Throughout 2022/23 our Autism Support Officers in the Northern Trust held 97 courses for parents and carers of newly diagnosed autistic children, and those awaiting assessment. Evaluations from this training were extremely positive, with 99.5% of participants rating the course as 'excellent or good' and 100% of parents and carers noted they experienced an increase in their knowledge, confidence and skills in supporting their autistic children.

AQA Accreditations

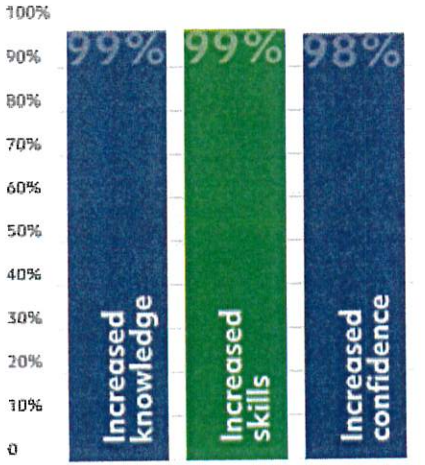
We provide AQA unit award accreditations to people who have attended our training courses, supporting them to demonstrate high-quality learning and self-development. In 2022/23, 255 people completed a range of AQA unit award accreditations to evidence their development.

We are CPD certified. Our courses are quality assured and demonstrate a structured approach to learning and development.

CPD CERTIFIED
The CPD Certification Service

Evaluations

Evaluation scores for all our training courses remain consistently excellent, demonstrating the expertise of our trainers and practicality of our courses. Overall, our courses are rated with 97% approval for the course content, materials, and communication of the trainer. The course evaluations also demonstrate the positive impact of the training on delegates, with delegates scoring the courses as improving their knowledge (99%), skills (99%) and confidence (98%).



Improvements based on course attendance

Training for Organisations

Our commissioned training service also facilitated a wide range of bespoke courses for organisations, community groups and staff teams. Our courses were tailored to each organisation based on their needs and facilitated online or in person. We work with organisations to provide knowledge on autism, introduce practical skills on how to support autistic people in the work place and start conversations on building an inclusive environment.

During 2022/23, Autism NI delivered bespoke training sessions to a range of organisations, including Health and Social Care Trusts, Education settings, Voluntary Sector, public facilities, and private businesses.

It is so important that we continue to work alongside organisations to ensure full accessibility for our autistic community. The bespoke training that Autism NI offers allows organisations to design a training programme that will address their particular needs. The training includes the creation of an action plan, developed by the staff team, ensuring ownership of the reasonable adjustments and changes that will be implemented within a set time frame. It is essential that every organisation in Northern Ireland understands that they are legally obligated to provide equal access to services for autistic people under the Autism Act 2011.

"It was so nice being trained by someone who is so passionate. I found the interactive activities very interesting. It was first class and so important for employers to learn how to support team members." **Professional, Autism and Employment Training**

High Rise achieve the Autism NI Impact Award

Impact Award

Our Impact Award is a training and support programme to help organisations create a more 'autism inclusive environment' for their staff and customers. The training programme equips staff to better understand autism and how to adapt the organisation's environment to support autistic people and their families. The programme includes accredited training, follow up support to implement an individualised action plan and continued support for organisations who achieve the Impact Award Champion status.

ICC Waterfront and Ulster Hall achieved the Autism NI Impact Award

Overall, 135 organisations across Northern Ireland have achieved our Impact Award to show their commitment to increasing autism accessibility in their organisation, including Entertainment venues and Leisure Centres, Arts and Cultural venues, Shopping Centres and community venues.

A number of our Impact Award Champions have continued to develop their partnership with Autism NI further by completing the process of reaccreditation with the Impact Award programme and accessing further top-up training for staff, to ensure a best practice approach is maintained across their services.

Impact Award for Education

In 2022/23, we continued to deliver our Impact Award Programme in schools, focusing on promoting a best practice approach to autism inclusion within education settings. Our Impact Award for Education framework provides staff training and awarded organisations who implemented a bespoke action plan of supports for autistic pupils. This programme was extremely popular with 56 schools being awarded with the Impact Award Champion status in the last year, overall 86 schools have received this award.

It is part of Autism NI's longstanding vision to ensure that we create an inclusive society where autistic children have the opportunity to thrive, and this all starts with ensuring that they have good educational outcomes. As a charity we have lobbied endlessly over the past number of years for mandatory autism training for all teaching staff, but until this happens, we will continue to support our local schools and teachers in every way we can. We want our children, parents and teachers to feel confident and happy within the school environment and therefore providing the right knowledge and resources to achieve this is vitally important.

Glasswater and Killyleagh Integrated Primary School achieved the Impact Award for Education in February 2023

Campaigning

Autism (Amendment) Act 2022

Since the passing of the Autism (Amendment) Act in March 2022, Autism NI has continued to be the secretariat of the All Party Group on Autism at Stormont and bring forward key issues autistic people and their families are facing. With the absence of the NI Assembly, the implementation of the new legislation has been delayed due to funding issues.

APGA meeting in September 2022

Autism NI played a pivotal role in helping achieve the new autism legislation through lobbying the NI Executive. The new legislation focuses on the development of a regional early intervention services, a range of adult support services, an autism strategy with measurable targets and the employment of an independent scrutiny mechanism.

NI Census Results

The Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency released results from Census 2021 in December 2022. For the first time, the Census included a question to record autism figures in Northern Ireland for both children and adults, with 35,367 people stating they have an autism diagnosis. This recent addition to the census is one that Autism NI has campaigned for and with the passing of the Autism Act of 2011, has finally been introduced. The results are significant, as they can be used to shape autism services for adults and children in Northern Ireland.

Autism Alliance UK

Autism Alliance UK is a national partnership for autism charities and third party organisations to come together and support autistic people and their families. Our CEO recently presented our journey to achieve the Autism (Amendment) Act 2022 and how we lobbied key government

Autism NI CEO Kerry Boyd presenting to Autism Alliance UK

bodies for this vital legislation in Northern Ireland. Other countries within the UK are in the process of lobbying their own government for similar legislation, which will protect the rights for autistic people, collect data and develop autism services.

Consultation Responses

Autism NI responds on behalf of the autism community to more public consultations by public bodies than any other agency in Northern Ireland. In the past year, numerous responses have been completed and the case for improved provision and adjustments for autism has been submitted to local Councils, government agencies and NGOs. We aim to ensure autism stays on the agenda and that it is recognised and understood within our civil society.

UU Research Hub

The UU Autism Research Hub is a UU/ Autism NI initiative to enhance the interest and activity in quality research with a focus on autism. Autism NI has a commitment to promoting, recognising, and protecting the role of autism self-advocates and families as co-partners in any such research. Workshops are held to agree priorities, and to enable meaningful and recognised participation from the autism community.

AutismNI

Autism Acceptance and Resources

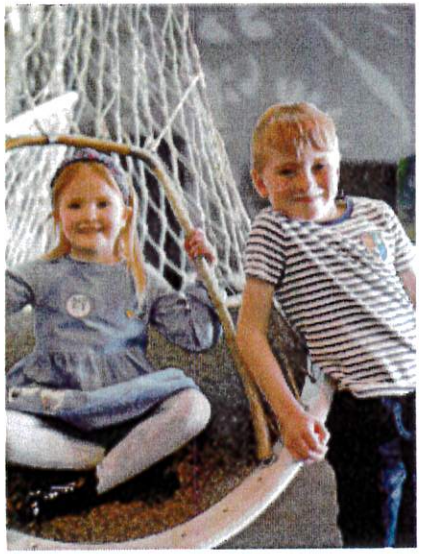
Be Kind To Different Minds

In celebration of World Autism Acceptance Week which ran from 28th March-3rd April 2022, autistic people, families, community groups, MLA's, businesses and schools supported our 'Be Kind To Different Mind's message on social media. Our supporters got involved in our poster campaign and shared their own message on how to build a kinder and more inclusive society.

Evren shares his message on how we can 'Be Kind To Different Minds'.

Family Fun Day

On Sunday 3rd April 2022 we welcomed hundreds of local autism families to celebrate World Autism Acceptance Week at W5, Belfast. The event which has been postponed for the previous two years due to Covid 19, saw families come together to celebrate the local autism community.



Siblings Hariette and Oliver enjoy our Family Fun Day at W5

Online

Our website (www.autismni.org) is a vital online resource for families and professionals and has a great range of information on services, research publications, fact sheets and downloadable resources on education, anxiety, visual aids and games for autistic children and adults. During 2022/23, our website has been an important online tool for many of our autism families and we seen 78,451 unique users visit our website to access information, services and resources.

We also extended our reach on social media by creating a new TikTok page and regularly keeping supporters updated on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.

Fundraising Events

Zipline

Our fundraisers reached new heights as they took on the longest Zipline in Ireland at Colin Glen Forest Park in Belfast in August 2022.

Mourne Madness

In August 2022, over 40 people took part in our iconic Mourne Madness trek. The group conquered Slieve Donard as a team and a smaller group then went on to climb Slieve Commedagh and Slieve Bearnagh. The sun was shining, and everyone took in the beautiful views of the coastline.

Glow Walk

Hundreds of families 'got their glow on' and attended our family fun Glow Walk at Stormont in November 2022. Families got involved in fun and games from the U105 crew, and a dance warm up by Fitness Freddy before taking on a night walk at Stormont Estate.

Big Christmas Cuppa

Families, businesses, community groups, and schools got behind our 'Big Christmas Cuppa' campaign and held a festive Christmas coffee morning in aid of Autism NI.

Challenge 22

During World Autism Acceptance Week, over 100 people took part in our virtual challenge based on the number 22 which represented 1 in 22 school age children with an autism diagnosis. Many supporters got creative and baked 22 buns, cycled 22 miles or walked 22k to raise vital funds for Autism NI's services.

Nuala and Eoghan baked 22 buns and cookies for Challenge 22

Superhero Week

Over 45 schools across Northern Ireland took part in our Superhero Week from 6th-10th February 2023. Pupils took on superhero tasks throughout the week whilst asking for sponsorship and learning about autism in their school. At the end of the week, pupils celebrated their achievements with a certificate and sticker badge.

Corporate and Community Partnerships

Home Bargains

The staff team at Home Bargains have been supporting Autism NI through a number of fundraising events in store throughout the year, and a group of 14 staff members took part in our Tandem Skydive challenge in June 2022 raising nearly £13,000.

Shoppers can also continue to donate to Autism NI by dropping their change in our collection tins at the tills, which are available across 28 stores in Northern Ireland.

Mercedes Benz NI Truck and Van

MBNI Truck and Van has chosen Autism NI as their benefitting Charity partner for 2023. The staff team started their fundraising by hosting a Christmas Jumper Day in December and raising £422. The team has planned a calendar of events to host throughout 2023.

Little Wing

During April 2022, Little Wing Pizza supported World Autism Acceptance Month by donating £1 from each special sold during April to Autism NI.

Linfield FC

Northern Ireland legend and Linfield FC Manager David Healey launched our new partnership with the Club in October 2022. To kick off the partnership, the Club held a 'Keepy-uppy Challenge' on social media and held various bucket collections at home matches.

AutismNI

Partnerships

Autism NI continues to be a strong advocate of partnerships, and we recognise when another organisation's support and expertise is required. We are committed to further building on our engagement with a wide range of stakeholders within the statutory, community and voluntary sectors and continue to work with individuals and families to empower them.

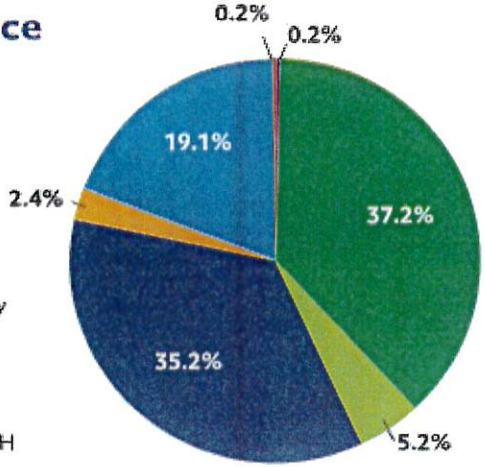
Financial Performance

Autism NI is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number NI058548) and an Inland Revenue approved charity (reference number XR22944). Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC100240.

Registered Office:
Donard, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8BH

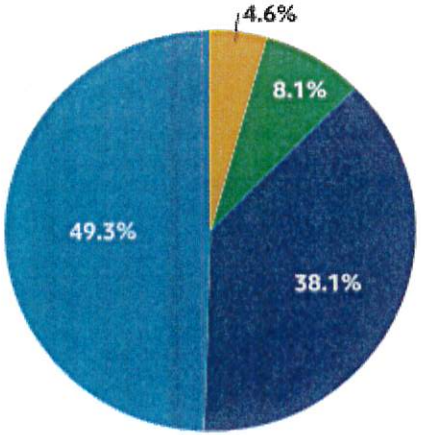
Auditors:
O'Hara Shearer
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

For more information about our services or to support our work, call us on 028 9040 1729 or visit www.autismni.org



Incoming Resources 2022/23

- Restricted Funding: Grants (37.2%)
- Unrestricted Funding: Grants (5.2%)
- Donations and Fundraising (35.2%)
- Membership (2.4%)
- Autism Training and Conferences (19.1%)
- Sale of Merchandise (0.2%)
- Investment Interest Received (0.2%)



Resources Expended 2022/23

- Expenditure on Raising Funds (8.1%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Restricted (38.1%)
- Expenditure on Charitable Activities: Unrestricted (49.3%)
- Governance Costs (4.6%)

Presidents
Professor Rita R. Jordan
Dr Judith Gould

Vice Presidents
Eileen Bell CBE
Professor David Sines

Board Members
David Heatley Chairperson
Steven Goldblatt Vice-Chairperson
Dr Clare Bailey Honorary Secretary
Dr Gloria Duignan Honorary Treasurer
Jonathan Simpson
Jeff Hobson
Dr Karen Jack
Alan Young

Patron
Adam Keefe

AutismNI
Northern Ireland's Autism Charity

Autism NI
Donard, Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8BH

Tel: **028 9040 1729**
Email: **info@autismni.org**
www.autismni.org

Autism NI is a company limited by guarantee (Company Number NI058548)
Registered Charity Number: XR22968 NI Charity Commission Number: NIC100248

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Membership
Membership of the Society shall be open to the following, irrespective of political party, nationality, religion or political opinion;
Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

Covid-19 had also impacted on Autism NI's membership with a fall in numbers and in income during the Year 2021. Thankfully this year income and membership have both increased. With membership at 1578 at March 2023.

Members are invaluable as their commitment is important in helping to provide & improve support for people with Autism and their families across Northern Ireland. Our members are invited to attend members' events, have access to funded Autism NI training courses and family support workshops and have access to priority queuing or carers discount into specific attraction across Northern Ireland.

Board of Trustees
Except as provided otherwise in the constitution the policy and general management of the charity shall be directed by the Board which shall meet not less than 4 times a year and shall consist of not less than 6 and not more than 13 members of the Society aged 18 years or over.
A Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees
As set out in the Articles of Association, the Charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee, and determine the rotation in which any additional Trustees are to retire.
Currently, Trustees serve for three years after being elected at an AGM. They are eligible to stand again for re-election following the three year term. New Trustees can also be co-opted on to the Board.

Trustee Induction and Training
New Trustees are invited to an induction meeting to familiarise themselves with the Charity and the context within which it operates. These are facilitated by the Chairperson and Senior Management Team and cover:

- The obligations of the Board of Trustees;
- The content of the Articles of Association;
- The Committee and decision-making processes;
- Current financial position;
- Future plans and objectives.

Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Risk Management and Uncertainties
The ultimate responsibility for the management and control of the Charity resides with the Board of Trustees and as such their involvement in the key aspects of the risk management process is essential, particularly in setting the parameters of the process and in the review and consideration of the results. This should not be interpreted as meaning that the Board must undertake each aspect of the process themselves.

The Board has delegated elements of the risk management process to the Chief Executive and senior management team, whilst ensuring that they, as Directors, review and consider the key aspects of the process and results.

The Board of Autism NI ensures that the organisation is not exposed to preventable, unacceptable risk. This risk management process is an integral part of the organisation's governance system. The Board are aware of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Principal Risks identified as potentially having an impact on the Charity include:

Financial Stability
The principal financial challenges facing Autism NI are in the areas of fundraising and cost control. Autism NI relies heavily on the goodwill of the public, along with some government funding and other funders. Fundraising remains very challenging. A combination of increased competition for public funds and pressure on government finances means that Autism NI needs to identify and develop new sources of income in order to reduce the risk of significant income fluctuations. Autism NI works continually to reduce costs and to ensure best value for money in all expenditure.

Governance and Management
Autism NI has appropriate governance structures and procedures in place to ensure correct decision-making and the implementation of decisions. All organisational change initiatives and projects are regularly reviewed by senior management.

Operational
The Board recognises that a sound internal control system that can respond to significant risks, is embedded in operational activities, is capable of reacting to external and internal changes and will immediately report major control weaknesses, is a key and essential component of risk management.

External and Environmental
Autism NI must be able to demonstrate the impact of its work in a measurable and demonstrable way in order to be accountable to donors and beneficiaries, to guarantee the achievement of strategic objectives and to attract future funding support.

Compliance and Regulation
Autism NI has established policies and procedures and codes of practice to ensure compliance with statue, regulatory and labour law requirements, including recent General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Compliance and Regulation

Key controls used by the Charity include:
- Formal agendas, minutes and action plans for staff and Board meetings;
- Comprehensive strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- Established organisational structure, lines of reporting and delegation duties;
- Formal written policies and protocols for Human Resources, Finance, Risk Management, Health and Safety etc;
- Establishment and regular reporting on Key Performance Indicators and targets;
- Clear authorisation and approval.

Going Concern

In March 2020 The World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic in relation to Covid-19 and subsequently the UK Government imposed lockdown measures. This has had a significant impact on businesses and economic activity around the world.
The directors had taken actions to mitigate the financial impact of the loss of income during this time including the use of the government support measure Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. Reserves are currently adequate. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year. Details of Trustee expenses are disclosed in note 8 to the accounts.
Autism NI is committed to ensuring a proper balance between paying staff fairly so that we attract and retain the best people for the job whilst applying careful management of our charity funds. In so doing we will ensure the greatest effectiveness in delivering our charitable objectives and meeting the needs of our beneficiaries.
The pay of senior staff is reviewed annually and the Charity uses the most recent NJC Payscales.

The Trustees will also consider:

(i) the Charity's financial situation;
(ii) the Charity's performance;
(iii) cost of living adjustments made in recent years;
(iv) pay reviews within the Voluntary Sector for similar sized charities.

Dormant Companies

The following companies were formed to protect the name Autism.
The one issued share in each company is in the name of Autism NI (PAPA).
The companies are dormant and it is intended that they will remain dormant.
Autism Ulster Limited
Autism Ireland Limited
Autism Consultancy & Training (ACT) Limited

Financial Review

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Total Incoming Resources	586,577	354,288	940,865	857,265
Total Resources Expended	642,512	408,958	1,051,470	769,448
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	-	-	-	87,817
Net (Outgoing) Resources for the Year	(55,935)	(54,670)	(110,605)	-
Net Unrealised (Losses) on Investments	-	-	-	-
Net Unrealised Gains on Investments	-	-	-	-
Transfer From Unrestricted to Restricted	(46,873)	46,873	-	-
Balance of Funds At Start of Year	777,936	33,780	811,716	723,899
Balance of Funds At End of Year	675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716

In 2023 there was a net decrease in unrestricted funds of £ 111,429 for the year (2022 Increase £118,692) £46,907 of this decrease related to the charity supporting the core activities previously met with grants received from The Three Guineas.

No Covid-19 grants were received in this year. Received in previous years (2022 £1,213, 2021 £179,836). These grants enabled the charity to protect existing posts.

Reserves

It is our policy to maintain a prudent level of reserves to enable the charity to manage financial governance and operational risk and deliver on our commitments. An adequate and working reserve policy provides accountability and assurance that the charity's activities are sustainable.

Total unrestricted funds at the year end is £ 675,128 (2022 £ 777,936). Our aim is to have a target minimum reserve equal to one year of average operating costs which includes certain salaries and administration costs which are currently funded in projects plus a provision for redundancy payments.
This figure of unrestricted funds may be required to support core activities, presently funded in projects, due to the uncertainty of future funding considering the significant impact Covid-19 has had on businesses. We believe that this balance of unrestricted funds is required to ensure the stability of the organisation, to build sustainability and resilience, and to continue to carry out its aims and objectives, employment and ongoing operations including family support and Autism awareness activities.

Restricted Funds (note 7)

During the year ended March 2023, Restricted Funds (Projects) continued: NHSCT and BHSCT Family Support services reached over 500 families. NHSCT also funds two Autism Support Officers who support 500 families per year. The Three Guineas Trust final funding received with the Charity meeting the shortfall of £46,907 for these core activities for the remainder of the year. The Joseph Levy Foundation awarded new funding for 18 months which funds a full time worker who supports almost 100 families per year in the Belfast area. BBC Children in Need provides funding for the Girls and Autism Project (GAP) which funds a part time worker who supports 17 girls. The Henry Smith Charity continues to support two part time Early Intervention workers who support 77 families per year. WHSCT funding commenced for two part time workers providing family support services to 184 families for one year. Full details of Project Income and Expenditure can be found in Note 7 of the Accounts. Changes in Restricted Funding can impact on salaries and administration costs within the Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funding is reviewed on a regular basis by the CEO and is on the agenda for all Board meetings.

Registered with Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 100240

Charity Registration Number XR22944

Company Registration Number NI 058548

Registered Office and Operational Address
Donard
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast
BT8 8BH

Joint President	Professor Rita Jordan OBE Emeritus
Joint President	Dr Judith Gould
Vice President	Professor David Sines OBE
Vice President	Eileen Bell CBE

Patron Adam Keefe

Directors and Trustees:

David Heatley	Chairperson
Diane Heyburn	Resigned as Vice-Chairperson and Trustee on the 24th November 2022
Steven Goldblatt	Appointed as Vice-Chairperson on the 24th Novemeber 2022
Dr Mary Clare Bailey	Honorary Secretary
Jonathan Simpson	Resigned as Honorary Treasurer on the 24th November 2022
Dr Gloria Duignan	Appointed as Honorary Treasurer on the 24th Novemeber 2022
Jeffrey Hobson	
Dr Karen Jack	
Alan Young	Appointed as Director and Trustee on the 24th November 2022

Chief Executive: Kerry Boyd

Auditors - O'Hara Shearer, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 547 Falls Road, Belfast, BT11 9AB.

Principal Bankers - Danske Bank, Belfast Finance Centre, Donegall Square West, Belfast, BT1 6JS

Solicitors - Worthingtons Solicitors, 24-38 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities in Respect of the Financial Statements

The trustees (who are also directors of Autism NI (PAPA) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

1 Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2 Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
3 Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4 State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
5 Prepare the accounts 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.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

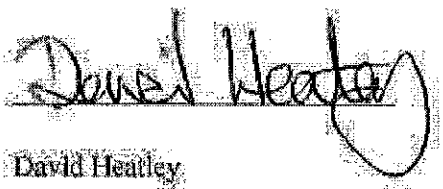
In so far as the trustees are aware:

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.

Auditors

A resolution proposing that O'Hara Shearer be re-appointed as auditors of the company will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board



Date: 27th November 2023

David Heatley
Chairperson

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autism NI (PAPA) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janauary 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janaury 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

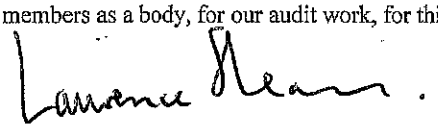
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., Senior Statutory Auditor
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, Statutory Auditor
O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

Dated: 27th November 2023

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations and Legacies					
Grants	2	48,911	354,288	403,199	385,752
Donations	3	228,237	-	228,237	215,089
Membership		22,172	-	22,172	20,487
		299,320	354,288	653,608	621,328
Other Trading Activities					
Training and Conferences	4	179,832	-	179,832	137,506
Fund Raising Events	5	103,144	-	103,144	92,879
Resources, Books, Videos etc		1,993	-	1,993	1,234
		284,969	-	284,969	231,619
COVID-19 GRANTS					
Covid-19 Grants	2	-	-	-	1,213
Income from Investments					
Bank Interest Received		2,288	-	2,288	3,105
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		586,577	354,288	940,865	857,265
EXPENDITURE ON	6				
Expenditure on Raising Funds					
Staff Costs		62,355	-	62,355	48,655
Other Costs		22,289	-	22,289	18,737
		84,644	-	84,644	67,392
Expenditure on Charitable Activities					
Staff Costs		328,899	342,073	670,972	467,836
Other Costs		181,001	66,885	247,886	201,788
Governance Costs; Staff Costs		31,450	-	31,450	23,500
Governance Costs; Other Costs		16,518	-	16,518	8,932
		557,868	408,958	966,826	702,056
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		642,512	408,958	1,051,470	769,448
NET INCOME		-	-	-	87,817
NET (EXPENDITURE)		(55,935)	(54,670)	(110,605)	-
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT (LOSSES) GAINS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(46,873)	46,873	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(102,808)	(7,797)	(110,605)	87,817
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022		777,936	33,780	811,716	723,899
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023		675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716
TOTAL FUNDS		675,128	25,983	701,111	811,716

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022
(Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)

	NOTE	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations and Legacies				
Grants	2	49,450	336,302	385,752
Donations	3	215,089	-	215,089
Membership		20,487	-	20,487
		285,026	336,302	621,328
Other Trading Activities				
Training and Conferences	4	137,506	-	137,506
Donations and Fund Raising Events	5	92,879	-	92,879
Resources, Books, Videos etc		1,234	-	1,234
		231,619	-	231,619
COVID-19 GRANTS				
Covid-19 Grants	2	1,213	-	1,213
Income from Investments				
Bank Interest Received		3,105	-	3,105
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		520,963	336,302	857,265
EXPENDITURE ON	6			
Expenditure on Raising Funds				
Staff Costs		48,655	-	48,655
Other Costs		18,737	-	18,737
		67,392	-	67,392
Expenditure on Charitable Activities				-
Staff Costs		181,568	286,268	467,836
Other Costs		120,575	81,213	201,788
Governance Costs; Staff Costs		23,500	-	23,500
Governance Costs; Other Costs		8,932	-	8,932
		334,575	367,481	702,056
				-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		401,967	367,481	769,448
NET INCOME		118,996	-	118,996
NET (EXPENDITURE)		-	(31,179)	(31,179)
NET REALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS		-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED		(306)	306	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		118,690	(30,873)	87,817
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2020		659,246	64,653	723,899
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2021		777,936	33,780	811,716
TOTAL FUNDS		777,936	33,780	811,716

AUTISM NI (PAPA)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

	NOTE	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	9	12,889	12,911
		12,889	12,911
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	10	22,324	60,006
Bank Accounts	11	728,323	797,598
		750,647	857,604
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year			
Creditors and Accruals	12	62,425	58,799
		62,425	58,799
NET CURRENT ASSETS		688,222	798,805
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		701,111	811,716
CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year	13	-	-
NET ASSETS		701,111	811,716
FUNDS		£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			
AUTISM CENTRAL OFFICE	16 & 17	675,128	777,936
RESTRICTED FUNDS			
PROJECTS	16 & 17	25,983	33,780
TOTAL FUNDS		701,111	811,716

These Financial Statements were approved by the board of management on the 27 Nov 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

David Heatley
Chairperson

Date: 27th November 2023

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	NOTE	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	15	(61,395)	73,167
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Dividends, Interest and Rents From Investments		-	-
Proceeds From the Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment		-	-
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(7,880)	(6,907)
Proceeds from the Sale of Investments		-	-
Purchase of Investments		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities		(7,880)	(6,907)
Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
Repayments of Borrowings		-	-
Cash Inflows From New Borrowings		-	-
Receipt of Endowment		-	-
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Financing Activities		-	-
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Reporting Period		(69,275)	66,260
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		797,598	731,338
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents Due to Exchange Rate Movements		-	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Reporting Period	11	728,323	797,598

	2023 £	2022 £
ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash in Hand	728,323	797,598
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)	-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand	-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	728,323	797,598

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The principal accounting policies which have been adopted are set out below.

The Charity prepares its accounts in accordance with 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 1st January 2015), the Finacial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Autism NI (PAPA) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

GOING CONCERN

In March 2020 The World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic in relation to Covid-19 and subsequently the UK Government imposed lockdown measures. This has had a significant impact on businesses and economic activity around the world.
The directors have taken actions to mitigate the financial impact of the loss of income during this time including the use of government support measures Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

It is recognised by the Board that the Charity is operating in politically uncertain and financially challenging times and that these conditions will remain for the foreseeable future. However, the reputation of the Charity is good, its services and programmes effective and proven to make a difference, the loyalty of its supporters and clients high and its income streams diverse. The Charity has an excellent management team and very strong people and governance protocols. Reserves are currently adequate. The trustees are confident that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the Board believe there are no material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial accounts have been prepared on that basis.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants , is included in incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred until those periods.
When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.
When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants, are for particular restricted purposes which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted fund when receivable.

INTEREST RECEIVABLE

Interest is included when receivable by the charity under investment income.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Certain expenditure is directly attributable to specific activities and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible Fixed Assets are stated at cost which comprises the purchase price and any installation charges.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of the assets within their useful lives. The methods adopted and rates used are:

FIXTURE AND FITTINGS	20%	STRAIGHT LINE
ALTERATION TO LEASEHOLD PREMISES	5%	STRAIGHT LINE

INVESTMENTS

Listed investments are stated at market value. The SOFA includes realised gains and losses on investments sold in the year and unrealised gains and losses on revaluation of investments.

JUDGEMENTS ESTIMATES

In the application of the charity's accounting policies the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.
The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.
The trustees do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation requiring disclosure.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted General Funds - these are donations, grants and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without specified purpose and are available as general funds and are available to spend at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the charity.

Designated Funds - these are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Restricted Funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Expenditure which meet these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

PENSION
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity made a contribution to this scheme as highlighted in note 8.

TAXATION
As a registered charity, the charity benefits from rates relief, and is exempt from direct tax on its charitable activities but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

STOCKS
The cost of publications and promotional and educational material is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY
The Charity "Autism NI (PAPA)" is a Company Limited By Guarantee.

Membership Guarantee
In accordance with the Company's Memorandum of Association each member guarantees to contribute up to one pound sterling (£1) to the Charity's debts, liabilities and costs in the event of the Charity being wound up and for one year after ceasing to be a member.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
The charity only has financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are normally initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at the carrying valueplus accrued interest less repayments. The financing charge to expenditure is at a constant rate calculated using the effective interest method.

2. GRANTS		2023	2022
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**	
		£	£
i) AUTISM NI (PAPA)			
DoH	Core Funding	38,390	38,390
NHSCT	Non Recurrent Financial Payment	10,521	11,060
		48,911	49,450
Covid-19 Grants			
Job Retention Scheme		-	1,213
		-	1,213
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		48,911	50,663

		RESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS
		£	£
ii) AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	7		
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)		37,371	35,954
The Three Guineas Trust		31,250	81,250
NHSCT ASOs		67,843	65,271
Joseph Levy		18,500	18,480
Children In Need		26,178	16,454
Children In Need Covid-19		-	9,374
Family Support		8,621	1,000
Community Foundation NI Family Support		3,732	625
BHSCT		73,931	50,294
The Henry Smith Charity		56,300	57,600
TEACCH Steering Group		-	-
WHSCT ASO's		30,562	-
Credit to Statement of Financial Activities		354,288	336,302
Total Credited to Statement of Financial Activities		403,199	386,965

	£ 2023	£ 2022
	£	£
3. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS DONATIONS	228,237	215,089

As a result of Covid-19, the government's imposed lockdown and the economic uncertainty the charity had seen a substantial reduction in donations received in 2021 but thankfully donations have increased in 2022 and 2023. Donations Includes income from Donations received directly and payroll giving GAYE.

	£ 2023	£ 2022
4 TRAINING	179,832	137,506

Training includes income from Parents, Individuals and Professionals.
Further training has also been commissioned by Statutory and Charitable Trusts.

5. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS FUND RAISING EVENTS	103,144	92,879

During the year and last year the fund raising team and Corporate donors carried out a number of events including Mourne Madness, Glow Walk, Abseil, Zipline and Skydive.
The team continues to increase their work with corporate donors and have seen an increase in awareness following fund raising events, the fund raising events, the ongoing lobbying and the work on social media.

6. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Note	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	8	422,704	342,073	764,777	253,723	286,268	539,991
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance		35,839	3,366	39,205	38,974	2,686	41,660
Telephone		6,068	2,330	8,398	6,240	2,106	8,346
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising		40,615	1,139	41,754	10,216	1,380	11,596
Catering		-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses		9,525	14,650	24,175	3,708	2,753	6,461
Autism Awareness		2,400	-	2,400	-	-	-
Training and Conferences		9,337	-	9,337	5,486	-	5,486
Recruitment and Staff Development		5,314	17,201	22,515	1,051	40,580	41,631
Purchase of Books, Videos and Resources		5,022	-	5,022	738	-	738
Resources for Projects		-	21,820	21,820	-	21,770	21,770
Fund Raising Expenditure		18,874	-	18,874	15,054	-	15,054
Expenditure on Behalf of Branches / Support Groups		9,119	-	9,119	2,407	-	2,407
Professional Fees and Subscriptions		49,507	3,940	53,447	41,691	4,450	46,141
Audit Fees		5,640	500	6,140	5,432	500	5,932
Accountancy Fees		10,878	-	10,878	3,500	-	3,500
Bank Fees and Interest		685	-	685	561	-	561
General Expenses		2,572	162	2,734	2,009	1,444	3,453
Capital		-	1,777	1,777	-	3,544	3,544
Depreciation		7,902	-	7,902	11,177	-	11,177
		642,512	408,958	1,051,470	401,967	367,481	769,448
Total Resources Expended		642,512	408,958	1,051,470	401,967	367,481	769,448

(Note 7)

AUTISM NI (PAPA)
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	TOTAL PROJECTS	NHSCT Family Support	The Three Guineas Trust	NHSCT ASOs	JOSEPH LEVY
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	354,288	37,371	31,250	67,843	18,500
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries and Redundancies	302,585	26,328	66,474	47,643	18,817
Management	31,625	3,595	13,800	1,673	1,617
Administration	6,282	1,798	-	-	424
HR / Finance	1,581	-	-	-	-
	342,073	31,721	80,274	49,316	20,858
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	3,366	-	-	742	-
Telephone	2,330	252	-	581	21
Postage,Printing, Stationery and Advertising	1,139	-	-	596	-
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	14,650	3,222	237	2,120	212
Recruitment and Staff Development	17,201	-	-	11,610	5,360
Resources for Projects	21,820	1,600	-	5,995	1,400
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	3,940	-	-	1,305	701
Audit and Accountancy Fees	500	500	-	-	-
General Expenses	162	-	-	162	-
Capital	1,777	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	66,885	5,574	237	23,111	7,694
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	408,958	37,295	80,511	72,427	28,552
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	9,371	76	-	-	-
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	(64,041)	-	(49,261)	(4,584)	(10,052)
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022	33,780	(528)	2,354	775	8,779
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	46,873	-	46,907	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023	25,983	(452)	-	(3,809)	(1,273)

NHSCT Family Support
Contract to March 2024.

The Three Guinneas
During this financial year, the Charity received the final year of agreed funding from The Three Guineas Trust which supports our Helpline and Awareness campaigns. The Charity met the shortfall of £46,907 for these core activities from Central funds for the remainder. The Three Guineas Trust has confirmed further funding of £140,000 over two years (£70K in 2023/24 and £70K in 2024/25) and the new funding will commence in July 2023.

NHSCT ASO's
Funding ongoing to January 2024
Tendering for additional three years.

Joseph Levy
Initial funding was for three years to April 2022.
Additional funding of £55,500 has been agreed for the eighteen months to 31st March 2024.

7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	BBC CHILDREN IN NEED	BBC CHILDREN IN NEED COVID-19	FAMILY SUPPORT	BHSCT	THE HENRY SMITH CHARITY
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Received	26,178	-	12,353	73,931	56,300
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions					
Salaries	18,638	-	8,621	59,375	39,909
Management	2,751	-	-	3,874	2,873
Administration	-	-	-	3,158	-
HR / Finance	-	-	-	-	1,581
	21,389	-	8,621	66,407	44,363
COSTS					
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	-	-	-	-	2,624
Telephone	249	-	-	504	504
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	-	-	543
Catering	-	-	-	-	-
Travel Expenses	1,986	-	-	2,733	2,719
Recruitment and Staff Development	-	-	-	-	-
Resources for Projects	1,880	-	3,876	2,937	4,132
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	158	-	-	828	948
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-	-
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	4,273	-	3,876	7,002	11,470
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	25,662	-	12,497	73,409	55,833
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	516	-	-	522	467
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	-	(144)	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022	-	34	1,955	5,695	9,696
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	(34)	-	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023	516	-	1,811	6,217	10,163

BBC Children In Need
Project to the 31st March 2025.
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Family Support
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

BHSCT
Funds received in advance of expenditure.

Henry Smith Charity
Grant received in advance with 1st instalment received in May 2021.
The unexpended balance is due to the grant received in advance.
To 31st May 2024 can reply within 6 mths before 31st May 2024

7. PROJECTS RESTRICTED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE

	TEACCH STEERING GROUP	WHSCT ASO's
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Received	-	30,562
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions		
Salaries	-	16,780
Management	-	1,442
Administration	-	902
HR / Finance	-	-
	-	19,124
COSTS		
Rent, Rates, Services and Insurance	-	-
Telephone	-	219
Postage, Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-
Catering	-	-
Travel Expenses	-	1,421
Recruitment and Staff Development	-	231
Resources for Projects	-	-
Professional Fees and Subscriptions	-	-
Audit and Accountancy Fees	-	-
General Expenses	-	-
Capital	-	1,777
Depreciation	-	-
	-	3,648
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	-	22,772
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	7,790
NET OUTGOING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 1ST APRIL 2022	5,020	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	-	-
BALANCE OF FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2023	5,020	7,790

WHSCT ASO's
Funds received in advance of expenditure to November 2023.
This is a two year project with the Charity funding the second year.
Costs for the second year are projected at £61,000.

8. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

	2023 £	2022 £
Gross Salary	684,630	488,318
Employers NIC Contribution	57,500	35,228
Employers Pension Contribution	22,647	16,445
Redundancy Payments	-	-
Salaries, Wages and Pension Contributions	764,777	539,991

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees and it is now administered by Legal and General under Auto-Enrolement (commenced January 2017). The charity makes a contribution to this scheme as noted above.

Trustees Directors Remuneration
The trustees directors did not receive any emoluments during the year 2023 Nil (2022 £ Nil)
Trustees directors were reimbursed expenses during the year 2023 £ Nil (2022 NIL)

Related party transactions see note 18.

No employee received emoluments of more than £70,000.
The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Director, Director of Development and Director of Family Support.
Their remuneration including pension contributions were £214,053 (2022 £155,820).

Employees during the year were as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Chief Executive	1	1
Director of Development	1	1
Director of Finance	1	1
Director of Family Support	1	1
Training and Development Officer	2	1
Corporate Manager	1	-
Fundraising and Marketing Manager	1	-
Sales and Marketing Officer	1	-
Events and Fundraising Officer	1	1
Events and Marketing Officer	-	1
Family Support Manager	1	-
Family Support and Helpline	3	2
Family Support Group Officer	1	1
Project Staff	9	6
Youth Worker	-	1
Training Officer	-	1
Administration Officer	1	1
Personal Assistant and Human Resources Officer	-	1
Early Intervention	3	3
Communications Officer	1	-
Autistic Adults Support Officer	1	-
	30	23

9. FIXED ASSETS	UNRESTRICTED		RESTRICTED	TOTAL
	F&F	Premises	F&F	
	£	£	£	£
COST				
Balance at 1st April 2022	152,980	5,559	30,460	188,999
Additions	7,880	-	-	7,880
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2023	160,860	5,559	30,460	196,879
DEPRECIATION				
Balance at 1st April 2022	140,430	5,282	30,376	176,088
Charge for the Period	7,626	276	-	7,902
Elimination on Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31st March 2023	148,056	5,558	30,376	183,990
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2023	12,804	1	84	12,889
WRITTEN DOWN VALUE AT 31ST MARCH 2022	12,550	277	84	12,911

10. DEBTORS	2023 £	2022 £
Trade Debtors	22,324	16,256
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	-	43,750
	22,324	60,006

11. BANK AND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	£	£
UNRESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) CENTRAL	723,216	792,475
	723,216	792,475
RESTRICTED		
AUTISM NI (PAPA) PROJECTS	5,107	5,123
TOTAL CASH AT BANK AND AT HAND	728,323	797,598

12. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	£	£
Trade Creditors	15,213	17,430
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	47,212	41,369
	62,425	58,799

13. CREDITORS: Amounts Falling Due After One Year		
Hire Purchase Creditor	-	-
	-	-

14. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION	£	£
Audit Fees	6,140	5,432
	6,140	5,432

15. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	Note	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Net Income (Expenditure) for the Reporting Period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(110,605)	87,817
Adjustments For;			
Depreciation Charges		7,902	11,177
Realised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Unrealised (Gains) Losses on Investments		-	-
Cost of Managing Investments		-	-
Dividends, Interest and Rents from Investments		-	-
Loss (Profit) on the Sale of Fixed Assets		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Stocks		-	-
(Increase) Decrease in Debtors		37,682	(39,146)
Increase (Decrease) in Creditors		3,626	13,319
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities		(61,395)	73,167

ANALSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		2023 £	2022 £
Cash in Hand		728,323	797,598
Notice Deposits (less than 3 Months)		-	-
Overdraft Facility Repayable on Demand		-	-
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	11	728,323	797,598

16. ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES BETWEEN THE NET ASSETS AT THE 31ST MARCH 2023

	Note	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING	RESTRICTED FUNDING	TOTAL
		CENTRAL	PROJECTS	
		£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	9	12,805	84	12,889
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and Prepayments	10	22,324	-	22,324
Owed by Inter Divisions		-	24,590	24,590
Cash on Hand and at Bank	11	723,216	5,107	728,323
		745,540	29,697	775,237
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due Within One Year				
Owed to Inter Divisions		24,590	-	24,590
Creditors and Accruals	12	58,627	3,798	62,425
		83,217	3,798	87,015
CREDITORS ; Amounts Falling Due After One Year				
Creditors and Accruals	13	-	-	-
NET ASSETS		675,128	25,983	701,111

17. RECONCILIATION AND ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON THE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR

(Note 7 Page 43-45)

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDING CENTRAL	RESTRICTED FUNDING PROJECTS	TOTAL
	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES			
UNRESTRICTED	586,577	-	586,577
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	37,371	37,371
The Three Guineas Trust	-	31,250	31,250
NHSCT ASOs	-	67,843	67,843
Joseph Levy	-	18,500	18,500
Children In Need	-	26,178	26,178
Children In Need Covid-19	-	-	-
Family Support	-	8,621	8,621
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	3,732	3,732
BHSCT	-	73,931	73,931
The Henry Smith Charity	-	56,300	56,300
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
WHSCT ASO's	-	30,562	30,562
	586,577	354,288	940,865
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
UNRESTRICTED	642,512	-	642,512
RESTRICTED PROJECTS			
NHSCT Family Support (ASD)	-	37,295	37,295
The Three Guineas Trust	-	80,511	80,511
NHSCT ASOs	-	72,427	72,427
Joseph Levy	-	28,552	28,552
Children In Need	-	25,662	25,662
Children In Need Covid-19	-	-	-
Family Support	-	8,621	8,621
Community Foundation NI Family Support	-	3,876	3,876
BHSCT	-	73,409	73,409
The Henry Smith Charity	-	55,833	55,833
TEACCH Steering Group	-	-	-
WHSCT ASO's	-	22,772	22,772
	642,512	408,958	1,051,470
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	(55,935)	(54,670)	(110,605)
NET UNREALISED INVESTMENT GAINS	-	-	-
TRANSFER FROM UNRESTRICTED TO RESTRICTED	(46,873)	46,873	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(102,808)	(7,797)	(110,605)
BALANCE AT 1ST APRIL 2022	777,936	33,780	811,716
BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2023	675,128	25,983	701,111

THE FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS	25,983
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
General	675,128
Designated	-
Total Unrestricted Funds	675,128
TOTAL FUNDS OF AUTISM NI (PAPA)	701,111

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the charity purchased £25,194.60 (2022 £16,257.74) from Leaf Consultancy Ltd for computer software and support during the year.
Leaf Consultancy Ltd to upgrade its computer system.
The balance due to Leaf Consultancy Ltd in trade creditors at year end was £900.46 (2022 £1,904.57).
Mr Steven Goldblatt is a trustee of the charity and a majority shareholder and director of Leaf Consultancy Ltd.
The transactions were on normal commercial terms that were beneficial to the charity. Mr Goldblatt took no part in the decision to use Leaf Consultancy Ltd. The charity had been using the services of Leaf Consultancy Ltd for several years before Mr Golblatt was appointed a trustee.

19. REPORTING CURRENCY

The financial statements are stated in GBP (sterling)

20. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There has been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year end.

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying value of the company's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below;

FINANCIAL ASSETS Measured at undiscounted amount receivable	**2023** **£**	**2022** **£**
Trade Debtors	22,324	16,256
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	-	43,750
	22,324	60,006

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES Measured at undiscounted amount payable	**2023** **£**	**2022** **£**
Trade Creditors	15,213	17,430
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	47,212	41,369
	62,425	58,799

Autism NI (PAPA)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100240

Annual return

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Autism NI (PAPA) (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janauary 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC'S Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the Charity.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charity and considered that the most significant are the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 Janaury 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102).
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and the entity's solicitors around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of any non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS'

- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

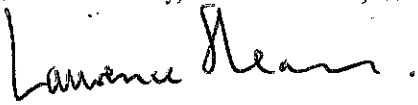
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and regulations made under that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



LAWRENCE SHEARER F.C.A., Senior Statutory Auditor
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF O'HARA SHEARER, Statutory Auditor
O'HARA SHEARER
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
547 Falls Road
Belfast
BT11 9AB

Dated: 27th November 2023