

Autonomie

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100421

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2014-09-12
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Lilac House 4 Sandhurst Road Belfast County Antrim Bt7 1pw BT7 1PW
Phone	02895918051
Email	autonomieorg@gmail.com
Website	www.autonomie.org.uk

Activities

Purposes: The main purpose for which the body is established is to support the inclusion of young disabled people into the community by offering support and advice in education, social, and leisure activities and the promotion of independence and transition into adult working life.

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

How the charity works: Disability, Education/training, Volunteer development, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Carers, Learning disabilities, Parents, Physical disabilities, Sensory disabilities, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£148,056	£149,858	£0	6

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Coates		
Miss Ciara Smyth		
Miss Niamh Mcsheery		
Mr Paul Jeffers B Ed. Dase		
Mr Graham Coulter		
Mrs Janice English		
Naomi Mcaleese		

Autonomie

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100421

Accounts

3. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Lottery Grants		-	58,974	58,974	180,031
Global Charities			33,950	33,950	0
Fundraising/Donations		1,567	-	1,567	5,465
Direct Payments		53,565	-	53,565	0
Interest		0	-	0	0
 Total Resources	 3	 55,132	 92,924	 148,056	 185,496
 Total Resources Expended		 10,622	 139,236	 149,858	 171,227
 Net Income/Net Movement in Funds		 44,510	 (46,312)	 (1,802)	 14,269
 Fund Balance Brought Forward		 5,699	 59,894	 65,593	 51,324
 Total Funds Carried Forward		 50,209	 13,852	 63,791	 65,593

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Historical Cost

The results as disclosed in the statement of financial activities and the net incoming resources for the year have been presented on an historical cost basis.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in note 3.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	325	937
Current assets			
Debtors		883	883
Cash at bank and in hand		63,133	64,473
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		550	700
Net current assets		63,466	64,656
Total assets less current liabilities		63,791	65,593
Income funds			
Restricted funds	3	13,582	59,894
Unrestricted funds	3	50,209	5,699
Total funds		63,791	65,593

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on :

and signed on its behalf by:

Company Registration NI 698724

Charity Registration No. NIC 100421

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Autonomie is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 4 Sandhurst Road, Belfast BT7 1PW

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

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

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements,

1.3 Fund Accounting

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition, the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

1.4 Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

1.5 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses,

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

IT Equipment 25% Straight Line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

1.14 Hire purchase and finance leases

There are no assets on hire purchase or finance leases.

1.15 Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accruals model and are measured at the fair value received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related expenditure is incurred. Grants towards capital expenditure are credited to deferred income and released as income over the expected useful life of the assets.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods,

3 Income

	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
Lottery Community Fund (Empowering Young People) <i>Restricted</i>	58,974	142,776
Global Charities <i>Restricted</i>	33,950	37,255
Fundraising/Donations	1,567	5,465
Direct Payments	53,565	0
Total	148,056	185,496

4 Staff Costs & Emoluments

	2025	2024
Wages & Salaries	93,961	83,580
Social Security Costs	10,042	6,210
	104,003	89,790

5 Average Number of Employees During the Year

2025	2024
6	6

6 Tangible Fixed Assets

COST	
1 April 2024	3,650
Additions	0
 At 31 March 2025	 3,650
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2024	2,713
Charge for Year	612
 At 31 March 2024	 3,325
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	325
At 31 March 2024	937

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

INCOMING RESOURCES	2025	2024
Grants	92,924	180,031
Fundraising/Donations	1,567	5,465
Direct Payments	53,565	0
Bank Interest	0	0
Total Incoming Resources	148,056	185,496
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Staff Costs	83,581	89,790
Sessional Workers	20,422	24,107
Rent	6,899	6,764
Equipment/ Project Expenses	24,279	23,759
PR/Marketing/Website	1,788	10,954
Insurance/Membership/Legal Fees	2,325	1,335
Utilities/Services	10,456	10,973
Capital Expenditure	0	3,383
Bank Charges	108	162
Total Resources Expended	149,858	171,227
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(1,802)</u>	<u>14,269</u>

Autonomie

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100421

Accounts

AUTONOMIE

Charity Registration No. NIC 100421

Company Registration No. N1698724 (Northern Ireland)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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1. CHARITY REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mrs Mary Bell
Mr David Coates
Mrs Janice English
Mrs Naomi McAleese
Mr Paul Jeffers

Bankers

Danske Bank
Donegall Sq. West
Belfast BT1 6JS

Charity number

NI 100421

Company number

NI 698724

Registered office

4 Sandhurst Road
Belfast
BT7 1PW

Auditor

Mr E Jackson BSc(ECON) FCMA
Scensum Ltd
2 Drumlin Manor
Carryduff
BT8 8SS

Public benefit

In line with its stated aims and objectives, as noted above, the trustees are confident that the charity is undertaking activities which provide public benefit to those who avail of its services.

Achievements and performance

Funding has been received from various bodies throughout the period to facilitate the provision of services.

The charity's principal funders are:

1. National Lottery Community Fund

The financial statements reflect a successful year, generating a small surplus, which has been credited to reserves. The trustees are satisfied with the charity's results and will continue to capitalise on their current activities for the foreseeable future.

The trustees are satisfied that all grants, including the grants provided by the National Lottery Community Fund, have been used solely for the purposes intended and in accordance with each of the terms and conditions of the grants.

During the financial year, the charity worked with 170 families of children and/or young people with a physical disability and/or mild to moderate disability to provide practical, emotional and social support. Also, they have delivered social and independent living skills to 80 young people between the ages of 16 to 35.

The families came from throughout Northern Ireland and contact was maintained either by face to face contact or via Zoom to ensure no-one felt isolated.

The young people came from several council areas:

- Belfast
- Antrim & Newtownabbey
- Lisburn & Castlereagh
- Ards and North down
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon

Use of volunteers

The charity utilises the services of volunteers. The trustees acknowledge that all volunteers contribute to the success of the charity's activities.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out on pages 14 to 20. The charity generated a net unrestricted surplus for the year of £4,156 (2023: net unrestricted surplus of £1,543). The level of free reserves at 31 March 2024 amounted to £65,593(2023: £51,324).

The trustees have developed a reserves policy in order to protect the company against unforeseen circumstances. This policy states that the company will seek to build sufficient financial reserves to provide for six months activities in order that the charity's ability to deliver services and develop the charity in the manner planned can be achieved without a negative impact. The financial results for the year are encouraging and the level of retained reserves ensure that this objective has been achieved.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It has been granted charitable status by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC100421.

The charity is governed by its trustees who meet between six to eight times annually to discuss financial and strategic issues, policy and procedure decisions, and to ratify significant legally binding decisions,

Miss Lynne Morrison, Chief Officer, is responsible for the day to day running of the charity.

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

Mr Douglas Bartlett	(Resigned 28 June 2023)
Mrs Janice English	(Appointed 22 July 2022)
Mr David Coates	(Appointed 22 July 2022)
Mrs Mary Bell	(Appointed 22 July 2022)
Mr Paul Jeffers	(Appointed 22 July 2022)
Mrs Naomi McAleese	(Appointed 22 July 2022)

If appropriate, new trustees are invited onto the Board when the need arises. There are no specific requirements regarding skills or experience. However, the current trustees recognise the importance of a diverse and competent Board, and this will impact upon any nomination. Those who are invited will be involved with Autonomie and will be held in high regard for their work.

New trustees receive appropriate induction procedures and training upon appointment.

No trustees receive any remuneration for their services.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the assumption that the charity will continue to operate as a going concern. As a result of the surplus returned this year, the charity's reserves have increased. The trustees are confident that the charity retains sufficient reserves to enable its continued operation for the foreseeable future.

Additionally, the trustees are constantly reviewing the operations in order to ensure it retains sufficient reserves to maintain its operations. On this basis, the trustees believe it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity 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 charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing that Ed Jackson, Scensum Ltd., be reappointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to Auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

Signed:  (On behalf of Board of Trustees)

Date: 4/2/25.

2. INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AUTONOMIE

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Autonomie (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including 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, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAS (UK)) and applicable law. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have

performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the directors report included within the trustees' report.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires me 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 trustees 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My 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. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities including fraud. The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of my enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters I identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, I considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAS (UK), I am also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

I also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations I considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation,

In addition, I considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above my procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of terms of funding, relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of my responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. My audit work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity members those matters I am required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for my audit work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Signed:



Edward J Jackson
BSc(Econ) FCMA
for and on behalf of:
Scensum Ltd
2 Drumlin Manor
Carryduff
BT8 8SS

Date: 28th January 2025

3. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Lottery Grants		-	180,031	180,031	201,976
Fundraising/Donations		5,465	-	5,465	3,620
Capital Revenue		-	-	0	0
Interest		0	-	0	25
Total Resources	3	5,465	180,031	185,496	205,621
Total Resources Expended		1,309	169,918	171,227	178,508
Net Income/Net Movement in Funds		4,156	10,113	14,269	27,113
Fund Balance Brought Forward		1,543	49,781	51,324	24,211
Total Funds Carried Forward		5,699	59,894	65,593	51,324

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Historical Cost

The results as disclosed in the statement of financial activities and the net incoming resources for the year have been presented on an historical cost basis.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in note 3.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	937	1,200
Current assets			
Debtors		883	0
Cash at bank and in hand		64,473	50,124
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		700	0
Net current assets		64,656	50,124
Total assets less current liabilities		65,593	51,324
Income funds			
Restricted funds	3	59,894	49,781
Unrestricted funds	3	5,699	1,543
Total funds		65,593	51,324

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on:

and signed on its behalf by:

Company Registration NI 698724

Charity Registration No. NIC 100421

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Autonomie is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 4 Sandhurst Road, Belfast BT7 1PW

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition, the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

1.4 Income and expenditure

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1.5 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses,

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

IT Equipment 33.33% Straight Line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

1.14 Hire purchase and finance leases

There are no assets on hire purchase or finance leases.

1.15 Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accruals model and are measured at the fair value received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related expenditure is incurred. Grants towards capital expenditure are credited to deferred income and released as income over the expected useful life of the assets.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods,

3 Income

	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2023
Lottery Community Fund (Empowering Young People)	142,776	109,670
<i>Restricted</i>		
Lottery Community Fund (People & Communities)	37,255	92,306
<i>Restricted</i>		
Fundraising/Donations	5,465	3,620
Other	0	25
Total	185,496	205,621

4 Staff Costs & Emoluments

	2024	2023
Wages & Salaries	83,580	87,854
Social Security Costs	6,210	6,156
Total	89,790	94,010

5 Average Number of Employees During the Year

2024	2023
6	6

6 Tangible Fixed Assets

COST	
1 April 2023	3,000
Additions	650
At 31 March 2024	3,650
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2023	1,800
Charge for Year	913
At 31 March 2024	2,713
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	937
At 31 March 2023	1,200

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INCOMING RESOURCES	2024	2023
Lottery Grants	180,031	201,976
Fundraising/Donations	5,465	3,620
Capital Revenue	0	0
Bank Interest	0	25
Total Incoming Resources	185,496	205,621
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Staff Costs	89,790	94,010
Sessional Workers	24,107	30,299
Rent	6,764	12,808
Equipment/ Project Expenses	23,759	20,396
PR/Marketing/Website	10,954	9,116
Insurance/Membership/Legal Fees	1,335	3,936
Utilities/Services	10,973	5,797
Capital Expenditure	3,383	1,997
Charges	162	149
Total Resources Expended	171,227	178,508
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>14,269</u>	<u>27,113</u>

Autonomie

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100421

Annual report



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 31st March 2024



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1. Annual Report for the year ended March 31st 2024

The trustees of Autonomie are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

1.1 Introduction from the Chair of our Management Committee

This year has seen some major changes for Autonomie with a new strategic plan being developed to guide our work of the next 3 to 5 years and a major revamp of the SAIL project (which resulted in very favourable feedback from both the SAIL participants and their parents/carers).

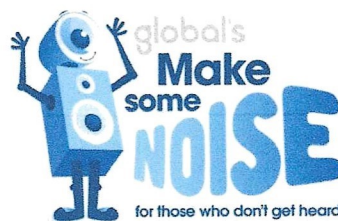
We have experienced a number of significant challenges during the year, and we have very reluctantly concluded that we will have to discontinue our Family Voice Hub project due to a lack of ongoing funding. However, we have continued to deliver much needed services for young people with a physical disability and/or mild to moderate learning difficulties and the feedback from our participants and their families/carers indicates that they greatly value the services which we provide.

This would not have been possible without the hard work of our young people, staff, volunteers, funders and supporters. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who is part of our Autonomie Family for everything they have done over the last year, and we look forward to continuing to work towards our vision where all young people with disabilities can have lives full of fun, friendship and real opportunities for improving both their social lives and independent-living skills.

Chairperson, Janice English

1.2 Our Supporters

We are indebted to a number of organisations who have supported us during the year and, in particular, the National Lottery Community Fund, Global's Make Some Noise initiative, Danske Bank and the St James's Place Foundation who have provided invaluable financial support to Autonomie during the year.

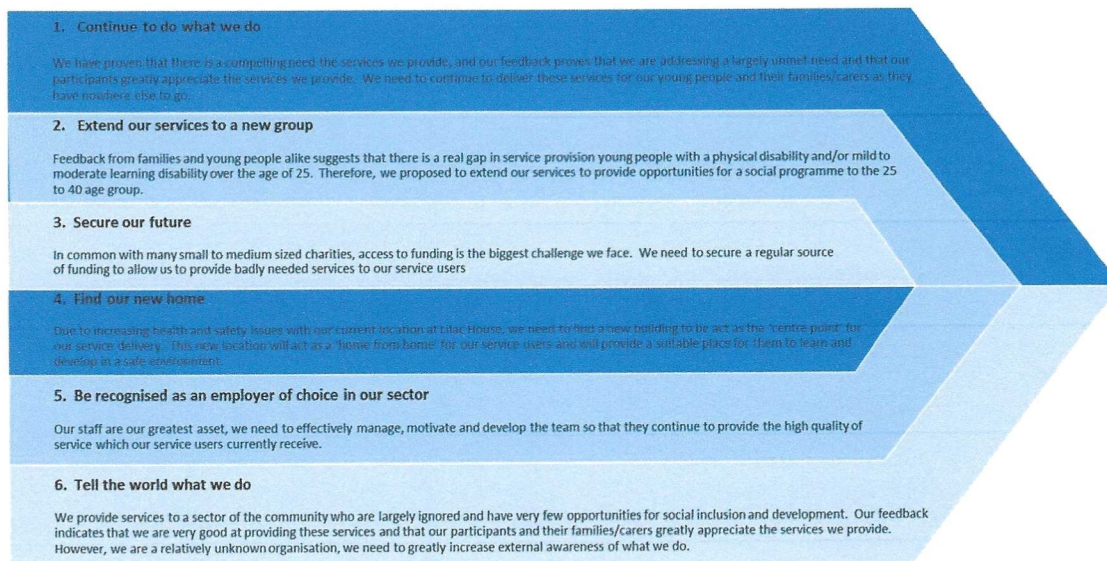


1.3 The Year in Overview

We started the year with a new Chair and Secretary of the Autonomie Management Committee following the elections held at our EGM held on 30 March 2023. We also carried a major revamp of the SAIL project which resulted in very favourable feedback from both the SAIL participants and their parents/carers.

During the first part of the year, we developed a new strategic plan for Autonomie and this was approved and formally adopted at September's Management Committee meeting. Figure 1 below provides an overview of the new strategic plan which we believe provides a solid platform to allow us to provide services well into the future.

Figure 1 – Overview of new Strategic Plan



During the year we experienced significant challenges in 3 key areas:

- Our main location (Lilac House) is no longer fit for purpose and changes in the surrounding area have caused problems for both our young people and Autonomie staff. Therefore, we have begun to look at options for relocation.
- We recognise that we need to take steps to strengthen the make-up of our Management Committee. We launched an exercise to target and recruit new members of the Management Committee. However, for a variety of reasons, this has proved unsuccessful to date and this exercise will continue into 2024-25.
- In common with many other charities at this time, securing ongoing funding has been a major issue in what is now an extremely challenging environment. We have reviewed a number of options and submitted formal applications to a number of potential funders. However, securing ongoing funding remains our number one challenge going into the year 2024-25.

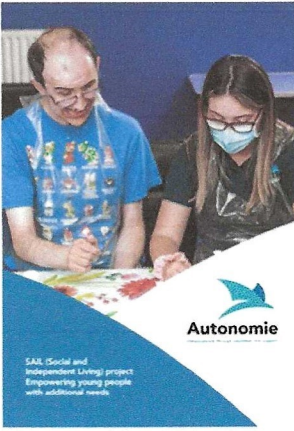
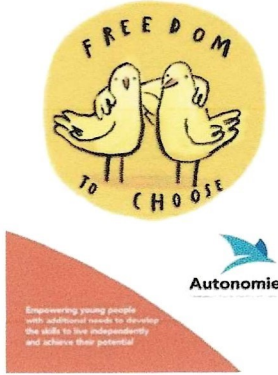
Towards the end of the year 2023-24 we received notification that our application to the National Lottery Community Fund for new funding for the Family Voice Hub had been unsuccessful. Therefore, we ended the year on a sad note as we had to make plans to close the project by the end of April 2024 as project funding would run out by this date.

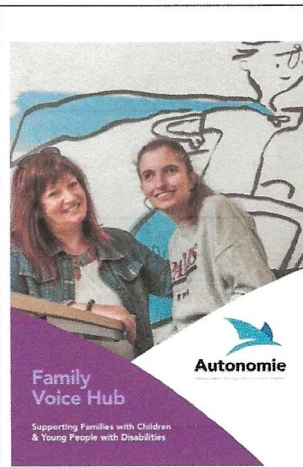
1.4 Achievements & Performance

Despite the challenges we faced during the year, we remain convinced that there is still a compelling need for the services which Autonomie provides. We continue to address an area of unmet need for young people with disabilities and/or mild to moderate learning disabilities and their families/carers.

During 2023-24 we continued to make a positive impact on the lives of our young people and their parents/carers, with Figure 2 below demonstrating some of the positive impacts we made during the year via our 3 flagship projects.

Figure 2 – Our 3 Flagship Projects

	As further funding for the SAIL (Social And Independent Living) was being applied for, we evaluated the content and relevance of the current project. A full overhaul was undertaken and with the help of the young people and others who had completed the project, areas of need were identified, and practical, interactive and fun sessions were developed to cover the following modules: • Practical Daily Living Skills • Social & Life Skills • Developing self confidence and esteem • Goal setting and achievements • Basic Cookery & food storage • Using Money on a daily basis • Personal Hygiene & Self presentation • Developing Hobbies • Looking after your mental health • Coping and managing emotions & feelings. <i>"Everything SAIL offers to my son has helped with his confidence, independence and day to day living." (Feedback from the parent of a SAIL participant)</i>
	Freedom2Choose grew in numbers through the year, more emphasis was given to the young people 'choosing' what activities they wanted to do and for how long. This empowered the young people to make informed decisions about how they spent their time at the programme. A high number of enjoyed physical activities e.g., obstacle courses, dodgeball and Bocca. These activities promoted team building and healthy competition, while also encouraging communication and socialization. Visits out to Crumlin Road Gaol during their Halloween programme was a great success, the group met with Halloween characters, petted some animals and also enjoyed carving pumpkins. Our Christmas Event was planned and organized by all 3 projects (SAIL, Freedom2Choose & Family Voice Hub) this was a family event where every member of the families attended, young people and their siblings met with Santa and received presents. Mums and Dads also received 'self-care' gifts. <i>"For the help and support they give the young people, they always go the extra mile. Nothing is too much trouble, Freedom2Choose Saturdays are always looked forward to in our house". (Feedback from parent of Freedom2Choose participant)</i>



This year, Family Voice Hub has seen an increase in requests for support and advice in relation to SEN Assessment processes. In addition, a high number of their core group of parents seeking advice on Wills & Trusts, as they get older and are concerned about their son/daughter after they are no longer here. Several rural families sought support from the Hub, and the staff travelled out to meet with them and support them with a variety of issues relating to their child or young person. They travelled to Coleraine, Ballymena, Newry and Warrenpoint, as the families said they felt isolated as most services were Belfast based. Family Voice Hub was an integral partner in the development, publishing and launch of Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Resource for parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities. They also represented Autonomie on the All Party Group on Disability within the Northern Ireland Assembly.

In total Family Voice Hub worked with 170 families throughout this year.

"Autonomie is the only organisation I know who see the whole family as important and includes them into every programme and event. All of us love Autonomie events." **(Feedback from one of our parents)**

2. Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st March 2023

2.1 Income & Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Lottery Grants	-	180,031	180,031	201,976
Fundraising/Donations	5,465	-	5,465	3,620
Capital Revenue	-	-	0	0
Interest	0	-	0	25
Total Resources	5,465	180,031	185,496	205,621
Total Resources Expended	1,309	169,918	171,227	178,508
Net Income/Net Movement in Funds	4,156	10,113	14,269	27,113
Fund Balance Brought Forward	1,543	49,781	51,324	24,211
Total Funds Carried Forward	5,699	59,894	65,593	51,324

2.2 Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

2.3 Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

2.4 Historical Cost

The results as disclosed in the statement of financial activities and the net incoming resources for the year have been presented on an historical cost basis.

2.5 Balance Sheet as 31st March 2024

Fixed assets	2024	2023
Tangible assets	937	1,200
Current assets		
Debtors	883	0
Cash at bank and in hand	64,473	50,124
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	700	0
Net current assets	64,656	50,124
Total assets less current liabilities	65,593	51,324
Income funds		
Restricted funds	59,894	49,781
Unrestricted funds	5,699	1,543
Total funds	65,593	51,324

3. Reference & Administrative Details

3.1 Charity Name

Autonomie

3.2 NI Charity Number

NIC100421

3.3 Registered Address

Lilac House,
4 Sandhurst Road,
Belfast,
BT7 1PW

3.4 Charity Trustees as of 31st March 2024

Mrs Janice English (Chair)
Mr David Coates (Secretary)
Mrs Mary Bell
Mr Paul Jeffers
Mrs Naomi McAleese

3.5 Other Charity Trustees in the year to 31st March 2024

Mr Douglas Bartlett (Resigned 28 June 2023)

3.6 Patron as of 31st March 2024

Mr Oliver Jeffers MBE

3.7 Advisors

Banking	Danske Bank Donegall Sq. West Belfast BT1 6JS
Insurance	Markel (UK) Limited City Square House 11 Wellington Street Leeds LS1 4DL

3.8 Structure, Governance & Management

Governing Document & Constitution

Autonomie is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its constitution which is available at www.autonomie.org.uk. It has been granted charitable status by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC100421.

Trustee Selection & Management

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

- Mrs Janice English (Chair)
- Mr David Coates (Secretary)
- Mrs Mary Bell
- Mr Paul Jeffers
- Mrs Naomi McAleese

If appropriate, new trustees are invited onto the Board when the need arises. There are no specific requirements regarding skills or experience. However, the current trustees recognise the importance of a diverse and competent Board, and this will impact upon any nomination. Those who are invited will be involved with Autonomie and will be held in high regard for their work. New trustees receive appropriate induction procedures and training upon appointment. No trustees receive any remuneration for their services.

Autonomie's work is governed by a Management Committee which usually meets every other month to discuss financial and strategic issues, policy and procedure decisions, and to ratify significant legally binding decisions. The Management Committee is made up of the charity's trustees plus the Chief Officer and a Finance Officer. All meetings of the Autonomie Management Committee are formally documented, with all points of agreement and actions recorded and signed-off by the Chair of the Management Committee.

Miss Lynne Morrison, Autonomie's Chief Officer, is responsible for managing the day-to-day running of the charity.

3.9 Objectives & Activities Charitable Objects

Autonomie's overall objective is to provide practical educational and personal development support to help young people with a physical disability and/or mild to moderate learning difficulties to reach their potential and lead fuller and more independent lives. We also seek to provide support, guidance and a sense of community for their parents/carers and their families.

The main challenges faced by our young people and their families can be summarised as follows:

- There is a lack of age appropriate facilities open to young people with a physical disability and/or mild to moderate learning difficulties in Northern Ireland. Autonomie aims to address a significant gap in service provision for young people who are (or are at risk of) becoming socially isolated resulting in additional mental health issues and low self-value.

- Autonomie provides post educational provision to a number of communities and to families whose young people have limited options after leaving school. The project also helps these young people to develop social networks within their own communities with peers, and with other young people who face similar challenges within their lives.
- Autonomie also seeks to deliver significant benefits to the parents and carers of its participants. Feedback from similar projects demonstrates that parents and carers have formed a community to provide help and support for families with young people with additional needs. Parents and carers of participants in our projects participate in the Autonomie parents' forum through our Family Voice Hub project. This provides parents/carers with an input into the development and delivery of our projects and allows them to avail of help and support from other parents/carers.

The needs of the young people who attend Autonomie change as they get older. Increasingly, they want to have similar opportunities as their siblings have had as part of growing up. As these young people get older their disabilities and mental wellbeing can deteriorate, and both the young people and their parents/carers can face additional challenges. Autonomie provides an environment for the young people to address these challenges alongside peers who are facing similar challenges. We provide essential support for the parents/carers of the young people as many of the development skills they gain can be transferred to the home environment. This provides reassurance for parents as they can see their son/daughter develop skills which will be useful when they move into supported/independent living arrangements.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees of Autonomie confirm that they have complied with their duty as outlined in the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (as amended). We consider that Autonomie has purposes which fall under a number of the 12 descriptions of purposes listed in the Charities Act, in particular:

- 'The advancement of education' as we provide life skills training to young people with a physical disability and/or a mild to moderate learning disability;
- 'The advancement of health or the saving of lives' as we provide counselling services to our young people and their families; and
- 'The advancement of citizenship or community development' as we promote volunteering and the voluntary sector.

Inclusiveness and equality were 2 of the key founding principles for the Autonomie. Therefore, participation in Autonomie projects is open to all sections of the community and we do not provide a private benefit to individuals (unless this benefit is incidental).

Summary of Main Activities

The core activities of Autonomie during the year ending 31st March 2024 were delivering our 3 flagship projects:

- SAIL;
- Freedom2Choose; and
- The Family Voice Hub.

Further details on these projects can be found at section 1.3 above.

Approved and adopted by the Management Committee on 4th February 2025 and signed on their behalf:

pp. David ~~Cates~~

Janice English
Chair of the Autonomie Management Committee



Contact us

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4 Sandhurst Road
Belfast BT7 1PW
Northern Ireland

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✉ hello.autonomie@gmail.com
🌐 autonomie.org.uk



Company Number is NI698724 (Autonomie Ltd)
Northern Ireland Charity Commission Registration Number 100421



Patron: Oliver Jeffers, Artist & Illustrator

Autonomie

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100421

Annual return

AUTONOMIE

Charity Registration No. NIC 100421

Company Registration No. N1698724 (Northern Ireland)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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2. INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AUTONOMIE	7
3. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	11

1. CHARITY REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mrs Mary Bell
Mr David Coates
Mrs Janice English
Mrs Naomi McAleese
Mr Paul Jeffers

Bankers

Danske Bank
Donegall Sq. West
Belfast BT1 6JS

Charity number

NI 100421

Company number

NI 698724

Registered office

4 Sandhurst Road
Belfast
BT7 1PW

Auditor

Mr E Jackson BSc(ECON) FCMA
Scensum Ltd
2 Drumlin Manor
Carryduff
BT8 8SS

Public benefit

In line with its stated aims and objectives, as noted above, the trustees are confident that the charity is undertaking activities which provide public benefit to those who avail of its services.

Achievements and performance

Funding has been received from various bodies throughout the period to facilitate the provision of services.

The charity's principal funders are:

1. National Lottery Community Fund

The financial statements reflect a successful year, generating a small surplus, which has been credited to reserves. The trustees are satisfied with the charity's results and will continue to capitalise on their current activities for the foreseeable future.

The trustees are satisfied that all grants, including the grants provided by the National Lottery Community Fund, have been used solely for the purposes intended and in accordance with each of the terms and conditions of the grants.

During the financial year, the charity worked with 170 families of children and/or young people with a physical disability and/or mild to moderate disability to provide practical, emotional and social support. Also, they have delivered social and independent living skills to 80 young people between the ages of 16 to 35.

The families came from throughout Northern Ireland and contact was maintained either by face to face contact or via Zoom to ensure no-one felt isolated.

The young people came from several council areas:

- Belfast
- Antrim & Newtownabbey
- Lisburn & Castlereagh
- Ards and North down
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon

Use of volunteers

The charity utilises the services of volunteers. The trustees acknowledge that all volunteers contribute to the success of the charity's activities.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out on pages 14 to 20. The charity generated a net unrestricted surplus for the year of £4,156 (2023: net unrestricted surplus of £1,543). The level of free reserves at 31 March 2024 amounted to £65,593 (2023: £51,324).

The trustees have developed a reserves policy in order to protect the company against unforeseen circumstances. This policy states that the company will seek to build sufficient financial reserves to provide for six months activities in order that the charity's ability to deliver services and develop the charity in the manner planned can be achieved without a negative impact. The financial results for the year are encouraging and the level of retained reserves ensure that this objective has been achieved.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It has been granted charitable status by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under registration number NIC100421.

The charity is governed by its trustees who meet between six to eight times annually to discuss financial and strategic issues, policy and procedure decisions, and to ratify significant legally binding decisions,

Miss Lynne Morrison, Chief Officer, is responsible for the day to day running of the charity.

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

Mr Douglas Bartlett	(Resigned 28 June 2023)
Mrs Janice English	(Appointed 22 July 2022)
Mr David Coates	(Appointed 22 July 2022)
Mrs Mary Bell	(Appointed 22 July 2022)
Mr Paul Jeffers	(Appointed 22 July 2022)
Mrs Naomi McAleese	(Appointed 22 July 2022)

If appropriate, new trustees are invited onto the Board when the need arises. There are no specific requirements regarding skills or experience. However, the current trustees recognise the importance of a diverse and competent Board, and this will impact upon any nomination. Those who are invited will be involved with Autonomie and will be held in high regard for their work.

New trustees receive appropriate induction procedures and training upon appointment.

No trustees receive any remuneration for their services.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the assumption that the charity will continue to operate as a going concern. As a result of the surplus returned this year, the charity's reserves have increased. The trustees are confident that the charity retains sufficient reserves to enable its continued operation for the foreseeable future.

Additionally, the trustees are constantly reviewing the operations in order to ensure it retains sufficient reserves to maintain its operations. On this basis, the trustees believe it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

Company Law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity 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 charity 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 charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution proposing that Ed Jackson, Scensum Ltd., be reappointed as auditors of the charity will be put to the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to Auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

Special Provisions Relating to Small Companies

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

Signed:  (On behalf of Board of Trustees)

Date: 4/2/25.

2. INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF AUTONOMIE

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Autonomie (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including 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, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAS (UK)) and applicable law. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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 contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have

performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the directors report included within the trustees' report.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires me 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 trustees 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My 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. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities including fraud. The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- the nature of the activities and sector, control environment and performance;
- results of my enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters I identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team and relevant internal specialists where necessary regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, I considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud. In common with all audits under ISAS (UK), I am also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

I also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations I considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Taxation Legislation,

In addition, I considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

As a result of performing the above my procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of terms of funding, relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members, including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of my responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. My audit work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity members those matters I am required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity members as a body, for my audit work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Signed:



Edward J Jackson
BSc(Econ) FCMA
for and on behalf of:
Scensum Ltd
2 Drumlin Manor
Carryduff
BT8 8SS

Date: 28th January 2025

3. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Lottery Grants		-	180,031	180,031	201,976
Fundraising/Donations		5,465	-	5,465	3,620
Capital Revenue		-	-	0	0
Interest		0	-	0	25
Total Resources	3	5,465	180,031	185,496	205,621
Total Resources Expended		1,309	169,918	171,227	178,508
Net Income/Net Movement in Funds		4,156	10,113	14,269	27,113
Fund Balance Brought Forward		1,543	49,781	51,324	24,211
Total Funds Carried Forward		5,699	59,894	65,593	51,324

Statement of comprehensive income

There is no other comprehensive income to report for the financial year.

Continuing operations

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Historical Cost

The results as disclosed in the statement of financial activities and the net incoming resources for the year have been presented on an historical cost basis.

Comparatives

The comparative amounts by fund have been disclosed in note 3.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	937	1,200
Current assets			
Debtors		883	0
Cash at bank and in hand		64,473	50,124
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		700	0
Net current assets		64,656	50,124
Total assets less current liabilities		65,593	51,324
Income funds			
Restricted funds	3	59,894	49,781
Unrestricted funds	3	5,699	1,543
Total funds		65,593	51,324

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on:

and signed on its behalf by:

Company Registration NI 698724

Charity Registration No. NIC 100421

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Autonomie is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is 4 Sandhurst Road, Belfast BT7 1PW

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

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

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements,

1.3 Fund Accounting

The charity has different types of funds for which it is responsible, and which require separate disclosure. These are as follows:

(a) Restricted funds - Funding received which can only be used for a specific purpose as determined by the funder. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation and are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Unrestricted funds - Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. In addition, the funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

1.4 Income and expenditure

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. All income arose wholly in the United Kingdom.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The majority of costs are directly attributable to charitable activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

1.5 Support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance human resources, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated against the expenditure on charitable activities.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing £500 or more are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses,

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

IT Equipment 33.33% Straight Line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not liable to tax on funds generated from activities within the scope of the charitable exemptions.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

1.14 Hire purchase and finance leases

There are no assets on hire purchase or finance leases.

1.15 Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accruals model and are measured at the fair value received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related expenditure is incurred. Grants towards capital expenditure are credited to deferred income and released as income over the expected useful life of the assets.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods,

3 Income

	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2023
Lottery Community Fund (Empowering Young People)	142,776	109,670
<i>Restricted</i>		
Lottery Community Fund (People & Communities)	37,255	92,306
<i>Restricted</i>		
Fundraising/Donations	5,465	3,620
Other	0	25
Total	185,496	205,621

4 Staff Costs & Emoluments

	2024	2023
Wages & Salaries	83,580	87,854
Social Security Costs	6,210	6,156
Total	89,790	94,010

5 Average Number of Employees During the Year

2024	2023
6	6

6 Tangible Fixed Assets

COST	
1 April 2023	3,000
Additions	650
At 31 March 2024	3,650
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2023	1,800
Charge for Year	913
At 31 March 2024	2,713
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	937
At 31 March 2023	1,200

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INCOMING RESOURCES	2024	2023
Lottery Grants	180,031	201,976
Fundraising/Donations	5,465	3,620
Capital Revenue	0	0
Bank Interest	0	25
Total Incoming Resources	185,496	205,621
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Staff Costs	89,790	94,010
Sessional Workers	24,107	30,299
Rent	6,764	12,808
Equipment/ Project Expenses	23,759	20,396
PR/Marketing/Website	10,954	9,116
Insurance/Membership/Legal Fees	1,335	3,936
Utilities/Services	10,973	5,797
Capital Expenditure	3,383	1,997
Charges	162	149
Total Resources Expended	171,227	178,508
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>14,269</u>	<u>27,113</u>

Autonomie

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100421

Accounts



Autonomie Annual Accounts Year 2022/2023

INCOME

Bank Balance:	£ 50,123.78
Grants*	£ 201,976.26
Fundraising/Donations	£ 3619.52
Interest	£ 25.41
TOTAL	£ 255,744.97

EXPENDITURE

Staff Costs	£ 94,009.98
Sessional Workers	£ 30,298.75
Rent	£ 12,808.58
Equipment/Project Exp.	£ 20,395.85
PR/Marketing/Website	£ 9116.50
Insurance/Membership/Legal Fees	£ 3935.77
Utilities/Services	£ 5796.65
Cleaning & Health & Safety	£ 1997.52
Bank Charges	£ 148.95
Total Expenditure	£ 178, 508.55

Balance 31/03/23 £77, 236.42

*See appendix 1

22 Loopland Crescent
Belfast
BT6 9EE

To whom it may concern:

I, Mandy Clements have independently examined the end of Year accounts for the registered Charity – Autonomie.

I can confirm that I have examined all income notification and receipts/invoices are correct and recorded and maintained in line with accountancy practices.

I have no concerns, issues, or comments to add to these accounts.

Signed: *M. Clements*

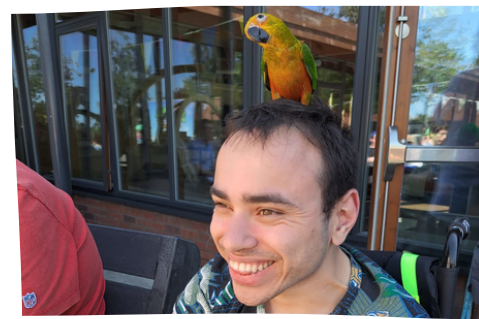
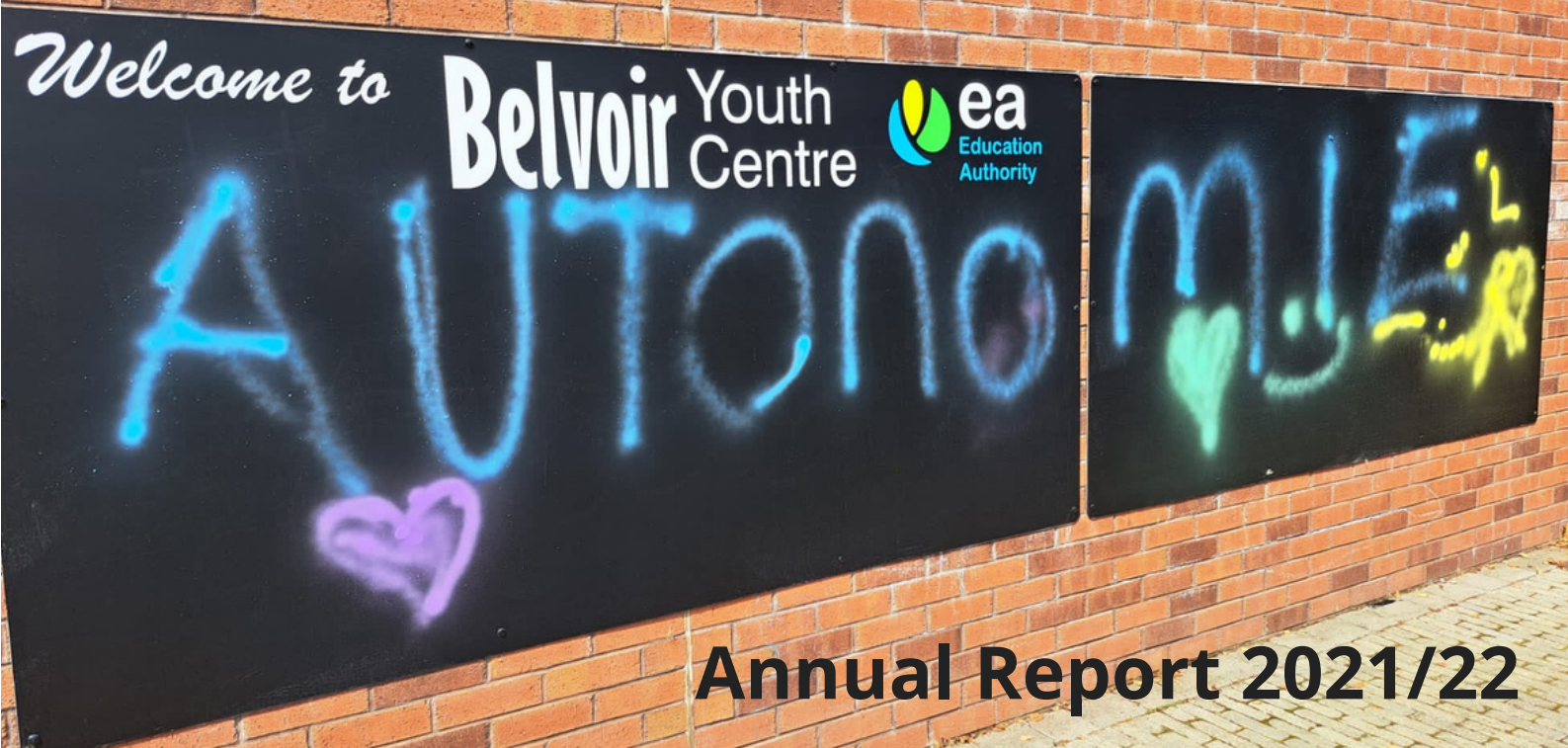
Independent Examiner

Date: 18/10/2023

Autonomie

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100421

Annual report



Acting Chair(s) Foreword

The last two years have been like no other and yet Autonomie has weathered the considerable challenges Covid 19 has presented.

The use of technology that allowed the service and projects to continue, has now thankfully moved on to greater face to face activities. The projects, Sail and Family Voice Hub have expanded their geographical boundaries beyond Belfast and have included Lisburn and West Belfast.

Staff have built on their success to now include holistic therapies which provides support for the young people and their families.

The fantastic support from Jerome and his team at the National Lottery Community Fund, continues to allow for innovation and embedding of services.

The dedication and hard work of the team culminated this year in a fabulous event at Belfast City Hall, hosted by the Deputy Lord Mayor Tom Haire who made Autonomie one of his charities of the year. The event was the perfect opportunity to showcase the achievement of Autonomie and allowed us to honour Trevor Boyle, founder, and former CEO, with his family and oldest friend in attendance to present the Trevor Boyle Awards.

Opportunities for fundraising presented themselves across the year, including money raised at the Celebration event, participation in the Belfast City Marathon and a show case of the young people's artwork in selling calendars to name a few.

Our thanks and appreciation for all the staff team, the young people and their families who have helped make this a very successful year.

Cathy Brannigan and Mary Bell



Just some of the highlights

“ **Autonomie is amazing!** ”

- Support for more Young People and families than ever
- Autonomie Celebrates at Belfast City Hall event 2022
- The Trevor Boyle Awards
- SAIL and Family Voice Hub projects expand geographical reach
- Autonomie supporters fundraise at Belfast City Marathon 2021
- Autonomie commended after being shortlisted for Community Prosperity award at World Health Organisation Belfast Healthy City Awards 2021
- Autonomie shortlisted in Best 'Not for Profit' Sector Project of the Year category in Belfast Telegraph IT Awards 2021
- New supporters including The Screwfix Foundation

“ **Thank you to the Autonomie team for all your hard work.** ”





“ Thank you so much for an absolutely fantastic Summer Scheme and BBQ. I didn't know everyone but it was so welcoming. Thank you for all you do! ”

Our impact



100%

of young people and families were satisfied with our services.



74%

increase in the number of young people and families we supported.



800%

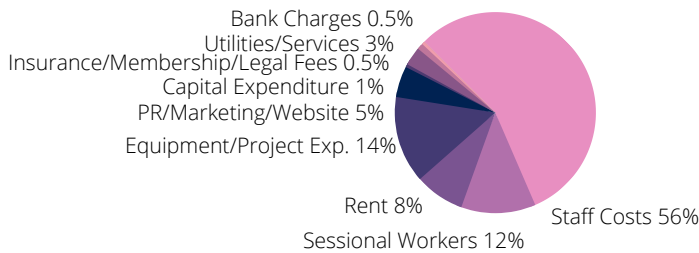
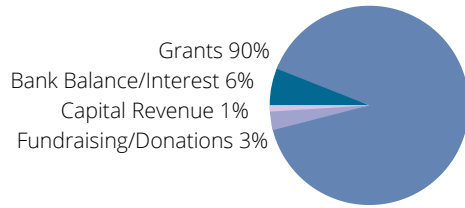
increase in the geographical reach of our services



Plans for the future

Next year provides us with opportunities to support even more young people with complex additional needs and across 8 local council areas. We will support more parents, siblings and extended families raising a child or young person with additional needs by delivering high-quality practical and emotional support.

Financial overview



Income 2021/22

Our total income for 2021/22 was £225,857.74. This was possible thanks to the generosity of all our supporters over the past 12 months. Our goal is to use their support as effectively as possible to ensure that every young person with additional needs can reach their potential and that every family raising a child or young person with additional needs is supported.

Spend 2021/22

In the last year our total expenditure was £166,987.40.

“ Thank you so much for an absolutely fantastic Summer Scheme and BBQ. I didn't know everyone but it was so welcoming. Thank you for all you do! ”



Our supporters

Thanks to our supporters for their fantastic support during 2021-22.





Lilac House (Linked Independent Living and Advice Centre)
4 Sandhurst Road
Belfast BT7 1PW
Northern Ireland

T: 028 9591 8051
E: autonomieorg@gmail.com
www.autonomie.org.uk



Patron: Oliver Jeffers



Northern Ireland Charity Commission Registration Number 100421

Autonomie

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100421

Annual return



Financial Statements

For the Period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Note to the Financial Statements ‘

Autonomie is a registered Charity (Ref: NI 100421)

Autonomie is a Limited Company by Guarantee (NI698724)

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with approved Accounting Standards and are based upon accounting and other information maintained by the Autonomie Management Committee.

Janice English

Chair
Autonomie Management Committee

Date: 5.10.23.

Independent Examiner

Date: M. Clements

22 Loopland Crescent
Belfast
BT6 9EE

To whom it may concern:

I, Mandy Clements have independently examined the end of Year accounts for the registered Charity – Autonomie.

I can confirm that I have examined all income notification and receipts/invoices are correct and recorded and maintained in line with accountancy practices.

I have no concerns, issues, or comments to add to these accounts.

Signed: *M. Clements*

Independent Examiner

Date: 18/10/2023