

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Charity Registration no 1103917

Financial Statements and Reports

For the year ended

31 March 2021

The Pinetree Centre
Durham Road
Birtley
Co Durham
DH3 2TD

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North Regional Association for Sensory Support
Reference and Administrative Information

Name: North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Charity No: 1103917

Trustees/Directors: Councillor Michael McNestry (Chair)
Rosalind Copeland (Vice Chair)

Honorary Treasurer: Alan Brown

Registered Address: The Pinetree Centre
Durham Road
Birtley
Co Durham
DH3 2TD

Bankers: Barclays bank plc
51 Moseley Street
Manchester
M60 2AU

Independent Examiner: Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE AATQB
20 Ennerdale Crescent
Winlaton
Blaydon on Tyne
NE21 6PS

Structure and Governance

As laid down in the organisation's constitution, the governance arrangements remain the same. The management committee and its elected members undertake the general management responsibilities of the association's function. These members are put forward by individual local authorities as active cabinet/council committee members. A general council meets twice yearly at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and at a half yearly meeting. Both events are open meetings as well as conducting essential business relating to the election and selection of officers, ie Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorary Treasurer. These positions have a duration of three years unless any position is vacant or opposed by general committee members. In the event of such a situation, an Extraordinary General Meeting needs to be called.

In addition, the association also has an Executive Committee and an Advocacy/Welfare Rights service sub-committee. Their meetings are Chaired by Executive members elected from within the association's membership. Meetings of the Executive are held four times a year with other committees and sub committees synchronised throughout the year.

Trustee's Report for the year ended 31st March 2021

History, Objectives and Activities/Background

The North Regional Association for Sensory Support (NRASS) was formed in September 2004 because of a merger of the North Regional Deaf Association (NRDA) and the North Regional Association for the Blind (NRAB). NRASS, as it is known, is a registered Disability Confident Charity in its own right.

Service Contracts

Currently NRASS provide Advocacy & Welfare Rights Services in the following Local Authority areas within the North East of England:-

- Gateshead
- Hartlepool

Aims & Objectives

The aims and objectives of NRASS are embodied in the Charity Commission Scheme. The aims being by improving services we intend to, wherever possible, eliminate discrimination and prejudice by providing an Advocacy/Welfare Rights service to people with a Sensory Impairment. In addition, the organisation, if needed, will support Local Authority members to fulfil their obligation under the Disability Discrimination Act.

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

The objectives being to promote independence, further education opportunities, social integration and a general well-being of all Sensory Loss people in the North regions. Furthermore, the association seeks to improve services wherever possible, to use our influence to provide a better quality and equality of life for people who are Deaf, Deafened, Deafblind, Dual Sensory Loss and Hearing Impaired.

Public Benefit Statement

The Association focus their attention to the needs of people with a sensory loss at the same time as examining new legislation, innovation, developments and standard setting for agencies that provide services. They have been instrumental in influencing necessary changes in benefits or regulations that help improve the quality of life for people and providing essential equipment wherever necessary. This in turn benefits the local economy and adds to improvements in the quality of life for all as set out in our Aims and Objectives.

Management and Governance Arrangements

As laid down in the organisations constitution the governance arrangements remain the same. The Management Committee and its elected members undertake the general management responsibilities of the association function. These members are people put forward by individual Local Authorities as active Cabinet/Council Committee Members. A general council meets twice each year, at the Annual General Meeting and at the half-yearly meeting. Both events are open meetings as well as conducting essential business relating to election and selection of Officers, i.e. Chairperson, Vice Chair and Honorary Treasurer. These positions have duration of three years, unless any position is vacant or opposed by General Committee Members. In the event of such a situation, an Extra Ordinary Meeting needs to be called.

In addition, the Association also has the General Council, an Executive Committee and an Advocacy/Welfare Rights Service Sub-Committee. Executive Members elected from within the Associations membership chair these meetings. Meetings of the Executive are held four times a year with other Committees and Sub-Committees synchronised throughout the year.

Staffing

At the end of the financial year the association engaged one full time freelance Service Manager and two part time Advocate/Welfare Rights Officers.

The staff group operate in the areas of Gateshead and Hartlepool, these being the Local Authorities funding the service.

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Vacant positions are advertised to the public in the local/national press, social media and local Job Centre Plus Offices inviting applications from all individuals within the local/national community. Representatives from the nominated committee members and the Service Manager undertake interviews.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association and its financial activities for that year. In preparing these Financial Statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statement.
- Prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Association and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The financial policies and procedures set up by the management committee are designed to provide a consistent accounting/financial framework and internal control by encapsulating best practices within the organisation.

The trustees approve the policies and procedures and are those, which are best, suited to present a true and fair view of the organisations financial affairs and to maintain robust internal controls. They are also intended to ensure that the organisation can meet external requirements of corporate governance.

The overriding principle of the organisations financial reporting and financial control is one of prudence. As such, where areas of judgement are required, they should always err on the side of caution. A fundamental financial responsibility is the management and the minimisation of risk.

The financial statements are required to be drawn up in accordance with UK legislation. It is incumbent upon senior personnel to be conversant with these requirements and with developments to standards and any legislative changes to ensure that these are applied as appropriate.

Full and open disclosure of financial information by the divisions within the organisation is a fundamental prerequisite. Therefore, full co-operation should be afforded to visits from internal audit or any other financial review.

Financial Review and Reserves as of the 31st March 2021

In the financial year ended 31st March 2021 NRASS generated income of £66,100 and expenditure totalled £62,200. It follows there was a surplus of £3,900.

New funding in the year accounted for almost £13,000 from donations highlighted elsewhere in the Report.

At the year end the bank balance had risen to £4,900 ahead of the starting point on 1st April 2020 by £4,000.

After some difficult years this outcome has helped to provide a cash cushion to ensure the services NRASS provides may be maintained at all times.

Achievements

In previous years, we have reported on a number of financial challenges requiring focus and action. During 2020-21, NRASS has been able to source grant income to help aid financial recovery plans. NRASS can now begin to focus on a new strategy for the next financial year.

NRASS has continued to deliver its services, offering Advocacy, Information and Advice to a high standard and, as such, have had an impact on the lives of the service users who are D/deaf, Deafened, Deafblind or have hearing loss. All of the NRASS staff are proud of the quality of the service we have provided over the past year and especially so given the enormous strain caused by COVID-19. The charity is indebted to the staff who have continued to deliver in the face of personal and professional stress and uncertainty.

NRASS have continued to provide advocacy, advice and information to our catchment group across the Gateshead and Hartlepool regions. Our staff have delivered the service through a range of remote services to ensure it could continue to deliver and meet demand during the pandemic. Like many charities, NRASS has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and has been required to manage immediate risks and to ensure long-term sustainability.

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

The management of the service has focused on the primary areas of the health, safety and welfare of our staff and the people we support in our support services. At the time of writing, our actions have been successful although we are under no illusions that this crisis is over and this will remain a focus for the Trustees and the Executive Committee for some time to come.

As a result of a slightly stronger financial position, NRASS has been far more resilient to external events than we would otherwise have been but COVID-19 has presented further challenge and uncertainty. We do not know the long-term economic outlook but, having utilised financial support, managed costs and sought to sustain income, we believe that we are well placed to weather this storm.

We were delighted to receive a number of generous donations from Charitable Trusts and Foundations including:-

The Community Foundation	£ 4,450.00
CAF	£ 5,400.00
Neighbourly Community Fund	£ 400.00
REEDS Grassroots	£ 2,000.00

Performance

NRASS has managed 401 referrals over the period April 2020 to March 2021, with 929 contacts on behalf of service users. The number of new service users who have approached NRASS for support totals 15. Over the whole period with additional enquiries from 16 potential clients from outside of our funding contract areas. We continue to handle 91 on-going active cases.

The age range of our service user ranges from 18-100+. The largest number of service users were in the 51 to 60 age band with an overall total of 234 service users utilising the service (up 27 on last year's figures). The vast majority of the service users being 'Profoundly Deaf'.

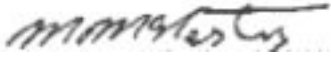
The gender figures attending the service being as follows:-

Male: 91 Female: 142 Deaf Groups: 1

Moving forwards, it would be useful for local services to co-ordinate and work together to support our sensory loss community. Thereby helping and encouraging them to utilise whatever technology is available for them to engage with support groups, their peers and advice agencies so that they are not disadvantaged any further. NRASS aim to ensure that it is able to continue to deliver essential support by effectively managing the risk of infection by implementing appropriate contingency arrangements should an outbreak impact our services further and to ensure that we can maintain sufficient staffing levels to operate safely.

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Looking to the future NRASS will be liaising closely with both representatives from Gateshead Council and Hartlepool Council to balance risks to control infection within communal areas and implement safety procedures for the delivery of direct services as soon as it is possible.



.....
(Chairman – Councillor M McNestry)
Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Dated: 31st March 2021

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees of North Regional Association for Sensory Support on Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 12 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income does not exceed £250,000.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or

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

Kate Tully FMAAT FCIE

Date 30 September 2021

Signed



Kate Tully is a Fellow Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners and a Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating the income and expenditure account)

for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	2019-20 Funds
Note	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and Legacies	2	50	0	50
Charitable Activities	2	66,078	0	66,078
Other Trading Activities	2	15	0	15
Investment Income	2	0	0	0
Other	2		0	0
Total		66,143	0	66,143
Expenditure on:				
Raising Funds	2	312	0	312
Charitable Activities	2	61,905	0	61,905
Other	2	0	0	0
Total		62,217	0	62,217
Net movement in funds		3,926	0	3,926
Transfers			0	0
Total Funds brought forward		800	0	800
Total funds carried forward		4,726	0	4,726

The notes on pages 12-17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2020

	Note	20-21 Funds £	19-20 Funds £
Current Assets			
<i>Prepayments</i>	4	0	0
<i>Cash at Bank and In Hand</i>		4,976	1,050
Total Current Assets		4,976	1,050
Liabilities			
<i>Creditors Amounts falling due within one year</i>	5	(250)	(250)
<i>Creditors Amounts falling due after one year</i>		0	0
		(250)	(250)
Total Assests		4,726	800
The Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted income funds		4,726	800
Restricted income funds		0	0
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		4,726	800

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:



.....
 (Chairman – Councillor M McNestry)
 Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Dated:

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period ending 31 March 2021

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

These Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102).

North Regional Association for Sensory Support meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

Donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Capital Grants are released over the economic useful life of the asset to which they relate

Resources Expended and Liabilities

Resources expended have been analysed using a natural classification.

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

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of all fixed assets, over their expected useful lives. It is calculated at the following rate:

Computer Equipment	25% straight line
Other Office Equipment	15% reducing balance

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

2 Funds

The Charity has one fund, an unrestricted general fund comprising accumulated surpluses and deficits which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity that have not been designated for other purposes.

Analysis of Income and Expenditure 2020-21

Income and Endowments from:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020-21 £	Total 2019-20 £
Donations and Legacies				
Donations	50		50	50
Precepts	0		0	0
	50	0	50	50
Charitable Activities				
Advocacy Service Contracts	52,578		52,578	52,578
Grants	13,500		13,500	13,500
Other	0		0	0
Amounts receivable for equipment purchases	0		0	0
	66,078	0	66,078	66,078
Other Trading Income				
Fundraising	15		15	12
	15	0	15	12
Investment Income				
Bank Interest Earned	0		0	
	0	0	0	0
Total	66,143	0	66,143	66,140

Expenditure on:

Charitable Activities - Advocacy Service

Advertising and Promotion			0	0
Staff Costs and Related Expenses	16,433		16,433	16,433
Consultants Fees/Travel Expenses			0	0
Training	4,191		4,191	0
Coronavirus/PPE Costs	62		62	0
Subscriptions/Affiliations/Licences	409		409	0
Management and Committee Expenses			0	4,191
Insurance			0	0
Interpreters' fees			0	0
Miscellaneous	43		43	22
Printing, stationery and postage	505		505	505
Office Rent/Rates	275		275	275
Small Equipment			0	0
Computer/IT Costs	200		200	200
Telephone/Broadband	2,955		2,955	2,955
	25,073	0	25,073	24,581

Raising Funds

	312		312	312
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North Regional Association for Sensory Support

Charitable Activities - Head Office

		0	0
Accountancy/IE Fees		0	0
Advertising and Promotion		0	0
Computer Costs		0	0
Equipment		0	0
Meeting expenses		0	0
Printing, stationery and postage	357	357	299
Staff Costs and Related Expenses	32,494	32,494	33,364
Coronavirus Costs	46	46	
Consultants Fees/Travel Expenses		0	0
Maintenance/Refurb		0	
Telephone/Broadband		0	0
Interpreters' fees		0	0
Insurance	882	882	882
Office Rent/Rates	207	207	187
Office Utilities		0	0
Miscellaneous		0	0
Archive Storage Costs	1,344	1,344	1,344
Independent Examiner's Fee		0	0
Subscriptions/Affiliations/Licences	258	258	
IT Security and IT Costs	1,244	1,244	1,244
Depreciation of office equipment		0	0
	36,832	0	37,321
Total	62,217	0	62,217

3 Fixed Assets

There are no fixed assets of material worth at this time

4 Debtors and Prepayments

There are no debtors or prepayments at this time.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019-20 Total £	2018-19 Total £
Prepayments				2,025
	0	0	0	2,025

5 Creditors

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019-20 Total £	2018-19 Total £
Creditors and accruals		250		250
	250	0	250	250

North Regional Association for Sensory Support

6 Employed Staff

	2020-21	2019-20
	£	£
Gross Salaries and benefits in kind	48,927	48,927
Pension Costs		
Total Staff Costs	48,927	48,927

3 part time staff were employed during this period no-one received remuneration of £60,000 or more.

7 Cash at Bank and in Hand

Business Savings	0
Business Current	4,937
Petty Cash	39
	<u>4,976</u>

8 Trustees Expenses

The Trustees were paid no remuneration (2020-21:£nil) nor travel expenses (2019-0:£nil) during the year.