

Autism Independent UK

As did last year Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2022

Charity name and number:

Autism Independent UK, registered charity number 803003

Correspondence address:

199/203 Blandford Avenue
Kettering
Northants
NN16 9AT

Trustees who served during the year:

Pam York	Chair
Pam Lovett	Secretary
Bianca Palagefiu	

All served throughout the year

Custodian trustees in respect of land and buildings held:

The Charity Commission

Professional advisers

Bankers:

NatWest Bank plc
43 High Street
Rushden
Northants

Solicitors:

Wilson Browne
4 Grange Park Court
Roman Way
Northampton

Independent examiners:

McShane Wright
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 College Street
Higham Ferrers
Northants

Autism Independent UK

Autism Independent UK Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2022

Constitution

Autism Independent UK is registered with the Charity Commissioners (No. 803003) and constituted by Deed of Trust. This charity was formerly known as The Society For The Autistically Handicapped (SFTAH).

History, objectives and activities

Autism Independent UK was constituted by Deed of Trust. The constitution was adopted on 12 February 1990 and amended on 16 October 1999. The deed of trust is in the process to be updated this year to be run by a management committee. The charity was formerly known as The Society For The Autistically Handicapped (SFTAH) which it continues to use as a working name. Other names used by the charity are, Autism On Line (AOL) and Autism For All. The objects of the charity are to encourage greater awareness of autism, to assist in improving the quality of life of sufferers and their families through the provision of training and to build a long term housing complex also to provide a voice for those with autism in matters of local and national government policy towards them and those involved in their care.

The main activities of the charity throughout the year have stalled as did last year, this is due to covid-19. We would have liked to have continued to provide training and recreational facilities for the sufferers of autism and related conditions and support and training for carers, families and professionals involved in the support of Autistically handicapped individuals.

Our main objective is to continue to increase our housing portfolio to be able purchase and build the housing complex.

This year, as last, has been very hard for all at the charity with working, training and general activities all reduced due to Covid-19 and its variants. Also the trainers from various universities have had all international travel banned by the management of the universities. There has therefore been little achieved and forward planning has all but stalled.

Management and governance arrangements

Where required, new trustees are appointed by the other trustees as a body and are inducted by the Chief Administrator, K Lovett. The day to day operation of the charity is made by the management committee.

As disclosed last year, Pamela Lovett (acting secretary) on the management committee, is the wife of K Lovett, the Chief Administrator. We are actively looking for a replacement for her also a treasurer.

We have been seeking a new treasurer. That said, during covid and the work and rules involved, most say no, saying it's like a full-time job with too much responsibility, too many rules and regulations. In the short term, the Chief Administrator will be taking this role.

The trustees are all members of the management committee. This committee is the sole body for decision making. This is still to be updated in our constitution during the coming year.

The trustees regularly review the risks the charity faces and, because of its investment policy, the major risk facing the charity is that a fall in property prices may affect the ability of the charity to achieve the purchase of a group home as quickly as it wants. However, there is no borrowing attaching to any of the freehold properties at present so there would be no impact on its ability to continue to achieve its main objects.

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The charity has invested in land and buildings as part of its strategy to establish the group home. This will give it both an income and security for future purchase of the group home.

The charity employs 3 members of staff:

Achievements, performance and future plans

The Society's major achievements during the year were:

- Housing project has still in phase 2, actively searching for appropriate land to purchase to start phase 3 including negotiating with North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) for this land. NNC are looking into other sites that may come up for sale but, to date, none have been found, nothing has been achieved as yet;
- continuing to expand the charity's collateral base for a group home project;
- continuing to expand the resource holdings in the information now moved to on line web. – adding further literature as and when resourced.
- moved to a web-based library and producing on-line training videos (Law, Education, Autism);
- continuing to produce animated films for Social Stories, social learning and understanding.

Proposed developments for the future

- to continue to search for appropriate land for group homes project;
- to publish all charity newsletters, constitution, accounts, meetings via Worldwide Web (covid restrictions);
- to make information free via electronic means.... Web etc.;
- to continue to improve the telephone information service;
- to increase training events (covid restrictions);
- to expand advocacy via the Web and other electronic means;
- to supply free of charge the Carer and update Card service to carers of Autistic persons, helping them to be more aware of the available resources;
- to start planning for phase 3 housing project, buildings, grants, donations;

Fundraising activities are limited to requests for grants and aid from corporate and other donors. The charity wishes to expand on this during the coming years (and looking at professional fundraisers) to enable the group home to be established quickly.

Financial review, investment policy and reserves

As has been stated, a primary aim of the charity is to establish a group home for young autism sufferers. In this respect it has continued its investment in domestic property to give both an income and to increase its capital base, although no additional properties were purchased this year.

Reviews of values are carried out regularly to ensure that returns are reasonable. The returns for this year (both net rental and estimated capital growth) amount to £ (to be updated) % (2022 (to be updated)). This reflects the current housing market. The trust has chosen not to adopt formal ethical investment policies although attention is paid as to whom properties are rented. The net incoming resources for the year before unrealised gains or losses on investments amounted to £(to be updated) (2022 - (to be updated)£).

Unrestricted funds at the end of the year amounted to £ (to be updated) (2022 - £ (to be updated)), which represents in excess of 20 years' general expenditure (excluding workshop costs which are covered by specific income).

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair

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view of the state of affairs of the charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those 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 statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the
- charity 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 charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. 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.

This report was approved by the committee on 27 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee

Autism Independent UK

Independent Examiners' Report to the Trustees of Autism Independent UK

We report to the trustees on our examination of the accounts for the above charity for the year ended 30 September 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Autism Independent UK you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

We report in respect of our examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out our examination we have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

McShane Wright
Chartered Certified Accountants

2 College Street
Higham Ferrers
Northants
NN10 8DZ

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Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 September 2022

	Unrestrict ed funds £	2022 Restrict ed funds £	Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Incoming resources:				
Membership, donations and grants:				
Donations and Legacies	2,714	-	2,714	132,241
Grants	-	-	-	36,103
	<u>2,714</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,714</u>	<u>168,344</u>
Trading income:				
Seminar and workshop fees	42,525	-	42,525	2,229
Sales of course materials, and learning materials	-	-	-	-
	<u>42,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,525</u>	<u>2,229</u>
Investment income:				
Interest receivable	511	-	511	67
Rent receivable	53,728	-	53,728	53,063
	<u>53,728</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,728</u>	<u>53,063</u>
Total incoming resources	<u>£99,478</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£99,478</u>	<u>£223,703</u>
Resources expended:				
Direct charitable expenditure:				
Seminar and workshop costs	14,870	-	14,870	1,997
Depreciation on charitable	-	-	-	1
Loss on sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
	<u>14,870</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,870</u>	<u>1,998</u>
Other expenditure:				
Publicity	3,200	-	3,200	-
Wages	51,887	-	51,887	51,354
Premises costs	8,996	-	8,996	13,620
Travel costs	450	-	450	-
Postage and telephone	1,733	-	1,733	1,110
Printing, copying, stationery and	4,280	-	4,280	2,643
Sundry other expenses	101	-	101	75
Bank charges	112	-	112	237
Professional fees	1,595	-	1,595	830
Depreciation	833	-	833	1,088
	<u>73,187</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,187</u>	<u>70,957</u>
Total resources expended	<u>£88,057</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>£88,057</u>	<u>£72,955</u>
Net incoming resources	11,421	-	11,421	150,748
Other recognised gains and				
Unrealised gains/(losses) on	-	172,500	172,500	148,550
Balances brought forward	<u>1,700,875</u>	<u>1,130,558</u>	<u>2,831,433</u>	<u>2,532,133</u>
Balances carried forward	<u>£1,712,296</u>	<u>£1,303,058</u>	<u>£3,015,391</u>	<u>£2,831,416</u>

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There were no recognised gains or losses for either financial year other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet at 30 September 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	3		28,712		29,545
			2,154,85		1,982,35
Fixed asset investments	4		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
			2,183,56		2,011,89
			2		5
Current assets					
Prepaid expenses and income tax recoverable		2,055		2,138	
Cash at bank		<u>832,347</u>		<u>820,015</u>	
		834,402		822,153	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	<u>(2,610)</u>		<u>(2,615)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>831,972</u>		<u>819,538</u>
Net assets			<u>£3,015,354</u>		<u>£2,831,433</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted	6		1,712,296		1,700,875
Restricted	6		<u>1,303,058</u>		<u>1,130,558</u>
			<u>£3,015,354</u>		<u>£2,831,433</u>

These financial statements were approved by the committee on 27 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee

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The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 September 2022

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
Net cash inflow from financial activities	7		11,821		152,391
Returns on investment and servicing of finance					
Interest received			511		67
Capital expenditure					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets			-		(468)
Increase in cash	8		12,232		151,990
Cash at 1 October 2021			<u>820,015</u>		<u>668,025</u>
Cash at 30 September 2022			<u>£832,347</u>		<u>£820,015</u>

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2022

Accounting policies

1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified for the inclusion of investment properties at valuation and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Investment income

Investment income is recorded when receivable.

3. Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office and other equipment	20% pa reducing balance
Caravans	20% pa reducing balance
Learning materials	25% pa reducing balance
Land	Nil
Portakabin and sitework	25% pa reducing balance
Building	2% pa straight line

Tangible fixed assets costing less than £50 are not capitalised.

4. Investment properties

Investment properties are revalued annually and included at market value. Market value is the open market estimated selling price. Where this has been given on a banding basis by the valuer, the lowest value is taken.

5. Incoming resources

In the case of grants, these are recognised as soon as the money is received and any conditions relating to the grants have been met.

Any grants for a specific purpose, either because they were requested for that purpose by the charity or because the donor specified the use, are included in income as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities. All other grants are included as unrestricted funds.

Income from seminars and workshops is recognised when the event is held irrespective of when the money is received.

Rental income is recognised as received.

6. Resources expended

Expenditure on seminars and workshops is included when the event is held irrespective of when invoices are received or money expended. This matches with the treatment of receipts for seminars and workshops.

All other revenue expenditure is recognised when incurred on an accruals basis. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as part of the relevant cost.

7. Taxation

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The charity is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are

	Office and other equipm ent £	Learnin g material s £	Land, portacab in, sitework £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022	£83,469	£1,090	£36,039	£120,598
Depreciation				
At 1 October 2021	79,536	1,090	10,427	91,053
Charge for the year	833	-	-	833
At 30 September 2022	£80,369	£1,090	£10,427	£91,886
Net book amount				
At 30 September 2022	£3,100	-	£25,612	£28,712
At 30 September 2021	£3,933	-	£25,612	£29,545

applied for charitable purposes.

8. Tangible fixed assets

The net book amount at 30 September 2022 represents fixed assets used for:

	Office and other equipm ent £	Learnin g material s £	Land, portacab in, sitework £	Total £
Direct charitable purposes				
Teaching aids	2,616	-	-	2,616
Recreational	-	-	25,612	25,612
	2,616	-	25,612	28,228
Other purposes				
Management and administration	484	-	-	484
	£3,100	-	£25,612	£28,712

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9. Investment properties

	205 Blandford Avenue £	209 Blandford Avenue £	207 Blandford Avenue £	211 Blandford Avenue £	179 Blandford Avenue £
Cost					
At 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022	£58,520	£132,952	£71,373	£56,368	£160,920
Revaluations					
At 1 October 2021 Revaluation	176,480	166,998	168,577	161,132	71,580
	14,950	25,050	27,550	15,000	17,450
At 30 September 2022	£191,430	£192,048	£196,127	£176,132	£89,030
Carrying value					
At 30 September 2022	£249,950	£325,000	£267,500	£232,500	£249,950
At 30 September 2021	£235,000	£299,950	£239,950	£217,500	£232,500
	114 Blandford Avenue £	177 Blandford Avenue £	82 Blandford Avenue £	Total £	
Cost					
At 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022	£166,889	£155,596	£153,162	£955,780	
Revaluations					
At 1 October 2021	113,061	89,404	79,338	1,026,570	
Revaluation	35,050	20,000	17,450	172,500	
At 30 September 2022	£148,111	£109,404	£96,788	£1,199,070	
Carrying value					
At 30 September 2022	£315,000	£265,000	£249,950	£2,154,850	
At 30 September 2021	£279,950	£245,000	£232,500	£1,982,350	

The properties consist of various houses on Blandford Avenue which are currently being let at a commercial rent on a short term lease.

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The premises were revalued on 7th October 2022 by Lime Tree Lettings and Sales Ltd, Independent Estate Agents.

10. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	2,610	2,615

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11. Funds

	At 1 October 2021 £	Incomin g resource s £	Unrealised gains/ (losses) on revaluation £	Outgoin g Resourc es £	At 30 Septemb er 2022 £
Restricted funds:					
Building Project fund	1,130,558		172,500		1,303,058
Unrestricted funds	1,700,875	99,478		(88,057)	1,712,296
	<u>£2,831,433</u>	<u>£99,478</u>	<u>£172,500</u>	<u>(£88,057)</u>	<u>£3,015,354</u>

The restricted funds have been established by way of donations from various donors. These are restricted in that the request by the charity was for donations for the specific purpose identified above.

In the case of the Building Project fund, all donors were informed that until such time as the properties were completed for use as a group home for young adults with autism, they would be rented out on short term lets.

Fund balances are represented by:

	Tangibl e fixed assets £	Investmen ts £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted funds:				
Building Project Fund	-	1,303,058	-	1,303,058
Unrestricted funds	28,712	851,792	831,792	1,712,296
	<u>£28,712</u>	<u>£2,154,850</u>	<u>£831,792</u>	<u>£3,015,354</u>

12. Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from financial activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net incoming resources	11,421	150,748
Depreciation	833	1,089
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	83	365
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(5)	256
Interest receivable	(511)	(67)
	<u>£11,821</u>	<u>£152,391</u>
Net cash inflow from financial activities	<u>£11,821</u>	<u>£152,391</u>

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Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt

The charity carries no debt. All movements in cashflows are either added to or deducted from funds.